

The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of
Carrolltowne Elementary

PTA

everychild.one voice.



February 2026 Vol. 8, Issue 6

carrolltownepta.com

President's Message

What a cold month January was! I'm trying to think spring...warmer weather, getting outside, and lots of fun PTA events to look forward to.

But before spring is officially here, we have our Carrolltowne Players' Shrek Jr., The Musical performance quickly approaching. There are three opportunities to attend – Friday 2/27 at 7 pm, and Saturday 2 pm and 7 pm. The students have been working extremely hard and are excited to show you what they can do on stage and behind the scenes. You won't want to miss this show – the humor, the singing, the dancing, and all the kids in costume! Tickets will go on sale to the public a week or so before the performance.

As you head to the school for the play, please remember our Community Service committee's February Fundraiser – Rachel's Bears Donation Drive. Bins will be out front all month.

Yearbook sales have also begun. Communications have gone out to buy yours today. This year's theme is Through the Decades. The Yearbook committee has ramped up and is now meeting weekly to put everything together. To celebrate, they are also hosting a Spirit Week leading up to the Play – dress up in your favorite decade, wear green for Shrek, and match your friends!

And while you are buying your Shrek and Yearbook tickets, don't forget Hershey Park. Tickets will also be going on sale end of the month/early March. Tickets will be available for pickup prior to Opening Day on April 3, which also happens to be Spring Break. Cost per ticket will be \$48 and is a great deal!

The next grade to read with the Principal's will be 2nd grade. Keep your eyes open for permission slips coming home.

This month, we are also recognizing our School Counselor, Instructional Assistants, and our SRO. Our Hospitality Committee is ensuring these people know how much they are appreciated.

As if this isn't enough fun, we have Donuts with Grownups in March and our Science Fair in April. We are looking for a few volunteers to help judge – signups will be posted end of the month.

We are still looking for volunteers in STEM, Fun Run, and Cultural Arts/Diversity. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 4/16. 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. And be on the lookout for a possible Spring social event; it's a great opportunity to meet other parents and learn how you can get involved.

Countdown to Spring is on!

Lindsay Holbig
PTA President

Events & Dates To Remember

- February 13th - Early Dismissal
- February 16th - No School
- February 23-27th - Spirit Week
- February 27th - Shrek Jr. 7pm*
- February 28th - Shrek Jr. 2pm and 7pm*
* Requires A Ticket
- March 6th - Registration for Donuts with Grownups Opens
- March 10th - Chick-Fil-A Night
- March 13th - Early Dismissal
- March 16th - Schools Closed for Students
- March 23rd - E. W. Beck's Restaurant Night
- March 27th - Donuts with Grownups



PTA Committees

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

Yearbook

Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Carrolltowne
Yearbook Cover Contest Winners:

**Ivy Anderson (Front Cover) and
Bobby Seitz (Back Cover)**

**Yearbook Sales have begun !!
Deadline to order is April 17th
Yearbook Market**

Yearbook Theme is "Flashback, Fly Forward
Cardinals" so don't delay, get your Yearbook
Today !!

#yearbook

Spirit Week February 23-27

Monday, February 23rd - Grow Up Day

Come to school dressed in what you want to be when
you grow up

Tuesday, February 24th - Decades Day

Totally Rad !! Dress in attire from a particular decade!!

Wednesday, February 25th - Twin / Triplet / Match

Your Friends Day

Grab a group of friends and match from head to toe !!

Thursday, February 26th - Dress to Impress

Dress your best !!

Friday, February 27th - Carrolltowne's Green Out Day

Wear Green or play t-shirt

2025-2026 PTA Executive Committee

President: Lindsay Holbig
president@carrolltownepta.com

Vice-President: Kelly McGonigal
vicepresident@carrolltownepta.com

Treasurer: Siobhan Blazak
treasurer@carrolltownepta.com

Secretary: Kyle Emhoff
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 January 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



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

Performing Arts



Rehearsals are going great as our cast gets ready for Shrek Jr.

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

Tickets will go on sale approximately one week prior; look for an email from the school with the link!

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

Spirit Committee

Save the date for these fun and free events!

Donuts with Grownups: Friday, 3/27 8:00-8:45am

Registration opens March 6th:

<https://forms.gle/q5W2hErHAVtCmsp46>

Muffins in the Morning: Friday, 4/24 8:00-8:45am



Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee will be presenting the Ruback family with a plant and the Media Center with a book in honor of Lilliana Ruback. Our thoughts and hearts go out to the Ruback family during this difficult time.

We wish to congratulate Mrs. Long and the Long family on the birth of their new baby in December! The Sunshine Committee will be offering a gift to Mrs. Long in celebration of this occasion.

Fun Run

Fun Run Committee is looking for Co-Chair and committee members to begin the planning of the 2026 Fun Run!

If interested please email
funrun@carrolltownepta.com





Membership:
Cardinals Care, Cardinals Share–
Be Part of the Flock!
Membership builds our nest for staff, students & families.



We are 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.

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 Literacy Committee is in the process of rescheduling 5th graders' day to read to the principals - if your child returned their permission slip, a reminder with an updated date will be sent home.

We will be continuing Reading with the Principals in March with 2nd grade. All 2nd grade students who return their permission slip by the deadline indicated will have the opportunity to come to the office and share a favorite book or part of a book with either Mrs. DuPree (Principal) or Mrs. Sikorski (Assistant Principal) during the month of March.

Please email: 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, March 10, 12-8 PM

CHICK-FIL-A

Dine In, Drive Thru or Mobile Order.

Mention SPIRIT DAY or

use code CES2026 when mobile ordering!

Monday, March 23rd 11:30am-9:00pm

E.W. Becks Restaurant Night

10% of sales will be donated to our school when mentioning Carrolltowne or showing the flyer.



STEM

Thank you to the STEM Committee for planning the amazing Eric Energy Assembly in January!

The STEM science fair will be held on Tuesday, 4/14. Sign-up details will be sent out by the end of February and will be available through a SignUpGenius link in the email as well as on the PTA Facebook page.

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

If you're interested in getting involved, the STEM would love your support!

please email stem@carrolltownepta.com



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

Treasurer Update

The Treasurer's Report was shared at the February PTA meeting. Please attend the April PTA meeting for further updates on the PTA's finances.

Hospitality Committee



We have so much to celebrate at CES in February. School Counselor week was 2/2-2/6. We delivered some snacks and treats to Ms. Stacey to show our appreciation for all she does at Carrolltowne. February 15th is School Resource Officer Appreciation Day and February 24th is Instructional Assistant Appreciation Day. The Hospitality Committee will be sure to show our appreciation.

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 and is ongoing through the end of March!



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:



Yearbook Club Sponsored Spirit Week

February 23rd - February 27th



Monday, February 23rd = Grow Up Day

Come to school dressed in what you want to be when you grow up or a favorite career outfit



Tuesday, February 24th = Decades Day



**Totally Rad!! Dress in attire from a particular decade !!
There are many fun decades to choose from**



Wednesday, February 25th = Twin / Triplet / Match Your Friends Day

Gather a group and dress the exact same from head to toe



Thursday, February 26th = Dress to Impress

Dress your best!! A suit, tie, fancy attire, button down shirts, or elegant dresses all set the tone for a more sophisticated day



Friday, February 27th = Carrolltowne's **Green Out** Day

To celebrate the opening of Shrek Jr., please rock all things **GREEN for our favorite Ogre !! If you are in the play, wear your play t-shirt.**





**Carrolltowne
Elementary school**
RESTAURANT NIGHT

MONDAY MARCH 23

All day 11:30 am-9:00 pm
carry out, dine in and curbside
10% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED

**GUESTS MUST MENTION CARROLLTOWNE OR
SHOW FLYER**



410-795-1001
7565 Main Street,
Sykesville, MD 21784

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.