

COLFAX COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO | VOL 9, NO 1 SEPTEMBER, 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome | East Hills Community Center | Run Shadyside |
Chef in the Garden | Middle Level Updates | Back to School |
Sports | Clubs and more...



IMPORTANT DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

OCTOBER 5 - World Teacher's Day
OCTOBER 15 - Half Day Dismissal
OCTOBER 16 - No School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
NOVEMBER 3 - No School (Election Day)

NOVEMBER 11 - No School (Veteran's Day)
NOVEMBER 19 - Report Cards Mailed
NOVEMBER 26-27 - No School (Thanksgiving)

WELCOME NOTES

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome back Colfax!

I hope everyone had a great summer vacation. This summer we had a few changes. After careful consideration, the district hired Dr. Tamara Sanders-Woods as Colfax's new Principal. Dr. Woods brings with her a wealth of experience and a real sense of professionalism. She stepped into this position with an open and friendly attitude. From my perspective, we're in very good hands. Also new to the Colfax administration is Ms. Joani Murphy, who will join Ms. Cara McKenna as an Assistant Principal.

The PTO is in top form. Please be sure to check out the list of 2015-16 PTO officers in this edition of the Communicator.

Our fall fundraisers will soon be starting. We will have Spirit Wear and, for the first time, Colfax water bottles.

On September 24, kick off the school year with the Colfax community. Join us for our annual festive and fun back-to-school Fiesta. Please bring a dish of food to share with your friends and neighbors. Also, save some room for a delicious, hot churro fresh from the oven. We will be selling them for a dollar to cover the costs of the event. If you would like to help out, or if you have any questions, please contact our new VP of Special Events Heather Sendera, at hsendera@gmail.com.

For the fourth year, the PTO organized a catered breakfast for our teachers and staff on their first day back to Colfax. I wanted to pass along how very grateful everyone was. It is an easy way to show all of the teachers and staff how much we appreciate them and all that they do for our children all year long. Special thanks goes to the Zeff family for ALWAYS stepping up with a donation of coffee.

Be on the lookout for Run Shadyside information, our 5k where we partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Shadyside. The date this year is October 3rd. Don't forget to register as we have a lofty goal in surpassing last year's numbers.

Finally, our VP Communications Julie Wilson has set up Constant Contact to make it easier for you to receive information about Colfax. If you haven't already joined and you'd like to receive information about the school, please go to our website, www.colfaxpto.org, and follow the links. In addition, like last year, we will be putting out five editions of the Communicator where you can learn the goings on of our wonderful school.

Here's to a marvelous year.

Best wishes,

Abbie Campsie

PTO President

PRINCIPAL'S remarks

Dear Colfax Families,

Welcome to the Communicator's first edition of the 2015-2016 school year! I am excited to join the team of parents, teachers, and staff at Colfax K-8. In talking with families as we all returned, it was very nice to hear all the wonderful adventures our students experienced.

In the education field the month of September is the time of year that we begin to analyze data to make curriculum and instructional decisions, establish healthy habits, and build new relationships. Among those preparations included the hiring of several new staff members. Please join me in welcoming the following educators to our Colfax team:

- **JOAN MURPHY, Assistant Principal**
- **LINDSEY KNAB, 1st grade**
- **PATRICIA POZZA, 3rd grade**
- **BRITTANY MCCANN, 3rd grade**
- **GINA LASEK, 3rd grade**
- **ERIN DULAK, 3rd grade**
- **ALEXANDRIA LUCCI, 4th grade**
- **LITA JACKSON, 5th grade Social Studies**
- **BENJAMIN NEUSTEIN, 7th grade Science**
- **RYAN REDMAN, 6th-8th Social Worker**
- **CHRISTINA LOEFFERT, Early Literary Specialist**
- **JENNIFER O'CONNOR, ESL middle levels**

I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to our staff for all their efforts to start this year in a smooth efficient way. Teachers have worked hard getting their rooms organized and ready for students. Office and custodial staff have also worked extra hard in getting the rooms cleaned and ready for a great school year. Additionally, our PTO has done a great job working with Colfax staff and have many exciting events planned for our students and their families. Finally, I would like to thank all of our families for the never ending support you give us. You make such a difference in our ability to succeed at Colfax. We appreciate all the volunteer hours and support given each and every year!

In closing I would like to reiterate our belief that "ALL students at Colfax are gifted, it is our job to help them find and strengthen the gifts from within. . . ." I'm looking forward to a successful 2015-2016 school year!

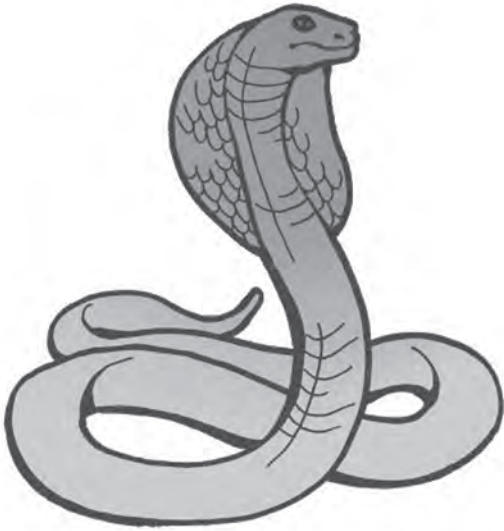
Warm regards,

Dr. Sanders-Woods

Tsanderswoods1@pghboe.net



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



MESSAGE FROM MS. MURPHY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL K-5

As we start the year, I want to take this opportunity to say how excited I am to be back here at Colfax and that I am really looking forward to getting to know all of our students and families this year. My primary responsibility will be to support the teachers and the students in grades K-5, and it is a role that I take very seriously. Please know that I am always available as a resource.

I look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback. You can reach me via email at jmurphy3@pghboe.net or by phone at 412-529-6712

Here's to a great year!

MESSAGE FROM MS. MCKENNA, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL 6-8

I am so excited to start our 2015-16 school year! I am looking forward to working with all of our CX students and families. My primary responsibility will be to support the teachers and students in grades 6-8.

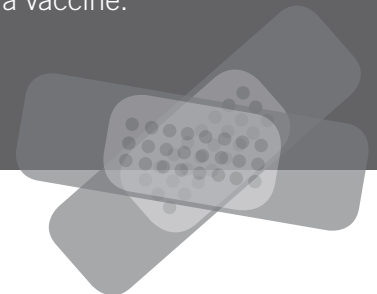
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff members to the Colfax Team: Lindsey Knab, Patricia Pozza, Brittany McCann, Gina Lasek, Erin Dulak, Alexandra Lucci, Lita Jackson, Benjamin Neustein, Dominic Woods, Jennifer O'Connor, Ryan Redman, and Christina Loeffert.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

GREETINGS FROM THE NURSE OFFICE!

Please remember to submit a recent physical exam for all students in kindergarten, 6th grade, and any students new to Pittsburgh Public Schools. You can find the PA State Physical Exam form on the PPS Health Services website. All 7th graders should have received their Tdap and Menactra vaccine.

Please call, email or visit Nurse Rachel with any health-related questions, concerns, or compliments!



REACH NEW HEIGHTS: READ! (written by Ms. McKee, Librarian)

I am very happy to begin a new year as the Colfax Librarian. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the exciting things going on in our library.

This year, for the first time, every student from K-8 has a dedicated library time in each six day cycle! I truly believe that developing a love of reading stems not only from being able to read, but in having the chance to choose the reading material. Whether a student likes old classics, graphic novels, new science fiction, sports statistics, Lego and Minecraft guides, or contemporary biographies, I will do my best to make sure they can find it in the school library.

Our 25 book theme is “Reach New Heights” and the reading benchmarks are named for the 7 summits (the highest mountain on each continent). I am fascinated with maps and geography, and this theme will give me a chance to pass along some of my love of learning about our planet.

I am also creating a display called “Colfax Reads” which will show members of the Colfax Community holding books they are reading or have recently finished. If you would like to send pictures of your family members reading, I would love to include them in the display. You can send them to jmckee1@pghboe.net.

As our international student body grows, our library will also offer books in many different languages. Our international collection is small, but growing! We currently have books in French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Japanese, Russian and Dutch. While students learn to read in English, it is important to foster their love of reading by providing materials in their first languages. I hope to add Korean, Vietnamese and Yoruba to our collection soon.

In order to keep our library current, it takes money - so you know what's coming next: FUNDRAISERS!

Our first fundraiser will be in conjunction with Barnes and Noble and local author Joshua David Bellin. As you may know, Mr. Bellin is the father of a Colfax 7th grader and the author of the successful post-apocalyptic novel Survival Colony Nine. The book was recently released in paperback, and Mr. Bellin will be having a book signing at the Barnes and Noble on Wednesday, September 30. All purchases made that day will benefit the Colfax Library. Look for a Colfax code and more information in backpack mail and PTO weekly blasts.

Of course our big money maker for the library is the fall Scholastic Book Fair. This year's fair will run from October 7-16, which includes our Open House day. Online shopping will also be available from October 1-19, for those who cannot make it to the fair. With over 900 students now attending Colfax, I know I will need some help! You can find out how to volunteer and get all the book fair information by visiting our Book Fair Homepage at: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/pghcolfax>

And finally, if you would like to donate a book directly to our library, you can check out our library wishlist on Amazon. You do not need to purchase from Amazon, but you can see what types of books have been requested by students and teachers.

In addition to volunteering for the book fair, I can always use people to help in putting those thousands of books back on the shelves! If you would like to be a library assistant - or if you have any questions about our library program, send me an email at: jmckee1@pghboe.net

It's going to be a great year!



STAY INFORMED

TAKE NOTE

The Music department at Colfax is getting ready for another exciting year. Once again, some Colfax students will have an opportunity to participate in instrumental music with Mr. Brian Lee and choral ensemble with Mrs. Vicky Moule. This year, there will be a beginning (grade 4) chorus group and an advanced chorus group made up of grade 5 and possibly some 6th grade students.

DID YOU KNOW? On Saturday, August 29, some of our Colfax students past and present sang for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the parklet that is next to the Post Office on Murray Ave. A special thank you to Micah Primack, Samirah Crawford and former students Rebecca Gordon, Carly Chotiner, Innes Donnahue and Lizzy Katchen. The performance was absolutely wonderful, and they represented Colfax with pride.

Congratulations to Mrs. Moule for being recognized at the Sheraton Station Square's first Celebration of Champions event in June! She was nominated in the education category.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS AT CX

(written by Ms. Bickerstaff, Ms. Figallo Adams and Ms. O'Connor, ELL teachers)

We are so pleased to have a large international community at Colfax. This year alone, we have about 90 international students who speak over 19 languages including English! One thing that all the (English Language Learners) ELLs students share is a desire to learn English and participate in American culture. We have found that the students, staff and parents at Colfax want to learn about the language, culture and stories of our international families as well. Towards that, a group of CX parents has recently formed an International Committee. See the Colfax Community section of this Communicator for more information about how to join the International Committee. At Colfax, we value cultural diversity and want all our families to feel like they belong.



COLFAX FACE COORDINATORS

(written by Ms. Lucci, grades 4&6 and FACE Coordinator)

Patty Pozza and I are very excited to be stepping in as the new Family and Community Engagement (FACE) coordinators at Colfax this year. Being both of our first years at Colfax we are very eager to meet and interact with the families and with the different organizations that Colfax partners with throughout the school year. Thank you for your support and cooperation. We are looking forward to the great things to come at Colfax!

MIDDLE LEVEL UPDATES

(written by Leslie Grodin and Sukanya Srinivasan, Middle Level Parent Committee Co-Chairs)

Welcome Middle School Parents! It looks like the students will have a great year with many activities including a dance, movie night, ski club and student council to name a few. One major event is the annual Middle Level End-of-Year trip, which is open to all 6th, 7th & 8th graders who wish to participate.

This year's 2-day/1-night trip is scheduled for May 19-20, 2016. Students will visit Cleveland, Ohio and Cedar Point. Ms. Jennifer Herr (at jherr1@pghboe.net) and Ms. Raffaella Greco (at rgreco1@pghboe.net) are the teachers who will organize the trip this year. They will be meeting with the students on September 18 and will give them the sign-up forms at that time. A brief informational meeting for parents will be held on October 14 at 5 p.m. (prior to the monthly PSCC/PTO meeting). So mark your calendars now!

The cost of the ML trip is \$299 per student (including food, transportation & lodging), with a deposit of \$75 due October 31, 2015. There will be several opportunities for students to raise funds for the trip. The fundraisers that are currently planned

include KidStuff coupon books, Prantl's pies, Winner's Circle Pittsburgh Sports Memorabilia and Sarris Chocolates. Please let us know if you would like to help with any of these fundraisers or if you have some new ideas.

Colfax Student Council will hold its first meeting after students have a chance to circulate their applications to join. Student Council is open to any student in grades 6, 7 or 8 who is willing and able to take on the responsibilities that come with being a student leader. Interested students should see Mr. Schmiedlin (at rschmiedlin1@pghboe.net) or Ms. Dawson (at kdawson1@pghboe.net) for applications and for more information. The Student Council's first event will be to organize a Pennies for Peanut Butter drive to support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's participation in the worldwide response to World Hunger Month (September).

Want to receive more Middle Level news by email? Contact Sukanya Srinivasan at dr.sukanya@gmail.com and Leslie Grodin at leslie.grodin@verizon.net to stay involved and informed!

COLFAX COMMUNITY

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

(written by Julie Wilson, parent)

On August 27, Colfax families, friends, teachers and staff came together to celebrate the start of the new school year at our annual back-to-school event. Our new principal, Dr. Tamara Sanders-Woods introduced herself to the Colfax community and answered questions from parents and other interested audience members. Many teachers and staff came to the event to enthusiastically welcome the children back to school. After Dr. Woods's opening remarks, PTO president Abbie Campsie introduced the 2015-16 PTO board and invited everyone to volunteer in support of Colfax. By that point, most children were squirming in their seats: they couldn't wait to see their new teachers and classrooms. Everyone was soon released and the students eagerly found their 2015-16 homerooms. Shouts of excitement rang out as the children saw familiar faces and met new ones.

KINDERGARTEN FIRST DAY

(written by Heather Sendera, parent)

Thursday, September 3rd may have been the fourth day of school for most of the students at Colfax, but it was the 1st Day of School for our new kindergarteners! The Colfax PTO was on hand to welcome both new and returning families as they delivered the newest batch of Colfax Cobras to their first day of kindergarten. A big Colfax welcome to our newest Cobras!

COLFAX SPORTS

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Middle Level Sports is a fun and exciting way for students to work on social skills, teambuilding and fitness! In order for students to be eligible for any sport they must maintain a 2.0 GPA as well as good behavior in all classes. A physical packet must be handed in prior to the season starting. You can either print one off of the District webpage or contact Ms. Malvin (at kmalvin1@pghboe.net) for one.

At Colfax we have three different sports seasons. The first season, starting in the middle of September, is Cross Country. Coach Lydon will work with students during practices on building up their endurance for six meets. The second sports season, beginning in November, consists of basketball and swimming. Our boys' basketball coach will be Mr. Boyce and our girls' basketball coach will be Mr. Cohen. Ms. Scoratow has returned from a brief hiatus to coach our swimmers back to victory! Lastly, our third season consists of soccer and wrestling and will begin in mid-March. We welcome back Coach Lydon for the boys' soccer team and both Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Greco for the girls' soccer team, as well as Mr. Schmiedlin for our wrestling team. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Athletic Director, Ms. Malvin at kmalvin1@pghboe.net.

COLFAX CROSS COUNTRY TEAM— THE LYDON REPORT

For those that may be new to the school, we have a Cross Country team here at Colfax for both 6th-8th grade boys and girls. We will be entering into this season for the first time as . . . defending champions with our girls' team from last year! That was a proud Colfax first! Our boys' team finished second overall and is ready to fight for that top slot. The races are not at all easy and the weather can be unpredictable this time of year, but our runners are tough and ready for the challenge. My teams believe in sportsmanship, teamwork and individual improvement throughout the season. The season for Middle School starts in mid-September, with the championships this year on October 21. The races are a hilly 2 mile course through Schenley Park. So if you should see some familiar faces running by the side of the road, give us a toot of the horn or a cheer of support!

Wish us luck and **GO COBRA'S!!**

VISIT TO EAST HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

(written by Ms. Lucci, grades 4&6 ELA and FACE Coordinator)

On August 14, before the start of the new school year, teachers and administrators took a trip out to the East Hills Community Center to visit the incoming students and families and to hand out bags of school supplies. There was a great turn out on both ends. All of the staff and students were excited to see each other and spend some time outside playing catch with the guest appearance for the afternoon, Hurley, Ms. McKenna's new puppy. Colfax is ready and excited for another great school year!



COLFAX COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMITTEE

(written by Alessandra Baudone, parent)

Have you noticed that Colfax boasts an incredibly diverse student population with students from all over the world?

These families and students need help understanding everything about school from what is a homeroom teacher to what is the PTO, not to mention trying to learn those things in English or feeling too shy to express their needs. That's where the newly formed International Committee comes in - with a group of parents who are fluent in a second language. With other parents guiding them, these families can feel welcome and accepted at our school. Whenever a new foreign student starts at Colfax, any school staff or even a fellow class room parent can give the Committee member's contact information below to the family for any additional assistance. Our international families represent an important minority in the school and deserve to be assisted in this special way. If you know of a family that needs help, tell them about this resource.

Are you fluent in a language and willing to lend a hand with translation? The more languages represented, the better. The Committee is collecting a list of available translators who can assist with our support efforts.

For any and all questions, please email Alessandra Baudone at alepitt@gmail.com.

A SPECIAL
WELCOME
TO OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES

kaabo
BIENVENUE
BIENVENIDOS
BEM-VINDO
HOŞGELDİNİZ
kuwakaribisha

INTO THE COLFAX COMMUNITY!!

At Colfax we value cultural diversity and we want you to feel like you belong here, with your family, your language and your story. The International Committee is here to help you and your kids have a great year!

Please write to Alessandra Baudone alepitt@gmail.com with any questions.

CHEF IN THE GARDEN
(written by Farmer Paul)

Now that the Colfax School summer garden is producing lots of food, the question becomes: What do we do with the harvest? One way Grow Pittsburgh/Edible School Yard Pittsburgh and its partner Colfax School have addressed that question is by hosting an annual event called Chef in the Garden. During this event, four professional chefs set up a portable kitchen in the garden space, and teach a cooking lesson where they demonstrate how to utilize food grown right in our garden, in order to prepare a healthy and delicious dish. During each lesson the chefs explain each step of the recipe along with the thinking behind their creations, and students get to assist in the preparation. The chefs also facilitate discussion along the way to teach about what it's like to be a professional chef. At the end of each lesson, the students get to taste a sample of what they have made together, take the recipe home, and hopefully find a new healthy food option. This dynamic annual event has been a fixture of Grow Pittsburgh/Edible School Yard Pittsburgh's programming.

This year, Chef in the Garden took place on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11. On Thursday morning, Chef Chris Bonfili, owner and head chef of restaurants Avenue B and B Gourmet, led three classes through his recipe for Summer Succotash. The students loved trying the new dish. One student, Fikru, told Chef Chris, "At first I thought I wouldn't like eggplant, but I actually do." Another

student Madeline remarked to her friends, "Oh my gosh, I might have to have another serving!" The next chef on day one was John Karbowski, who works with Parkhurst Dining. He planned a recipe for Watermelon Salad with Arugula. The students got to assist with each step of the way, from cubing watermelon all the way to serving the dish to a classmate.

On Friday morning, another Chef from Parkhurst Dining, Tim Fetter, came and led his classes through the process of preparing his Sweet Corn Soup. He even brought an ear of corn for each student to participate in a corn husking race, which he enjoyed winning each time -- as expected! The last chef for the event, also from Parkhurst Dining, Zachary Puhala, came prepared to make Sweet Potato Pancakes. During his lessons, the students asked him great questions about how he decided to become a chef, if he ever makes noodles, and whether or not he has a friend at work.

When all was said and done, approximately 140 students from grades K-3 got to participate in this amazing event. The vast majority of students responded positively to trying the new dishes and will hopefully consider that when they are choosing what to eat for themselves, as evidenced by one student who boldly asked the principal, Dr. Woods, "Can we have this on our lunch menu?"



Left, Tim Fetter from Parkhurst Dining, captivates a class of Kindergartners with his explanation of the ingredients in his Sweet Corn Soup.

BACK TO SCHOOL

PTO STAFF BREAKFAST

(written by Ms. Greco,
6-7th grade ELA)

Back to school is a very busy time for teachers. Teachers officially returned to Colfax on August 24, but many teachers were in and out of Colfax throughout the summer months. Getting a classroom set up and preparing for a new group of students consumes us. We arrive with numerous bags from a wide variety of stores, as well as bring back materials we used for planning over the summer.

The first four teacher-only days are very hectic! The combination of clerical and professional development passes by in a whirlwind of activity. Teachers are often seen wandering the halls like zombies trying to get everything crossed off their never-ending checklists. . . . In the midst of all this activity, the amazing Colfax PTO provided the teachers and staff with a scrumptious catered breakfast from Café Raymond. The staff were able to relax and socialize before beginning another long day of professional development. It was such a welcome treat.

In addition to the breakfast, the Colfax PTO also provided teachers and staff with \$100.00 to use for their classrooms. Teachers can choose gift cards or they can choose to be reimbursed for previous purchases. Back to school may be a hectic time, but the Colfax PTO makes it much nicer.



JOIN TEAM COLFAX!



RUN SHADYSIDE

***It's almost time to RunShadyside.
Be part of Team Colfax!***

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 8 a.m. for RunShadyside 5K Run & 1-mile Family Fun Walk.

This fantastic event is organized by the Shadyside Chamber of Commerce for the benefit of The Boys & Girls Club of Shadyside. When you register as a member of Team Colfax, you can also raise money for the Colfax PTO. Last year, nearly 250 registrants for Team Colfax (including 100 students) raised over \$2,000 for the Colfax PTO. Let's do it again. Register now online at www.runshadyside.com.

Under Team Information, click "YES" and then select TColfax2015. You must enter this team to benefit Colfax.

Register as soon as you can and join Team Colfax!

For every Colfax student who registers, Tina Reed of Reed Orthodontics will donate an additional \$2 to the Colfax PTO. Kids – invite your friends to register for the race.

If you don't want to run, but you are interested in helping out on race day, contact Anne Marie Kuchera at amkuchera@yahoo.com. We want you too!



EXCITING NEWS FOR GRADES 3-8!

COBRA CASH HAS STARTED AT COLFAX!

WHAT IS COBRA CASH?

Cobra Cash is money that students earn for good behavior and good grades. They can then use this money to shop at the Cobra Store. All teachers and administrators have a stash of cash for the kids to earn!

WHEN, WHERE AND HOW DO KIDS SPEND THEIR COBRA CASH?

The Colfax Store is by the glass doors in the new building. Each Friday parent volunteers open up the cabinets and a fantastic store appears! Kids have a chance to shop during their recess time each week.

WHAT TYPE OF ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE STORE?

Items for sale include: pens, pencils, notebooks, highlighters, locks, snacks, mints, lotion, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, headphones, pedometers, phone cases, lip gloss, hair ties, games, balls, Gym Activity Pass, Library Pass, Assistant Principal for a Day Pass, Teacher for a Day Pass, and much, much more!

HOW DO TEACHERS DECIDE WHO GETS MONEY AND HOW MUCH THEY GET?

Each teacher monitors their own Cobra Cash. There are general guidelines provided to the staff and they do their best to be consistent and fair.

WHERE DO THE ITEMS FOR SALE COME FROM?

The school and PTO work together to purchase all of the items in the store. Donations are ALWAYS welcome! The best way to donate is to provide gift cards that will be used to purchase new stock from places like: Target, Costco, Wal-Mart and Five Below. We have also sold gift cards in the store to places like iTunes and Subway so donations of gift cards to those places in the amount of \$5 - \$15 dollars would be perfect!

WHO RUNS THE STORE AND HOW CAN I HELP?

The store is supervised by Colfax staff but is run by volunteers. If you can make time on Fridays between 11:30 and 1:30 to volunteer, please contact Alan Crawford (alan-crawford@hotmail.com). If you would like to donate items to our store please contact Heather Sendera (hsendera@gmail.com). You can come once a month, every week or just fill in occasionally. We will take any amount of time you can give...even just 30 minutes helps!



WE NEED YOUR HELP

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

(written by Jenny Ganger, VP Fundraising)

I am excited to lead the PTO's fundraising efforts this year. As you will read elsewhere in the Communicator, the PTO sponsors many enrichment programs that distinguish Colfax from other schools – an Edible Schoolyard garden, a school musical, chess classes, field trips, and more – as well as supporting classroom teachers directly with cash and equipment. We will spend more than \$79,000 this year to fund these programs. Please support the PTO this year to ensure we can continue our support of Colfax.

We have a variety of fundraisers so everyone can contribute at a comfortable level.

SEPTEMBER • COLFAX GEAR closed September 16; items to be delivered in early October

OCTOBER 3 • RUN SHADYSIDE
(choose team TColfax15)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER • ASK DRIVE. Annual campaign. Please think about everything the PTO does for Colfax and give generously.

FEBRUARY • (date TBA) PARTY FOR PLAY. Adults-only benefit auction and party.

APRIL • PLANT SALE

ALL YEAR LONG • COLFAX COBRA WATER BOTTLES (AT ALL EVENTS); BOXTOPS; GIANT EAGLE APPLES FOR STUDENTS; CARTRIDGE WORLD RECYCLING; TARGET RED CARD

Thanks in advance for your support!

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Looking to learn more about Colfax? Want to meet some fun people? Just want to get out of the house? Volunteer!

- Classroom volunteers
- After-school tutors
- Morning bus supervisors
- Breakfast/Recess/Lunch supervisors
- School tours
- Office assistance
- Babysitting cooperative
- Fundraising
- Special Events (Fiesta, Party for Play, etc.)

Contact VP Volunteer Coordinator Tiffany Stuckey at tcstuckey18@me.com for more information. Note that some opportunities require that volunteers have state criminal and child abuse clearances. If your clearance is more than three years old, it must be renewed to be valid. See the PTO website for more information on obtaining a new or renewed clearance.

LUNCH/RECESS VOLUNTEERS

Do you like to play with kids?

Do you want to be one of the most popular parents at school?

Are you free once or twice a week (even once a month) from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.?

Come join us during lunch/recess!

Please contact [Alessandra alepitt@gmail.com](mailto:Alessandra.alepitt@gmail.com) or [Tiffany tcstuckey18@me.com](mailto:Tiffany.tcstuckey18@me.com) for more information.

COLFAX MEMORY TILES

Colfax's front entryway will be transformed into a custom wall of MEMORY TILES to celebrate our centennial! Celebrate and honor your class, your student, your graduate, a teacher or anything else with commemorative tiles. You can also order tiles to keep. Tiles are \$26.00 each. Contact fundraising@colfaxpto.org with inquiries.



2015-16 COLFAX PTO OFFICERS



President, Abbie Campsie:
abbieshops@msn.com

Abbie Campsie is beginning her fourth year as Colfax's PTO President. Abbie has two children at Colfax, an 8th and a 5th grader. Prior to serving on the PTO, Abbie worked as a therapist at the University of Pittsburgh.



VP Communications, Julie Wilson:
communications@colfaxpto.org

Julie Wilson is the one who keeps sending you emails! Julie is delighted to continue in the role of VP Communications this year, and she's looking forward to being the link between Colfax's teachers and staff, its families, and the PTO. Julie and her family moved to Squirrel Hill last year. She has two children at Colfax, Marcio (3rd grade) and Elena (1st grade). When she's not spending the night drafting emails, she works as a labor and employment lawyer.



VP Fundraising, Heather Sendera:
hsendera@gmail.com

Heather Sendera is excited to join the PTO board as the VP of Special Events. Heather and her husband, Tim, lived in Chicago before moving to Phoenix for 3 years, Austin for 9 years and then moving to Pittsburgh last year. They have 2 sons, Jonathan (8th) who is a student at Colfax and Will (6th) who is attending CAPA. Outside of PTO Heather loves attending theater performances and outdoor festivals. After 15 years in the finance/banking world Heather is currently trying to figure out what she wants to be when she grows up.



VP Fundraising, Jenny Ganger:
jennifer.ganger@gmail.com

Jenny Ganger is excited to begin her 11th and final year at Colfax as Fundraising VP. In addition to supporting chess and Middle Level activities at Colfax, Jenny has served as PTO President, Communications VP, and Volunteer Coordinator. When she is not driving her kids somewhere (8th grader Will and 10th grader Tim) or losing sleep thinking of how to raise \$79,000 this year, she is a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.



VP Volunteer Coordinator, Tiffany Stuckey:
tcstuckey18@me.com

Tiffany Coffee Stuckey joined the PTO in the 2013-14 school year. In addition to serving as VP Volunteer Coordinator last year, Tiffany has volunteered in the classrooms at Colfax as well as helped with lunch/recess supervision. She has two children who attend Colfax, a 1st grader and 2nd grader. Tiffany is owner and director of Kidsville Day Care located in Friendship (near East Liberty).



Treasurer, Ray Obenza:
rayobenza@yahoo.com

Ray Obenza is serving as PTO Treasurer this academic year and is a GREAT person for an assistant treasurer to work with!! Outside of Colfax, Ray is a project manager and technology consultant. Prior to that, he managed business process improvements and corporate training at CMU's Software Engineering Institute. Ray and his family live in Point Breeze. His daughter, Zoe, is in 5th grade this year.



Secretary, Yolanda Frank:
ys.frank412@gmail.com

Yolanda is excited about her role on the PTO Executive Board as Secretary. She spent time last year volunteering on several committees and did not hesitate when she was presented with the opportunity to share her time and energy this school year. Yolanda is relatively new to Colfax. Ian (8th grader) started last year. However, Yolanda and her family has lived in Squirrel Hill for 7+ years so many of the Colfax friends are like "family". Yolanda is the principal of her own supply chain management consulting firm, Optimal IQ Solutions.

PTO DIRECTORY

It's not too late to get your child's name into the COLFAX PTO STUDENT DIRECTORY! Lost the form? You can find a copy on our website: www.colfaxpto.org

Please return the form to your student's homeroom teacher. Or email the information (student name, homeroom teacher, grade, parent's name, address, email, and phone number) directly to:

colfaxptodirectory@gmail.com



Pittsburgh Colfax Staff Contact Information

Staff	Subject/Role	Phone Extension	Email
Acie, Paula Renee	2nd Grade	412-529-7210	acie1@pghboe.net
Alvarez, Kristina	2nd Grade	412-529-8588	kalvarez1@pghboe.net
Banycky, Lee Ann	Kindergarten	412-529-6182	lbanycky1@pghboe.net
Bartels, Katherine	1st Grade	412-529-8625	kbartels1@pghboe.net
Bickerstaff, April	ESL	412-529-6348	abickerstaff1@pghboe.net
Burford, Pamela S	Secretary	412-529-6711	pburford1@pghboe.net
Campione, Elizabeth	ELA 3rd Grade	412-529-8325	ecampione1@pghboe.net
Cohen, Mark	Mathematics 6-8	412-529-7953	mcohen2@pghboe.net
Dawson, Kipp	ELA 7	412-529-6952	kdawson1@pghboe.net
Dulak, Erin E	Social Studies- 3/4	412-529-7758	edulak1@pghboe.net
Figallo-Adams, Jessica	ESL	412-529-6184	jfigalloadams1@pghboe.net
Filipek, Kaela M	Kindergarten	412-529-8257	kfilipek1@pghboe.net
Gallagher, Jillian	1st Grade	412-529-8495	jgallagher2@pghboe.net
Greco, Raffaella	ELA-6/7	412-529-7600	rgreco1@pghboe.net
Grujich, Randi L.	2nd Grade	412-529-7133	rgrujich1@pghboe.net
Henderson, Jeffrey L	Custodian	412-529-6713	jhenderson1@pghboe.net
Herr, Jennifer	ELA-8	412-529-7584	jherr1@pghboe.net
Hills, Christina	Kindergarten	412-529-8084	chills1@pghboe.net
Hricik, Marci	2nd Grade	412-529-6818	mhrick1@pghboe.net
Irwin, Barbara	Cafeteria	412-529-6708	birwin1@pghboe.net
Jackson, Lita	Social Studies- 5/6	412-529-8116	ljackson4@pghboe.net
Juhas, Elizabeth	Gifted Education K-4	412-529-7129	ējuhas1@pghboe.net
King, Julie S	2nd Grade	412-529-6234	jking1@pghboe.net
Knab, Lindsey	1st Grade	412-529-8818	knab1@pghboe.net
Lasek, Gina	Mathematics -3	412-529-8532	glasek1@pghboe.net
Lavelle, Erika	Physical Education 5-8	412-529-7082	elavelle1@pghboe.net
Loeffert, Christina	Early Literacy Specialist	412-529-7428	cloeffert1@pghboe.net
Long, Susan	Special Education K-5	412-529-7932	slong1@pghboe.net
Lucci, Alexandra	ELA 4/6 FACE Coordinator	412-529-3525	alucci1@pghboe.net
Lydon, Daniel J	Physical Education K-4	412-529-6710	dlydon1@pghboe.net
Malvin, Kari	Mathematics 7/8	412-529-8398	kmalvin1@pghboe.net
McCann, Brittany Fallon	Mathematics/Social Studies		bmccann1@pghboe.net
McKee, Jane H	Librarian	412-529-6368	jmckee1@pghboe.net
McKenna, Cara	Assistant Principal 6-8	412-529-6703	cmckenna1@pghboe.net
Miller, Gwyneth A.	Art	412-529-7114	gmiller1@pghboe.net
Mlay, Amy L.	Mathematics-4	412-529-8430	amlay1@pghboe.net
Montgomery, Erin	Social Worker	412-529-6720	emontgomery1@pghboe.net
Montgomery, Julie	Mathematics-5/6	412-529-7117	jmontgomery1@pghboe.net
Morgano, Melissa	1st Grade	412-529-6882	mmorgano1@pghboe.net
Moule, Victoria	Music/Chorus		vmoule1@pghboe.net
Murdock, Toni	Mathematics 6/7	412-529-8348	tmurdock1@pghboe.net
Murphy, Joan	Assistant Principal	412-529-2176	jmurphy3@pghboe.net
Murray, Nicole K.	Mathematics -5 ITL2	412-529-7441	nmurray1@pghboe.net
Pellegrini, Beth V	Science 4/6	412-529-6273	bpellegrini1@pghboe.net
Popp, Meghan	Special Education 6-8	412-529-7218	mpopp1@pghboe.net
Pozza, Patricia	ELA- 3		ppozza1@pghboe.net
Redman, Ryan	Social Worker 6-8	412-529-6709	rredman1@pghboe.net
Ricketts, Sarah J	Gifted Education 5-8	412-529-7852	sricketts1@pghboe.net
Sanders-Woods, Tamara	Principal	412-529-6706	tsanderswoods1@pghboe.net
Schmiedlin, Ryan	Social Studies-7/8		rschmiedlin1@pghboe.net
Schmotzer, Kimberly A	Student Data Systems Specialist	412-529-6704	kschmotzer1@pghboe.net
Schreiner, Chelsea	ELA-5		cschreiner1@pghboe.net
Scoratow, Ilene	Spanish-3/8	412-529-7167	iscoratow1@pghboe.net
Short, Rachel	Nurse	412-529-6714	rshort1@pghboe.net
Stefanyak, Robyn L	ELA-5 ITL2	412-529-6481	rstefanyak1@pghboe.net
Theiss-Wovchko, Christina	ELA-4	412-529-6660	ctheisswovchko1@pghboe.net
Tuchin, Tracy	Kindergarten	412-529-6993	ttuchin1@pghboe.net
Wolfe, Douglas	Science 7/8	412-529-6951	dwolfe1@pghboe.net
Woods, Dominic	Social Studies 6/7		dwoods1@pghboe.net

Phone calls will go directly to the teacher's voicemail. Teachers do not have individual phones. The teacher will then receive the voicemail message via their email. It's just another way to reach a teacher if you don't have access to email.

Some teachers have not yet been assigned a phone number. Parents should just call the main office to leave a message for these teachers or email them directly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What is the procedure if my child wants to ride a different bus home with a friend on another bus?*

District wide, all students must ride the bus assigned to them via address verification upon registration and/or change of address processes. Parents must make alternative plans for their child to get to a friend's house after school.

2. *Are we allowed to bring in cake for our child's birthday?*

No cakes or cupcakes please! We ask that if you want to bring in a snack for your child's birthday that you talk to the teacher beforehand. Once you make contact with the teacher, a store purchased snack brought with the ingredients on the package is acceptable.

3. *How long is recess and what happens when the weather prevents kids from going outside?*

Students eat in the cafeteria for 22 minutes and have recess for 22 minutes. When the weather limits outside recess, the gymnasium is used.

4. *What's the best way to reach Principal Dr. Woods?*

You can reach Dr. Woods by dialing 412-529-3525 and leaving a message with the secretary. She can also be reached at tsanderswoods1@pghboe.net. Please give at least 24 hours for a response. If it is an emergency, please make that known to the secretary. Additionally, all teachers at Colfax have been provided with voicemail numbers that are available in this edition of the Colfax Communicator and can also be reached via email. Again, please allow a 24 hour response for non-emergencies.

5. *What happens during enrichment period?*

Enrichment time is from 8:18-8:48 a.m. each morning. During this time, students are grouped according to their reading needs. Students in grades K-5 are given Dibels assessments to see what reading skill they may need support with. Students in grades 6-8 are given a computer-based test that tells the teachers what level of text the students should be reading. Two Fridays a month students participate in Cobra Clubs during Enrichment period.

6. *What is your plan to promote diversity at Colfax?*

Colfax is a diverse school, home to over 90 international students! We plan to promote and celebrate countries represented by our newly created international student board (located outside of the office), purposefully incorporating and infusing some curriculum/literature/regarding the traditions and cultures of our students, monthly international feature in our Colfax Communicator, and by collaborating with parents to share learning experiences within classrooms and the school.

7. *What time is my child considered to be late to school?*

Students eating breakfast are permitted in the cafeteria at 7:45 a.m. The building opens for all other students, including walkers at 8:10 a.m. Students arriving after 8:18 a.m. are considered tardy.



Proud supporters of Colfax

Here's to a Happy and Healthy Year!



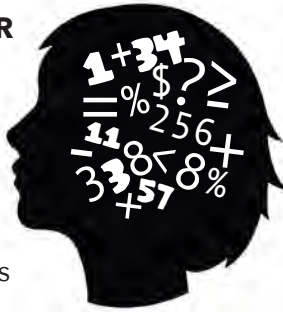
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for more information Contact Phyllis Ochs pbloch@gmail.com

Are you on Facebook? Come "like" us on our Facebook Page to receive up-to-the-minute information, connect with other parents, and communicate with your PTO.

You can find us at www.facebook.com/pghcolfax.

We are only as successful as our audience. Please encourage others to sign up for the PTO's weekly emails. It's easier than ever! Just go to the Colfax PTO website, at www.colfaxpto.org and click on the big blue "Sign Up" button at the top of screen.





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**JCC
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For information: Lewis Sohinki, 412-697-3537, or Isohinki@jccpgh.org

Colfax Communicator

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Size of Ad	Width x Height	Ready to Print Ads: Price Per Issue <small>(25% discount 4+ issues)</small>
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Students should turn the bagged 'Labels' into their homeroom teacher.
Please remember to label with the students name and homeroom.



Feel free to contact Cara Carey with any questions cd601@yahoo.com

Colfax PTO Site: www.colfaxpto.org

Join us on Facebook and Twitter: ColfaxPghPTO

www.facebook.com/pghcolfax

The Executive Board:

2014-2015 Colfax PTO Executive Board

President, Abbie Campsie: abbieshops@msn.com

VP Fundraising, Heather Sendera: hsendera@gmail.com

VP Communications, Julie Wilson: communications@colfaxpto.org

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Principal, Dr. Sanders-Woods: tsanderswoods1@pghboe.net



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