

The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of
Carrolltowne Elementary

PTA

everychild.one voice.



February 2025 Vol. 7, Issue 5

carrolltownepta.com



President's Message

Hello Carrolltowne Families!

I hope everyone is enjoying these winter months and all the snow days as much as possible! This is usually a quiet time of year for the PTA and this year is no different. We are busy planning events for the spring such as Muffins in the Morning and the school play, so we are still active! Our February PTA meeting was canceled because of weather but we will have our next meeting in April and invite you all to join us!

We are again offering discounted Hershey Park tickets as a fundraiser this spring. Orders are due by February 28 and pickup is March 20 in the school lobby. No tickets will be sent home with students. Payments can be made by checks made out to Carrolltowne PTA.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the PTA, we are in need of two critical positions for next year – President and Secretary. Terms for each position are two years. We cannot function as a PTA without a president per the by-laws. If you want to know more about either position, please reach out to either me president@carrolltownepta.com or Bryanna Parish (our current secretary) at secretary@carrolltownepta.com.

We are trying to find another fundraiser or two for the spring to help with our budget. If you have any ideas or are willing to take the lead on anything from a read-a-thon to a carnival, please reach out!

I know there have been a lot of questions and concerns about the budget proposal for next year for Carroll County Public Schools. The budget has been a big concern for several years now but it feels like we have reached a breaking point. Along with challenges presented by Blueprint, CCPS spends the least per student out of the entire state and our schools have been underfunded for years. Please see the attached list of emails as well as a template for what to say and reach out to our representatives – at the state and county level. Our students deserve better!

Becky Seitz
PTA President

Membership

Parents/Guardians, Teachers, Staff, Administrators, Grandparents
We need YOU join our PTA.
Together we make a difference!



<https://carrolltownepta.memberhub.com/store>

Teacher/Staff, \$5 -- Indv. Membership, \$10 -- Double Membership, \$15

Performing Arts



Alice in Wonderland Jr tickets will go on sale the week of February 18. Please be on the lookout for an email with the link. Tickets will be \$10 each again this year.

The performances are March 7th & 8th.

Please reach out to carrolltowneplayers@gmail.com with any questions.

Yearbook Committee

"Sweet Memories" are hereGet your CES 2024-2025 yearbook today
Softcovers \$26
Hardcovers \$32
Hurry as sales end April 15th



Hospitality

Hospitality is busy showing our school staff appreciation throughout the months. We just celebrated our counselor Ms. Stacey and our resource officer Deputy Blackwell. Our next upcoming appreciation is for all our amazing Instructional Assistants. Our big event will be Teacher Appreciation Week at the beginning on May.

More details and information about how you can help celebrate Teachers Appreciation Week will be shared in the March and April newsletters.



Spirit Week

Yearbook Sponsored Spirit Week:
March 3rd - March 7th



March 3 – Favorites Day

Dress as your favorite movie character, book character, place you have traveled to, favorite TV character, favorite food, etc.



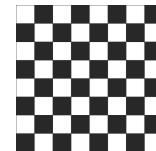
March 4 – Decades Day

Go back in time and dress from head to toe in clothes from that decade (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, etc)



March 5 – Black & White Day

Yep, it's that simple. Wear only black and white.



March 6 –

Students Dress Like Your Teachers / Teachers Dress Like Your Students

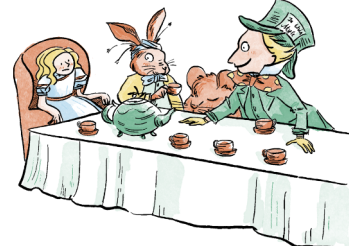
Students to dress as their teacher and teachers and staff can participate too by dressing like students for the day



March 7 –

Alice in Wonderland Jr. Play Day & Wacky Hat Day

Wear your Alice in Wonderland Jr. play tshirt and/or a Wacky Hat to celebrate the fun character from the play, The Mad Hatter. The wackier the hat, the better !!



Donuts with Grownups

The Carrolltowne PTA invites you to join your child for Donuts with Grownups!

Who: Carrolltowne students and ONE adult (only one adult per household permitted to attend; this is a free event with limited space)

When: Friday, March 28th, 8:00-8:45 am

Where: CES Cafeteria

You and your child can enjoy a FREE donut, juice and coffee along with other Carrolltowne friends!

- Please park in the lot behind Petco to allow teachers and staff to park in the lot on school property.
- You must stay with your child until the bell rings at 8:45 a.m.
- One donut per person.
- Younger siblings are permitted to attend but we cannot provide a donut.

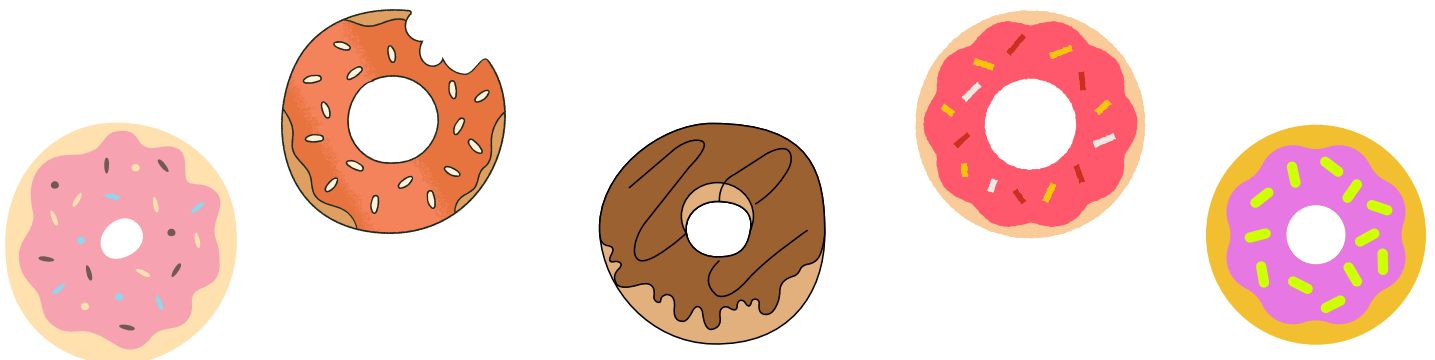
Registration opens 3/7. To attend, you must RSVP by please clicking on the link below by 3/21 so we can order the correct amount of donuts.

<https://forms.gle/FMLsahf4fgB3X62h9>

We are in need of volunteers and donations for this event! Please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA9AB28A5F85-55176098-donuts> to sign up!

Questions? Email spirit@carrolltownepta.com

We look forward to seeing everyone!!



Muffins in the Morning

Save the Date for Muffins in the Morning!

Who: Carrolltowne students and ONE adult (only one adult per household permitted to attend; this is a free event with limited space)

When: Friday, April 25th, 8:00-8:45 am

Where: CES Cafeteria

You and your child can enjoy a FREE muffin, juice and coffee along with other Carrolltowne friends!

Registration will open 4/11/25. More details to come!



Fundraising

Hershey Park Tickets are now on sale through February 28th!

See the attached order form for more information and to order tickets.



MISPLACED SOMETHING?

Rocky Says,
"Check
The Lost &
Found!"



Fundraising

Thank you so much to our community partners!



TUESDAY, March 11, 12-8 PM - CHICK FIL A
Dine In, Drive Thru or Mobile Order. Mention SPIRIT DAY or use code CES2025 when mobile ordering!

NOT A FUNDRAISER FUNDRAISER! Dine at home is back!

For the week of 3/17 we are asking that you eat in and donate the difference to the Carrolltowne PTA.

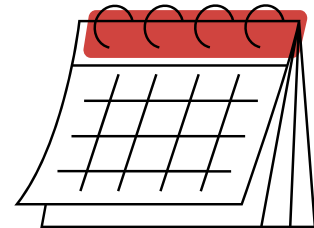
You can send a check or cash in to school in an envelope marked for the PTA or donate via givebacks <https://carrolltowneespta.givebacks.com/store/items/974595>

No amount is too small! If every student brought in \$1 this would be our biggest "restaurant night" of the year!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Events & Dates To Remember

- February 24th - Genova's To Go Restaurant Night
- March 3rd-7th - Yearbook Spirit Week
- March 7th & 8th - Alice in Wonderland Jr. Performances
- March 11th - Chick Fil A Restaurant Night
- March 17th - CCPS Schools/Offices Closed
- March 28th - Donuts with Grownups



2024-2025 PTA Executive Committee

President: Becky Seitz
president@carrolltownepta.com

Vice-President: Kelly McGonigal
vicepresident@carrolltownepta.com

Treasurer: Siobhan Blazak
treasurer@carrolltownepta.com

Secretary: Bryanna Parish
secretary@carrolltownepta.com



Future PTA Meetings

- April 3, 7 pm
- June 5, 7 pm



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

Advocacy Information

We know there are growing concerns about the upcoming effects of implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and Carroll County's inability to fund the required changes.

If you want to reach out to our elected officials, but aren't sure how to express your concerns, please see a sample letter/email on the next page. Additionally, we've provided a list of local and state representatives and their contact information for your reference.

We know these are uncertain times, but let's work together in the best interest of our students and teachers, and towards a more positive outcome.

Dates and locations for the upcoming Blueprint information sessions:

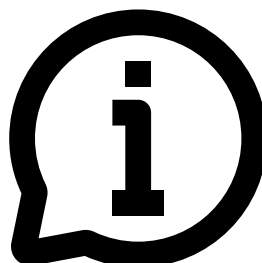
Employee Town Hall - March 4, 2025 - 5:00 pm - Career & Technology Center

Community Town Hall - March 5, 2025 - 6:00 pm - Century High School

Community Town Hall - April 2, 2025 - 6:00 pm - Career & Technology Center

Additional Resources:

- CCPS and Blueprint for Maryland's Future -
 - <https://www.carrollk12.org/board-of-education/blueprint-for-marylands-future>
- Recordings from CCPS Media (includes BOE Meetings) -
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3m_BJ5wjbX0-pJeVaH7Hvw/videos



Sample Letter/Email

Dear [Senator Ferguson, Speaker Jones, Senator Feldman, and Delegate Atterbeary],

I am writing as a concerned Carroll County resident regarding the dire budget outlook for Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) and the urgent need for flexibility in the Maryland Blueprint funding formulas. As it stands, CCPS is facing devastating budget shortfalls that could result in the elimination of 100 staff positions, leaving schools without media specialists, reading specialists, math specialists, and athletic directors. Additionally, elementary class sizes could reach 44 students, severely impacting the quality of education.

While we fully support the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the rigid funding structure places an overwhelming financial burden on counties like ours. Without adjustments to funding requirements or increased state support, CCPS will be forced to make cuts that directly undermine the Blueprint's mission of providing high-quality education.

We urge you to advocate for greater flexibility in the funding formulas to prevent these drastic measures and ensure that all Maryland students—regardless of their county—receive the support they need to succeed. I appreciate your time and look forward to your response on how we can work together to address this crisis.

Please support these changes in House Bill 504.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Your Email]

[Your Phone Number]

Contact Information for Local and State Leadership

Carroll County Superintendent of Schools:

Dr. Cynthia McCabe – cynthiamccabe@carrollk12.org

Carroll County Board of Education:

Tara Battaglia, President – tarabattaglia@carrollk12.org

Stephen Whisler, Vice President – stephenwhisler@carrollk12.org

Dr. Patricia Dorsey – patriciadorsey@carrollk12.org

Dr. Greg Malveaux – gregmalveaux@carrollk12.org

Kristen Zihmer – kristenzihmer@carrollk12.org

Chole Kane, Student Representative – sturep@carrollk12.org

Carroll County Commissioners:

Joseph Vigliotti, District 1, Vice-President – jvigliotti@carrollcountymd.gov

Kenneth Kiler, District 2, President – kkiler@carrollcountymd.gov

Tom Gordon III, District 3 – tgordon@carrollcountymd.gov

Michael Guerin, District 4 – mguerin@carrollcountymd.gov

Ed Rothstein, District 5 – erothstein@carrollcountymd.gov

Carroll County delegation to the Maryland General Assembly:

Sen. Justin Ready, District 5 – justin.ready@senate.state.md.us

Del. Christopher Eric Bouchat, District 5 – christopher.bouchat@house.state.md.us

Del. April Rose, District 5 – april.rose@house.state.md.us

Del. Christopher Tomlinson, District 5 – chris.tomlinson@house.state.md.us

Sen. Christopher West, District 42 – chris.west@senate.state.md.us

Del. Joshua Stonko, District 42C – Joshua.stonko@house.state.md.us

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

Sen. Guy Guzzone, Chair – guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us

Sen. James Rosapepe, Vice-Chair – jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/com/01bud.html>

Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee:

Del. Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair – vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us

Del. Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice-Chair – jheanelle.wilkins@house.state.md.us

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/com/07ways.html>

Carrolltowne Elementary PTA's 2025 Group Ticket Order Form



To order DISCOUNT tickets for 2025 (valid from April 5, 2025 thru January 1, 2025), complete this form and return to school with payment by: **Friday, February 28th, 2025**

Please submit form with one check payable to: Carrolltowne Elementary PTA (Returned checks subject to bank fees)

Questions? Contact: fundraising@carrolltownepta.com

Parent Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Childs Name _____ Childs Grade & Homeroom _____

Email _____

The PTA will distribute tickets on **Thursday, March 20th** from 6:00-7:30pm in the Carrolltowne lobby.

*******Tickets will not be sent home with students.*******

ADD-ON Discount single meal tickets to your order @ \$19.06 each.

Pre-purchase and save \$ off of the regular price! Meal ticket is valid at select locations and includes one entree, one side, and a choice of a large fountain beverage or regular hot beverage.
(Select locations only – Please see Hersheypark.com for more details)

Quantity	Type	Full Price	YOUR Price	Total
	<i>Hersheypark Admission</i> Ages 3 & up Valid 3/29/25 - 1/1/26	\$87.80	\$50	
	<i>Hersheypark Single-Use Meal Deal</i> (1 entree, 1 side and 1 drink)	\$19.06	\$19.06	
	<i>Hersheypark Pre-Paid parking voucher</i>	\$35	\$26	
Order Total:				

EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

LOOK
FOR THE
LABEL:



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY

BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN

YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN

CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt!

See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfe.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



BOX TOPS CLIPS

You may occasionally find an old Box Tops clip on packages in stores. You can still clip them and send them to school, as long as each clip has a valid expiration date.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfe.com)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS
APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:

