The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of Carrolltowne Elementary PTA

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December 2020 Vol.2, Issue 5 carrolltownepta.com

President's Message

Hi Carrolltowne Community!

Our PTA has been hard at work this past month.

Here are some highlights:

- **The bike rack has been approved by CCPS, and Mrs. Dupree is coordinating the installation.**
- **The Fundraising Committee set up several spirit nights in the coming months that will allow you to get out of cooking while supporting our school.**
- **The Fun Run Committee hammered out a plan to conduct a virtual event.**
- **The Spirit Wear Committee conducted a spirit wear sale.**
- **The STEM Committee constructed and distributed 150 take-home STEM kits.**
- **The Birthday Books Committee is gathering grade-wide books for each child.**
- **The Hospitality Committee has coordinated a small gift for our teachers for when they eventually return to hybrid.**
- **Our vice president, Megan Daniels, arranged to have Rocky Redbird pop into classes to boost our kids' morale.**

It's all these good works that builds a community of support and care for our kids, and again I feel so fortunate for my family to be a part of this school. I hope you all find some peace in the upcoming holidays and stay safe.

Niki Guinan

Join Our PTA!

If you haven't joined the PTA yet, what are you waiting for?!?! Anyone can join the PTA, not just parents! Just $9 individual or $14 double membership, and no time commitment necessary!

Visit http://carrolltownepta.com/,
and click on the blue button at the top of the page.

Save the Date!

Dec 16 - Nora's Spirit Night
Dec 23 - Early Dismissal @1pm, No ECSN or Pre-K
Dec 23-Jan 2 - Schools/Offices Closed: Winter Break
Jan 12 & 13 - Jersey Mike's Spirit Night

To view our real-time, up-to-the minute Google Calendar, visit carrolltownepta.com/calendar

Next PTA Meeting

The next PTA Meeting will be held in February. There will be no January meeting. Enjoy the holidays.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!
Search for:
Carrolltowne Elementary PTA Community

Fun Run

Fun Run will be replaced with a Virtual Dance Fit by Boosterthon.
Kick-Off: 2/2
Dance Fit Event: 2/21-2/27

More detail to come in 2021!

Community Service

Thank you to all the families who participated in the food drive for the South Carroll Food Pantry! They were very appreciative of the more than 150 items that were donated.

Fundraising

Thanks to all who have supported our monthly spirit nights, Salt and Co mask, and Buppert's Fall fundraisers! We are so grateful for you all! Be on the lookout for more flyers regarding future fundraisers!

A Look at Upcoming Spirit Nights

- Wednesday, Dec 16th @ Nora's
- Tuesday & Wednesday, Jan 12-13th @ Jersey Mike's

- Tuesday, Feb 23rd @ J&P Pizza
- Monday, Mar 22nd @ Panera

Yearbook

5th-Grade Parents: Please keep an eye out for yearbook information coming soon. There will be a signup form for 5th-graders who would like to be in the yearbook club and a 5th-grade cover contest.

Yearbook Photo Opportunities

Hey parents!
Yearbook is still accepting parent photos for possible inclusion in this year's school yearbook. Please send CES related event photos of your kids to yearbooksubmissions@carrolltownepta.com. In the subject line, please identify "First Day," "Carrolltowne Day," "STEM Experiments," etc. Please only include photos of your own children.

2020-2021 PTA Officers

President:Niki Guinan
president@carrolltownepta.com

Secretary: Jenny Canfield
secretary@carrolltownepta.com

Vice-President: Megan Daniels
vicepresident@carrolltownepta.com

Treasurer: Scott McCadden
treasurer@carrolltownepta.com

Spirit

Dig out your holiday lights, inflatables, and decorations for the first ever Carrolltowne Holiday Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by the PTA!

Categories include:
Most Creative, Most Traditional, Most Colorful, and Most Inflatables.

Winners will receive a family hot chocolate kit!

Here's how it works:

1. **Decorate the exterior of your home with lights/inflatables/decorations.**
2. **Take a picture of your decorated home (this is best done in the evening so your lights really shine).**
3. **Fill out the form below and upload your picture. One form per family. https://forms.gle/TT1RY4r68ereU7hS8**
1. **All entries must be received by Sunday, December 20, at 8 p.m.5.**
2. **Voting will take place December 21-23. A separate email will be sent out with a link.**

Happy decorating!

Unable to get a STEM Kit? We have you covered. All of the directions for the experiments are attached to the end of this newsletter, and most can be done with supplies you probably already have around the house.

"Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" - Ms. Frizzle, *The Magic School Bus*

BOX TOPS - Business Products Passive Fundraisers

You can earn Box Tops for your school with participating products. See a full list of products at BTFE.com, including Pillsbury and Annies.

When doing your holiday shopping on Amazon, why not contribute to CES by logging into Amazon Smile and designating CES as your charity.

View Past Issues of Our Newsletter at carrolltownepta.com/newsletters

BOX TOPICS

NOV/DEC 2020

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.

EXTRA CREDIT SWEEPSTAKES

5 SCHOOLS WILL EACH WIN $20,000!

Hurry, sweepstakes ends 11/25/2020. Don't miss out on a chance to win for YOUR school.

BAKING SCHOOLS BETTER SWEEPSTAKES

Betty Crocker

5 WINNERS!

A chance to win 10,000 Bonus Box Tops for your school PLUS Betty Crocker's Cookies Cookbook to kick off your holiday baking. *11/30 - 12/20*

MUST-HAVE BOX TOPS PRODUCTS FOR *Thanksgiving*

Scan your receipts and earn for your school!

See a full list of products at BTFE.com/products

TELL FRIENDS ABOUT BOX TOPS!

The Box Tops app has a simple refer-a-friend feature to help you spread the word. The more people that support your school, the bigger difference you can make.

LEARN MORE AT BTFE.COM

K-2 Experiment

Brick Building Challenge

Use all of the bricks to complete each task.
Draw a picture of each completed task.
Parent/guardian supervision is required.

What is the tallest structure you can build with all of your bricks?	**What is the shortest structure you can build with all of your bricks?**
Build a letter of the alphabet using all of your bricks.	**Build a number using all of your bricks.**
Create a pattern using all of your bricks.	

BALLOON INFLATION EXPERIMENT

Can you blow up a balloon without using your mouth?

Predict: What do you think will happen when we mix baking soda and vinegar together?

_____

Materials:

- Plastic Water Bottle
- Balloon
- Funnel
- Teaspoon (not included)
- Vinegar (not included)
- Baking Soda (not included)

Instructions: Parent/guardian supervision is required.

1. Empty the water from the bottle.
2. Use a funnel to pour 1 cup of vinegar into the empty bottle.
3. Wash and completely dry funnel so that there is no vinegar left on the funnel.
4. Use the cleaned funnel to pour 3-4 teaspoons of baking soda into the balloon.
5. Securely fit the mouth of the balloon over the mouth of the water bottle.
6. Lift up the balloon so that the baking soda falls into the bottle.
7. Watch what happens!

Use descriptive words to describe what happened in the experiment.

_____ _____

_____ _____

Was your prediction correct? _____

On the back of this sheet, draw and color a picture of what you see.

Optional Activities: Try the same experiment, but use different amounts of vinegar and/or baking soda to see if the results change. Do not use too much or the balloon may pop.

K-5 Experiment

THE GREAT EGG DROP CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE: Design and build a system that will protect an egg from a 2 foot drop.

MATERIALS: Craft roll, popsicle sticks, straws, rubber bands, string, paper lunch bag, balloon, and an egg (egg not included). Parent/guardian supervision is required.

DESIGN: Use the materials provided and make a plan for your design. In the box below (or on the back), draw a design, and label the materials you will use in your design. Tip: often engineers make several designs before building one.

DESIGN 1:

TEST: Build and test 1 design. Did the egg crack? How? _____

_____

If your egg survived the 2 foot drop, continue to challenge your design by steadily increasing the height in ½ foot increments to see how high your design can go in protecting your egg. How high did your egg survive?_____

REDESIGN: Using your remaining materials, and any additional materials you want to add from home, change your design to discover other ways to protect an egg. Did your second design protect the egg? Was it a success? Did Design 2 protect the egg more than Design 1? Why and/or why not?

DESIGN 2:

3-5 Experiment

Popsicle Stick Chain Reaction Activity

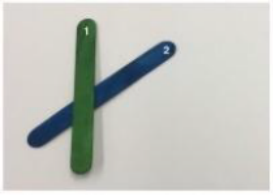
Purpose: This activity will demonstrate the conversion of potential energy to kinetic energy. As craft sticks are weaved into a pattern called a "Cobra Weave," potential energy is built up via the tension in the sticks. When one end of the sticks is released, the potential energy is converted into kinetic energy, flinging the sticks upward and outward in a chain reaction.

Objective: Weave popsicle sticks together to build potential energy before releasing them in a flurry of kinetic energy.

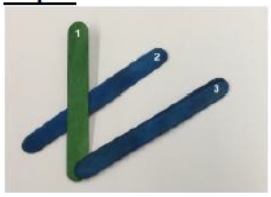
Materials: Parent/guardian supervision is required.

- Tongue depressor sticks, approximately 50.
- Safety Protective Eyewear
- Optional: Markers, Hard floor and/or Video Camera to capture your results to share. Note: Coloring or numbering your sticks is not required, but it may help you get used to the Cobra Weave pattern.

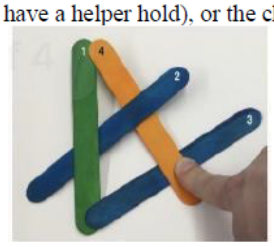
Step 1: Place stick 2 diagonally underneath stick 1. Stick 1 will serve as an "end cap" to hold that end in place.



Step 2: Place stick 3 over the end of stick 1, parallel to stick 3.

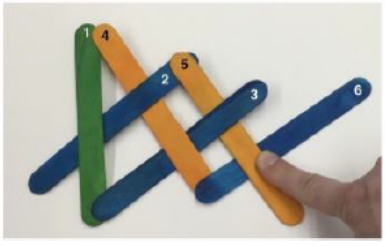


Step 3: Weave stick 4 over 3, under 2, and just over 1. At this point, you will need to continuously hold onto the end of the chain where you are working (or have a helper hold), or the chain reaction will accidentally occur.



Step 4: Weave stick 5 under 3, over 2, keeping it parallel to stick 4.

Step 5: Weave stick 6 under 5, over 4, keeping it parallel to stick 3.



Step 6: Weave stick 7 under 6, over 3, keeping it parallel to stick 5.

Step 7: Weave stick 8 under 7, over 5, parallel to stick 6.

Step 8: Weave stick 9 under 8, over 6, parallel to stick 7.

Step 9: Weave stick 10 under 9, over 7, parallel to stick 8.

Step 10: Continue weaving in the same pattern for as long as you like, or lock in another "end cap," (stick 11), to hold everything in place. To activate the chain reaction, simply loosen the last end cap and let go.

Additional Resources: Looking to build other cool chain reactions? Visit: https://youtu.be/ujDY9vwnne4

3-5 Experiment

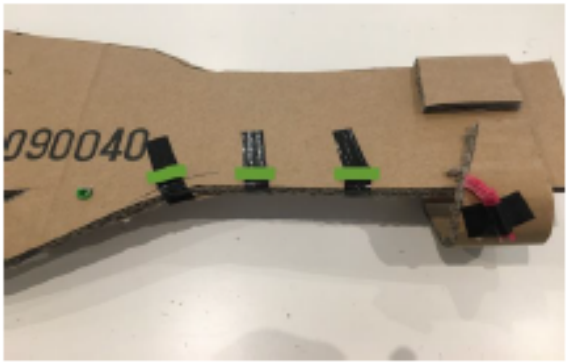
Make Your Own Robot Hand

Objective: Ever wondered how the tendons in your hand work? This science project shows you how!

Supplies:

• 8 ½ x 11 Cardboard	• Straws	• String
• Ruler (not included)	• Scissors (not included)	• Duct tape & Hot glue gun (not included)

Assembly: Parent/guardian supervision is required.

1. Draw the shape of your robotic hand on the cardboard. Below the wrist, continue to cut out a forearm, which will attach to your own, like a shield. 2. Mark and fold the joints of the fingers on the cardboard (2 joints for the thumb, 3 for the other fingers). You can use a ruler to fold the joints more easily. Make a hole at the base of the thumb *as shown in photo to the right.*	 Tip: Make sure the fingers can close easily without rubbing together.
3. Cut the straws into 20 (1 centimeter long) pieces, 5 longer (3-4 centimeter) pieces, and 1 accordion piece from straw. Glue the straws onto the cardboard hand *as shown in the photo to the right.* Once glued in place, secure and cover with thin pieces of duct tape. 4. Make a hole at the tip of each finger. Thread a piece of string through each fingertip, tying a knot on the back (where your finger nails would be) to keep the string from slipping through.	 Tip: The small rectangle bits shown on the duct tape on the fingers, below the joints, represent the 1 centimeter pieces of straw that will appear *under* the tape.
5. For the back of the hand, see the photo to the right. Place a 1 centimeter straw piece in the hole that you created at the base of the thumb. Along the forearm, place (3) 1-centimeter straws along the forearm, and use the accordion straw piece placed at the side of the wrist. Once glued in place, secure and cover with thin duct tape. [Note the bits shown on the duct tape in the photo are to represent the straw pieces that will appear *under* the tape.]	

3-5 Experiment

6. Thread a piece of string through the straw pieces on each finger and make a loop for your fingers at the bottom, as shown in the photo to the right.

7. For the thumb, thread sting down from the finger tip through the hole you created at the base of the thumb and continue thread through straws on the back of the hand and make a loop for your fingers at the bottom, as done for your other fingers.

8. You have now completed your robot hand! Try using it.

Optional: Use a video Camera to capture your results to share.

Tip: Use a needle (with parent help) for your string if necessary.