

Paw Prints



Frederick Carder Elementary School

April-May 2010

Vol. IX No. 6

About the Carder PTA

The Carder PTA is a partnership of teachers and parents working to provide students with the best possible learning environment. PTA meetings are held monthly to plan activities and programs that support and enhance the Carder experience. We rely on volunteers to organize and staff our activities to make them successful. Paw Prints, which is published by the PTA, is your link to all of our news and events. Everyone is encouraged to join the PTA at an annual membership fee of only \$4.00 per person. This is a great way to support your child and our school!

2009-10 PTA Officers

President: Amber Felker
Vice President: Candice Hill
Treasurer: Marybeth Greene
Secretary: Kim Newton

Paw Prints Editor:

Erin Edger
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PTA Websites:
www.carderpta.com
www.pta.org
www.nyspta.org

C-PP District Website:
www.corningareaschools.com

Mr. Prochazka honored by Board

School Librarian Dick Prochazka, known at Carder as Mr. P., was recently selected for the Excellence in Action Award by the C-PP Board of Education. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding efforts on behalf of the school district. Eligible nominees are school district personnel, students, parents and community members. This award was previously known as the Rainbow Recognition Award, but the name was changed to better reflect the mission and vision of the Corning-Painted Post Area School District.



Carder Librarian Dick Prochazka is congratulated by Board Member Nancy Arkin.

Mr. P. is one of only two faculty members from Carder to ever receive this award. The Board received a record-setting number of nominations for Mr. P. from Carder staff members. Here are some of the comments that the Board received:

- Has a tireless commitment to literacy.
- Helped make Carder Elementary School a Model Technology Program.
- He touches the lives of every Carder student, and has been instrumental in fostering in all students a love and respect for books and reading.
- The go-to technical advisor for the school, Dick has ever embraced new technologies, and has served as a mentor both to students and teachers alike as new technological resources have been introduced at the school.
- Mr. Prochazka's Media Center is a haven of learning for the entire Carder community.

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Comments from Amber and Candice

The end of the year is quickly approaching and the nominating committee has drafted PTA Officer candidates for the 2010-11 school year. The slate of representatives running are: Co-Presidents – Candice Hill and Sarah Meda, Vice President – Erin Edger, Secretary – Kim Newton and Treasurer – Marybeth Greene. We will vote on the officers at our May 12 PTA meeting.

Our Spring Book Fair is scheduled for May 20-21. There will be a fun family concert given by Steve Courtney on May 20 at 6:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to purchase books for summer reading and support the Carder PTA. We will also have our annual Spelling Bee on May 27.

CFA Principal Rick Kimble will visit Carder on May 13. Any parent of a child who will attend CFA next school year is welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the transition to middle school, as well as have any questions answered. Look for more information to come home very soon.

As always, we know your time is valuable and we would like to thank all the parents, teachers and staff who attend our PTA meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12. Please join us to meet the new officers, meet our principal and see what is in store for the months to come. Child-care will be available for children three years of age and older.

If you are interested in volunteering for or chairing an event for next year, please contact Amber Felker at felkeramber@yahoo.com.

Amber Felker & Candice Hill

Carder PTA President and Vice President

Vote for playground every day in May at refresheverything.com

Our Carder School community has a wonderful opportunity in May, and we need everyone's help – parents, teachers and students – to take full advantage of it! Pepsi is giving away \$1.3 million each month nationwide, and Carder playground could win \$50,000 to complete our project if we are one of the top ten vote-getters for May in the "refresh everything" program.

Anyone 18 and older with an email account can vote online daily at www.refresheverything.com/carderkoalarun. Voters can sign up directly for a daily email reminder at <http://eepurl.com/iVdJ>.

"If we all work together, we can make the kids' dreams come true and build a playground in the fall," said Ann Campbell, playground project coordinator. "It's free and only takes 10 seconds to vote. We've accomplished a great deal in two years of economic recession. Win or lose, we'll keep working to reach our goal."

The top 10 vote-getters will win and we are currently ranked #13, so we need everyone's votes, every day in May!

Spring Book Fair May 20-21 Concert May 20



**Thurs. (5/20) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
5:30-8:30 p.m.**
Fri. (5/21) 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

FREE FAMILY CONCERT:
STEVEN COURTNEY, six-time Children's Music Web Award Winner, will perform on Thursday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. This is a must-see concert experience for the whole family!



Vote Carder as “Favorite School” to win \$\$\$ for our playground

Carder is currently ranked #1 in an online contest to win \$20,000! The school that gets the most votes by May 21 in the “America’s Favorite School” contest, sponsored by Care2.com and GreatSchools.net, will win the grand prize - and Frederick Carder Elementary is poised to be the winner!

“It’s wonderful to see our school ranked right at the top of this ‘great schools’ list! We are thrilled with the support our school has received so far,” said parent Ann Campbell, who initiated the school’s participation in the contest. “In just two days, we went from zero to first place, using email and Facebook contacts. The second place school will win \$5,000. First place would win us \$20,000! These funds will be used for our new playground, which we’ve been working toward for two years, and are hoping to build in the fall.”

Carder is in close competition and we need everyone’s help to stay on top through May 21! Carder community members are encouraged to cast ONE VOTE PER EMAIL ADDRESS to support the school, by clicking on the following link: <http://www.care2.com/schoolcontest/3600/636/>. Please SHARE with all your neighbors, friends and family! Every vote really does help!

Mr. P., continued

- Books that are read by Mr. P. seem to take on “a moment to be remembered” quality.
- He was instrumental in helping us combine academics with the available technology.
- He’s constantly encouraging students to read, take an AR quiz, and perform to the best of their ability.
- He’s always willing to go above and beyond to be sure our kids receive the best.

Congratulations, Mr. P., and thank you for your years of service at Carder!

Student Council update

Student Council’s next Spirit Day will be Friday, May 28. The theme is “class spirit” and students should wear their class T-shirts.

Thank you

Thanks to the Carder parents who weeded and cleared up the gardens in front of the school recently, and to Mrs. Stratford’s class for showing their Carder pride by cleaning out a bunch of remaining dead leaves and twigs.

Say thanks to Carder staff

This week, May 3-7, is Staff Appreciation Week. If your child would like to honor a special teacher or staff member, please suggest a handmade card/picture or flower from your garden.



Carder Calendar

May 11	Conference day-No school
May 12	Carder PTA Meeting * Date change from regular schedule
May 20-21	Spring Book Fair
May 20	Family Concert with Steven Courtney, 6:30 p.m.
May 28	Carder Spelling Bee



PTA Minutes in Brief

Highlights of the April 2010 meeting minutes:

- 10 members attended.
- The March 2010 minutes were approved.
- *Treasurer's Report:* Marybeth Greene reported the balance of the savings account as \$16,405.82 and the checking balance as \$0.62.
- *Principal's Report:*
 - Carder Baby: Mrs. Cowulich gave birth to a little girl, Lila, on April 11. Both are doing well.
 - Kindergarten Orientation: Parent meeting was well-attended. Thanks to Amber Felker, Sarah Meda, Kim Newton, Mrs. Hartman and Mrs. Friedrich.
 - Next year: Planning for three kindergarten and three first-grade classes.
 - Budget: Building closures will mean more staff movement than usual. This will be based on seniority. Corning Foundation grant will lessen cuts to K-2 teaching assistants. Budget up for vote is essentially the same as a contingency budget. However, the contingency budget is more restrictive and will not cover building needs or items such as sports uniforms.
 - Mr. P. honored: Mr. Prochazka received an Excellence in Action Award from the Board of Education (see story on page 1).
- *Committee Reports:*
 - PTA Council: The proposed school budget includes a tax increase of 2.4%. The Corning Foundation donation saved 35-40 instructional positions. Closing Lindley-Presho saves \$491,000. Students will attend Erwin Valley. Closing Kent Phillips saves \$750,000. Students will attend Gregg, Severn and Winfield. Frank Pierce will change to a full-day program, which will save \$108,000. Two more years of painful cuts are ahead. Bill Cameron is working with each PTA to get more exposure for schools. Ithaca PTA has started a Special Ed. (SEPTA) chapter and would like to start one in this area. The Coat Bank drive will be held in November and December.
 - Fun Fair: PTA officers felt that given the low turnout in past years and the need to focus on fiscal restraint and responsibility, the event will be cancelled this year. A motion was made and approved. A family concert will be held in conjunction with the spring book fair to provide Carder families with the opportunity for a fun night out.
 - Staff Luncheon: In the past, the PTA has provided a sit-down lunch for the staff at the end of the year during a half day. As appreciated as this is, it was thought that given the PTAs focus on fiscal restraint and responsibility, and given that there is already staff appreciation week, it would be acceptable for the PTA to provide coffee and treats throughout 2010-11 and on the last day or two of classes in 2010 instead of a formal luncheon.
- Staff Appreciation: May 3-7. Anyone wishing to donate items can contact Lori Chisarik at 973-2721 or chisarik@earthlink.net.
- Spring Book Fair: May 20-21. Steven Courtney Family Concert will be held on May 20 at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers needed to help with sales as well as set up and clean up. Book previews ordered and will be used as prizes as well as be available for the kids to preview before the sale. The book sale will be open during the family concert.
- *New Business:*
 - The following individuals have been nominated for officer positions for the 2010-11 school year:
Co-Presidents: Candice Hill and Sarah Meda
Vice President: Erin Edger
Treasurer: Marybeth Greene
Secretary: Kim Newton
Voting will take place at the May 12 meeting.
 - Mrs. O'Hare introduced and thanked Kim Jensen for attending the meeting.
 - Discussion was held regarding potential prizes/rewards that could be given by PTA that were budget-friendly and motivating to students and their families. These included ice cream coupons, homework coupons, class liberties (such as using the teacher's chair, changing seat for the day coupon, gum pass, game/computer pass, pencils) and use of any leftover prizes from previous events.
 - The last day of school may be June 23, 2010. Still waiting for confirmation of this date and what will be done with the "extra" snow day.
 - The May PTA meeting will be moved to **WED. MAY 12** at 6:30p.m. in the library. The original date scheduled for the meeting conflicted with changes to the school calendar.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.