

# The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of  
Carrolltowne Elementary  
**PTA**  
*everychild. onevoice.®*



January 2026 Vol. 8, Issue 5

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



## President's Message

We are ready to jump into the second half of the school year! It's hard to believe how fast the year is flying, but we have many more exciting PTA events to look forward to.

5<sup>th</sup> grade will have the opportunity to read with the Principals in January, so be on the lookout for permission slips coming home soon. We'll also be holding our annual Hershey Park ticket fundraiser. Planning is underway and order forms will be sent home with your students next month.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, we are super excited to welcome Eric Energy to CES. He will be hosting an exciting STEM assembly for all students during the school day. BIG thanks to Emily Wilson for coordinating the return of assemblies.

We hope you continue to plan dinner at Chick-Fil-A the second Tuesday of each month. Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> is MOD pizza. After a day home from school, it's the perfect time to get out of the house and grab some dinner! Our fundraising committee is hard at work always looking for new ways to raise money for our PTA.

The Carrolltowne Players have been hard at work rehearsing for this year's performance of Shrek, Jr. There will be 3 opportunities to see the performance the weekend of February 27th/28th. Mark your calendars – you don't want to miss it.

PLEASE consider joining the PTA and volunteering for one of our committees - we are still looking for volunteers in STEM (we have the science fair to plan for which will be held 4/14), 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 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).

Don't forget that it is NEVER too late to join the PTA. Reach out to the Membership Committee or check out our website. And be on the lookout for a Spring social event; it's a great opportunity to meet other parents and learn how you can get involved.

Here's to a great 2026 year ahead!

Lindsay Holbig  
PTA President

## Events & Dates To Remember

- 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
- February 5<sup>th</sup> - PTA Meeting, 7pm CES Library
- February 11<sup>th</sup> - Parent/Teacher Conferences (Parent Request)
- February 13<sup>th</sup> - Early Dismissal
- February 16<sup>th</sup> - No School
- February 27 & 28<sup>th</sup> - Shrek the Musical Jr.



## 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 Burket 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

Tickets will go on sale around Presidents Day,  
Keep a look out for more details!

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

## Spirit Committee

Save the date for these fun and free events!  
Look for more details in next month's newsletter!

**Donuts with Grownups: Friday, 3/27 8:00-9:00am**

**Muffins in the Morning: Friday, 4/24 8:00-9:00am**



## 2025-2026 PTA Executive Committee

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

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

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

**Secretary: Kyle Emhoff**  
[secretary@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:secretary@carrolltownepta.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 December 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!

If you have any questions please email Birthday Books:  
[birthdaybooks@carrolltownepta.com](mailto:birthdaybooks@carrolltownepta.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 are almost halfway through the school year, and it is not too late to join the PTA and make a meaningful impact. PTA membership helps support important programs and experiences that enrich our students' learning and strengthen our school community.

Your support allows us to fund and organize events throughout the rest of the year, including the school play, STEM activities, and teacher and staff appreciation events that recognize the incredible work happening in our classrooms every day. Beyond events, PTA involvement helps create stronger connections between families, educators, and school leadership, ensuring our school remains a welcoming, supportive place for everyone.

Whether you're able to volunteer your time, share ideas, or simply lend your support through membership, every contribution makes a difference. Together, we can continue building a school community where students grow, teachers feel supported, and families feel connected.

You can still join at <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

5th grade families can expect permission slips to come home for reading with the Principal and Vice Principal.

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, January 19  
**MOD Pizza Fundraiser**  
Use code MODGIVES25  
*they donate 25% of sales to our PTA*  
*There is no school that day so it's perfect for lunch or dinner.*



**TUESDAY, February 10, 12-8 PM**

### CHICK-FIL-A

*Dine In, Drive Thru or Mobile Order.*  
*Mention SPIRIT DAY or*  
*use code CES2026 when mobile ordering!*

## STEM

Eric Energy will be at CES on January 21st. All students will get to participate in this STEM school assembly.

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.

## Cultural Arts/Diversity

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

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

## 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 has candid and club pictures  
January 22

And stay tuned for yearbook sales to begin soon



#Yearbook

## 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

January is a quiet month for Hospitality Committee. In February, the Hospitality committee will be ramping back up with Appreciation Days (school counselor, Student Resource Officer (SRO), and all of our wonderful Instructional Assistants (IAs)).



## Community Service Carrolltowne Cares!

### Rachel's Bears

Carrolltowne's next community service event is here!

We are partnering with Rachel's Bears, an organization that provides new teddy bears and books to children in pediatric hospitals. Donation bins will be located directly inside of the front door of the school for collections! Please help us support Rachel's Bears to provide brand new teddy bears, or brand new books to local children who are hospitalized. No donation is too big or small!

Look for the Rachel's Bears Donation Box at the Front Entrance of Carrolltowne beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>



# 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!

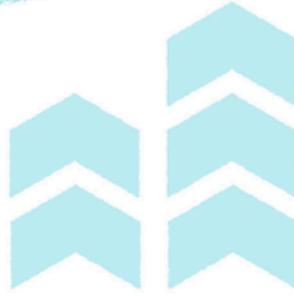
**Your Membership Helps our Cardinals Soar!**

Join in September for a chance to win exciting prizes.

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



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** 



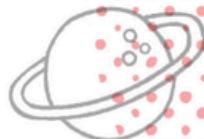
**ORGANIZATION NAME:** CARROLLTOWNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

**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/>



# Spirit Day

**Tuesday, February 10,  
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.



© 2025 CFA Properties, Inc. All trademarks shown are the property of CFA Properties, Inc.



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](http://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](http://BTFE.COM)

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

