

May, 2008

Carderocket



**Carderock Springs Elementary School
PTA Newsletter**

Inside This Issue:

- President's Letter – p. 1
- Committee News – p. 2-4
- Calendar – p. 3

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Letter from the PTA President

Dear Carderock Families:

Spring is in the air! All of the April rain has resulted in a beautiful growth spurt for our tranquil Habitat Garden. **Alison Lepard and Alison Ewing** are the green thumbs behind the Garden. Special thanks to them for taking so much of their personal time to add those special gardeners touches throughout the school property, which add color and beauty to the school grounds.

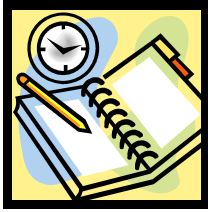
We have only a few PTA events left for this school year. I'm sure our wonderful teachers are looking forward to **Staff Appreciation Week** (May 5-9). Our Co-Chairs, **Ana Sanchez and Suzanne Dritschilo** have been hard at work planning a great week to show how much Carderock families appreciate all that the staff does throughout the year for our children and for parents too. On behalf of the PTA, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the teachers for making learning fun for our children, and for always being willing to go the extra mile and talk with parents about their child, for reaching out to parents when something just doesn't seem right with their child's progress, for taking the time to ensure that each child is learning even if it means adjusting their own teaching style for the benefit of the student, and for always being willing to work with parents toward giving each child the most enriching learning environment possible.

Spring Fling is coming up on Friday, May 16th! We are all looking forward to that. Many thanks to **Margaret Powell and all of our Room Parents**, who have been doing a great job in planning many fun and exciting games and activities for our children. So, grab a picnic blanket and plan to come. Don't forget to bring your appetites with you. There will be food and drink and let us not forget the creatively delicious display of cakes for the cake walk. Let's hope for sunny skies and warm temps!

We have had a very busy month behind the scenes at the PTA. Our Nominating Committee, led by **Sheryl Golub**, has been hard at work to identify and nominate new parent leadership for next year. I am so pleased to announce our slate of nominees: **Sara Bhatia**, President, **Maxine Schnitzer**, Executive Vice President, **Jenn Fechter**, Vice President, **Sharon Keegan**, Vice President, **Karen Hutchinson**, Vice President, **Joni Lucas Shapiro**, Co-Secretary, **Ana Sanchez**, Co-Secretary, **Deb Lang and Sheryl Golub**, Co-Cluster Representatives, and **Jennifer Gold**, MCCPTA Delegate.

The PTA Board has also been working hard to staff our Committee Chair positions for next year. A VERY SINCERE and VERY BIG THANK YOU to all those parents who stepped up to chair committees! We are in great shape for next year!

- *Maxine C. Schnitzer*



Log your volunteer hours!

Parent Volunteer Committee -

Theresa Goldsholle and Ana Sanchez

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered already this year! It's that time of the year again ... *time to update your Volunteer Sign-In Logs!*

Please remember to record the number of hours you have volunteered until March 31st. Please track all your volunteer hours ... whether you're working in the classroom or at school events, helping out behind the scenes in the copy room or media center, on field trips, or at home fulfilling PTA committee work. Every volunteer hour counts! You can note your hours in the volunteer logbook located in the PTA cubby adjacent to the school copy room or simply keep track at home and email awraye@msn.com.

If you haven't kept the exact track of hours, please estimate dates and times as best as you can. Your Volunteer Coordinators are in the process of compiling the information to fill out the MCPS report about our Volunteer Program and it is critical that we receive the complete information by **April 18th** to award Carderock the recognition it deserves! Thank you for your continued support of our school!

4th and 5th Grade Book Clubs -

Mrs. Lang, Mrs. White and Mrs. Martinsen

4th and 5th Grade Book Clubs are winding down! Prior to their annual year-end book swap (look for details to come home later in May) the 4th and 5th grade book clubs will meet on Friday, May 16th to discuss their final books for the school year.

During lunch on that day, the 5th graders will discuss Among The Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix and Cliff Nielsen.

"Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?" (from Amazon.com)

The 4th graders will meet during recess and will discuss The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread, by Kate DiCamillo and Timothy Basil Ering.

"Children whose hopes and dreams burn secretly within their hearts will relate to this cast of outsiders who desire what is said to be out of their reach and dare to break "never-to-be-broken rules of conduct." Timothy Basil Ering's pencil illustrations are stunning, reflecting DiCamillo's extensive light and darkness imagery as well as the sweet, fragile nature of the tiny mouse hero who lives happily ever after." (from a review from Amazon.com)

All are welcome to come to the meetings on May 16th - Carderock Book Clubs are always run on a drop-in basis. Happy Reading!

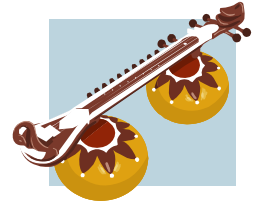


Parent Education -- Christine Fruehwirth

Thank you to Phyllis Marcus and Clayton VerPlanck for the informative presentation about Internet safety on May 6th. If you were not able to make the discussion, please let me know so I can get the materials to you. I will be the Parent Education chairperson for one final year next year so please let me know if you have any suggestions or topics you are interested in.

Cultural Arts Assembly – Salma Hasan Ali

Our children traveled to South Asia this Spring to experience the rhythms of classical Indian dance, the bharatanatyam, performed by a Pakistani dancer and choreographer, Tehreema Mitha. She is the only Muslim woman in the world who performs this dance. They learned the three main positions in this classical dance form, and practiced rhythm patterns and salutations. They practiced how to tell a story in dance using their facial expressions, especially their eyes.



We then traveled to Israel to hear the magical tales of Noa Baum, a multicultural storyteller. She explained how, long before the written word, people told stories and that stories were part of the life fabric of communities in every part of the world. Our children closed their eyes and allowed themselves to be transported to far off lands, as Noa captivated them with tales of courage, wisdom and hope.



Next, we found ourselves in the jungles of Africa, as the City Dance Ensemble re-created Rudyard Kipling’s “The Jungle Book.” With elaborate costumes, the dancers transformed themselves into animals as they leapt, pranced and pounced their way across the stage, leaving our kids breathless!

Our final performance will take us to the islands of the Pacific. The Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre will present traditional culture, music and dance dating back to 900 AD. They will share energetic songs and dances wearing beautiful hand-crafted grass and beaded clothing. This is New Zealand’s only full-time professional Maori dance company, and we are thrilled they are coming to Carderock Springs Elementary.



So our international adventures come to an end, for now. We’ve covered every continent, and so many different cultures, from Maasai villagers to Caribbean musicians to Spanish flamenco, and so much more. I hope the message that stays with our kids is one expressed by one of our performers: *“We’re all the same instrument; we may look a little a different, we may sound a little different; but we all play beautiful music.”*

2008 Calendar

May

- 6 PTA Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 5-9 Staff Appreciation Week
- 16 Spring Fling
- 26 No School – Memorial Day
- 30 Rain Date Spring Fling

June

- 2 PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 5th Grade Promotion
- 12 Last Day of School - Early Release 12:30 p.m.

Community Service -- Amy Bernhard, Holli Goral, Diane Hemmersbaugh, Karen Schwartzman, and Clayton Ver Planck

The Community Service Committee extends a thank you our school for the outstanding support and active participation that our students, faculty and parents have given during the course of the school year. Our team was busy this year creating community service projects that would make a difference to our local and wider communities. Thanks to Clayton Ver Planck, for helping us to tie our projects creatively with the "Pillars of the Month." This helped our students build a bridge to the ethics being taught and foster a greater appreciation for why community service enriches everyone's life.



GET WELL!

We started the year back in October with our first project, in which our children demonstrated respect to the injured soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Hospital. The children could not wait to write thank-you notes and color cartoons designed by the White House Commission of Remembrance. Over 300 colorfully decorated and wonderfully written notes brightened many wounded soldiers' lives during Fall.

Our next project was "Buck a Book" held in November. This was sponsored in conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair. Children donated a dollar while they purchased their own books at the school library. Our hallway was filled with happy snowman, which helped to highlight the participation of our students. Funds raised were used to purchase new books and these were donated by the committee to the E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington, D.C.



In December, we held a Holiday Toy Drive. The toys were delivered to A Wider Circle, to help children in need celebrate the holidays. Finally, during our classroom Valentine's Day parties, our children, along with the help of many parents, created beautiful laminated bookmarks for the children staying at The Children's Inn (part of NIH). These bookmarks lightened the days of many young patients at the Inn, while they received treatment for their illnesses. The project reinforced the Pillars of the Month, which were caring and empathy. We hope that community service projects during these Valentines' Day classroom parties become a tradition for our school and something we can all be proud of.



We would like to thank everyone for helping us make this year a terrific one for community service. Our committee is already planning for some exciting and unique projects for the next school year! We look forward to the continued support and the fun we will all have carrying out these projects together. Have a great summer.