

What? Where? How?

In Carlisle, Massachusetts

What are the essentials?

The Carlisle School Association publishes the *Husky Handbook*. The *Husky* contains class lists, with contact information for parents and teachers. It is free with CSA membership. You may pick it up on the Elementary and Middle School Back to School Nights. If you are unable to pick them up at that time they will be mailed out the following week.

The Red Balloon Phonebook. This is Carlisle's hometown phonebook, including guides to town government, a map of Carlisle, residential listings, and business listings.

The Mosquito. The town paper, free for town residents, *The Mosquito* reports on school and local matters.

Informative local websites:

- ⇒ www.carlisle.k12.ma.us, Carlisle Public Schools
- ⇒ <http://www.gleasonlibrary.org/>, for the Gleason Library
- ⇒ <http://www.carlilemosquito.org/>, for the Carlisle Mosquito
- ⇒ <http://www.carlisle.org/>, town web page, with many useful links
- ⇒ http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA_Recreation/index, for the recreation department

Is any school information online?

Yes! The Carlisle Public School's website is a portal for many useful websites.

At www.carlisle.k12.ma.us, you will find:

- ⇒ the school's handbook,
- ⇒ calendar for the current year,
- ⇒ a staff directory,
- ⇒ links for classroom pages,
- ⇒ guides to curricula,
- ⇒ the school's online newsletter, *The Buzz*, including archives,
- ⇒ links to approved education websites,
- ⇒ the school committee's web pages,
- ⇒ links to the Carlisle School Committee, the CSA, and the CEF websites.

And much more! The site is actively updated, and it's the best place to start a search for information.

I wish to discuss my child's performance in school.

Twice a year, the school schedules parent-teacher conferences. If you would like to discuss your child's performance at other times, you should contact his teacher, either by a note, email, or voice mail. The school's website lists staff email addresses, which follow the formula, (first letter of first name)(last name)(dot)Carlisle.mec.edu.

What is the difference between the School Committee and the School Council?

School committees select and terminate the Superintendent, review and approve budgets for public education and establish educational goals and policies for the schools in the district. The Committee concerns itself primarily with broad questions of policy rather than with administrative details.

A school council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, community members and, at the secondary level, students.

What is the Carlisle SEPAC?

Parent Special Education Advisory Council. Please contact Lori Tucker or Elaine Bojanic. The Carlisle SEPAC arranges gatherings and educational meetings for parents. You will find more information at a link on the school website.

Does Carlisle have an organization for parents?

The Carlisle School Association is a liaison for parents, teachers, and administrators at the Carlisle Public Schools. The CSA arranges events, coordinates volunteer efforts, and raises funds for cultural enrichment.

What is the CEF?

The Carlisle Education Foundation (CEF), organized in 1990, is a non-profit community organization which is dedicated to enriching, enhancing and supporting the Carlisle Public Schools by funding new initiatives, pilot programs, technology and professional development, and maintaining an environment of excellence for all of the students at all grade levels. CEF enlists community support to make available programs that add richness and excitement to the school program that would otherwise not be possible due to school budget. Their website is <http://www1.carlislecef.org/>.

How may I volunteer in school?

The Carlisle Public Schools encourage parents to volunteer in the schools. Parents may volunteer in the classroom. The CSA appoints room parents. The room parents, supporting their children's teachers, coordinate parent volunteers in the classroom. Please note that volunteers must sign a volunteer contract, and apply for a CORI (Criminal Records Offenders Information) check. The State of Massachusetts mandates CORI checks for all volunteers whose volunteer duties might include unmonitored contact with children. CORI Forms are to be returned directly to the school with a picture id. The CORI check is valid for three years.

Parents may volunteer to monitor lunch and recess. Volunteering for Lunch and Recess allows the children to play in a larger area, and allows parents to learn more about their child's school day. Lunch and recess volunteers must have a valid CORI check.

The CSA offers many other opportunities for parents to get involved. Visit <http://www.carliseschoolassociation.org/> for more ideas.

How do I keep track of school events?

The Buzz, the school's online newsletter, lists upcoming events at school and in Carlisle. Parents who have subscribed to the *Buzz* listserv will be notified when a new issue is available.

My child has a life-threatening food allergy.

Please alert the school nurse. She will ensure the proper precautions are taken. Carlisle has a detailed policy for life-threatening allergies.

Where may I park for school events?

You may park at the school's main parking lot, on Church Street. Please do not park at the Spalding Circle, nor the Robbins Loop. The school's handicapped parking spots lie on the Robbins Loop, as the main parking lot lies downhill from the school, and the ramp up hill from the Church Street lot is too steep for handicapped access.

At times, the main parking lot is full. You may also park in the marked spots along Church Street. The Gleason Library's parking lot is closer than it looks, due to a trail that cuts through the wooded area between the library and Church Street. The Congregational Church's parking lot is on School Street, next to the school. If you choose to park in the Church's lot, please park in back.

Where should I drop off my child at the start of the day?

If you drive your child to school, please drop him off in the lower parking lot. If your child arrives after class has begun, she will need to sign in at the Main Office.

Where, and how, should I pick up my child at the end of the day?

If you know you will pick up your child before she leaves for school, give her a note for her teacher. When students are dismissed for the day, parents wait for their children on the Plaza, at the top of the stairs, near the cafeteria.

If you discover that you will need to pick up your child after he has left for school, you must call the main office. Many teachers are able to check emails and voice mails during the day, but some days are very busy!

If you must pick up your child during the school day, you must sign him or her out at the Main Office. It is best to send your child to school with a note for the teacher.

What and Where is Union Hall?

Union Hall is the Meeting Hall of the First Religious Society, at 27 School Street. The First Religious Society is very generous to Carlisle groups. Many local events take place at Union Hall. Union Hall is also the site of the Red Balloon preschool.

The Castle? The Plaza? The kindergarten playground? Diment Park?

The Castle is the school playground on the corner of Church and School Streets. The Plaza is the asphalt-surfaced area at the center of the Carlisle School buildings. The kindergarten playground is a playground designed for kindergartners. It lies next to the Castle, on the Spalding Circle. Please note that the aforementioned areas are closed to the public during school hours.

Diment Park is a playground for children 5 years old, and younger. It is downhill from the school, next to Spalding field.

Where is the nearest grocery store? Hospital?

Carlisle does not have a grocery store, but each surrounding town does.

North: Market Basket in Billerica

Stop & Shop, and Hannaford's in Chelmsford

East: Whole Foods and Stop & Shop in Bedford

South: Crosby's Market in Concord

Donelan's, Trader Joe's, Roche Brothers, and Idylwilde Farms in Acton

West: Market Basket in Westford

Donelan's in Littleton

The nearest hospital is Emerson Hospital, on Route 2 in Concord. There are many other fine hospitals in the greater Boston area.

Where's the ice cream?

Carlisle boasts two ice cream stands, Kimball Farms, on Bedford Road, close to the Banta Davis playing fields, and Great Brook Farm, in the state park off of Lowell Road.

Is there after school care?

The school does not offer after school care. However, the Carlisle Kids' House, otherwise known as "Extended Day," does. Students may take school buses to reach Extended Day after school. They also offer before school care. Each day the teachers escort the children to the top of the driveway and wait with them for the school bus to arrive. All programs are available on a full-time or part-time basis. A minimum attendance of two days is recommended. The website is <http://www.extendedday.org/>.

Is there a Newcomers' Club?

Of course! You'll find their web site at www.concordcarlisenewcomers.org.

Do the kids play sports?

Yes. The school offers interscholastic sports for middle school students, and STEM clubs. Parents who have joined the school's email list will receive electronic copies of STEM class listings. The school is also justifiably proud of its band and chorus. Recently, musical performance clubs were added. A chess club meets on Friday mornings, before school.

The Rec (recreation) department offers many extracurricular activities, for children and adults. Brochures are sent out before each season, Fall/Winter, and Spring/Summer. You may also peruse the current listings online. www.Carlislema.gov.

Many children participate in **soccer** through the Concord-Carlisle Youth Soccer (ccys.org), which fields in-town and travel teams. For **baseball**, try Concord Carlisle Youth Baseball and Softball (<http://eteamz.active.com/ccybs/>), and for **hockey**, Concord-Carlisle Youth Hockey, (CCYH.org). **Lacrosse**: <http://www.ccyouthlacrosse.com>.

A new cross-country ski club began in 2009. It meets at Great Brook State Park, on Lowell Street in Carlisle.

Great Brook BKL

Contact: Meighan Matthews

1018 Lowell St.

Carlisle, MA 01741

Phone: 781-275-4447 | **Email:** GBillKoch@gmail.com

Website:

Club Description: The Great Brook Bill Koch League offers children ages 5 - 13 the opportunity to learn to cross country ski, to have fun participating in skiing games and to compete in races if they choose. The group will meet Saturdays 9-10:30 AM in Dec, Jan & Feb. Parents are encouraged to participate as volunteer group leaders for the program which will be entirely run by volunteer families. Costs, Qualifications, etc: \$20 fee/child to NENSA & \$1/day trail pass. No prior experience necessary. Participants are urged to have their own ski equipment.

Are There Any Theaters in the Area?

You'll find a good listing of Massachusetts theaters at <http://www.theatermirror.com/websites.htm#BOSTON>. Many children participate in productions put on by the Concord Youth Theatre. <http://concordyouththeatre.org/>

Welcome to Carlisle!