

September/October
2007

Carderocket



**Carderock Springs Elementary School
PTA Newsletter**

Letter from the PTA President

Dear Carderock Families:

We've been back to school almost a full month and there are plenty of signs that students, teachers and parents are quickly getting back into the swing of things. Book bags have replaced beach bags, sneakers have replaced flip flops, long pants are beginning to replace shorts, and our street corners are once again filled with sleepy children (and parents) waiting for the yellow school bus.

Our PTA Committees have already cranked into high gear. **Ana Sanchez** and **Suzanne Dritschilo**, our Staff Appreciation Chairs, literally rolled out the red carpet to welcome our outstanding staff back to school and gave each staff member their own star on the "Carderock Walk of Fame!" I've heard that the staff also loved the wonderful breakfast provided. Our children were so excited to see all of their new school supplies waiting for them on their desks on the first day of school, thanks to **Alison Ewing** and **Meris Sparrow** who organized the Back to School Supply Kits. We also enjoyed a lovely "get to know you" breakfast for parents new to Carderock, thanks to **Astrid Costello**, our Welcome Committee Chair.

Tina Carmichael is doing a wonderful job with the PTA Membership drive. Kudos to Tina for coordinating and staffing the PTA Membership table at both of our Back to School Nights. Initial reports are that we are well on our way to breaking last year's membership record! If you have not yet done so, it's not too late to join the PTA and receive the School Directory. Simply fill out and return the registration form contained in this Newsletter.

Melanie Caudron, **Nancy Holden** and **Rose Oppenheim** kicked off our annual Sally Foster fundraiser so beautifully with their display of gorgeously wrapped boxes and gift bags in the front hall glass cabinet. They have done a phenomenal job with this fundraiser and we are all so grateful. I am confident it will be a huge success for the PTA! The Back to School picnic was sensational, thanks to our fun loving Chairs **Lora Bevirt** and **Peggy May**. We had a huge turnout, unbeatable weather and tons of fun for the whole family!

A big thank you also goes out to **Lynn Gertzog** for doing such a wonderful job editing and publishing this *Carderocket* newsletter. This is an ongoing job for Lynn and we are fortunate to have such a creative and organized editor.

As fall begins to roll in there are many fun-filled events and activities for our families to enjoy at Carderock during the upcoming months. If you would like to find out about our schedule of PTA events, please check out our website at www.csespta.org. **Marlee Margulies**, our PTA Website Host, has done a fabulous job with the website and we are most appreciative.

Thank you to all our parent volunteers who have made the transition from summer vacation back to school an easy and enjoyable one. Enjoy the clear, crisp fall weather!

- *Maxine C. Schnitzer*

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Principal:

Susan MacLaughlin

PTA President:

Maxine Schnitzer

PTA Executive VP:

Kristy Keteltas

PTA VPs:

Sheryl Golub
Karen Hutchinson
Sharon Keegan

PTA Co-Secretaries

Jenn Fechter
Joni Lucas Shapiro

PTA Treasurer:

Lynn deBettencourt

MCCPTA Rep:

Sara Bhatia

Cluster Rep:

Deb Lang

Newsletter Editor:

Lynn Gertzog

PTA Website:
www.csespta.org

Stay connected! Join the Carderock listserv for emails about school functions and happenings. Go to carderocknet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Carderock PTA is Going Green

Do you feel inundated and overwhelmed by the amount of paper coming home in your child's backpack? Are you tired of all of those colored paper flyers for after school activities, sports teams, and PTA event reminders flooding your home every Wednesday afternoon? Are you wondering why your elementary school is still wasting paper and ink (not to mention all of the energy expended by our parent volunteers who stuff the Wednesday folders) while your middle and high schools have gone electronic?

Well, we were wondering the same thing! So the CSES PTA is planning to make a transition to paperless communication between the PTA and our parents (with accommodations for those who either do not use a computer or who prefer to receive paper communications). Our goal is to reduce the amount of paper sent home, understanding that there always will be some materials that will be sent home in the backpacks. We plan to post a weekly email to Carderocknet with the flyers, advertisements, and after school activity registration applications. This way, each parent can decide for themselves which flyer or registration application to print out and which to delete. The flyers, advertisements and applications will also be posted on www.csespta.org each week and will remain on the website for a four-week period. In addition, we would plan to have a PTA Box set up at school where a hard copy of all material will be available for pick up.

The transition to a paperless PTA will occur in the new year. Parents will have the choice to opt out of "email only" communication. In the meantime, take a deep breath on Wednesday afternoons and know that relief is on the way. Please sign up for Carderocknet if you have not already done so by going to carderocknet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



**Save a tree ...
Help your PTA transition to
paperless communication**

PTA Website – Marlee Margulies

The PTA website has been redesigned for easier navigation and use. Visit and bookmark this resource: <http://www.csespta.org>.

The site provides up-to-date information on PTA activities at Carderock. You can also view calendar and committee information, cluster news and volunteer opportunities, school renovation updates, as well as access various forms for printing at home.

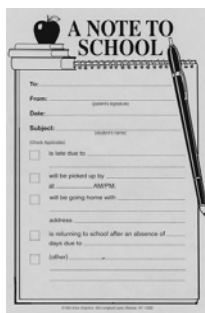
If you have information you would like included on the site, please email webmaster Marlee Margulies at margulies@mindspring.com.

Note to School Note Pads are Here!

It's time to order notepads for the new school year. Check your backpacks for the order form, or go the "forms" section of the CSES website (<http://www.csespta.org>) to print one out.

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.



Staff Appreciation Committee -- Suzanne Dritschilo, Ana Sanchez

We are off to a great start with showing our staff how much we value them! The staff really enjoyed being greeted on their first day back by a few Staff Appreciation surprises, especially since the entire school had no electricity until 2 pm! On the first day of school, fresh baked breads and pastries (courtesy of Barbara Black of the mouth-watering Black's Restaurant Group) and piping hot Starbucks coffee helped rev them up to meet the students.

On the 17th the staff was greeted with juice and fruit salad and a surprise raffle drawing of a local restaurant gift certificate. October 22nd will bring a nice hot pot luck luncheon for the staff to help chase away the autumn chill in the air that will hopefully be coming soon. Please call or email us if you'd like to provide a dish for the luncheon. We provide pickups this year too if you can't get to the school. Door-to-door service with a smile!

The staff appreciation committee is planning something special to help the staff on November 5th and we need your empty shoe boxes with lids. We need 30 shoe boxes total. If you have any gathering dust in your closet and you'd like to find them a new home, please drop them off on the front porch at 8028 Lilly Stone Drive in the big bin marked SHOE BOXES. Boxes should be in good condition, with lids and no tears, holes, etc. It doesn't matter what is written on the outside of the box because they will be covered and decorated with our school's own GORGEOUS ****SALLY FOSTER**** wrapping paper!! Thanks in advance for your helpful donations.

Finally, we'll be enlisting everyone's cooking and baking abilities for both the luncheon and the December holiday cookie exchange, so get ready rounding up those favorite cookie recipes, start matching up the measuring cups, and stocking the flour and sugar because your incredible culinary skills will be warmly welcomed! We look forward to hearing from you soon. Smiles from Suzanne (dtppro@aol.com) and Ana (awraye@msn.com).



Giant/Safeway Bonus Bucks – Amy Kwak

Greetings from the Giant/Safeway BonusBucks corner!

By now, you should have received a flyer in backpack mail about the program. Remember, your participation in BonusBucks is one of the easiest ways to raise money for CSES. Last year we raised almost \$6,800 just by doing what we do all the time - shop for groceries!

If you are new to the program, you can either register online by going to (http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/pin_aplus.htm for Giant and <https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp> for Safeway) OR I can register your cards for you if you return your completed flyer to me. After you're registered, you will be earning money for CSES every time your Giant Bonus Card or Safeway Club Card gets scanned.

Thanks for your support!

“Last year we raised almost \$6,800 just by shopping for groceries!”



Grade Level Socials – Jill McClelland

The Grade Level Socials are coming soon, thanks to everyone who offered to host and help with these fun evenings. Thank you all for making my job very easy and enjoyable! All grades are busy making plans, so watch for future flyers and e-mails from your child's grade about the date, time and location of your event. Please try to attend, as these are a great way to get to know the parents of your child's friends and classmates.

Cultural Arts Assemblies -- Salma Hasan Ali

Check that your kids all have their passports, because we are continuing our around-the-world journey to many different lands!

First stop: a Maasai and Luo village in Kenya, to meet 10 villagers who will share their rich East African culture with our children through dance, stories and music. Next stop: New Zealand, to experience Maori dance and theatre. We will also try and meet a world-renowned Native American hoop dancer, hear magical tales from the Amazon rainforest, experience Russian acoustic folk music, and discover the majesty of India.

So, buckle your seatbelts, these are just a few of the exciting cultural assemblies we're trying to book for this year. Anyone who wants to help, please contact Salma at salmahasanali@yahoo.com or (301) 983-3397. Bon voyage!

**CSES
students
travel
around the
world
through
cultural arts
assemblies**



Bingo Night – Lauren Gross

Bingo Night Returns!!!! Come one, come all! Bingo fun, with lots and lots of prizes! Game prizes, door prizes, food and fun!!!! Mark you calendars now! Friday, November 16, at 7 p.m. at Pyle Middle School. Parent volunteers are asked to contact Lauren Gross at LaurenGinMD@aol.com.

International Night – Ned Hodgman, Bob Erdman

Let's Make International Night 2008 the Best Ever!

Greetings to everyone (in every possible language) and we are happy to announce that a date has been selected for International Night! The annual celebration of world culture at CSES will be held **Thursday, January 31, 2008**. There will be music, food from around the world, and the always-popular country booths! Do you have a country whose culture you'd like to display and talk about with student and parent visitors? Last year we had 10 countries from around the world represented, plus a great percussion show, and fantastic international cuisine. We're getting into the planning stages now and are ready to welcome country booth coordinators and volunteers to help with the International Café, musical event, and logistics.

If you are interested in volunteering or just want to learn more, please get in touch with Ned Hodgman and Bob Erdman, co-chairs of International Night. Ned is at edward.hodgman@gmail.com, tel. (301) 326-7137, and Bob is at bob.erdman@gmail.com, tel. (301) 560-4587. Thanks!



Be a Voice For Your Children – Join the PTA!

Carderock Springs PTA invites you to become a member for the 2007-2008 school year. Your support will help enhance your child’s education and provide exciting experiences during the school year. Joining is easy!

Memberships are individual and voluntary. Members receive: confirmation of your membership, a membership card for voting, a monthly PTA newsletter, and a school directory. Membership dues are \$25.00 per adult. Only one adult per family needs to join.

Membership is traditionally the PTA’s primary fundraiser in conjunction with Sally Foster Gift Wrap sales in the fall. For each membership dues paid, a portion goes to the National, State, and County PTA Organizations. All funds are used exclusively for Carderock Springs Elementary School programs. We recommend at least one Membership per family (Membership is required to vote), and we gratefully accept and appreciate any additional donations. Membership Dues and Donations are both Tax Deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Please complete the form below, and return it to school in an envelope marked "PTA Membership." Make your check payable to: CSES PTA.

CSES PTA Membership 2007-08

Individual Member’s Name _____

(please list ONLY ONE name to be recorded for voting, no Mr. & Mrs.)

Email Address _____

Your Youngest registered CSES student (for sending home the school directory):

Child’s Name _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

_____ I am interested in joining a PTA committee or volunteering

\$ _____ Teacher and Staff membership dues \$5.00

\$ _____ Individual Membership dues \$25.00 ea.

\$ _____ Extra Student Directory \$8.00 ea. *(one comes with your paid membership)*

\$ _____ Additional Donation to CSES PTA

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Please return form and dues check via backpack mail to:
CSES PTA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Tina Carmichael



Spirit T-Shirts and Flannel Pajama Bottoms

Newly designed 2007-2008 Carderock T-Shirts are on their way! Kids love to collect the t-shirts every year and wear them on School Spirit Days! We are also adding flannel pajama bottoms --kids love to wear these to school or to lounge around the house! Be on the look-out for information about how to order soon.

Box Tops for Education -- Karen Hutchinson

No tricks, the only treats we want are Box Tops! It's time to cut like crazy for Box Tops for Education!

October 31st is the deadline for coupon submission in order for our school to receive a check in December. Please place coupons in the container provided in the front office. Let's see if we can round up so many, it's scary! Thank you for your time and effort in cutting, saving and sending in. Free money is a "boo"-tiful thing!

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

September

28 Early Release Day - 12:35 - Grading/Planning

October

2 PTA Meeting and Renovation Presentation 7 p.m.
8 Open House - Family Breakfast and Visiting Day 8:15 a.m.
19 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
31 Halloween Parade 1:30 p.m.

November

1 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
6 PTA Meeting and Parent Education Speaker 7 p.m.
9 Early Release Day - 12:35 p.m. - Parent/Teacher Conferences
12 Early Release Day - 12:35 p.m. - Parent/Teacher Conferences
16 Bingo Night
22-23 Thanksgiving Break

December

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



**Don't miss out ...
Mark your calendar!**