

**PTA General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2012**

**Welcome and website overview**

Karen Roman called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Karen demonstrated the new features of the Carderock PTA website – [www.csespta.org](http://www.csespta.org). She pointed out that a link to the PTA website is now located on the Carderock Springs school website. Also, a link to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), the new fundraising program this year, has been added to the landing page of the PTA site. Karen encouraged parents to bookmark the PTA site and to use it as a portal to many other sites.

**Fundraising update given by Anthea Higgins**

- Grocery shopping rewards – Using pay4schoolstuffonline, parents can register their grocery card numbers and a percentage of purchases will come back to our school.
- Giant gift cards – Buying gift cards for use at Giant (e.g. \$50, \$100 cards) can be used to pay for groceries or as gifts to others and the school gets 5% back from purchases at Giant made using the gift cards. Anthea encouraged members to consider buying these as gifts even if you don't shop at Giant.

**Community Service update given by Anthea Higgins in place of Leanne Till**

- Martha's table sandwich collection is now every Friday. The SGA, once in place, will take over this effort on Fridays.
- Lemonade Ripple assembly was held on Monday, October 1. Author and CSES parent Paul Reichert read his book, The Lemonade Ripple, and tied it into the recent International Heroes week about how everyone can make a difference. This effort is totally voluntary. Children are encouraged to help their neighbors, host lemonade stands, clean up parks, etc. during the month of October. Parents are to send lemons in to school when a child's work is done. Any money collected will go to the Just Tryan It Foundation; last year, CSES gave Just Tryan It \$1800 from the Lemonade Ripple community service project.
- The Buddy Walk will be held at Hadley's Park on Saturday, October 6. The Carderock community is encouraged to participate and support Carderock 5<sup>th</sup> grader Gabby Fleming at this event, which will raise money for the Down Syndrome Network of Montgomery County.

**Programs update given by Christine Fruehwirth**

- Cindy Share is putting together the winter schedule for after-school activities. The KOA basketball program will start at the end of October.
- The FLES program registration deadline has been extended. Spanish enrollment is good, however, the Chinese program needs more students to enroll to go forward.
- International Heroes week went very well last week. A tree was planted on school grounds and seeds were distributed to all the kids to be planted at home.
- Columbus Day Open House is Monday, October 8. A PTA -sponsored breakfast will be held on the blacktop behind the school.

**Autism/Special needs update given by Wendy Kuhn**

- A Carderock Community Cares Walk will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year's walk is designed to go beyond autism awareness and will integrate other programs in our school like Best Buddies. The walk begins at 8:30 a.m. at Carderock with a perimeter walk around the fields. A bake sale will be held to raise money for the autism hockey program. Donations for bake sale are welcome.

**CSES Educational Foundation Update given by Jennifer Curley**

Jennifer Curley, President of the CSES Educational Foundation, reminded parents that the foundation raises money for

technology programs and school improvements. Contributions are very important. To date, only 1/3 of what is needed for this school year has been raised, so participation is encouraged. Plans for a spring fundraiser plan are underway.

### **Other**

Karen introduced Derek from the Kids Adventures program, our on-site after-school child care program. He is available for anyone who has questions after tonight's meeting.

### **Principal Palmisano's Report on Test Results from last year**

Karen introduced Mr. Palmisano who went over the school's test results from last year. Mr. Palmisano shared that <http://msp.msde.state.md.us/> is available for details on the information he is presenting tonight. He noted that the scores represent a combined effort of instruction and parent involvement.

Grades K-2 take the M-class reading assessment, which is given in fall/winter and spring. The benchmark set by the county is level 4; our stretch goal is level 6. 52% of last year's Kindergartners reached level 16, which is end of first grade benchmark. Above level 16 includes a writing component.

Terra Nova will no longer be administered. 2010-2012 percentages were well above benchmarks; large gains were seen in math and math computation.

MSA, the Maryland State Assessment given in grades 3-5, is Maryland's test for No Child Left Behind. 5<sup>th</sup> grade has a science test as well. This will be the last year the MSA will be given; a new assessment is being developed for next year based on the common cores standards.

Some results from 2011-2012:

- Reading scores for grades 3-5 combined indicate 77% of our students score advanced, a 7 point jump over last year.
- Grade 3 (current 4<sup>th</sup> graders) – there was concern about a drop in scores in 2010, which were the result of the tests being scored differently. 66% scored advanced in 2012, which was the highest in county.
- Grade 4 reading - 73% scored advanced
- Grade 5 reading - 93% scored advanced
- Math scores jumped as well – 71%, 75%, and 79% scored advanced over 2010, 2011, and 2012 (grades 3-5)
- Grade 3 math scores – 79% scored advanced; outscored all other schools in our cluster
- Grade 4 math - 90% scored advanced. This was a large jump. Cold Spring ES had 95% advanced and was the only school that outperformed us.
- Grade 5 math dropped to 68% from 75% in 2011. We outperformed everyone in our cluster.

A parent posed a question about why Carderock scores so well relative to other schools. Mr. Palmisano responded that Carderock has been exceptional for years but that he is especially pleased with this year's results. We have a very supportive parent community that is highly involved in our children's education, great students who work hard, and good instruction. Our focus on professional development and being strategic in support and enrichment for staffing has contributed to the school's success.

The new Map-M assessment is being given this year for math in grades 3-5. This is designed to help inform instruction. Our challenge is to make sure we offer challenge and enrichment to those who need it.

Grade 5 science test scores showed a significant decrease in 2012. 37% scored advanced; our score is similar to other schools in the cluster. Mr. Palmisano does monitor how classes do year to year.

## **PTA Parent Education**

Lisa Bronfman, Parent Education Committee, introduced Dr. Kay Abrams who spoke on self-esteem and how to empower children. Information can be found at [www.abramsandassociates.com](http://www.abramsandassociates.com). Lisa will send a link to an article on parent confidence.