

PTA Meeting 10/4/11

Wendy Kuhn welcomed attendees at 7:30pm. Twenty six parents were in attendance.

### **Treasurer's report, Laura Gwyn**

There is approximately \$21,000 in the bank plus some deposits remaining for membership, yearbook sales and after school activities.

PTA membership numbers are quite good. Approximately 213 families are now members.

### **Community Service, Wendy Kuhn**

The 'Lemonade Ripple' Project is going on through Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

There will be a survey conducted through Volunteer Spot so the children will be able to choose the recipient of all the donations accumulated through this project. Choices will include: Martha's Table, Wider Circle, Resources for Inner City, and Just TRYAN It organizations.

Martha's Table will begin collections on 10/7. Food donations will not be limited to sandwiches this year. Fruit and other food items can be donated every Friday morning by 9:00am.

Ms. Klotzman will come in to visit all classrooms to discuss autism. The Walk for Autism Awareness will take place on Saturday, 10/22 from 8:30 –9:30 behind the school. There will be food and refreshments provided. Ribbons and stickers will be given out to participants. Children can earn a 'lemon' by participating in this event.

Carderock's Best Buddies Program hopes to kick off Monday, 10/24. Third, fourth and fifth graders can participate in this program.

### **Events, Wendy Kuhn**

The Visitors' Day Breakfast will take place on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:10 outside the school. Parents can attend classes during the Open House until 11:30 am.

### **Fundraising, Wendy Kuhn**

Lisa London will receive the print directory this week to be distributed to PTA members. The Smartphone app is available now (see directions included with the agenda). Instructions will be included in tomorrow's newsletter as well.

To date, total sales for Sally Foster are \$5624, with 50% of proceeds, or \$2812, coming back to Caderock.

### **Programs, Angie Child**

We are looking for a Chairperson for International Week (tentatively scheduled for March 19-23, 2012). There are a couple of volunteers lined up already to help, and Valerie is looking for a suitable cultural arts assembly. Please contact Wendy if you are interested in the Chair position.

After School Activities are going well. The FLES program has started with both Spanish and Mandarin languages offered before school.

The Staff Appreciation committee organized dinner for the staff prior to Back to School Night.

The Pop Quiz Science/Math Assembly is October 6th. Parents are always welcome to attend the assemblies.

### **Cluster/MCCPTA Update, Julie Weber**

A formal update will be shared through the PTA newsletter. Budget cuts are a big topic and probably going to happen again next year. Budget discussions will formally begin in January, 2012.

There is legislation in draft form for a County Wide Teenage Curfew. The issue was discussed at the last MCCPTA meeting, but no final language has been proposed. They anticipate further discussion of the issue next month.

### **Foundation Update, Karen Roman**

In the past, the Foundation has funded the new school facility and technology program. There are two main ways the Foundation is assisting the school this year:

1. Kristin Russell has been hired as the new Technology teacher and will be starting soon. The Foundation will pay her a stipend for before/after school instruction.
2. The Foundation has launched a mini-grant program for the teachers which includes requests for professional training, new technology materials and classroom supply requests exceeding \$50. The Foundation has already approved 12 grants with 4 or 5 more on the way. Each request must be made in writing and approved by Mr. Palmisano. For example, Mr. Ghaman received a classroom library. (New teachers have to purchase their own books). Our art teacher needed additional supplies. Ms. Barna will be doing some experiments through the STEM program. Ms. Ross and Mrs. Barna have purchased lego kits. The Autism program ordered some software programs.

Mr. Palmisano stated that the Superintendent was impressed by the variety and thoughtfulness of the projects.

### **Other Business, Wendy Kuhn**

The PTA has built up a reserve over the years. The Board has proposed to ways to spend some of the money, with a criteria of benefitting the teachers/school long term.

1. \$2,000 expense for purchase of 21 rectangular tables for PTA use. We have to rent these tables for every event. Motion was made and approved.
2. \$500 expense for a hot/cold water dispenser and water delivery for the Staff Lounge . The cost is \$260 for equipment and \$238 for water and delivery for 9 months. Motion was made and approved.

The National Walk/Bike to School Day—October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Wendy encouraged parents to attend the Grade Socials that have been announced.

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm. Ilene Miller has organized a Parent Education speaker focused on time management skills.

**Featured Parent Education Speaker: Mr. Palmisano**

Mr. Palmisano provided testing results by grade for the 2010-2011 academic year. He showed comparisons over the recent three year period and also made comparisons with other elementary schools in the Cluster. Carderock consistently performs at the highest levels within MCPS school district.

He stressed that we are challenged not to become complacent with this success and quoted “If I am only succeeding, I am not learning.” He is willing to provide his presentation to parents who request it.

Mr. Palmisano also reported that the Maryland State Assessments (MSA) will likely go away in the next few years due to Common Core Standards.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.