

# The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of  
Carrolltowne Elementary  
**PTA**  
*everychild.one voice.*



November 2025 Vol. 8, Issue 3

[carrolltownepta.com](http://carrolltownepta.com)

## President's Message

We had a fantastic fall and are not slowing down as the winter months are quickly approaching. The PTA hosted it's first community service drive, held a fun-filled Trunk-or-Treat, kicked off auditions for Carrolltowne Players' Shrek, Jr., and completed an extremely successful Fun Run – raising over \$25,000! Huge SHOUT OUT and Thank You to Kyle Emhoff for all her hard work in making sure this fundraiser was the best it could be. Keep supporting the PTA through our other fundraisers, especially our restaurant nights, which have already brought in more than \$200.

Birthday Books and Literacy are busy each month making sure each birthday student receives their book and planning Reading with the Principals. We've done third grade, are ramping for fourth, and hope to move onto fifth before the holidays!

Hospitality has been working hard to provide staff with dinner during the first conference night and ensured we celebrated our Bus Drivers and School Psychologist.

As mentioned at the 11/6 meeting, we are looking for volunteers for all committees – in particular, we need help with STEM (we have the assembly and science fair to plan for), Fun Run, and Cultural Arts/Diversity. We will also need someone to step up and help take over the Sunshine Committee as our leads will be moving on to ORMS next year.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 2/5. Caliday will be providing free childcare during all PTA meetings for the remainder of the school year (children must be potty trained and you must sign them in at the Cafeteria before heading to the meeting in the Media Center).

We have surpassed our membership registration from last school year and are currently at 217 members. The Membership Committee worked with Mrs. O'Neill to ramp up the faculty/staff registration and held a raffle – Mrs. Stull won a \$50 Oscar's gift card. If you haven't registered, it's not too late...you won't want to miss the next giveaway!

The Spirit Committee is gearing up for its Annual Holiday Shop – you won't want to miss this one! Bring your kids up to school on Saturday 12/6 from 8 am until noon to shop for their parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, other relatives, and whoever else. We accept cash only and everything is priced \$15 and under. This is a fun opportunity to let them pick out gifts right in the comfort of their school. If you are interested in helping out, check out the signup link in our weekly Friday email.

We hope to keep seeing everyone at our events, meetings, and around the school and appreciate all the volunteer hours each PTA member is putting in to ensure our students and the school staff have the best year! Keep watching those emails and Facebook posts for updates and opportunities.

Lindsay Holbig  
PTA President



## Events & Dates To Remember



- November 17<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> American Education Week
- November 20<sup>th</sup> School Picture Make-Up Day!
- November 25<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 26<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal at 1:00pm
- November 27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> School Closed: Happy Thanksgiving!
- December 6<sup>th</sup> PTA Sponsored Holiday Shop
- December 11<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Show
- December 12<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> Early Dismissal
- December 24<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> Winter Break Schools Closed

## PTA Committees

- **Birthday Books Program:** Autumn White and Meghan Furia  
[birthdaybooks@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:birthdaybooks@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Community Service:** Kelly DiAntonia and Alyssa Neumann  
[communityservice@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:communityservice@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Cultural Arts/Diversity:**  
[cultural@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:cultural@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Fundraisers:** Roby Miller and Jessica Brown  
[fundraising@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:fundraising@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Fun Run:** Kyle Emhoff  
[funrun@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:funrun@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Hospitality:** Sarah Bushong, Melissa Strozykowski and Bethany Casias  
[hospitality@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:hospitality@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Literacy:** Olga Burkey and Krista Reed  
[literacy@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:literacy@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Membership:** Megan Foelber and Molly Dolan  
[membership@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:membership@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Performing Arts (Carrolltowne Players):** Becky Seitz and Kristen Zycherman  
[performingarts@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:performingarts@carrolltownepta.com)
- **School Spirit:** Kelly McGonigal and Lyndsay Morgan  
[spirit@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:spirit@carrolltownepta.com)
- **STEM:** Emily Wilson  
[stem@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:stem@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Sunshine:** Robin Weber and Diana Lucas  
[sunshine@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:sunshine@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Website:** Christopher McClure  
[webmaster@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:webmaster@carrolltownepta.com)
- **Yearbook:** JoAnna Robbins and Kourtney Roussey  
[yearbook@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:yearbook@carrolltownepta.com)

## Performing Arts



February 27 & 28  
(snow dates March 6 & 7)-  
Performance Dates

Please reach out to  
[carrolltownneplayers@gmail.com](mailto:carrolltownneplayers@gmail.com)  
with any questions.

## Spirit Committee

Holiday Shop  
Saturday December 6th  
8am-12pm  
Carrolltowne Cafeteria

All Holiday Shops items  
are priced under \$15.  
CASH ONLY.

Donuts, hot chocolate, and coffee  
will be available for purchase.



Volunteers Needed!  
Please see flyer attached.

## 2025-2026 PTA Executive Committee

**President: Lindsay Holbig**  
[president@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:president@carrolltownnepta.com)

**Vice-President: Kelly McGonigal**  
[vicepresident@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:vicepresident@carrolltownnepta.com)

**Treasurer: Siobhan Blazak**  
[treasurer@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:treasurer@carrolltownnepta.com)



**Secretary: Kyle Emhoff**  
[secretary@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:secretary@carrolltownnepta.com)

## CCPS Volunteer Training

Please Complete the Volunteer Training for the  
2025-2026 school year.

You can access the training at the link here:

<https://www.carrollk12.org/operation/human-resources/volunteer-program>

## Future PTA Meetings

- September 25, 7pm
- November 6, 7 pm
- February 5, 7 pm
- April 16, 7 pm
- June 4, 7pm



## Birthday Books

The Birthday Books for October are complete.

During the month of their birthday, your child will be offered the chance to select a book to keep. Students with summer birthdays will be given their books in the Spring! We hope your child enjoys their gift!

Birthday Books has volunteers for all grades, if you are interested volunteering email:

[birthdaybooks@carrolltownnepta.com](mailto:birthdaybooks@carrolltownnepta.com)



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



**Membership:**  
**Cardinals Care, Cardinals Share–**  
**Be Part of the Flock!**

**Membership builds our nest for staff, students & families.**



We need YOU: Parents/Guardians, Teachers, Staff, Grandparents to join the PTA.

<https://carrolltownepta.com/join/>

Questions? [Membership@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:Membership@carrolltownepta.com).

Annual dues:

- \$6 – CES Faculty/Staff
- \$11 – Parent/Guardian Single
- \$17 – Parent/Guardian Double

Membership is a meaningful way to connect, get involved,  
and create positive change for our children and community!

## Literacy

The PTA Literacy Committee kicked off the Reading with the Principals program in October with third grade. It was a fun opportunity for both the students and the leaders. The students brought a really fun mix of books to share from classic, familiar stories to funny, vibrant graphic novels and comics.

Students in 4th Grade should have received the salmon-colored permission slip last week. If your 4th grader is interested in sharing a favorite book or part of a book with Mrs. DuPree (Principal) or Mrs. Sikorski (Assistant Principal) in their office during the month of November, please complete the permission slip and return it. We will send home reminders the night before to help your student remember their book.

Please email: [literacy@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:literacy@carrolltownepta.com) with questions, ideas, or if you're interested in volunteering to help with literacy committee activities this year.





## Fundraising Committee

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**MONDAY, December 8**  
**MOD Pizza**  
*More details to come!*



**TUESDAY, December 9, 12-8 PM -**  
**CHICK-FIL-A**

*Dine In, Drive Thru or Mobile Order.*  
*Mention SPIRIT DAY or*  
*use code CES2025 when mobile ordering!*

## STEM

The STEM Committee has scheduled Eric Energy for January 21st.

Science Fair is scheduled for April 14th.

The PTA has finalized the Maryland Agricultural Mobile Science Lab for the week of June 1<sup>st</sup> - 5th.

## Sunshine Committee

Sends cards, flowers, or makes a book donation to the media center for faculty or students due to personal illness or death in the family.

## Yearbook

Yearbook Club has been formed and members are working on ideas for this year's theme as well as learning about picture taking strategies

## Cultural Arts/Diversity

The PTA is looking for Amazing Volunteers to Lead the Cultural Arts/Diversity Committee

If you are interested please email [president@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:president@carrolltownepta.com)

## Treasurer Update

The Treasurer's Report is shared at each PTA meeting. Please be sure to join us in February to learn more about how the PTA is raising and spending funds throughout the year.



## Fun Run Rocky's Luau

Thank you to ALL that made the Fun Run a HUGE success! We have raised over \$26,000!!

2026 Fun Run Committee is looking for a Co-Chair, if you would like to learn more about the Fun Run Committee or have any questions please email: [carrolltownefunrun@gmail.com](mailto:carrolltownefunrun@gmail.com)

Thank you to All of Our FUN RUN T-Shirts Sponsors!



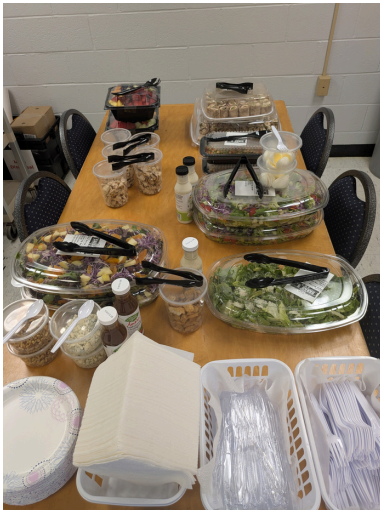
A Special Thank You to Andy Gotsch for Donating his time and talent as our Fun Run DJ today!



## Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee has been busy celebrating staff. In October, we provided dinner for teachers during their first conference night. We also showered our bus drivers with snacks and treats on Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

In November, we celebrated Dr. Berk during School Psychologist Appreciation Week. We will also be celebrating our CES substitute teachers towards the end of the month.



## Community Service Carrolltowne Cares!

Thank you to all who donated non-perishable items to the Carrolltowne PTA Community Service Project.

All items are going to Food Sunday, a local non-profit organization of neighbors helping neighbors meet their emergency and supplemental food needs. Your contributions will help ensure that our neighbors, friends and families have access to nutritious meals. Together, we can make a difference!

Stay Tuned for next Community Service Project!



# JOIN THE CARROLLTOWNE PTA!



**Cardinals Care, Cardinals Share--Be Part of the Flock!**

Membership builds our nest for staff, students & families.

- **Family Connection Tools:** Our family directory, website, and Facebook group connect families!
- **Birthday Books & Literacy Programs:** Every Cardinal receives a book for their birthday!
- **Yearbook:** Captures the heart of the school year preserving memories and milestones!
- **Carrolltowne Players:** Theater performances develop student confidence and teamwork!
- **Teacher & Classroom Grants:** Provide staff with resources to support every student!
- **Staff Appreciation:** Celebrates our amazing staff with tokens of gratitude throughout the year!
- **Community Events:** Builds spirit and connects families at fun, inclusive gatherings!
- **STEM:** Inspires innovation and hands-on learning through engaging STEM experiences!
- **Fun Run:** Promotes wellness and pride while teaching students the power of giving back!

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Access** to an Online Family Directory with contact information for families
- **A voice and a vote** at PTA meetings with opportunities to hear important updates from leadership and staff
- **Opportunities to participate** in fun and engaging events for families
- **Networking opportunities** with other parents, community members, and business leaders

## CARDINALS CONNECT!

**CES PTA Website**



**Become a Member**

**PTA Facebook Group**



**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP = \$11**  
**DOUBLE MEMBERSHIP = \$17**

All family members are welcome to join!  
We ♥ grandparents!  
Help Build our Nest--Make a donation!

**Your Membership Helps our Cardinals Soar!**

Join in September for a chance to win exciting prizes.

Questions? Please email [Membership@CarrolltownePta.com](mailto:Membership@CarrolltownePta.com).





Carrolltowne Elementary PTA

# HOLIDAY SHOP



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

8AM-12PM

CARROLLTOWNE CAFETERIA

The Holiday Shop gives your child the opportunity to have a fun filled time of shopping secretly for family and friends. The Holiday Shop is set up and supervised by adult and middle school volunteers so your young shoppers can have the opportunity to purchase gifts conveniently and inexpensively while learning to budget their money.

**All Holiday Shop items are priced under \$15. CASH ONLY.**

Donuts, hot chocolate, and coffee will be available for purchase.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Sign up here or scan the code below:**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA9AB28A5F85-60292366-2025>



# Spirit Day

Tuesday, December 9,  
12:00pm - 8:00pm

Come support Carrolltowne Elementary PTA. Mention SPIRIT DAY when ordering. For Mobile Orders, enter code: CES2025, to support Community Care Event.





# EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

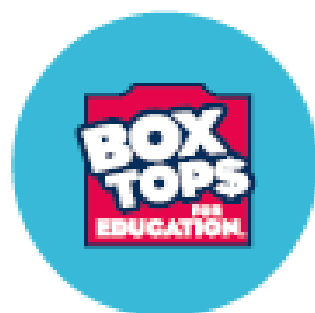
LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

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.btfec.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.btfec.com)

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

