

May 2007

# CARDEROCKET



Carderock Springs Elementary School  
PTA Newsletter

[www.CSESPTA.org](http://www.CSESPTA.org)

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| <br>  |     |
| <i>Principal</i><br><b>Susan D. Thompson</b>  |     |
| <br>  |     |
| <i>PTA President</i><br><b>Kristy Keteltas</b><br><a href="mailto:kristy.keteltas@verizon.net">kristy.keteltas@verizon.net</a>  |     |
| <br>  |     |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i><br><b>Marlee Margulies</b><br><a href="mailto:margulies@mindspring.com">margulies@mindspring.com</a>   |     |
| <br>  |     |
| <i>CSES PTA Board</i><br><b>Lynn Gertzog, VP</b><br><b>Sheryl Golub, VP</b><br><b>Lois Kramer, VP</b><br><b>Karen Hutchinson,</b><br>Secretary<br><b>Lucy Winkler, Secretary</b><br><b>Yong Sun, Treasurer</b><br><b>Deb Lang,</b><br>Whitman Cluster Rep<br><b>Maxine Schnitzer,</b><br>MCCPTA Rep |     |

## Our Next PTA Meeting

Tuesday, June 5

## Letter from the PTA President

*Kristy Keteltas*

Dear Parents:

We all owe a HUGE Thank You to the chairs of **International Night** and **Arts and Literacy Night!** We had a wonderful month of programming at Carderock- it was a reminder of why we have such a wonderful school- full of bright students, ready to learn, and enthusiastic and involved parents who give their time to enrich students' experiences.

**Ned Hodgman** and **Bob Erdman** came out of nowhere and stepped up to the plate to give us a wonderful **International Night**. The booths were as great as ever, and I think everyone appreciated the idea of ending the International Café after an hour so we could all enjoy the fantastic percussion presentation. Judging from the student audience reaction, the whole evening was a roaring success. Thank you Bob and Ned!

Last week, we returned to school to view the work of our kids at **Arts and Literacy Night**. Husband and wife team **Maria Acosta** and **Pablo Molina** did a wonderful job coordinating with staff of the Writing and Reading Committees at school. Maria and Pablo's committee was staffed by daughters **Carmen** and **Paula**- it was a family affair, and beautifully run. Thank you to the whole Molina-Acosta family for arranging the evening, and for organizing the book drive for Books for America.

We are approaching our last few big events for the year. We are all looking forward to **Spring Fling** this Friday, and we appreciate all the hard work of our **Room Parents** in getting us organized for that. Our chair **Margaret Powell**, has been tremendously organized in getting this operation together, and we know it will be fun. The staff, of course, is looking forward to NEXT week- **Staff Appreciation Week**. Many thanks to Chairs **Ellen Chandler**, **Pilar Gottret** and **Debbie White** for planning a great week for the Best Teachers in the USA! *Please support them with your donations for the daily teacher raffle if you can.* Great work, everyone!

-Kristy Gersten Keteltas

## **International Night Recap and – Until Next Year!**

International Night 2007 – this year’s theme was “Celebrate Our World” was a wonderful evening and the organizers would like to thank everyone who took part – our volunteers, parents, students, CSES leadership and staff, and everyone who helped make it a success. This year we had eight country booths, a student volunteer project, world travel DVDs for the littler ones, and the evening had a “smashing” finale with the international percussion performance of Luis Garay Percussion World. It all came together and it couldn’t have happened without the help of so many people. We’d like to thank in particular the following people from this year’s International Night, including volunteers who coordinated entire aspects of the evening and all our friends from Pyle Middle School who helped out. If we missed anyone, please forgive us and don’t hold it against us. We want you back next year!

### **Country booth volunteers**

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Aasil Ahmad             | Anita Kattapuram    |
| Arif Ali                | Kamran Khan         |
| Salma Ali               | Lois Kramer         |
| Marie Amat              | Deb Lang            |
| Morgane Amat            | Jun Li              |
| Priya Ammu              | Barbara Malachowski |
| Valerie Mercer-Blackman | Michal Malachowski  |
| Andrew Blackman         | Fary Norooz         |
| Nicholas Blackman       | Leyla Norooz        |
| Liping Chen             | Sheeva Norooz       |
| Angela Child            | Dylan Rublee        |
| Vidya Dandi             | Nick Tosini         |
| Mahvash Eidizadeh       | Karan Shepardonson  |
| Patricia Eng            | Chung M. Shu        |
| Laura Friedman          | Saima Siddiqui      |
| Elizabeth Ghauri        | Jane Tam            |
| Lugman Ghauri           | Kathy Yu            |
| Sheryl Golub            | Chung M. Shu        |
| Chris Hodgman           | Jane Tam            |
| Tamara Hodgman          | Kathy Yu            |
| Ray and Jing-Fun Hwang  |                     |

### **Community Service Project volunteers**

Saanya Ali  
Amy Bernhard  
Holli Goral  
Karen Schwartzman  
Diane Hemmersbaugh

Special thanks to Ms. Ver Planck

### **International Fashion Parade**

Kristy Keteltas

### **International Café**

Carolyn LoBuglio

### **Logo design and school decorations**

Kristina Valencia

### **Welcome desk volunteers**

Deborah Livornese  
Martin Spicer

Special thanks to Ana Sanchez, who helped out in innumerable ways and made so many aspects of the whole evening successful – with amazing energy and a smile!

Special thanks also to Kristy Keteltas, Lynn Gertzog, and Carolyn LoBuglio, who provided advice, help, and a sense of humor before and during the event and helped make the Café and everything going on in the APR and around the school go smoothly.

Special thanks to all the volunteers from Pyle Middle School who helped with the country booths and other activities at International Night.

Bob Erdman and Ned Hodgman  
Co-chairs

Thank you again to everyone who attended the "Managing stress in our families" discussion on April 17th. For anyone who couldn't make the meeting, handouts can be picked up in Ms. VerPlanck's mailbox in the office. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for next year.

On behalf of the PTA, I would like to thank Clayton VerPlanck for all of her efforts this year in providing her valuable perspective, guidance and resources to Carderock students and parents. The PTA recognized her efforts and our appreciation with a gift.

## PTA Open Committees

Thinking about getting more involved at school? Please consider one of these committee openings. Please call a PTA Board member or the outgoing chair (please see listing in Directory) to find out more about a position that might interest you.

Bingo Night Coordinator  
Book Fair Co-Chair  
Directory Advertising (Publishing is filled)  
Front Hallway Bulletin Board Czar  
Gifted and Talented Liaison  
Grade Level Socials  
PTA Membership

Sally Foster Sale Chair (or Co-Chairs)  
Skate Night  
Special Needs  
Spring Fling Co-Chair  
Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs  
Welcoming Committee for New Families

### CSES PTA Web Redesign

The CSES PTA Web site has been redesigned with updated content and easy navigation. Make sure to bookmark the site <http://www.csespta.org> as information will be updated often.

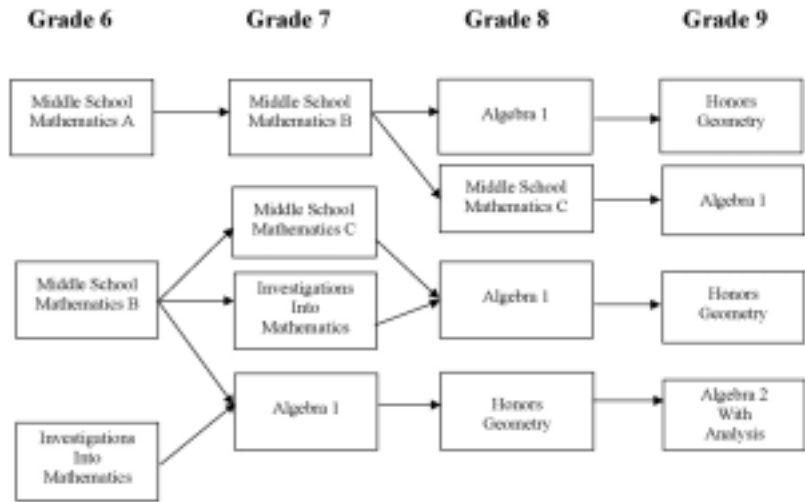
# Cluster Update on Math Pathways

Did you know that when your child receives a placement in a math class now, that the placement will affect a math pathway which continues through 12th grade? Advancing children to accelerated curricula has an impact on whether they take high school courses in middle school, and which courses remain when they get to High School.

Cluster representatives from Whitman Cluster schools have been discussing this issue all year. We would like parents to be informed that it is not only important that your child is placed in a class appropriate to their level now, but also as they move down the pathway.

The charts reproduced are very difficult to read, an important point is that Algebra I and Honors Geometry are high school classes, with final exams and grades that go on the permanent transcript. It is the County goal to have 80% of students take Algebra in the 8th grade. Acceleration beyond one grade level above grade puts children on a pathway to take Algebra in 7th or even 6th grade. Certainly, this is an appropriate opportunity for some children. But please keep this in mind when evaluating opportunities in elementary school.

Middle School Mathematics Sequences



Carderock teachers and faculty have been very vigilant about placement and assessment of performance with this in mind. Acceleration of students at a rate of one grade above puts children into Math A (once a middle school course) in 5th grade, which keeps them on track to meet the County objective.

Some students will move beyond this track while at Carderock, and others would be inappropriately rushed to take this track. Teachers and the principal are available to discuss the implications of your child's placement once it is determined, and have resolved to try to place children where they will feel most successful now and in the long term.

Visit [csepta.org](http://csepta.org) to view these charts online.

