

# The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of  
Carrolltowne Elementary

**PTA**

*everychild.one voice.*



April 2021 Vol.3, Issue 4

carrolltownepta.com

## President's Message

Hello Carrolltowne community!

I'd like to diverge from my typical message of what the PTA has done for the school community and take this opportunity to explain our purposes, as outlined in our bylaws:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community
- To raise the standards of home life
- To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth
- To promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children and youth
- To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth
- To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding

In a typical year, we fulfill our stated purposes by sponsoring assemblies, field trips, social activities, and other classroom and extracurricular experiences, which thanks to our generous community, we're easily able to do year after year. (Most PTAs are not this fortunate.) However, with this year's limitations, we've not been able to do these things and now have a surplus of funds—more than enough to close out this year and begin next year comfortably. Our April 8th meeting covered two very large topics that touched on these purposes: grant money for the school and the revoked charter for the Maryland State PTA.

Every child at Carrolltowne spends an hour in the art room each week. If you've been in this room, you've probably noticed that the cabinets are long overdue for replacing. At an estimated replacement cost of \$31,000, and because we just received a new roof two years ago, the cabinets have fallen to the bottom of the list of district-wide maintenance and repairs. The school recently was informed that they have \$15,000 they must use immediately, so we were approached by administration to see if we had the funds and were willing to provide a grant to the school to cover the remaining costs. We were also asked to replace seven broken printers for several grades, the computer lab, the nurse's office, and the guidance counselor, as well as a projector for the pre-K classroom, at a cost of \$4,538.02. This, of course, could not happen without a vote of the broader community.

At the April 8th meeting and during an enlightening and informative email conversation afterward between the 14 PTA members who had been present, we debated the pros and cons of approving the disbursement of funds for these items and how they aligned with our purposes. We ultimately voted unanimously to provide the funds for the cabinets and 11-3 to replace the requested technology.

We also discussed the National PTA's revocation of Maryland State PTA's charter. Maryland State PTA was placed on probation last year, with one year to become compliant and rectify accusations of a toxic environment. They failed to do so by March. The dissolving of the Maryland PTA affects little in our day-to-day operations for now, as we now fall under the umbrella of the National PTA until a new state PTA is established. When that eventually happens, we will need to update and revise our bylaws to submit to the new state PTA for approval.

On average we send more than \$1,600 in dues a year to the state and National PTAs. We are currently exploring the value of remaining a PTA versus transitioning to a PTO distinct from the National PTA and are planning on revisiting this topic at the next meeting on May 6.

These discussions are enriched by having more voices in the room. Votes cannot take place without meeting quorum (12 dues-paying members). Because of the 14 members at April 8's meeting, Carrolltowne was able to take advantage of the district's funds, and our children will benefit from new cabinets in their art room. Most meetings are not this pressing, but each meeting is helpful, not just to the running of PTA business but also to our children's school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the potential transition to a PTO or the disbursement of PTA funds, please don't hesitate to contact me at [president@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:president@carrolltownnepta.com). And please come to the May 6 meeting to add your perspective to these discussions.

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://carrolltownnepta.com/>,  
and click on the blue button at the top of the page.

### SAVE THE DATE!

April 21 - Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night  
May 3-7 - Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 4 - Chipotle Spirit Night  
May 6 - PTA Meeting @ 7pm

To view our real-time, up-to-the minute Google Calendar, visit  
[carrolltownnepta.com/calendar](http://carrolltownnepta.com/calendar)

### Next PTA Meeting

The next PTA Meeting will be May 6, 2021.

Please see the PTA Facebook or webpage for Zoom meeting logon information.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Search for:  
Carrolltowne Elementary  
PTA Community

**President: Niki Guinan**  
[president@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:president@carrolltownnepta.com)

**2020-2021**  
**PTA**  
**Officers**

**Vice-President: Megan Daniels**  
[vicepresident@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:vicepresident@carrolltownnepta.com)

**Secretary: Jenny Canfield**  
[secretary@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:secretary@carrolltownnepta.com)

**Treasurer: Scott McCadden**  
[treasurer@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:treasurer@carrolltownnepta.com)

## Hospitality

There are so many wonderful people to be celebrated as we close out the year. We will be spoiling the office staff, the lunch heroes, our nurse, the administrators, and then of course **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!** Teacher Appreciation Week will be May 3-7. For starters we will be inviting all families to pick up blank yard signs to decorate and personalize to kick off TAW. This will be a chance for students to shine and show their teachers how much they love them. Please be on the look out for emails and Facebook posts on ways to help us celebrate those fantastic humans who educate our children.



## Fundraising

Thank you to all who continue to participate in our monthly spirit night fundraisers! We appreciate all of your support. I am excited to share our Kurbside Kona fundraiser will be returning this year. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks. Our upcoming spirit nights are Chick-Fil-A on Wednesday, 4/21, and Chipotle on Tuesday, 5/4.



## Box Tops

Congratulations to our March Box Tops contest winner, Jessica Lockett, who will be receiving a \$25 Martin's gift card.



### Golden Crest:

We delivered 34 care packages containing an assortment of stationary, pens, stuffed animals, cracker snacks, word search/crosswords, and origami (made by CES students) to Golden Crest Assisted Living in Westminster.

The activity director texted, "The gift bags were a big hit! Everyone was very touched and very impressed by the origami. Thank you to all who participated."

## Community Service

### Casey Cares:



The Carrolltowne community donated 163 pajamas to the Casey Cares Pajama Drive! All participants will receive a coupon for a free Chick-Fil-A kids meal. The top fundraising homeroom (collecting more than 30 new PJs) was Mrs. Hinton's first-grade class! Mrs. Hinton's students will receive a small plush cow, and Mrs. Hinton will receive a coupon for a Small Chick-fil-A catering tray! Thank you to everyone who participated!

## Performing Arts



Don't miss the world premiere of Carrolltowne Players' productions of **Winnie the Pooh Kids** on May 21, 2021! Viewing passes go on sale in May.

## Literacy and Dance Fit Committees

If your student did not receive a free literacy gift bag (includes book, craft, etc.) last month, please let us know. We made enough for each student to enjoy, but many have not been claimed! There are also some free Dance Fit T-shirts remaining for students who didn't pick one up during the event. Please send a message to [funrun@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:funrun@carrolltownepta.com) to request a bag, shirt, or both!

## 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](http://BTFE.com), including Pillsbury and Annies.

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



Rocky Says,  
"Check  
The Lost &  
Found!"

MISPLACED  
SOMETHING?



View Past Issues of Our  
Newsletter at  
[carrolltownepta.com/newsletters](http://carrolltownepta.com/newsletters)



# Let's compare

## PTA & PTO

### PTA



A local parent group formally affiliated with its state's and the National PTA.



Requires dues; \$4.25 per member is paid to the state and National PTAs.



Most local PTA units pay \$100 to \$300 annually for insurance coverage.



Members may have an opportunity to take part in determining National PTA positions, policies, and advocacy.

### PTO



A local, independent parent group.



Dues determined by members and stay with the independent organization.



Insurance ranges from \$399 to \$731 annually for officer liability, general liability, and property insurance.



Most PTOs devote their energies to a single school or perhaps a single district or town.

# Spirit Day

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 • 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Come support Carrolltown Elementary School.  
Mobile orders enter SPIRIT DAY for Special  
Instructions under "My  
Order".



Eldersburg  
6032 Sykesville Rd  
[www.chick-fil-a.com/eldersburg](http://www.chick-fil-a.com/eldersburg)  
[www.facebook.com/CFAeldersburg](http://www.facebook.com/CFAeldersburg)

# SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Carrolltowne Elementary PTA. Come in to the Chipotle at **6400F Ridge Rd Ste 1** in Sykesville on **Tuesday, May 4th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Carrolltowne Elementary PTA.

## NEW! ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP

Use code ZNNBHMP before checkout in "promo" field. Orders placed on Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app for pickup using this unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser.



All online orders must be placed for pickup at the same time/location of the fundraiser. Delivery cannot be counted at this time. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.





# BOX TOPICS

MAY  
2021

*Easy ways to make a difference for your school.*

## NEW PRODUCTS THAT EARN

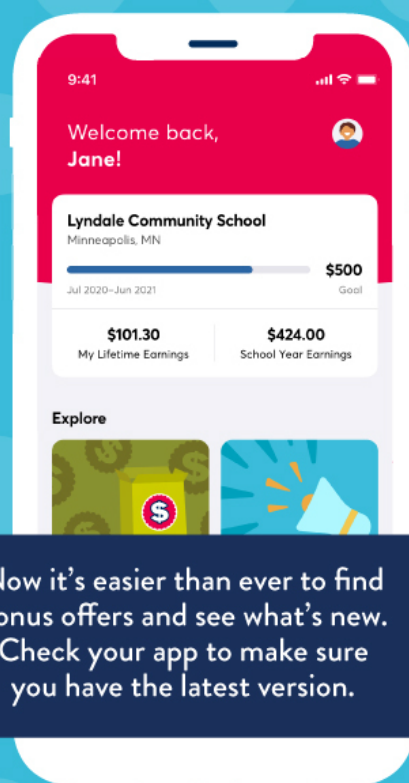
Introducing Old El Paso™ Squeeze Sauces, perfect for taco night. The handy squeeze bottles make it easy for the whole family to customize their tacos with less mess. In stores now!

New products are being added all the time!

SEE A CURRENT LIST OF BOX TOPS  
PRODUCTS AT [BTFE.COM/PRODUCTS](https://www.btfef.com/products).



## THE BOX TOPS APP HAS A WHOLE NEW LOOK



Now it's easier than ever to find  
bonus offers and see what's new.  
Check your app to make sure  
you have the latest version.



Box Tops

now

## SET WEEKLY SCAN REMINDERS

A great way to add Box Tops to your summer routine. You can set up customized reminders in your communications settings in the app so you never forget to scan a receipt. Simply click the person icon in the upper right-hand corner of the app.

LEARN MORE AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfef.com)



# AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app

You can now support your favorite charity on iPhone & Android phones



## How to turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app

1

### Join AmazonSmile

If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, sign up at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Simply select your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

2

### Get the app

Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android.

3

### Turn on AmazonSmile

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

#### AmazonSmile in the app is not available for iPads and other tablet devices

To shop AmazonSmile on your tablet, type [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) into the browser.

## AmazonSmile benefits



#### Same products, same prices, no cost to you

AmazonSmile has the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as the Amazon you know.



#### Generate donations

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop.



#### Maximize your impact

Support your favorite charity with every eligible AmazonSmile purchase from your phone or web browser.



#### Maximize your impact

Support your favorite charity with every eligible AmazonSmile purchase from your phone or web browser.



#### Support your favorite charity

Choose from over a million local and national charities. Change your charity any time.