

November 21, 2007

Carderocket



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Carderock Springs Elementary School PTA Newsletter

Letter from the PTA President

Dear Carderock Families:

Even before Halloween costumes were stored away, local stores began stringing lights, holiday jingles could be heard playing on your favorite radio station, and TV commercials and magazines ads were noticeably redder and greener in color. Our year end holidays are being forced upon us sooner and sooner each year. It has gotten to the point that all the holidays seem to run into one another and become one big blur. Although I am no Scrooge, I have to say that Thanksgiving is too important a holiday to be relegated to a blur!

Thanksgiving is the one holiday that is purely American. Whether we celebrate Diwali, Kwanzaa, Eid al-Fitr, Dongzhi, O-shogatsu, and Hanukkah or Christmas, on Thanksgiving we remember that we are all Americans celebrating how thankful we are for the freedoms and privileges we have been given. In one of his Thanksgiving speeches, Theodore Roosevelt said, "Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds."

With those meaningful words in mind, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those parent volunteers who, through their deeds, have enriched the educational experience for our children. In October, **Salma Ali**, our Cultural Arts Chair, brought in Maasai and Luo villagers from Kenya to expose our kids to East African culture through music, song, and dance. The children and staff danced and sang with the villagers, and for this one short moment felt transported to their village in Kenya. The looks of utter joy and excitement on our children's faces were priceless.

Keeping with the international theme, FLES classes are filled to capacity, with over 50 students enrolled, thanks to the work of **Valerie Mercer-Blackman** and **Marie Caulfield**. Coordinating these classes takes a lot of time and effort, and the Carderock community thanks you.

Gigi Meineke, Directory Publishing Chair, and **Roxanne Sweeny**, Directory Advertising Chair, did a brilliant job in getting our School Directory funded and published! The Directory looks fantastic! Advertising sales reached a record high this year! It takes many hours and countless phone calls to get the Directory done and we are all sincerely grateful to have this indispensable reference book in our hands!

On the Spirit-wear front, we would like to thank **Lauren Sachs** for coming up with another eye-catching design for the 2007-2008 Carderock T-shirts. Lauren has added CSES Sweatshirts and flannel PJ Bottoms to our Spirit-wear offerings, so order yours now -- they make great gifts!

Finally, Bingo Night was a rousing good time, thanks to the fun-spirited planning by **Lauren Gross**. The door prizes were terrific and so was the pizza! All reports are that the kids had a blast and that it was a fun-filled family night for all!

We have an exceptionally diverse, giving and tight-knit community here at Carderock. This Thanksgiving, let us remember to be thankful for that, too!

- Maxine C. Schnitzer

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

Help make International Night '08 the best ever!
Volunteer today!



International Night (1/31/08) – Ned Hodgman, Bob Erdman

Get ready for International Night 2008! The theme for this year's International Night, to be held Thursday, January 31 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., is "A World for All Seasons" and the evening will feature the events everyone has come to love -- plus some new items as well! We'll have our always-popular country booths to show our students the world in every classroom, plus the fashion parade, the International Cafe, and a great musical event to top off the evening. So count this as your first call for volunteers to join in and help make International Night a huge success! We need to confirm country booths, and we also need helpers for the cafe, volunteers for the welcome desk, someone to run the fashion parade, and help with art work and decorating for the event.

Let's make this International Night a real celebration of our world's diversity and the wonderful international community we have at CSES! Please contact Ned Hodgman at edward.hodgman@gmail.com and Bob Erdman at bob.erdman@gmail.com to let us know what you would like to do to help make this year's International Night the best ever for our students!

Cultural Arts Assemblies -- Salma Hasan Ali

Spectacular! Mesmerizing! Fascinating! Authentic! Just some of the words used by students and teachers to describe the first Cultural Arts assembly of the year -- a captivating performance by Maasai and Luo villagers from Kenya. The group, known as "Friends of Sironka", introduced our kids to the culture of East Africa through music, song, dance, and storytelling. Wearing colorful clothing, beaded necklaces and collars, and distinctive markings, 10 villagers from these two tribes stirred up our children to chant, dance and speak Swahili! Sironka, the leader of this troupe, is a Fulbright scholar and an award-winning batik artist and children's author. He auditioned hundreds of Kenyans to form his dance troupe, who visit the United States every two years for a limited time and perform throughout the country. Not only did our children benefit by learning about a unique cultural heritage, but children in Kenya will also benefit, as the money the group raises through its performances helps educate Maasai girls and improve the lives of village children in Kenya. Up next ... the pulsating rhythms and upbeat songs of the Caribbean with Goombay!

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

Our Media Specialist Patricia Martinsen, together with two book-loving and child-loving parents, have been running a monthly book club that meets during lunch and recess for each of the 4th and 5th grades for the past few years. Each year the kids help select, read and discuss 6-7 books - - just for the fun of it! No BCRs!! They also hold a big book swap at the end of the year - cleaning out their supplies of books that they no longer want, and replenishing their shelves for some excellent summer reading.

Last month the Book Clubs got off to a wonderful start with both groups reading Loser, by Jerry Spinelli. Last week the kids met to make posters which will be hung around the halls advertising next month's selections: No Talking by Andrew Clements for the 4th Graders; and On My Honor by Marion Dane Bauer for the 5th graders.

Both groups will meet again on Wednesday, December 12th.



Box Tops for Education -- Karen Hutchinson

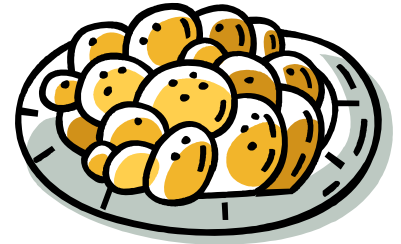
Way to go Carderock students and parents! We collected 1,288 box tops for our school, which translates to \$128.80! This is our largest collection to date! Thank you for all of your diligent cutting and saving. Keep up the good work throughout the holidays as you do your holiday baking and entertaining. Our next deadline is in February, and I would like our goal to be 1300 box tops or more. Remember to check the expiration dates and clip carefully, as to not cut off the expiration date. Also, ask other family members and neighbors to save their box top coupons for our school. Thanks again for your participation!

Staff Appreciation Committee -- Suzanne Dritschilo, Ana Sanchez

The teachers really appreciated the personalized goody bags during parent-teacher conference week as well as the re-supply shoe boxes! Thanks to all who contributed shoe boxes and helped with these very special treats for our teachers! We love putting new appreciation ideas into action for our hardworking staff, so keep those ideas coming.

It is time to start baking for our annual Holiday Cookie Platters! The PTA tries to help ease some of the holiday stress by giving cookie platters to staff ready to be nibbled by their families. Delivery of the platters is scheduled for Monday, December 17. We will be assembling them during the weekend of December 15 and 16. Location and details will be emailed to everyone in the coming weeks.

We have 23 bakers signed up so far--but **WE NEED MORE**. No prior baking experience needed! Please help us by baking a couple of dozen cookies to show your appreciation for our staff. Please email Suzanne at dtppro@aol.com if you can help.



Grade Level Socials -- Jill McClelland

The grade level socials have all been held, and now a round of thanks are in order to our fabulous host families for letting us invade their homes for an evening of socializing with other parents. I apologize in advance if I have left anyone who helped with the socials off this list, and just say a blanket thank you to all those who helped plan, set up, serve, cook, and clean up at these parties.

Thanks to **Leslie Bellas** and **David Weiler** for hosting a '70's theme party on October 13th for the kindergarten parents. Many parents came dressed from the '70's, and a great time was had by all. Thanks also to **Denise Gray**, **Sharon Keegan**, **Ilene Penn Miller** and **Valerie Mercer Blackman** for helping out.

Thanks to **Robert** and **Joni Lucas Shapiro** for hosting the first grade parents on November 10th. **Deb Livornese**, **Sandy Rauh**, **Laura Katz**, **Laura Gwyn** and **Theresa Goldsholle** helped to make this evening great.

Thanks to **Page** and **David Dekker** for hosting the second grade parents on October 27th. They had a great turnout, thanks to the hard work of **Sharon Keegan**, **Susan Smith**, **Kristin Russell** and **Melanie Caudron**.

Thanks to **Patricia Toro** and **Enrique Gomez-Pinzon** for hosting an Italian feast for the third grade parents on October 26th. Even the pouring rain didn't dampen this evening. **Peggy May**, **Kristy Keteltas** and **Sandy Rauh** helped coordinate this fun evening.

Thanks to **Lois** and **Merrill Kramer** for hosting the fourth grade parents on October 12th. Parents stayed late enjoying the food and socializing. **Maria Rendon Labadan**, **Audrey Berenato**, **Lynda McIntyre** and **Melanie Caudron** worked with Lois to make this a memorable evening for all.

And last, but not least, thanks to **Suzanne** and **Peter Dritschilo** for hosting the fifth grade parents' LAST grade level social at the Carderock Springs Swim Club on October 6th. The fifth grade parents didn't want to leave, thanks to the delicious buffet that was coordinated by **Laura Friedman**, **Leslie Reed** and **Maria Anderson**.

Parent Education -- Christine Fruehwirth

Thank you to all the parents who attended the "Positive body image and self-esteem" discussion led by Dr. Kay Abrams on November 5th. I have received only positive feedback about her and the topics we discussed.

The next Parent Education event, "Homework Habits" will be Thursday, February 7th from 10:00- 11:30 in the Art Room. The speaker will be Pam Mintz from YMCA Youth and Family Services. Due to the PTA meeting schedule early next year and in an effort to offer parents a variety, this event is being scheduled during school hours. For those who cannot make this meeting, materials will be available for distribution. I will provide more details on the speaker and what will be covered in this discussion after the holiday break.

Need Holiday Wrapping Paper? Keep Shopping for Carderock!

Even though our fall Sally Foster fundraiser has ended, you can still shop at www.SallyFoster.com through Jan. 15, 2008, and our PTA will continue to earn a 50% profit on all orders placed on our behalf.

So, if you've discovered that you need more holiday wrapping paper and bows or more hostess gifts, your purchases will continue to help the school. Sally Foster is Carderock's biggest fundraiser of the year, and profits from our sales almost single-handedly support activities throughout the year, such as Arts & Literacy Night, International Night, cultural arts assemblies, and other ongoing PTA activities.

Our fall drive was successful, but we fell a bit short of our budgetary goal. 'Tis the season to shop, and it's easy —

- Go to www.SallyFoster.com,
- View the products,
- Place your order, and
- When prompted, enter our school account number, 501383.



Tell your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about www.SallyFoster.com — keep shopping and help us achieve our goal!

FLES Spanish, French and Chinese Classes -- Valerie Mercer-Blackman and Marie Caulfield

Our FLES language classes have gotten off to a roaring start. We are very pleased with such committed parents and kids, who are in most cases waking up an hour early once a week to attend the language classes.

On the introductory classes, we are pleased to have some very enthusiastic Kindergarteners and 1st graders. We have 15 students in the Spanish class, which got into full swing in mid-October, with some kids taking it for a second session (using a new theme). And we are very happy to be offering the first ever Chinese class at Carderock Springs, which just got started! The students have been really enjoying learning about "The Country Mouse and City Mouse" in Chinese. Keep your eyes open for special language performances during International Night this coming January.

In the language classes for 2nd-5th graders, we have two Spanish and two French classes in full swing. The classes are small so the kids are getting lots of individualized attention!

As the registration process moved along this year, it was clear that offering classes in the afternoon, after school, will bring in some additional kids. Part of the problem is related to the lack of classroom space. We hope that once we move into the temporary facilities--and back into our new school--this issue will be completely resolved. In particular, we hope we can extend Chinese classes for the 2nd-5th graders very soon.



Happy Thanksgiving!

CALENDAR

December

- 4 PTA Date (Possible Family Night for Book Fair/Hanukkah starts)
- 24 Winter Break Begins

January 2008

- 1 No School - New Year's Day
- 2 Return to School from Holiday Break
- 21 No School - Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 22 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- 31 International Night



