

August/September
2008

Carderocket



Inside...

- * Committee News
– p. 2 - 9
- * T-shirt Orders –
p. 5
- * Kids' Classifieds
– p. 8
- * Upcoming Events
– p. 9
- * PTA Membership
– p. 10

Principal:

Susan MacLaughlin

PTA President:

Sara Bhatia

PTA Executive VP:

Maxine Schnitzer

PTA VPs:

Karen Hutchinson
Sharon Keegan
Jenn Fechter

PTA Co-Secretaries

Joni Lucas Shapiro
Ana Sanchez

PTA Treasurer:

Cynthia DeBisschop

Assistant Treasurer:

Lynn deBettencourt

MCCPTA Rep:

Jennifer Gold

Cluster Reps:

Deb Lang
Sheryl Golub

Newsletter Editor:

Maria Acosta

PTA Website:

www.csespta.org

Carderock Springs Elementary School PTA Newsletter

Letter from the PTA President

Welcome to Carderock Springs@Radnor, and to a new school year! This has been an unexpectedly busy summer for the school staff and the PTA, prompted by the decision to accelerate the school's move to Radnor. We greatly appreciated the tremendous work done by the county and the CSES staff – particularly Dee Flanjak and her maintenance team – to ensure a warm and inviting welcome for our kids as they arrived at Radnor for the first time this week.

I also want to offer a special thank you to our principal, Mrs. MacLaughlin, who has worked tirelessly this summer to keep parents well informed about the move, to act as an advocate for parents' concerns, and to support the staff and students. Her enthusiasm and optimism about the move to Radnor have set the tone for a great new year.

The PTA and parent volunteers have worked very hard over the summer to support the staff in the move to Radnor, and to help ensure that the transition is a smooth, even exciting one, for the kids. The list of volunteers to thank reads like the school directory – please turn to page two where I sing their praises.

I do, however, want to extend my heartfelt thanks in this column to my predecessor, Maxine Schnitzer, who has spent the summer with me tucked firmly under her wing. I could not do this job without her, and indeed I won't – she will continue to be my right hand as Executive V.P. this year, and we will be supported by a terrific PTA Board, comprised of VPs Jenn Fechter, Karen Hutchinson, and Sharon Keegan; Treasurer Cynthia DeBisschop; Treasurer's Asst. Lynn deBettencourt; Co-Secretaries Joni Lucas Shapiro and Ana Sanchez; MCCPTA Representative Jennifer Gold; and Cluster Reps Sheryl Golub and Deb Lang. We have a full slate of first rate committee chairs, whom you will hear from throughout the year. All board members and chairs are listed with their contact information on the PTA website, www.csespta.org. As for me, please feel free to reach out to me at any time, at SaraBhatia@aol.com or 301-263-9403.

I want to offer a special welcome to the families new to Carderock Springs. Your children are joining a special community, comprised of skilled and dedicated teachers, led by a dynamic and engaged principal, committed to a student body of enthusiastic and intellectually curious kids. As parents, you too are an integral part of the Carderock community, and I encourage you to volunteer in your child's classroom and for any of the many PTA activities throughout the year. I hope you will join me at the New Parent/Volunteer Coffee, scheduled for September 12th, so that I can meet you personally, and so you can learn more about the school and opportunities to volunteer.

I was heartened to see so many families at the Goodbye Gathering at the old Carderock school on Sunday night. It was touching to hear favorite memories of the school from alumni, but also a reminder that even though our physical school has changed, the spirit of Carderock continues. Spend some time at CSES@Radnor volunteering, and join us on Visiting Day October 13. You'll see what I mean.

Best wishes for a great school year,
Sara Bhatia

Thanks, thanks, many thanks



It has been a very busy summer for the PTA, with many volunteers working overtime to support the staff and teachers in the move to Radnor, and with the start-up for the new school year.

Many thanks to our indefatigable Volunteer Co-chairs Ilene Penn Miller and Kristin Russell, for recruiting and organizing volunteer support to help teachers unpack last week, and thank you to the dozens of parents and kids who gave up their last days of summer vacation to lend a hand. Thanks to our dedicated Staff Appreciation chairs Ana Sanchez and Page Dekker, who provided meals, yummy treats, and lent support all last week, so the teachers could focus on getting the school ready.

Thank you to Alison Lepard and third grade teacher Natalie Barna who, with a team of volunteers, saved representative samples of our thriving habitat garden from the old Carderock, and will organize the planting of a new garden outside Radnor. And thanks to Lisa Bronfman and her second grade Brownie Troop for planting flowers to brighten the front of the school, and to American Plant Food, for their generous donations.

Thanks to Kristy Keteltas for organizing the Goodbye Gathering at the old Carderock school on Sunday evening, and to the volunteers who staffed the popsicle stand, time capsule, and t-shirt sales table. Thanks to Jane Love for photographing the event.

Thanks to Kristina Valencia for designing a gorgeous new logo for the school, featuring the motto "Building Carderock, Building Community." The new logo also appears on the school's cheerful new banner, generously donated by our school photographer, Blanton Studios, and arranged by Deb Lang. Our new school t-shirts – on sale via backpack mail (see p. 5) and at the Back to School Picnic – feature the new logo, along with the Carderock cub. Thanks to Ami Aronson for handling t-shirts sales.

And thanks to Alison Ewing and Meris Sparrow, along with a team of volunteers, for speedily delivering all the School Tool Box orders to the classrooms so that our kids had all their supplies in time for the Open House. Thank you to ICB Chair Angela Child, and Directory Advertising Chair Lisa Bronfman, whose PTA jobs are both invisible and invaluable, and required much work over the summer. And finally, thanks to Maria Acosta, our new Carderocket Newsletter editor, for pulling together all the PTA information to start the year off on a great note.



PTA Committee Vacancy -- Just 1 More Spot to Fill!

The After School Activities Committee is looking for a chair. Our PTA President, Sara Bhatia, is the outgoing chair of this committee, and needs to pass the baton to a new volunteer!

We are happy to offer a wide variety of fun after school activities for the children, but without a new chair, we can't continue these important programs. Most of the organizational work for the fall programs is already done - now we need a chair to handle registration, and to take over programming for the spring.

This is an easy volunteer position to do from home, on the computer, after the kids are asleep, and would be a great job for someone new to the Carderock community!

Your commitment of time and energy will be greatly appreciated by our children! Please contact Sara Bhatia at sarabhatia@aol.com if you are interested.

Volunteer Committee - Kristin Russell and Ilene Miller

WANTED...Your Time, Your Talent!



Welcome back to the new school year. And thank you to all of you who helped the teachers and staff unpack and set up.

We hope you will become a VOLUNTEER this year. We have volunteer opportunities of all sizes and time commitments, for working parents and those at home, for parents with older children and younger ones too, and many of the jobs can be scheduled at your convenience, even accomplished via email.

Already we are looking for volunteers to serve as:

- ✓ **Room Parents**
- ✓ **Lunch and/or Recess Aids**
- ✓ **Committee Members for events including the Back to School Picnic, Habitat Garden, Grade Level Socials, etc...**

Not sure what you want to do? Please drop by the **NEW PARENT/VOLUNTEER COFFEE** on **September 12th** at 9:30 AM. You can also drop by the **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT TABLE** at **Back to School Nights (9/9-10)** and the **Back to School Picnic (9/19)** to learn more.

Also, remember to review the ads in the volunteer job market on Carderocknet each Wednesday to make sure you don't miss opportunities that suit your schedule and interests. You can volunteer to work with any teacher whether you have a child in that class or not. Whether you are new to the school or a veteran, and whether you have volunteered before or not, you are one of our greatest assets. We look forward to working with you and wish you a wonderful school year!

For more information or to get involved, please contact your 2008-09 Volunteer Coordinators, Kristin Russell Kristin_russell@yahoo.com and Ilene Miller ilenepenmiller@yahoo.com

Back to School Picnic – Lora Bevirt and Peggy May



Mark your calendars now for the Back to School Picnic scheduled for Friday, September 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the school yard at CSES@Radnor (rain date September 26th).

Join in the fun as we celebrate a new school year at the Back to School Picnic!! Please plan to attend this always popular event. While your children catch up with their classmates, dance to the music and explore the play areas at CSES@Radnor, you can reconnect with friends and meet new parents. Although the venue has changed, the BTS Picnic will continue to feature a fabulous DJ and food from Potomac Pizza and Carmen's Italian Ice.

So grab your blankets and meet us at the picnic!
If you are interested in volunteering to help out, please email Lora Bevirt at lbevirt@verizon.net or Peggy May at mfm@georgetown.edu.

We hope to see you there!

Staff Appreciation Committee -- Page Dekker, Ana Sanchez

Welcome back everyone from a long, hot summer! Our committee has planned special ways that we can all show our new and returning staff members how much we appreciate their daily efforts on behalf of our children and our school.

We want to recognize all the CSES staff's hard work moving to Radnor. There will be many opportunities to share your creativity and culinary skills this year as we plan the little edible surprises and treats that our staff loves so much. We will be at the Volunteer Orientation with a sign-up sheet for those of you who have been waiting all summer to cook up some special treats and try out the recipes that you've been storing up for the winter!

The much-loved holiday cookie platters will be on the schedule for December (we'll send out reminders and signups for in Oct and Nov), and the always hugely-anticipated celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week in May will be here before you know it.

We will be thrilled to hear about any ideas you have to share, so please email or contact us. Page Dekker pagedekker@comcast.net and/or Ana Sanchez awraye@msn.com



FLES Committee – Lili Faroozan, Marie Caulfield

Attention language-oriented Carderock families: The Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) Program provides quality instruction in French, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish before and after school to children in Montgomery County public elementary schools.

By participating in the FLES Program, CSES students can begin building a firm foundation for the continued study of languages in middle and high school; develop an interest in other cultures; and gain enthusiasm for participating in our increasingly global community. No English is spoken in FLES classes!

WATCH FOR A BROCHURE ABOUT CARDEROCK'S FLES CLASSES COMING THIS FALL!

Questions? Please contact Lili Faroozan Lilim1342@yahoo.com and/or Marie Caulfield mbcaulfield@comcast.net



New Carderock T-shirts Available!! Get your new spirit wear!

The PTA is selling new school t-shirts, featuring a new logo designed by Carderock parent Kristina Valencia, with the Carderock cub on the back. We've got shirts in Carolina blue for kids, and a heathered grey for adults.

These shirts were selling like hotcakes at the Goodbye Gathering! Order yours today!

Only \$15 (including sales tax) - please make your checks out to CSES PTA.

T-Shirts Order Form

T-shirt size (circle choice) Kids S M L
 Ladies S M L XL
 Mens L XL

Child's Name _____ Homeroom Teacher _____

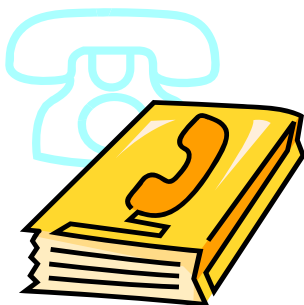
Please include a check for \$15 per shirt, made out to CSES PTA. Shirts will be delivered via backpack mail. Thanks for your order!

WELCOME

Grade Level Socials – Jill McClelland

Don't miss out on the chance to meet the parents of the children in your child's grade at the grade level socials this fall. These socials typically take place in October and November, and are a wonderful opportunity to get to know other parents in your child's grade in a casual setting in someone's home.

We need YOUR help to make these evenings happen. Specifically, we need a host family (to have the social at their home) and helpers (to help with everything from invitations to organizing food and drinks) for each grade. Please watch for flyers and postings in the Volunteer Job Market at the beginning of the school year so you can sign up to help with these fun evenings. If you are so eager to sign up to help with your child's grade that you just can't wait for the flyers, please call me at 301-767-1649 or e-mail me at JillScottMcC@aol.com. I can't wait to hear from you.



Calling all Advertisers! CSES PTA Student Directory

– Lisa Bronfman

Support our school while supporting *your* business!

As the 2008-2009 school year begins, I would like to offer you the opportunity to advertise in our school phone directory.

The Carderock phone directory is a wonderful way for you to get new business while supporting our school! You can join over 50 other businesses already listed in our directory.

Please call Lisa Bronfman, 301-365-1699 or email Lisa_hab@yahoo.com for information. We MUST have your order no later than Friday September 12th, so call or email soon!

After School Activities – Check out our Fall Lineup!

The PTA has great after school activities planned for this fall -- watch backpack mail and Carderocketnet for registration information. Here's a sneak peek at the fall offerings:

- Nature class - Mondays, grades K - 3
- Art class - Tuesdays, grades K - 5
- Drama class with Imagination Stage - Wednesdays, grades 1 - 2
- Chess club - Wednesdays, grades 2 - 5
- Street Jazz dance with Imagination Stage - Thursdays, grades 3 - 5
- Girls on the Run - Wednesdays & Fridays, girls grades 3 - 5

Questions, email SaraBhatia@aol.com

Buildings & Grounds/Habitat Garden – Alison Lepard

The Habitat Garden Moves to Radnor September 6th! And we need YOU to help (even if you are not a gardener)!

The habitat garden will not only be one of the signature features of our brand new school, it will be an important feature of Carderock@Radnor. The habitat garden will be a home for wildlife and outdoor learning - but first it needs to be planted!

On Saturday morning, September 6th, we will need MANY, MANY people to help move the plants to Radnor, move dirt, plant and mulch.

Not a Gardener?

Don't worry - all you have to do is follow directions and have fun!

Don't really want to get too dirty?

We will also need someone to coordinate some snacks and someone to direct people who are picking up plants where they have spend the summer - in pots at my house.

Email or call me to offer to help with some light coordination. Otherwise, just plan to show up (community service hours available).

Waterers needed!

Once the garden is moved, it will need to be watered daily in the fall. If you will be volunteering weekly (or biweekly) in the fall, perhaps you could water just before or after your work time. If you can help before volunteer schedules are established, please contact me! Alison Lepard Al_st@yahoo.com



PTA is going Paperless! Sign up for Carderocknet!



The PTA is going paperless! Beginning in October, all PTA flyers and notices - including this monthly Carderocket newsletter -- will be bundled together in a single email, delivered each Wednesday. This "electronic backpack mail" will be the best way for you to keep in touch with the school, and learn about PTA activities.

To ensure that you receive the Wednesday backpack email, you must be registered with Carderocknet, the PTA listserve. To sign up, simply send an email to: carderocknet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with your name and your child's grade. To edit your membership to a daily digest format, go to Yahoogroups.com, select Carderocknet, sign in, and click on Edit Membership, which appears next to your screen name and email address when you sign in. At the bottom of your profile, you can change your email receipt preferences.

Carderock Springs Elementary School 2008-2009 Directory

Kids Classifieds

- ...Is your child new to the school?
- ...A returning student who would love to be recognized?
- ...Is there a special teacher or staff member you want to acknowledge as the year begins?

Kids Classifieds appear in the advertising section of the Carderock Springs Elementary School Directory, and are a great way to acknowledge and encourage students and staff members with a personal message. Support the PTA and help someone start the year off feeling extra special!

Each personal message is 2 ¼ by 1 ½ inches and costs \$10. Please print your message(s) clearly below. Attach sheets for additional messages as needed.

Message#1 _____

_____ Message#2 _____

Your Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make check payable to CSES-PTA (\$10 per message).
Payment and form **must** be received by *September 12, 2008*.
Please return via Backpack Mail *Attn: PTA Directory Advertising*
Questions? Call Lisa at (301) 365-1699 or e-mail lisa_hab@yahoo.com

Grocery Gift Cards Program – Laura Friedman and Debbie Stone

Help raise funds for Carderock Springs ES! The Giant Fundraiser Gift Card Program is an easy way to support the school and our children.

All you need to do is buy groceries! For every \$100 you spend at Giant, \$4 goes to the school. Cards do not expire and come in a variety of denominations (\$100, \$50, \$20).

Each time you use the card, your receipt will tell you many \$\$ remain on the card. Gift cards are good at Giant grocery stores and are accepted by Peapod.

Thanks for your support - it adds up quickly.

Watch for a registration form coming soon. Questions? Contact Laura Friedman laura_w_friedman@mcpsmd.org and/or Debbie Stone dstone4jrich@aol.com





**Stock up early ...
Watch for your
Sally Foster Gift catalog!**

Sally Foster – Melanie Caudron, Nancy Holden and Rose Oppenheim

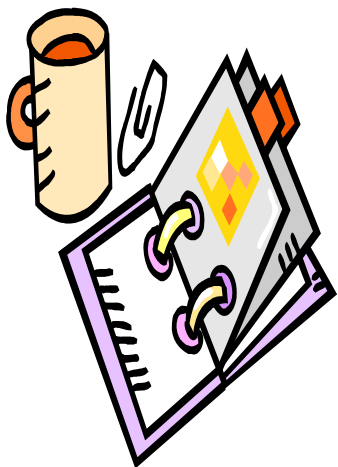
The annual Sally Foster Fundraiser for the Carderock Springs PTA is just around the corner. Be on the lookout for your Sally Foster catalog, coming soon through your child's backpack.

Make your gift giving simple with the array of Sally Foster products –

- Gift wrap and accessories, all high quality in a wide range of stylish designs
- Gifts for home and occasions, including bath and body products and frames and photo albums
- Cookware and serving pieces, including whimsical ice cream bowls and practical kitchen items
- Gourmet edibles and chocolates, nicely packaged for gift giving

Carderock Springs earns 50% of every item sold! Your participation helps fund PTA programs, such as cultural arts, Arts and Literacy Night, International Night, and other ongoing PTA activities!

Upcoming Events and Important Dates



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

September

- 1 Labor Day-No School
- 9 Back to School Night Grades K-2
- 10 Back to School Night Grades 3-5
- 12 New Parent / Volunteer Coffee 9:30 a.m.
- 19 Back to School Picnic 5:30 p.m. (rain date 9/26)
- 29 Early Release Day - Students dismissed after lunch
- 30 No School - Rosh Hashanah

October

- 9 No School - Yom Kippur
- 13 CSES Open House - Parent Breakfast
- 17 No School - MSTA Convention
- 31 Halloween Celebration

November

- 3 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- 4 No School - General Election
- 6 PTA Meeting
- 11 Early Release Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences Report Cards Distributed
- 12 Early Release Day - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 14 Bingo Night
- 26 Early Release Day - Day before Thanksgiving
- 27 No School- Thanksgiving Break
- 28 No School- Thanksgiving Break



Be a Voice For Your Children – Join the PTA!

Carderock Springs PTA invites you to become a member for the 2008-2009 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 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 2008-09

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
Anne Kisslinger

-----■