

Paw Prints



Frederick Carder Elementary School

March-April 2010

Vol. IX No. 5

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
eedger@gmail.com

Carder Elementary School
289 State Street
Corning, NY 14830-3099
962-2454

Principal: Dan Davis
Secretary: Marge Bosket
Typist: Cindy Sherwood

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

C-PP District Website:
www.corningareaschools.com

Carder Reflections entry goes on to nationals

Congratulations to Grayson Campbell (Grade 5), who received an Award of Excellence in the Film/Videography category at the NYS level of the PTA Reflections competition. Grayson's work is one of only four films NYS will submit to national competition!

Grayson's stop-action movie, titled "One Tree. Four Seasons," features more than 250 digital photos of Legos. He also played the piano for his film soundtrack.

You can view Grayson's stop-action movie at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UrzSMzxCEg.

2010-11 Committee Chairs still needed

Chairs are needed for the following committees. Please contact a PTA officer if you are interested or need more information.

- School Beautification
- Paw Prints
- Website*
- Yearbook
- Fall Spooktacular
- Spring Fun Fair
- Reflections
- PTA Food Drive

* We hope to find someone who has a background in websites, if possible. We have not utilized our website to its full potential and we'd like to rectify that next year. As we all know, this can sometimes be the first impression of us for incoming parents.



Carder Calendar

April 2	No school
April 12	Kindergarten parent meeting
April 13	Carder PTA Meeting
April 7, 15, 30	Parent conference days-Half-days
April 19-23	Spring Recess-No school
April 26-29	NYS ELA testing
May 3	Conference day-No school
May 5-7	NYS Math testing
May 11	Conference day-No school



Comments from Amber and Candice

We had a nice turnout for this month's meeting with a few new faces in the crowd. As always, we would like to thank all of the parents and teachers who attended the meeting. We value your time and greatly appreciate you joining us.

In last month's newsletter, it was mentioned that the officers have set a goal to have all committee chairs in place by our last PTA meeting of the school year, which is in June. With help from many of our dedicated parents here at Carder, we are very close to realizing this goal. In this month's edition of Paw Prints you will find an updated listing of the committees for the 2010-2011 school year that we still need of chairpersons for. Chairing and/or volunteering your time for one of our many events throughout the school year is a wonderful way to get involved in life here at Carder. If you are willing to lead one of these events alone or together with a friend, please contact any of the officers.

Our students should be proud. With a total of 450 items, Carder had the second highest total of donations brought in for the District's PTA Food Drive. Thank you to all who participated for taking the time to care for those in need in our community.

We are pleased to report that the PTA will be holding a spring book fair on May 20-21. As with the fall book fair, many volunteers will be needed for this event to be successful and we hope that you will take the opportunity to get involved. More details regarding this event will be coming next month. In the meantime, ask your children and yourselves, "What would you do for reading?"

Our next PTA meeting is April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. These meetings are a great way to learn more about the wonderful activities at Carder and meet Principal Davis and our teachers. It also is a good time to share ideas and voice questions or concerns. Please join us next month. Don't forget, we provide childcare for your children ages 3+.

Continued on page 3



A Note from Carder Principal Dan Davis

Ways to Support Your Child Academically

Make a Plan

Set regular times for homework and provide a quiet place for your child to study. Be sure he or she has access to the public library and to other resources needed for academic work: newspapers, books, and the Internet under supervised conditions. Check homework assignments and ask the teacher if there is something you or your child doesn't understand and always call if you have a concern.

Spend Time Learning Together

Read stories and articles and watch television programs or films together. Ask your child to do things like this:

- List the events in order.
- Tell what the piece was mostly about (the main idea or topic) or give it an alternate title.
- Discover the message of the piece (or theme).
- Talk about the author's or character's point of view.
- Discuss how things could have been different if some element of the story were changed.
- Identify unfamiliar words and figure out what they mean by looking at the context in which they're used.

Encourage Your Child to Read

Great reading materials include the newspaper and news magazines. Then discuss articles that you have both read. Ask your child to distinguish between facts and opinions within the articles and talk about the article's point of view. Examine any tables or graphs accompanying the stories and ask your child to interpret them.

ELA Test Dates

Grade 3: 4/28 & 4/29

Grade 4: 4/27, 4/28, & 4/29

Grade 5: 4/26 & 4/27

Math Test Dates

Grade 3: 5/6 & 5/7

Grade 4: 5/5, 5/6, & 5/7

Grade 5: 5/5 & 5/6



Vote to win \$\$\$ for playground

Our Carder School community has a wonderful opportunity in April, 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 \$50K to complete our project if we are one of the top ten vote-getters for April in the "refresh everything" program.

To get Carder kids excited and informed about the project, some parents spent the week of March 22 visiting classes during their library periods. "The students understand their role as ambassadors for their school and had great ideas for getting the word out to all the adults they know to vote every day in April," said Ann Campbell.

Carder students have been asked to provide five or more email addresses for adults who have agreed to be added to a daily email reminder list. They've also been asked to think about how to spread the word about the vote. If the school is successful and becomes a finalist at the end of April, Mr. Davis has agreed to a "crazy principal stunt," so student suggestions will be sought for this as well.

Anyone 18 and older with an email account can vote online daily ("CarderKoalaRun" will not be found on the www.refresheverything.com site until April 1). 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 Campbell. "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."

VOTE EVERY DAY IN APRIL!

www.refresheverything.com/carderkoalarun

Amber and Candice, continued

In closing, we know everyone's lives are busy and we appreciate all the time you give by getting involved with the activities here at Carder.

Amber Felker & Candice Hill

Carder PTA President and Vice President

Nurse notes

A new requirement by New York State Public Health Law requires students who will be entering sixth grade or a comparable special education class in September 2010 and who are 11 years old or older to receive a Tdap immunization. This vaccine contains Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough).

Students who are 10 years old and entering sixth grade will not be required to have the vaccination until they are 11 years old. Please note that your child will not have had this vaccination prior to age 10.

A copy of an immunization record from your doctor or clinic with the Tdap vaccination recorded will be required. Proof may be turned in to the Health Office at your child's elementary school as soon as your child is immunized. If your child turns 11 years old and is immunized over the summer, please provide proof to the Health Office or Main Office at CFA or Northside Blodgett as soon as it is available to avoid having your child excluded from school in September.

If you have questions, please contact your family physician or the Health Office.

Student Council update

Student Council has been busy preparing for spirit days and a spring community service project. The next spirit day will be "Go Green" day on Friday, April 16. Children are encouraged to wear the color green that day. We will announce our community service project at the end of April.

Box Tops tally

Box Tops collections have ended for this school year. We earned a net profit of \$1,398.02!

Classroom winners for this collection year were Mrs. DiGuilio, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Tolbert, Ms. Jensen and Mrs. Keeney.

Thank you to everyone who clipped and sent in Box Tops. Please start clipping and collecting for next year!



PTA Minutes in Brief

Highlights of the March 2010 meeting minutes:

- 17 members attended.
- The February 2010 minutes were approved.
- *Treasurer's Report:* Marybeth Greene reported the balance of the savings account as \$16,956.17 and the checking balance as \$0.25.
- *Principal's Report:*
 - 2010-11 Class Lists: The teachers and administrators spend a great deal of time organizing the classes, trying to make them equitable and balanced across the grade levels. A new policy regarding parents requesting a specific teacher for their child will be ready for the April or May PTA meeting.
 - Staffing updates:
 - Deb Vonderlin, a C-PP Special Education Consultant, has established Carder as her home school and has taken over Mrs. Slavin's office.
 - Audrey Slavin, Social Worker and Counselor, is now at Carder full-time.
 - Becky Chester is now at CFA full-time.
 - Darci Davis, Social Worker and Counselor at Kent Philips, will help with the character ed. program twice a week.
 - Accelerated Reader: To date, more than 16,000 AR tests have been taken with an 87 percent passing rate. This is a great base to build upon for the next year.
 - NYS Testing: Testing is immediately after spring break. The school needs to have 95 percent of eligible students participate. Dates are as follows:
NYS ELA Assessment Gr. 3-5
Mon. Apr. 26-Grade 5 Tues. Apr. 27-Grade 4 & 5
Wed. Apr. 28-Grade 3 & 4 Thur. Apr. 29-Grade 3 & 4
NYS Math Assessment Gr. 3-5
Wed. May 5-Grade 4 & 5 Thur. May 6-Grade 3, 4 & 5
Fri. May 7-Grade 3 & 4
- *Committee Reports:*
 - PTA Council: Athletics Director Tim Decker discussed the Athletic Handbook. Board of Education Candidates Night scheduled for May 3. A SEPTA (Special Education PTA) may be formed in this area. Twenty-five members are needed to begin. NYS is considering cutting 13 of the 17 Regents exams.
 - Food Drive: Carder had the second highest total of donations brought in with 450 items. The snow days made it difficult to get reminders out.
 - Box Tops and Scrips: Final Box Tops collected for this school year. We earned \$1,570.30 minus expenses of \$172.28 (postage and class rewards), for a net profit of \$1,398.02. Classroom winners for this collection year were Mrs. DiGuilio, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Tolbert, Ms. Jensen and Mrs. Keeney. Scrips orders ongoing.
 - Yearbook: The yearbook has been submitted to the publisher. To date, 393 orders have been placed, 48 of which are to be donated. Teachers have to buy their own yearbooks. With current orders, the yearbook budget will be exceeded. The publisher is willing to renegotiate the contract for fewer books. The contract is based upon last year's contract. For next year, include a \$1 increase in price if book is purchased after deadline. Advertise this fact on the order forms. A motion was made and approved to increase the yearbook budget line by the cost of 22 extra yearbooks.
- Nominating Committee: A motion was made and passed to accept Ellen O'Hare, Candice Hill, Dan Davis and Sarah Meda as the 2010-11 Nominating Committee.
- Kindergarten Orientation: Had a table set up during kindergarten registration. Orientation will be four weeks this year instead of 5. The dates of program are: Mondays (morning and afternoon) of 4/26, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24 and Tuesdays (morning) of 4/27, 5/4, 5/18, 5/25. The Parent Meeting is on Monday April 12. Mr. P has kindly agreed to allow us to use the media center again this year.
- Reflections Ann Campbell has agreed to fulfill any remaining obligations for the 2009-10 Reflections program. We need a chair for next year. Thank you to the MacLaren family for all their support these past years. Good luck in Florida!
- *New Business:*
 - A spring book fair will be held May 20-21. Candice Hill is chairing this program. There is \$150 left in the book fair budget line that may be used to offset any startup costs. There will be no vouchers offered. Any monies made would be realized as revenue for the PTA. The theme of fair, "What would you do for reading?" ties in with the summer reading program. We are looking at a wacky stunt on the May 20 to help publicize the fair. Volunteers needed to help with sales as well as set up and clean up.
 - Mrs. O'Hare introduced and thanked Joy Penna for attending the meeting.
 - A motion was made and passed to increase membership fees to \$5.00 for 2010-11 and amend the by-laws to reflect this change.
 - The Carder Koala Run Playground Committee requested that the Carder PTA purchase a major component for the playground. As a result of discussion, it was decided that dedicating funds for purchasing a component this month is not feasible. A suggestion was made to include a line item dedicated to the purchase of one or more components in next year's budget. The PTA will revisit this issue in May and/or June. At that time, final costs will have been submitted, and the results of any spring fundraising will be available. The item was tabled to next meeting.
 - Zandy Crowl will chair next year's fall fundraiser. She is investigating new companies. Suggestions for fundraisers were discussed.
 - We are actively seeking chairs for next year's activities.
 - Discussed prioritizing programs and funds.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.