

January 9, 2008

Carderocket



**Carderock Springs Elementary School
PTA Newsletter**

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Letter from the PTA President

Dear Carderock Families:

Welcome back from the much needed winter break and Happy New Year! As I walked around school last week I couldn't help but notice that students, staff and parents had more of a spring in their step and seemed a bit more energized after having the long break. Now with half the school year behind us, our students have clearly ironed out the kinks of the new school year and have found their groove.

In the midst of all the madness leading up to the holidays, and despite an early December snow storm, Carderock families came together for a night of merriment at our annual **Family Night at the Book Fair!** Margaret Powell and Trudy Shahabi outdid themselves this year with a brilliantly planned book fair and a DJ in the All Purpose room to keep the kids dancing while we parents were shopping! I must say, there were more than a few parents out there dancing with the kids. Thank you Trudy and Margaret for working tirelessly to make this important fundraiser a financial and social success for Carderock. Thanks also go to Kristina Valencia for helping to create the "Blizzard" environment with a family of very adorable, fluffy polar bears.

As you know, the PTA could not provide many of the enriching activities we provide each year without fundraising. We would like to thank Debbie Stone and Laura Friedman for their part in the PTA fundraising effort. As chairs of the Giant Gift Card Sale, they put in a lot of time and effort filling our gift card orders. This annual gift card sale usually raises over \$3,000 for the PTA! We deeply appreciate all of your efforts.

Another effort that benefits our children is the Giant and Safeway **Bonus Bucks Program**, administered by Amy Kwak. Under this program, a portion of every grocery purchase you make at either Giant or Safeway will be contributed by those stores directly to our school at the end of the year. The school uses these funds to purchase extras for the classrooms or the play ground that is not provided by the County. Thank you, Amy, for your efforts this fall in collecting everyone's grocery card numbers!

It is no easy task to balance work, family commitments and volunteer activities. We are so grateful to all in our Carderock Community who volunteer their precious time to put some fun into our children's lives when their academic life is becoming more and more pressured in this ever changing world. It seems more important now than ever before to help our kids strike that delicate balance between succeeding in school and letting them have some fun and be kids while they still can!

Please feel free to give me a call if there is anything on your mind that you want to talk about as a parent of this school community.

- Maxine C. Schnitzer

Help your PTA save paper in 2008 by joining our listserve!
Go to carderocknet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



International Night 2008:
"A World for All Seasons"
Thursday, January 31st
6:00 to 8:30 pm

International Night – Ned Hodgman, Bob Erdman

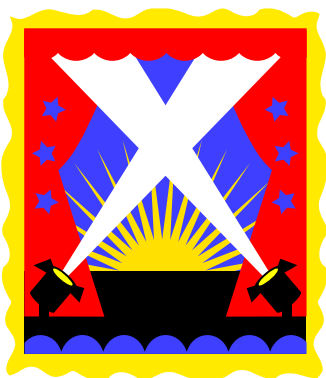
International Night is an annual event held at Carderock Springs Elementary - on this night we honor the diversity of our students, and learn about different countries, cultures and traditions. It is a joyous evening, with international displays, games and activities, music and dance performances, and food from around the world.

The success of the evening rests primarily on the dedication of our amazing volunteers. The event is just three weeks away and we still need 12 more Volunteers! There are many ways you can contribute. These include:

- **Hosting a Country Booth.** Each country (or region) is assigned a "booth" (a classroom) where the hosts display handicrafts, photos, videos and other items from the country(ies) and offer traditional games and/or arts and craft activities. So far we have 7 booths!
- **Donating Food and Drinks to the International Sampling Café.** The International Café is very popular - we can never have too many dishes! We hope that everyone will contribute a favorite dish or two to share!
- **Working at the International Sampling Café.** Help to setup and ensure smooth operation at the Café.
- **Working at the Welcoming Booth.** When the guests arrive to the event the volunteers at the Welcoming Booth will give them a packet of information about the event and answer any questions.
- **Organizing the International fashion parade.** Help organize and run the parade.
- **Working Behind the Scenes, Helping to Plan and Run the Event.**

Let us know how you would like to participate. E-mail your name, phone number and which area you are interested in volunteering for to Bob Erdman at bob.erdman@gmail.com and/or Ned Hodgman at edward.hodgman@gmail.com

We look forward to working with you! Thanks!



Variety Show -- Lynda McIntyre, Nancy Holden, Karen Hutchinson

It's time for the Annual CSES Variety Show, Friday, March 7th at the Whitman High School Auditorium! The show is open to all students in grades K-5.

Each act will be limited to 2 minutes. Applications will be sent out via backpack mail on Wednesday, January 23rd, and will include further details and guidelines. One act per person, please, and no "lip syncing" will be accepted this year. If singing, participants must sing to a live accompaniment, karaoke-style (instrumental track), or a cappella. We are also looking for 5th graders to be our MC's for the evening. Please keep in mind that MC's are not permitted to perform in any acts. Start thinking of how you can be a part of the craziest, most creative show of the year!

As always, we will also need volunteers to help at rehearsals and the night of the show. Please contact Karen Hutchinson for more details (Zahutch@aol.com). We can't wait to see what this year's participants will do!

Pyle's Musical Brings "Honor to Us All"

Disney's *Mulan Jr.* comes to Pyle's stage on January 30th, 31st and February 1st. Mark your calendars now!

Adapted for the stage from the Disney movie, "*Mulan Jr.*" tells the story of a young woman, Fa Mulan, who disguises herself as a soldier to fight the invasion of the Huns into China. With her mischievous sidekick Mushu and the friends she makes along the way, Mulan demonstrates honor, loyalty, strength, destiny and love in her determination to save her father and her country.

Disney's *Mulan Jr.* will be showing Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$7.00 for general admission or \$15.00 for a limited number of reserved seats. They will go on sale during lunch beginning Wednesday Jan. 23 through Friday Jan. 25. On the nights of the production, ticket holders for general admission seats may line up outside the cafeteria until doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Janice Huey at hueyjb@verizon.net.



Parent Education -- Christine Fruehwirth

There will be a Parent Education discussion, "Homework Habits," on February 7th from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in the Art Room at Carderock. Pam Mintz from YMCA Youth and Family Services will be our speaker. More details on her discussion will be sent out later this month. Please join us!

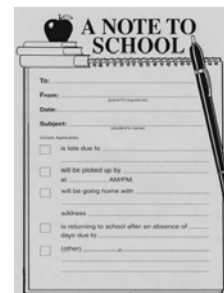
Also, for those parents who attended the discussion with Dr. Kay Abrams on November 5th, she has not received any of the CDs back offered that night. I have received two from a parent to send to her and am happy to do this for other parents. In case you didn't see my email that week, it was not communicated that the CDs cost \$19.95. She would like to either receive payment or have the CDs back if possible. Please contact me if you need more information. Thank you for your understanding.

"A Note to School" Notepads still available!

There are still school notepads available. Go to the "forms" section of the CSES website (<http://www.cesepa.org>) to print out an order form.

There are 40 pages to a pad and they cost a mere \$3.00!! Fill out your form and follow the directions to send in your order and receive your notepads!

For more information, email Marlee Margulies at margulies@mindspring.com.



4th and 5th Grade Book Clubs - Debbie White, Deb Lang

The 4th and 5th Grade Book Clubs have been busy reading - - for fun! This month we've left realistic fiction behind, and have instead chosen two wonderful historical novels: 4th graders are reading ***White Star: A Dog on the Titanic***, by Marty Crisp, and 5th graders are reading ***Fever 1793***, by Laurie Halse Anderson. Any interested 4th or 5th grader can attend their book club on Wednesday, January 16th in the media center: 4th graders will meet during recess, and 5th graders will meet during lunch. We hope to see you there - it's a lot of fun!

Cultural Arts Assemblies -- Salma Hasan Ali

On a chilly December afternoon, our kids sang and danced their way to the sunny Caribbean with Goombay, a trio of musicians from Trinidad! The all-purpose room was pulsating with the rhythms of reggae from Jamaica, calypso from Trinidad and Tobago, and Latin music from the Spanish-speaking islands. Along the way, kids learned phrases in French, Spanish and Creole, and learned about historical and geographical context in which the music was created. Of course, teachers and students all gave it up for the final number - "Day-O"!

This month, in a series of workshops, our kids will be introduced to the rhythm and dance of South Asia, performed by a world-famous dancer, Tehreema Mitha. Mitha's unique style combines classical Indian dance with contemporary Western themes. She is one of only five professional Pakistani dancers in the world, and she will work with our children to help them appreciate the elegance of traditional South Asian dance styles. The Washington Post says of her, "Tehreema Mitha crosses borders as easily as the rest of us cross streets."

And get ready to be mesmerized! On International Night, January 31, Ziva's Spanish Dance Ensemble will captivate us all with Spanish dances -- from the fiery flamenco of Andalusia to the spirited folk dances of Aragon!

Community Service -- Amy Bernhard, Diane Hemmersbaugh, Holli Goral, Karen Schwartzman Staff Liason: Clayton VerPlank

Carderock Kids Care! In December, the CSES community was once again very generous! During the week-long Book Fair, students and family members donated money to the Buck-a-book Blizzard and raised approximately \$250. This money was used to purchase books which will be donated to the E.L. Haynes charter school in Washington, D.C. Scholastic, the Book Fair sponsor, will contribute a matching amount.

In addition, the December toy drive was a huge success. Students brought in two carloads of new toys which were then delivered to A Wider Circle in Bethesda. The non-profit organization distributed the toys to needy families in Montgomery County to help make their holidays brighter!

The CSES Community Service committee looks forward to working with room parents for an upcoming Valentine's Day project which will benefit the Children's Inn at NIH.



2008 Calendar

January

- 21 No School - Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 22 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- 31 International Night

February

- 5 PTA Meeting - Teacher Presentations 7 p.m.
- 12 No School - Presidential Primary Elections
- 14 Valentine's Day Parties
- 18 No School - President's Day
- 27 Early Release 12:35 p.m.

March

- 7 Variety Show
- 10 MSA Testing Begins
- 21 Spring Break begins
- 31 Return to School After Break



