

The Cardinal Communicator

A Newsletter of
Carrolltowne Elementary

PTA

everychild.one voice.



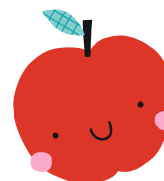
September/October 2026 Vol. 9, Issue 1

carrolltowneptta.com



**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

President's Message



Welcome Back – let the new school year begin! Fall is always a busy time of year for the PTA. Each committee is gearing up and in full swing. We have a lot of activities and events planned so keep your eyes and ears open! You can find PTA information on our [website](#), linking to the [Google calendar](#), [Facebook](#), our newsletter, and through the weekly Friday email blast. You don't want to miss all the fun.

I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all our returning and new committee leads who have stepped up to ensure we continue to be one of the greatest PTA communities! They work hard all year long and their efforts and time are very much valued and appreciated.

We are always looking for volunteers and would love to talk to you on how you can get involved, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

Please take some time to scroll through the newsletter to see what is coming up – Popsicles on the Playground, Fun Run, various Fundraisers, Trunk-or-Treat, Food Drive, Carrolltowne Players kickoff, and Birthday Books to name a few!

Fall is a big fundraising time for the PTA with the Fun Run occurring in October. The Run, restaurant nights, and other fundraising opportunities help us raise money to put back into our school, the staff, the students, and our community. Please reach out to your friends and families – every little bit counts!

We encourage all to attend the bi-monthly PTA meetings to hear from the Principal, get the latest and greatest committee information and what events you should save the date, as well learn how our funds are used and allocated. Caliday provides free childcare during these meetings and sometimes we even raffle off a local business gift card!

We hope to see all of you throughout the year! Any questions, please reach out.

Lindsay Holbig
PTA President

2026-2027**PTA Executive Committee**

President: Lindsay Holbig
president@carrolltownepta.com

Vice-President: Krista Reed
vicepresident@carrolltownepta.com

Treasurer: Siobhan Blazak
treasurer@carrolltownepta.com

Secretary: Kyle Emhoff
secretary@carrolltownepta.com

PTA Meetings

- September 17, 7pm
- November 5, 7 pm
- February 4, 7 pm
- April 15, 7 pm
- June 3, 7pm



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Search for:
 Carrolltowne Elementary
 PTA Community

PTA Committees

- Birthday Books Program- Chairs: Megan Furia and Kelly McGonigal
birthdaybooks@carrolltownepta.com
- Community Service- Chairs: Kelly DiAntonia and Alyssa Neuman
communityservice@carrolltownepta.com
- Cultural Arts/Diversity- Chair: Taryn Power
cultural@carrolltownepta.com
- Fundraisers- Chairs: Roby Miller and Jessica Brown
fundraising@carrolltownepta.com
- Fun Run- Chair: Kyle Emhoff
funrun@carrolltownepta.com
- Hospitality- Chairs: Sarah Bushong and Molly Hasslinger
hospitality@carrolltownepta.com
- Literacy- Chairs: Olga Burket and Krista Reed
literacy@carrolltownepta.com
- Membership- Chair: Molly Dolan
membership@carrolltownepta.com
- Performing Arts (Carrolltowne Players)- Chairs: Kristen Zycherma and Sarah Marking
performingarts@carrolltownepta.com
- School Spirit- Chairs: Kelly McGonigal, Lyndsay Morgan and Deena Farley
spirit@carrolltownepta.com
- STEM- Chair: Emily Wilson
stem@carrolltownepta.com
- Sunshine- Chair: Lori Schwartz Reichl
sunshine@carrolltownepta.com
- Website- Chair: Christopher McClure
webmaster@carrolltownepta.com
- Yearbook- Chairs: JoAnna Robbins and Kourtney Roussey
yearbook@carrolltownepta.com



Events

September 2026

- September 24- Fun Run MyBooster Kick Off
- September 25- 6:30pm Popsicles on the Playground
- September 26- 12-9pm Rita's Italian Ice Fundraiser
- September 28- 6-8pm Sky Zone Spirit Night

October 2026

- October 1- Picture Day
- October 12-15- Spirit Week
- October 13- Restaurant Night at Chick Fil-A
- October 14- Fun Run!
- October 15- Early Dismissal at 1pm
- October 16- Schools Closed for Students
- October 19- Restaurant Night at E.W. Becks
- October 21- Fun Run Rain Date
- October 22- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- October 23- Trunk or Treat (registration and fee required)

November 2026

- November 3- School Closed Election Day
- November 4- Early Dismissal at 1:00pm
- November 5- 7pm PTA Meeting
- November 10- Restaurant Night at Chick-Fil-A
- November 11- 8:00-9:00am Veteran's Day Celebration
- November 20- Early Dismissal at 1:00pm
- November 25- Early Dismissal at 1:00pm
- November 26-29- No School Thanksgiving Break



CCPS Volunteer Training

Please Complete the Volunteer Training for the 2026-2027 school year.

You can access the training at the link here:

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

Treasurer Update

PTA Financial Updates
are given at each PTA meeting.

At the September 17th Meeting, the PTA
budget was presented for approval.

Spirit Committee

Spirit Committee builds school spirit and pride through fun school events and themed spirit weeks! The committee also coordinates Spirit Wear sales to promote school pride and support PTA programs and initiatives.

Save the date for these upcoming Spirit
Events:

9/25 Popsicles on the Playground 6:30-7:30pm
10/12-10/15 Fun Run Spirit Week
10/23 Trunk or Treat (registration and fee required to attend) 6:30-8:30pm
11/11 Veteran's Day Celebration (Veterans and their students only) 8-9:00am
12/5 Holiday Shop 8:00am-12:00pm

Fundraising Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Saturday, SEPTEMBER 26 12:00- 9:00pm

Rita's of Eldersburg

1213 Liberty Road,

Eldersburg, MD 21784

*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the
CES PTA*

**You must mention Carrolltowne Elementary PTA at
the time of purchase**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 6:00-8:00pm -

Sky Zone

10715 Red Run Blvd

Owings Mills, MD 21117

20% of all tickets sold goes back to CES PTA

**Please mention you're here to support Carrolltowne
Elementary School PTA**



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 12-8 PM -

CHICK-FIL-A

Dine In, Drive Thru or Mobile Order.

*Mention SPIRIT DAY or
use code CES2026 when mobile ordering!*

Monday, OCTOBER 19, 11:30am-9pm -

E.W. Becks

7565 Main St

Sykesville, MD 21784

10% of all sales will be donated

Guests must mention Carrolltowne or show flyer



Performing Arts

Coordinates and produces the annual school play, which also serves as one of the PTA's major fundraisers. The program helps students develop skills and experience in acting, singing, and technical theater. Volunteers are welcome in both leadership and support roles during the production season, including choreography, music, student supervision, stage management, costumes, props, makeup, ticket sales, concessions, sound, lighting, tech week meals, and more.

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



Stem

The STEM Committee is dedicated to bringing fun and engaging science experiences to our school. Last year, we hosted an exciting assembly with Eric Energy, welcomed the Carroll County Agriculture Lab, and organized our school-wide Science Fair.

This year, we're excited to plan two interactive science assemblies for our students and host the annual Science Fair in the spring. We're looking for volunteers to help make these events a success. We'd love to have you join our committee!



Cultural Arts/Diversity

Art, culture, and shared experiences have a way of bringing out the best in our students—and our community. That is why we are thrilled to announce that the Cultural Arts and Diversity Committee is back up and running this year at CES. And boy, do we have some big ideas in the works! So make sure to keep an eye out for more information coming your way in the near future! We are eager to get started and could definitely use some help.

So, if anyone is interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Taryn Power, Cultural Arts and Diversity Chair.
cultural@carrolltownepta.com

Birthday Books

Birthday books committee purchases books for the students at Carrolltowne. Volunteers go into each classroom once a month and the students are able to pick a book during their birthday month!

We are working on stocking up the bins for birthday books for all the grades!

Please let Megan or Kelly know if you would like to assist!

We hope your child enjoys their gift!

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee kicked off the 2026-27 school year by providing breakfast for staff on their first day back. A huge thank you to everyone who made donations and to Kismet for their generous discount on our catering order!

We will continue celebrating staff throughout the fall:

- 9/15 Custodian Appreciation Day
- 10/20 Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- 10/22 First Conference Night- We will provide dinner for staff, so be on the lookout for donation requests as the date gets closer.



Community Service

Carrolltowne Cares: Let's Fill the Boxes with Kindness!

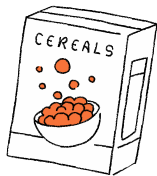
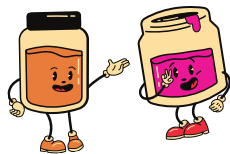
Carrolltowne students and families have big hearts, and the PTA Community Service Committee is excited to help our school spread kindness beyond our hallways. Together, we can make giving back feel meaningful, easy, and fun for everyone!

Our first community service event of the year is a Fall Food Donation Drive to support Carroll County Food Sunday, a local nonprofit where neighbors help neighbors with emergency and supplemental food needs.

When: Monday, October 5 through Wednesday, November 6

Where: Drop donations in the marked boxes inside the front entrance of the school or bring them to the Fun Run on October 14.

What to bring: Help us stock the shelves with nutritious pantry favorites, including:



Peanut Butter and Jelly

Cereal

Canned soup / stew

Canned pasta

Canned chili

Canned or bagged bean (red and black)

Canned meals

Pancake mix

Pancake syrup



Every can, box, jar, and bag makes a difference.

Thank you for helping Carrolltowne

show that kindness is something we can share—one donation at a time!

Literacy

The Literacy Committee looks forward to coordinating Reading with the Principals again this year. Each month, students from a different grade level will have the opportunity to bring a favorite book from home to read in a small group with Mrs. Dupree or Mrs. Sikorski in their office. For both the principals and the students, this has become a cherished tradition where everyone gets to take a moment from their every day routine to spend time reading and sharing books together.

If you are interested in volunteering with a particular grade level(s) or have any questions, email Krista Reed and Olga Burket (literacy@carrolltownepta.com).

Spirit Wear

Carrolltowne Spirit Wear shop is open!
We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more!

Order online, pay online, and then you will pick up your order from Big Dipper when it's ready! (They are near the post office at right here in Eldersburg 1393 Progress Way, Suite 912).

Place your orders now through October 2nd!

<https://www.bigdippergraphics.com/carrolltowne-elementary...>

Questions? Email spirit@carrolltownepta.com



Yearbook

Yearbook is gearing up for a great year!
Applications will be sent to those in 5th grade in October, more information to come.

#yearbook



Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee celebrates good news and important milestones, such as births, weddings, and retirements, while also offering care and support to faculty and students during times of personal illness or loss. Support may include sending cards and flowers or making book donations to the media center.

Fun Run Rocky's Disco Party



Rocky's Disco Party FUN RUN is Wednesday October 14
rain date October 21

MYBooster.Com Kick Off begins September 23

FUN RUN T-Shirts

Thank you to everyone who submitted the t-shirt form.
T-Shirts will be delivered to the school the week of October 12.

FUN RUN Volunteers

If you're interested in helping out during the FUN RUN,
please make sure you have completed the required volunteer training for the
2026-2027 school year. The approval process takes up to 5 business days
and you need to receive your approval prior to Wednesday, October 14th.

Volunteer Sign-Up Genius will be emailed to families the week of October 1st!

SERVICE HOURS OPPORTUNITY

We will be looking for student volunteers to chalk the walk the evening before the FUN RUN
Tuesday, October 13 (weather permitting). More details to come soon!

Thanks for your support!





PTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Maryellen O'Neill: Parent, Teacher, & Liaison

For Maryellen O'Neill, PTA membership is a family tradition. Her great-grandmother was one of New York City's first PTA presidents in the 1930s. Mrs. O'Neill joined the PTA while raising her own children at Carrolltowne. In 2007, the school's once-open classrooms were being enclosed. "And guess who was PTA president then? Me!" she recalls. "The PTA even had a 'wall party' to celebrate when the work was finished." Parenthood also shaped her teaching, inspiring her to emphasize movement and play. **"I'm a better teacher now that I've had children."**



A School Filled with Wonder and Resilience

Mrs. O'Neill **describes Carrolltowne as "a place of wonder"** and admires how students, families, and staff adapt to change. "COVID changed a lot about classrooms and curriculum, and I was very interested in how students, parents, and teachers responded to the new way of instruction. I was amazed at the resiliency of everyone." That **shared strength and commitment** reflect the close-knit school community that keeps her connected to the PTA.

A Partnership that Brings Learning & Joy

Mrs. O'Neill sees firsthand how much teachers and staff value the organization's support throughout the year. **"I feel like our PTA is the best in the county, and our staff agrees with me," she says.** PTA programs help create memorable experiences for students while strengthening the connection between families, teachers, and staff. "We love the birthday book people coming in to share books." For teachers, one of the most anticipated PTA traditions is Teacher Appreciation Week. Families can get involved in many ways, even with limited time. Mrs. O'Neill's favorite suggestion? **Participate in Spirit Days!** "Those are my favorite because the PTA, the students, and the teachers are all focused on the fun."

Your Membership Matters

Mrs. O'Neill hopes families understand how directly PTA membership supports students and classrooms. **"The PTA gives so much to their children," she says.** "Without the PTA, classrooms would look different. Reimbursements help our rooms look great and add to children's learning." As Mrs. O'Neill's story shows, the PTA is a place where small acts of involvement can leave a lasting impact. **Join today!**

Learn more about PTA Membership at [CarrolltownePTA.com](https://carrolltownepta.com)



PTA MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

SMALL CONTRIBUTION. BIG IMPACT.

Your membership helps support:

- Birthday books
- Classroom grants
- STEM assemblies
- Spirit events
- Staff appreciation
- Agenda books
- The school play
- Treats and more!



REGISTER AND ATTEND PTA MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES!

Faculty/Staff = \$6

Single Membership = \$11

Double Membership = \$17



COMING UP!

Sept 17 | First PTA Meeting | 7-8 PM

Sept 25 | Popsicles on the Playground | 6:30-7:30

Sept 28 | SkyZone Spirit Night | 6-8 PM

Oct 11 | Fall Fun on the Farm at Bupperts | 11-4 PM

GET INVOLVED!

Make a difference with the Membership Committee! Grow participation and support Carrolltowne families at events or behind the scenes by helping to maintain our database & resources, create flyers or promote membership.

Want to learn more? Contact Membership@carrolltownepta.com

**Ice,
CUSTARD,
HAPPINESS**



Rita's All Day Fundraiser

Rita's of Eldersburg

1213 Liberty Rd

Eldersburg, Md 21784

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to

Carrolltowne Elementary

SEPTEMBER 26TH , 2026

12:00PM-9:00PM

***YOU MUST MENTION OUR ORGANIZATION AT
THE TIME OF PURCHASE**



SPIRIT NIGHT

CARROLLTOWNE



ELEMENTARY

Carrolltowne Elementary School

MON SEPT 28TH 6-8PM

20%

of every ticket goes back
to the Carrolltowne
Cardinals!

Buy tickets in park and mention you're here to support Carrolltowne

Elementary School! 20% of all tickets sold from 6-8pm on Monday
September 28th will go back to the Carrolltowne Elementary school.

90-minute jump ticket: \$26.99

120-minute jump ticket: \$30.99

SKY ZONE | 10715 RED RUN BLVD. OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117 | 410-469-2830



**CARROLLTOWNE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

RESTAURANT NIGHT

MONDAY OCT 19

10% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED

**GUESTS MUST MENTION CARROLLTOWNE OR SHOW
FLYER**

**All day 11:30 am-9:00 pm
carry out, dine in and curbside**



410-795-1001

**7565 Main Street,
Sykesville, MD 21784**



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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.

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FOR THE
LABEL:



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



EARN

CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

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