

# The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of  
Carrolltowne Elementary

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.®*



December 2025 Vol. 8, Issue 4

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

## President's Message



As we come into the holiday season, it is hard to believe that the school year is almost halfway over! I want to take this time to thank all the PTA volunteers and everything you all have done thus far. We are an extremely active and busy PTA, and all the hard work, time you put in, and creativity really show!

The past month, 4<sup>th</sup> graders had the opportunity to read with the Principals. We'll be prepping to begin 5<sup>th</sup> grade in January. The Spirit Committee hosted it's annual Veteran's Day Ceremony and held a successful Holiday Shop. The kids seemed to enjoy themselves as they shopped 'til they dropped.

Our fundraising efforts are certainly not slowing down. The second Tuesday of every month is Chick-Fil-A Night; last month, we brought in over \$70. We closed out our Buppert's October fundraiser, earning \$275! If you are looking to give gift cards this holiday season, please check out our RaiseRight Gift Card fundraiser so that CES can earn a percentage of its sales. Every dollar counts in helping the PTA support its staff (the Hospitality Committee celebrated Substitute Teacher Appreciation Day), provide items for the school and for our students (a new microphone and receiver for the cafeteria), and hold our family fun events!

We are still looking for volunteers for all committees – in particular, we need help with STEM (we have the science fair to plan for), Fun Run, and Cultural Arts/Diversity. 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 schoolyear (children must be potty trained and you must sign them in at the Cafeteria before heading to the meeting in the Media Center).

Don't forget that it is NEVER too late to join the PTA. Reach out to the Membership Committee or check out our website.

Enjoy this holiday season with family and friends, and I hope you all get to take the time to unwind, relax, and come back in January ready to go! We have a lot to look forward to: January STEM assembly, February Shrek Jr. performance, and our springtime Donut and Muffin breakfasts!

Happy Holidays!  
Lindsay Holbig  
PTA President

## Events & Dates To Remember

- December 23<sup>rd</sup> Early Dismissal
- December 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Winter Break Schools Closed
- January 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Break Schools Closed
- January 14<sup>th</sup> - Chick-Fil-A Night
- January 16<sup>th</sup> - Early Dismissal
- January 19<sup>th</sup> - No School
- January 19<sup>th</sup> - MOD Pizza Fundraiser
- January 26<sup>th</sup> - No School



## 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

Spirit Days to Celebrate the Last Week of  
School!

Monday 12/22 – Wear your favorite holiday shirt

Tuesday 12/23 – Pajama and holiday hat day.

Thank You to all of the Parent and Student  
Volunteers that helped make the Holiday Shop  
a wonderful Success!



## 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 November 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

In November, 4th graders had the opportunity to read to Mrs. Dupree and Mrs. Sikorski. It was so fun to see them sharing their favorites with the principals - from books about their favorite baseball players to the latest DogMan comic!

In January, families can expect permission slips to come home with 5th graders.

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:

**TUESDAY, January 13, 12-8 PM -**

**CHICK-FIL-A**

*Dine In, Drive Thru or Mobile Order.*

*Mention SPIRIT DAY or*

*use code CES2026 when mobile ordering!*

**January 19-**  
**MOD Pizza Fundraiser**  
*Use code MODGIVES25*



## STEM

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

Science Fair is scheduled for April 14th. We are also seeking volunteers to help plan and organize. If you're interested in getting involved, we would love your support!

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 club members are well on their way to taking pictures and working on designing the pages

Attn 5th Graders: Submit your entry for the Yearbook Cover Contest by January 8th to your homeroom teacher. Rules and application can be picked up from the front office.

## 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.



## Hospitality Committee

December and January are quiet months for Hospitality Committee. In February, Hospitality committee will be ramping back up with Appreciation Days (school counselor, Student Resource Officer (SRO), and Instructional Assistants (IAs)).

We'll start brainstorming for Teacher Appreciation Week after the New Year.



## 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 SCHOOL



## RaiseRight™

### GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Buy Gift Cards and Shop  
Online

Earn by purchasing gift cards, shopping online, or  
both.

JOIN NOW BY SCANNING  
THE QR CODE  
OR GO TO  
RAISERIGHT.COM  
AND TYPE IN THE  
ENROLLMENT CODE  
BELOW:

**XFQCLRLW7M2H**



**Ship to Home**  
Gift cards delivered  
directly to you

#### Easy earning with eGift cards

Earn with convenience this season! You can use eGift cards for almost anything on your list, like...

1. **Last-minute gifting.** eGift cards are available instantly—no waiting, no worrying.
2. **All things holiday.** Use eGift cards to earn on holiday decor, groceries, and more.
3. **Bulk gifting.** Send eGifts to as many as 125 recipients at once.\* Great for teacher or staff appreciation gifts!



The perfect stocking stuffers  
**\$5 & \$10 gift cards**

#### Use eGift cards as payment

While shopping for gifts online, remember to check for eGift cards to earn even more. Simply log into your RaiseRight account to buy an eGift card, then return to your shopping window and apply the gift card as payment at checkout. One purchase, two ways to earn!





# Spirit Day

Tuesday, January 13,  
12:00pm - 8:00pm

Come support Carrolltowne Elementary PTA. Mention SPIRIT DAY when ordering. For Mobile Orders, enter code: CES2026, to support Community Care Event.





FUNDRAISING



# RAISE SOME DOUGH

Bring in this flyer, or order online through the MOD app or website, to use the fundraiser code provided and MOD will donate 25% of your bill to support your school!

**JOIN MOD IN SUPPORTING**



**ORGANIZATION NAME:** CARROLLTOWNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

**FUNDRAISER DATE:** JANUARY 19, 2026

**ADDRESS:** 6400 RIDGE RD, BUILDING B, SUITE 10  
SYKESVILLE, MD 21784

**FUNDRAISER CODE:** MODGIVES25

Offer valid only on the date(s) and at the MOD location identified on this flyer. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, or delivery when ordered through the MOD app or website only. For online or in-app orders, please use the code provided by GroupRaise. For delivery, customer must live within delivery boundary. Only nonprofit organizations and nonprofit schools are eligible to participate in the MOD fundraising program. MOD will donate 25% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gift cards, and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer void if the flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant. For more information about fundraising, visit <https://modpizza.com/fundraisers/>





GRADES K-5  
ALL SKILL LEVELS

THURSDAYS

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

2/5/26 - 5/7/26

No club meeting on school  
closure or early dismissal days

TUITION: \$255  
FOR 12 WEEKS



## CARROLLTOWNE ELEMENTARY CHESS CLUB

SPONSORED BY CARROLLTOWNE PTA

*Fun is the name of the game...*

*...but Silver Knights Chess Academy also sneaks in a bit of critical thinking, sportsmanship, and patience into chess club!*

*Each week students of all levels do a fun but challenging lesson with one of our great coaches from our world class curriculum followed by practice games against other students in the class.*

*Join the 100,000 (and counting!) kids who've learned chess with us! This in-person club includes online extras like practice tournaments, Chesskid Gold membership (\$49 value) and a bonus lesson with a chess celebrity!*

To register, scan the **QR Code**  
or visit  
**[www.chessacademy.com](http://www.chessacademy.com)**

Questions or financial aid information -  
email: **[info@chessacademy.com](mailto:info@chessacademy.com)** or call: **703.574.2070**

THESE MATERIALS ARE NEITHER SPONSORED NOR ENDORSED BY THE CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE SUPERINTENDENT OR THIS SCHOOL.



# 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:

