

The Colts' Corral

A publication of Carmel Elementary School PTA

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Carmel
PTA

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Carmel PTA Wraps Up Annual Fall Fundraiser

By Jeanne Figdore, Ways and Means Co-Chair

PTA's Fall Fundraiser has come to a close and we'd like to thank all the students and their parents who participated and helped raise money to continue to fund all the wonderful programs and projects and to support all the teachers and students of our wonderful school!

We wrapped up the JAXCO Fall fundraiser and distributed orders the week of October 6th. Although we fell short of our fundraising goal of \$30,000, we did raise \$19,500. We feel this was primarily a result of the economy.

Don't forget that you and your friends and relatives can order throughout the school year at www.4JAXCO.com and Carmel will still earn the same percentage of your sales! The items will ship directly to your home.

On Town Hall on Friday, October 10th, we placed the names of 44 students who all sold 20 items or more in a hat and drew their names for some great prizes! They won a Karaoke Machine, a Touch Panel Phone w/ PDA, a Stunt Vehicle, 3 students won a Webkinz, 3 students won 2 Kung Fu Characters, 2 won a Kung Fu Art Kit, 1 won 20 days of Free Ice Cream, and 1 won 10 days of FREE Ice Cream!

Then we awarded the top 10 sellers in the school. We had a tie for 9th place, so the winner was the student who sold more in dollars.

- 10th place: Chase for selling 39 items; he won a MP3 Player!
- 9th place: Chris for selling 39 items; he won a Lightning Ball!
- 8th place: Preston for selling 41 items; he won a Dance Mat!
- 7th place: Luke for selling 42 items; he won a Remote Controlled Robot!
- 6th place: Conner for selling 43 items; he won a Hand Held Game!
- 5th place: Emily for selling 44 items; she won a cell phone!
- 4th place: Chris for selling 48 items; he won a portable DVD player!
- 3rd place: PJ (David) for selling 54 items; he won a portable stereo system!
- 2nd place: Demetrius for selling a whopping 66 items!! He won a new bike!

And the Top Seller was Dylan for selling an incredible 68 items!! He won an IPOD Shuffle!

They were all very excited with their prizes! Congratulations to all of our top sellers! Awesome Job!

More Fundraising News on Page 2

Volume 10 Issue 3

December 2008

FAMILY NIGHT EVENTS

Skate Night
1st Thursday
January 8th

Chick Fil A
3rd Thursday
December 18

Stevi B 's
4th Wednesday
Returns
January 28th

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Teachers Awarded for Top Class Sales

To thank the teachers for supporting the sale and encouraging their students, JAXCO has awarded the teachers with the highest student sales.

Congratulations to the following: Ms. Murphy, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Tucker, Ms. Gazaway, Ms. Chastain, and Ms. Bendik who all received a Carmel embroidered Canvas Tote Bag. Ms. Williams received a \$25 JAXCO shopping spree, Ms. Spears a \$50 JAXCO shopping spree, and Ms. Willis a \$100 JAXCO shopping spree.

And our grand prize winner was Ms. Campbell received a \$250 registration fee to a conference of her choice! Her class sales totaled \$1,282.50! Wow! Way to go!

The best was yet to come. On October 15th all the students got to watch the top 11 Classroom Teachers with the highest percent of participation, throw a PIE in the face of an ADMINISTRATOR!! Dr. Hunt, Dr. Green, Ms. Landry and Mr. Carnes came prepared to get creamed, dressed in full rain gear, including shower caps, goggles

and boots! They got the crowd cranked up by chanting "Pie in the Face" and doing the wave. Then they lined up ready while their Teachers showed off their aim and took out their frustrations! Congratulations to the classes of Ms. Campbell, Ms. Amos, Ms. Willis, Ms. Williams, Ms. Keith, Ms Owen, Ms Maugans, Ms Hay, Ms Kreft, Ms. Dutko & Ms. Murphy! Everyone had a blast!

BOOK FAIR SAFARI WAS A ROARING ADVENTURE!

By Kristy Meusel, PTA Book Fair Chair

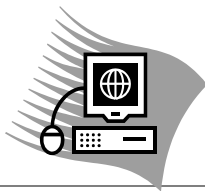
During the week of October 27-31, the media center was turned into a jungle! Mrs. Sylvia Gaillard, Carmel's Media Center Specialist, took the students along on a safari. They traveled to the wilds of Africa, the pyramids of Egypt and to an elephant graveyard. Everyone had a wild time!

Thanks to everyone involved who helped make the fall book fair a success. We had sales of over \$21,500. In turn, the media center keeps 25% of the profits, which is over \$5,375. They will be able to order more books, accelerated reader tests and other audio/visual equipment from the proceeds.

We also participated in the One for Books program with Scholastic. We received \$95 in donations that were used to help purchase books for Carmel students that otherwise would not have been able to get a book. Scholastic will now donate 95 books to one of three non-profitable organizations. These include Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.; the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and National Center for Family Literacy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parent and staff volunteers that helped. These volunteers helped locate items; run the cash registers and restock items. First, thank you to the book fair sub-committee members: Jean Frantz, Judy Hamby, Susan Moore, Paige Rountree and Stephanie Weber. Next, the volunteers included: Cheryl Smith; Jere McCorkle, Kim Parks, John Puccio, Kelly Mosley, Jeanne Figdore, Lisa Grisham, Lynette Farmer, Terri Jackson, Laura Smith, Tara Dees, Stacie Parkes, Tami Abbas, Carrie Sprouse, Sharon Chester, Cathy McNamara, Dina Menard, Donya Paull, Elizabeth Hickman, Jayne Woodyard, Karman Skeens, Rebecca Hayes, Nan Young, Simone Alsup, Susan Norrell, Tammy Smith, Tessa Basford, Karen Kurt, Kathy Barlitt, Jessica Pinkston, Riva Newton, and Jamie Golemi. I apologize if I left anyone off of the list. I appreciate everyone's help and efforts in making the book fair a great experience for all of Carmel's students.

We will see you in the spring at the "Lights, Camera...Book Fair."



IS YOUR CHILD BEING BULLIED ON-LINE?

Submitted by Sylvia Gaillard,
Media Specialist

I have been teaching your children Grades 4, 5, and 6 about **online bullying** and what they should do if this happens to them. The children will know what is expected from them should they encounter this behavior. But as a parent you need to be aware of what you can do to approach this problem.

Internet bullying is a form of emotional bullying that uses the internet and other digital devices to send intimidating and negative messages, images or video clips about others. Internet bullying can contain embarrassing comments on chat rooms, message boards, websites, social networking sites, online gaming sites, blogs, cell phones, Instant messages or emails.

Please note these warning signs for internet bullying from Dr. Patti Agatson www.cyberbullyhelp.com.

- Child is visibly upset or angry during or after internet use or cell phone use.

- Withdrawal from friends or activities.
- Drop in academic performance
- School avoidance
- Child is a target of traditional bullying at school
- Child appears depressed or sad

What can you do to intervene?
(From Dr. Patti Agatson at www.cyberbullyhelp.com.)

- Save the evidence. Print copies of bullying emails and copy links to websites. Save an Instant Message.
- If a fake or offensive profile targeting your child is set up on a social networking site, report it to the site.
- If the perpetrator is known, contact the parents and share your evidence. Insist that all posted material be removed. If the parent is unresponsive and behavior continues, contact an attorney or send certified letter outlining possible legal options.
- If the bullier is another student, contact the school counselor.
- If the internet bullying contains

threats, intimidation, or sexual exploitation—contact the police.

- **This tip is the most important:** INVESTIGATE YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE PRESENCE. Search your child's name in various search engines periodically. Set up a Google alert and Search MySpace, Facebook, Xanga (a blogging site) and Youtube. Alert these web sites should you find any negative results.

Please discuss Internet bullying with your children. It is an important issue facing all of us with children now.

Encourage your child to understand that these behaviors will not be tolerated in your family. It is smart to set up guidelines for appropriate use of each piece of new piece of technology brought into the home. Please refer to www.cyberbullyhelp.com for assistance.

Carmel AIM Teams with ConKerr Cancer – A Case for Smiles

The students of the Carmel AIM classes embarked upon a charitable donation project. They participated in the ConKerr Cancer – A Case for Smiles pillow making donation project. ConKerr Cancer started when Cindy Kerr's son, Ryan Kerr, was diagnosed with cancer in 2002. She began making pillowcases to brighten up his hospital room and to put a smile on his face. This organization makes and distributes new pillows to children who are undergoing continued treatments at local area hospitals. One of the organizations that participates in this project is The Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House has been a charity supported by Carmel AIM for many years. The students of the Carmel Elementary AIM program made over 100 pillowcases. AIM teachers, Jane Cochran and Robbin Walker, wanted a way for their students to give back to the community. ConKerr Cancer – A Case for Smiles was the perfect way for their students to help many children.



Carmel Scrapbook



Mrs. Bussey's third graders present the Cherokee County Fire Department with a quilt they made as part of the Learn & Serve program



Mrs. Maugans' third graders held a Mad Scientist Day on October 31 and demonstrated science experiments for their class.



Avery, Mrs. Moffitt's 1st grade class, with her grandparents on Grandparents Day

Fall Festival 2008 Successful

By Steve Hoofnagle, Fall Festival Chairperson

This year's Fall Festival was held on Saturday, October 11th and once again we were fortunate enough to have beautiful, cool, and sunny weather. Our mission as the 2nd largest fundraiser for the PTA is to have a safe, fun event and to raise as much money as possible to help fund important PTA projects at our school. Based on those criteria we were "successful" with no reported injuries, lots of great games, attractions, and prizes, and good financial results. The ongoing financial crisis didn't spare the Festival as evidenced by the 22% drop in profit compared to last year, but thanks to lower expenses we were able to exceed our targeted profit of \$8,500 by 4%.

2008 Ticket Presales = \$2750 (95% of last year's \$2885)
Income target = \$15,000. Actual = \$12,551 (84% of target)
Expense target = \$6,500. Actual = \$3,704 (57% of target)
Total profit target = \$15,000 - \$6,500 = \$8,500.
Actual = \$12,551 - \$3,704 = \$8,847 (104% of target)

Thanks to all of the hard work from the room parents and Carmel families, we had some wonderful baskets for the basket raffle and they really helped off set lower ticket and concession sales. Special thanks to Cathy McNamara for being the Basket Raffle Coordinator again and doing an excellent job. Also big thanks to Stacie Parkes for volunteering again to be our Vendor Coordinator. She brought in 18 vendors this year and also collected several donations for the Silent Auction. Kudos go out to Lori Karnes for being my liaison with the room parents / teachers for the 3rd straight year and helping to coordinate all of the activities. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all of the PTA Officers and Chairs and other volunteers including parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, brothers, sisters, and other family members for helping with the booths, ticket sales, set-up, operations, and clean-up!

Targeted income for next year will remain \$15,000 and target expenses will be \$5,500 (a \$1,000 reduction). We are planning to add a couple new games for 2009 and also to come up with a more permanent (reusable) set-up for the "Jail". Next year (2009) will be my last at Carmel as my youngest moves on to WMS in 2010. We could use another Fall Festival "co-chair" person to be "trained" for the 2009 Festival and to help take the reins going forward. Please contact me if you are interested or know of anyone who is! (stevehoofnagle@bellsouth.net)

Thanks again to everyone for a great and successful Festival!

"WOW!"

Congratulations to Our Cherokee County Reflections Award Recipients

Each year, the National PTA sponsors the Reflections Program as a way for students to explore their creativity. This year's theme was "Wow!" In last month's edition of the Colts' Corral, we announced the winners of the Carmel Elementary School PTA Reflections Program. Entries receiving Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit were forwarded to the Cherokee County Council of PTA's for judging at the county level. Carmel Elementary School proudly submitted 21 entries and we are pleased to announce that four of our very talented students received awards at the county level!



Dr. Sharron Hunt (left to right) Hannah, Abigail and Matt,

A reception was held, honoring all Cherokee County Reflections Program winners on November 13, 2008, at Woodstock High School. All four of our winners along with their families, were able to attend the ceremony and represented Carmel with great enthusiasm, poise and pride. In addition, our students and the PTA extend our thanks to our principal, Dr. Sharron Hunt, who attended the reception to recognize and honor our students!

The Carmel Elementary School winners of the Cherokee County PTSA Reflections Program are:

Film Production: First Place - Matt Weissel, - 4th grade "Cades Cove Reflections Video"

Literature: Third Place - Hannah Everest - 3rd grade "Wow! The First Men are Going to Mars"

Musical Composition: Second Place - John Baumgartner - 5th grade "Blues E"

Visual Arts: Second Place - Abigail Dees - 3rd grade "Color Explosion"

Entries that received first and second place have been forwarded to the Georgia PTA for state level competition. We will proudly announce those results when they are received.

The Carmel Elementary School PTA congratulates each of our winners and all of those who participated on their achievement!

THANK YOU

Many books were collected during the Carmel Book Drive. These will be presented to the Children's Advocacy Council.

Thank you to all who participated



First grade students prepare for their PTA performance.

Free Parenting Series 2008-2009

Sponsored by Peachford Hospital
and Georgia PTA...Active Parenting
Encourages Family Connections

February 4, 2009 - "Cries, Tries,
and Suicide"

Learn more about warning signs of
depression and suicide

All programs are in the conference
center at Peachford Hospital, from
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, and are free
of charge; no RSVP is neces-
sary. For more information contact
Pat Giuliani, Georgia PTA Youth
Services Chairperson at
Pat.Giuliani@parentcorps.org or
Margot Houser, Account Manager,
Peachford Hospital at 770-986-1821
or mhouser@houserwalker.com.

Each program will feature valuable
parenting tips, discussions
and Q & A

Desperately Seeking...

The parents who contacted
Kristy about doing
PTA grant writing.
Our apologies, but your contact
information has been misplaced.
Please contact Kristy again, we
appreciate your interest very
much and want to talk again.

The Colts' Corral
is printed by:
Northside
Design and Printing
Jimmy Carpenter
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CARMEL ELEMENTARY PTA 2007-2008

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2nd Co-VP	Lisa Grisham	678-494-3157
Secretary	Karman Skeens	678-494-5349
Treasurer	Elizabeth Hickman	770-928-9630

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON/PHONE

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Communications	Stacie Parkes	770-517-5048
Community Outreach	Simone Alsup	678-445-6790
Cultural Arts	Tessa Basford	678-445-8118
Dads' Club	Gary Parks	770-517-5048
Co-Chair	OPEN	
Donations	OPEN	
Co-Chair	Monika Balke	678-445-8011
Environmental	Robbin Walker	770-926-1237
Exceptional Children	Tammy Smith	770-517-8630
Co-Chair	Susan Norrell	770-591-4224
Fall Festival	Steve Hoofnagle	770-516-9092
Family Development	Kelly Frasor	770-592-6862
Co-Chair	Synethia Tucker	770-924-1460
Grant	?????	
Growing Up	Monika Balke	678-445-8011
Health & Safety	Lynette Farmer	770-592-9470
Co-Chair	Lisa Grisham	678-494-3157
Historian	Samantha Hackett	770-880-5772
Co-Chair	Cathy McNamara	770-517-3037
Holiday Gala	Lisa Grisham	678-494-3157
Hospitality	Lori Karnes	678-445-6682
Literacy	Stephanie Parsons	770-924-2648
Co-Chair	Elizabeth Hickman	770-928-9630
Media Center	Kristy Meusel	770-516-6773
Membership	Cindy Garrison	770-517-9618
Newsletter	Stephanie Weber	770-591-3894
Parliamentarian	OPEN	770-928-2584
Public Relations	Susan Moore	770-516-2633
Co-Chair	Amy Weissel	770-928-0466
Room Parent Coord.	Lori Karnes	678-445-6682
Recreation	Rebecca Hayes	770-516-7092
Co-Chair	Michele Kaiser	770-592-3702
Skate Night	Shawna Herring	678-402-8161
Spirit Wear	Jere McCorkle	678-494-5399
Volunteer Coordinator	Karman Skeens	678-494-5349
Ways and Means	Jodie Rodriguez	
Co-Chair	Jeanne Figdore	770-592-1264
Web Site	Keith Weber	770-591-3894