

# COLFAX COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO | VOL 9, NO 2 NOVEMBER, 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome | Elementary Updates | Sports | Halloween Parade  
Middle Level Updates | PARTY 4 PLAY | Clubs and more...



### IMPORTANT DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

November 19 - First Period Report Cards

November 26-27 - No School (Thanksgiving)

December 24-January 1 - No School (Winter Vacation)

January 18 - No School (Dr. King Day)

January 22 - Second Period Report Cards

January 25-26 - No School (In Service Days)

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# WELCOME NOTES



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

### *Greetings Colfax Families,*

School is in full swing with the first nine weeks ending. The PTO has been busy getting our fundraising in gear, gathering volunteers for homerooms and various jobs around school, as well as hosting three very successful events: Fiesta, the Shadyside Run and Halloween movie night. Leslie Grodin has done another terrific job with the directory. You should have received it from your homeroom teacher. A big thanks to Leslie.

Our PTO has so many moving parts and it all comes together to help make Colfax the great school that it is. It takes many volunteers to have the success that our PTO has and I'm always so grateful.

We started the year with our annual Fiesta. Colfax welcomed a wonderful crowd of seasoned veterans along with our newest parents of kindergarteners. The event moved through the evening with people mingling, chatting and children running around. The weather was perfect and so were the churros! Every one of them was sold. Thank you to VP Special Events Heather Sendera and all the volunteers who helped make Fiesta a huge success.

Shadyside Run was another great success in spite of a very cold and dreary October morning. We had so many runners and more Colfax folks than ever who signed up. Anne Marie Kuchera, Lara Bruhn and a small army of volunteers outdid themselves. This race has many positives -- getting our kids outside to get exercise, connecting with one of our communities, and helping another wonderful charity, the Boys & Girls Club. I can't say enough good things about Colfax's participation in this event.

Movie night was scary at Colfax with "Ghostbusters" offered to a packed crowd of older students and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" offered to our younger kids. The night was pulled off seamlessly by Heather Sendera, who did another wonderful job. Many of the kids wore their Halloween

costumes and enjoyed some movie snacks. Events like these help our middle level children raise money so they can go on the middle level end-of-the-year trip with their peers. Donations and concessions sold helped to raise several hundred dollars, which will make a huge difference to the students who worked the event.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Tiffany Stuckey, along with Committee Chairs Amy Shorkey and Lara Bruhn, met with various homeroom volunteers to go over school information and to connect with our newest parents. From all accounts, the meeting was a huge success with a few key changes that will assist folks in their roles.

Jennifer Ganger, our VP Fundraising, has been doing a great job as our fundraising leader. We have moved on from Colfax gear and water bottles to our annual Colfax Ask Drive. Jenny has crafted a lovely letter so I'm not going to mention much more about it, but I would like to share a personal thought.

As President of this wonderful organization, it has been my personal ambition to bring more programs to Colfax and to do more for our school. I recognize that every time I bring in a new program to Colfax that we will have to pay for it now and for years to come. This is a huge undertaking and responsibility, but well worth it when our children are the beneficiaries of the extra programs and enrichment.

I am asking you to remember Colfax when you make your charitable donations this year. It takes a lot to run a successful PTO, and we count on the generosity of our parents to help make that happen. As always, I know I can count on you.

*Warm Regards,*

**Abbie Campsie-Haber**

**PTO President**

## PRINCIPAL'S REMARKS

### *Greeting Colfax Families,*

I hope this edition of the Colfax Communicator finds you and your family well. There is truth in the quote "Time flies when you're having fun!" I can hardly believe that we are at the end of our first nine weeks. This edition of the Communicator will focus on the many events and activities that have taken place during the beginning months of the school year. We hope you enjoy the articles and pictures that highlight the strong partnerships that our Colfax staff share with the students, parents, and community!

In the upcoming season of "thanks" and "giving", I wanted to share some ways in which Colfax students, families, and staff have demonstrated their care for others . . . teachers hosting an evening event at the East Hills Community Center as another way to connect to our families, the dedication of parent volunteers who assist during recess, middle level student bus monitors that help primary students during dismissal, and Student Council members who are holding a "Pennies for Peanut butter" drive to raise money for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. These are just a few examples of the many wonderful acts of kindness that happen at Colfax on a daily basis.

I would personally like to thank you for your attention and cooperation in the following procedures that we have been diligently addressing regarding our visitation and late arrival procedures. As a reminder:

• ***All visitors must use the front doors for entrance and report to the main office. Please sign in at the desk and get a visitor/volunteer badge.***

• ***All volunteers must have the required clearances prior to volunteering on field trips and in classrooms.***

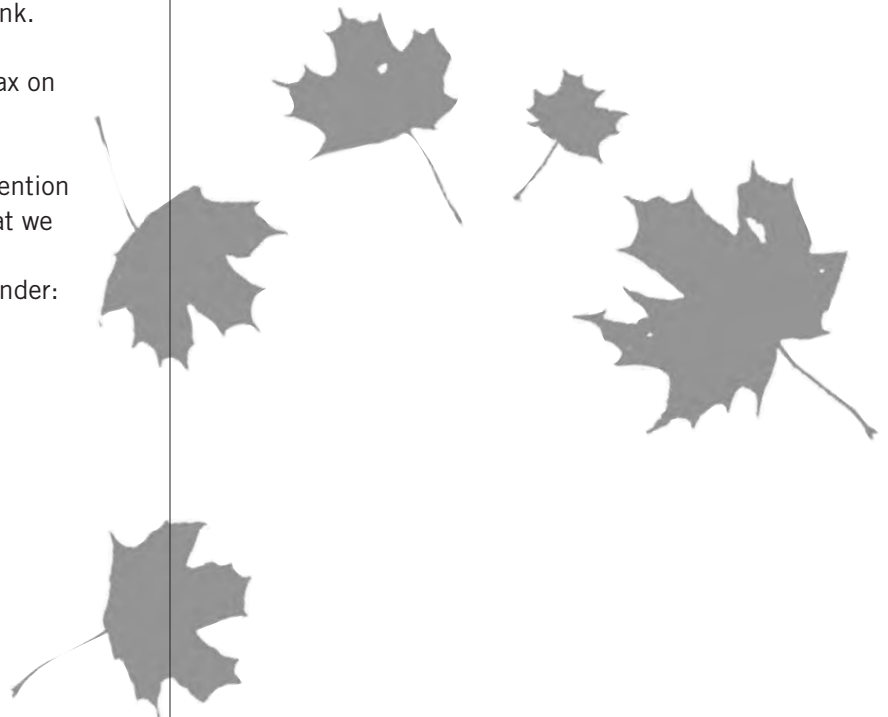
• ***Students entering the building after 8:15 a.m. must get a late slip from the front desk before reporting to class. It is important that all students arrive before the late bell to prevent the loss of instructional time, to decrease classroom disruptions, and to ensure that student attendance is actively monitored.***

I wish you all a healthy, productive, and well-rested holiday break. May you find time to create memorable moments with your family and friends.

***Best,***

**Dr. Woods**

**Principal**







## FALL FUN FOR KINDERGARTEN

(written by Mrs. Filipek)

On Tuesday, October 20, Colfax Kindergarten students traveled to Triple B Farms for their first field trip! While there, students were involved in many fun-filled learning activities. The children learned about life on the farm, planting and harvesting crops, and the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. The children visited Mrs. B's School Barn and interacted with her while she taught them that "almost everything starts on a farm."

Students walked through Storybook Pumpkinland, showcasing pumpkin-head characters from favorite nursery rhymes and children's movies. Everyone went on a hayride through the farm and walked to see the barn animals, too. A favorite for the children was going down the Liberty Tunnel and Squirrel Hill Tunnel slides on a potato sack! What a blast! Students were even able to spend some time at the farm playground.



Finally, each student picked their very own pumpkin to take home. It was a fabulous fall field trip! If you have a moment, check out our Pumpkin Farm writings inside/outside of our Kindergarten classrooms.



## SECOND GRADE SWIM LESSONS AT ALLDERDICE

(written by Ms. Alvarez)

In the 2015-2016 school year, Pittsburgh Public Schools and Citiparks (City of Pittsburgh Department of Parks & Recreation) have begun a new initiative to teach all 2nd graders to swim through week-long instructional programming with instructors and facilities of both organizations. The goal is to make learning to swim a key component of the 2nd grade experience and to perpetuate a love of swimming for generations of Pittsburghers to come. Pittsburgh Colfax was chosen to pilot the program this September.

The second grade classes took a walk down to Taylor Allderdice High School to use the pool facilities. Students were tested and grouped according to their ability to swim. The Citiparks Aquatic instructors, along with the amazing Mr. Lydon, organized a five-day long program that consisted of 60 minutes of instruction. Instructors were able to show students proper stroke techniques, floating, breathing, which helped to minimize any fears or anxieties about swimming.

Second graders practiced breathing and kicking with the use of boards and pool noodles. For many students in 2nd grade this was their first time swimming or their first time learning from an instructor. The experience was incredibly fun for all students as they took part in this program. Hats off to Mr. Lydon for helping to organize this activity and for getting Colfax to help pilot the program!



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## MIDDLE LEVEL UPDATE

### **EIGHTH GRADERS LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST**

**(written by Julie Vitalie, student)**

In English Language Arts class, the 8th grade students are preparing to read “The Diary of a Young Girl”, the story of Anne Frank, as a play. In order to prepare for this reading, we have been learning a lot about the Holocaust.

We were very fortunate to have the JFilm Teen Screen Program and Ms. Irene Skolnick, a Holocaust survivor, strengthen our knowledge.

On Tuesday, October 27, Ms. Skolnick, age 78, came into all three 8th grade English classes and told her riveting story of survival. All of the students were on the edge of our seats as she told us of the many times that her family escaped near death. She also shared some heartbreaking situations that she had to endure involving lost relatives and loved ones. We were

so moved by her stories. We would love to have her back again to hear even more!

The next day, we had the opportunity to go to the Waterworks Cinema to view the documentary, “Nicky’s Family”. This film was about how one man, Sir Nicholas Winton, was able to save 669 children during the Holocaust. He was able to move these children from Czechoslovakia to Britain via train, called Kindertransport. Through this great feat, Nicholas Winton is responsible for saving over 5,600 lives (of the children and grandchildren born by the ones he saved). The story taught us not only about love and family, but about aspects of the Holocaust and World War I.

We will forge ahead reading “The Diary of a Young Girl”, and we will conclude our unit with a research paper on one aspect of the Holocaust that interests us. Our generation will be the last to be able to listen to stories from actual living Holocaust survivors. Thank you for this experience, and thank you for taking us Colfax parent volunteers, Ms. Malvin, and Ms. Herr.



Speakers from the JFilm Prgram came to Ms. Herr's class. Irene Skolnick (far left), a Holocaust survivor, also came to share her story.



Eighth grade students at Waterworks Cinema see “Nicky’s Family”, part of the JFilm Teen Screen Program.

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## MIDDLE LEVEL UPDATES

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

Over 100 kids have signed up for the End-of-the-Year trip to Cleveland so far. The first deposit was due October 31, 2015. If you have questions or want to sign your child up now, please contact the teachers in charge of the trip - Ms. Jennifer Herr at [jherr1@pgh-boe.net](mailto:jherr1@pgh-boe.net) or Ms. Raffeala Greco at [rgreco1@pghboe.net](mailto:rgreco1@pghboe.net).

The next two fundraisers for the ML trip are Sarris Candies and The Winner’s Circle. Look for flyers and

order forms to come home through back pack mail very soon.

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



## COLFAX SPORTS

(written by Ms. Malvin)

The second sports season is just around the corner! Basketball practice will begin the week of November 9, with games starting on Monday, November 23. Coach Boyce and Coach Cohen will release tryout dates shortly! The calendar of games can be found on the back of the monthly calendar sent home with your students. If you would like a list of all games, please visit the district website or contact Athletic Director, Ms. Kari Malvin, at [kmalvin1@pghboe.net](mailto:kmalvin1@pghboe.net).

Swimming is back at Colfax this year! Coach Scratow will begin practice the week of November 16 with the first meet being held at South Hills on Monday, December 7. The calendar of meets can be found on the back of the monthly calendar sent home with your students. If you would like a list of all meets, please visit the district website or contact Athletic Director, Ms. Kari Malvin at [kmalvin1@pghboe.net](mailto:kmalvin1@pghboe.net).

Remember, for students to be eligible to participate in middle level sports, they must hold a GPA of at least 2.0 as well as good behavior. If you have any questions about anything middle level sports related, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Malvin.

## 2015 COLFAX CROSS COUNTRY SEASON

(written by Sophia North, student)

The 2015 boys and girls Colfax cross country team had an amazing season this year. Each team member worked their hardest to improve their time and win when it came to the championships.

Every single person put up hard work to get a shorter time every single meet. During practices, they would run even when they were out of breath in order to improve themselves physically and mentally. Everyone helped motivate each other as a Colfax family.

As the championships approached, everyone tried their best to get their quickest time in order to be able to run in the championships. The top seven runners on the boys and girls team were to run in the finals, and one alternative was picked.

The championships were a very exciting event for everyone watching. Each runner competed against the top seven runners for all of the other schools. The top seven runners for the Colfax boys were Dennis Chibisov, Will Ganger, Jose Higuera, Simon Bruhn, Eli Anish, Sherard Butler, and Nate Feinstein. For the girls' team, the runners were Emma Waite, Madeline King, Sophia North, Chloe Shorkey, Abigail Segal, Piper Reck, and Jurnee Finney.

Each team member hustled to the finish and passed up the other schools. The team with the lowest score of the top five runners' places. Needless to say, both the boys and girls team did amazing, and as a result, the boys team got second place with the top runner in the whole meet being Dennis Chibisov. The girls' team won first place overall. An amazing and memorable season for all of us at Colfax!







### TEAM COLFAX RUNS SHADYSIDE

(written by Anne Marie Kuchera, parent)

A wet and cold Saturday morning didn't stop Team Colfax from taking part in this year's RunShadyside on October 3, 2015. In our fourth year of participating in this community footrace, over 150 of us ran, walked and strolled our way to the finish line in support of Colfax and the Boys & Girl's Club of Shadyside. Members of the Colfax chorus including Ethan Anish, Tabitha Kurzweg, Ian Kuchera, Ian and Spencer Waite, Abigail Feinstein, Haruka Doi, Cole Schaefer, Gabrielle Haber, and Audrey Olmstead kicked off the morning with the National Anthem. More than 80 Colfax students ranging from kindergarteners to eighth graders crossed the finish line to cheers from friends and family, and high-fives from Mr. Lydon. It was both a chilly and celebratory morning in support of our school and our community partner.

THANK YOU to everyone who signed up and showed up. Together, we raised over \$500 for the Boys & Girls Club, and over \$1,500 for the Colfax PTO. We look forward to doing it again next year!



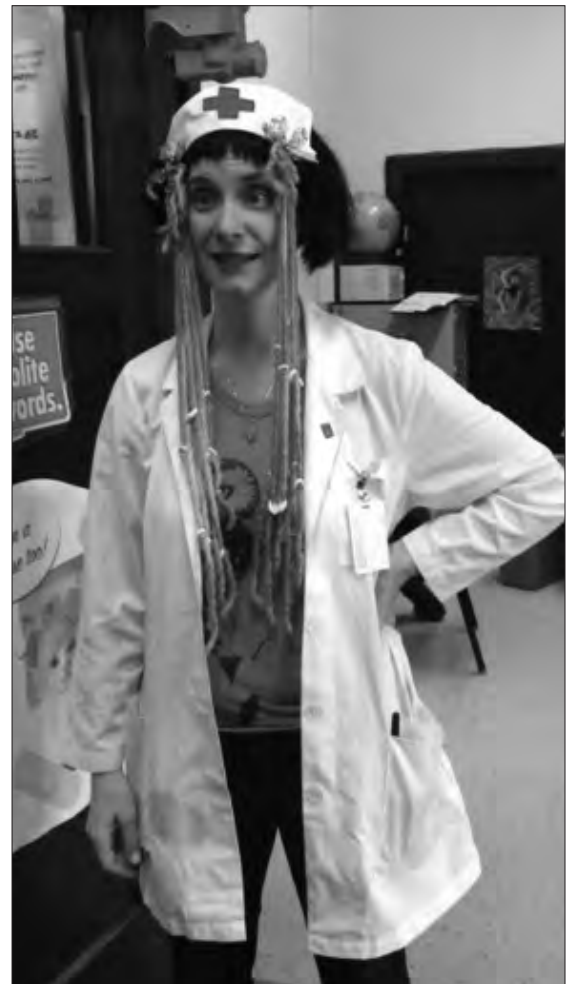
### MOVIE NIGHT

(written by Heather Sendera)

We held our 2nd annual October Movie Night on Thursday, October 29, 2015. Kids were able to choose between seeing "Ghostbusters" or watching a double feature of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas". Families spread out their blankets and had a fun time with classmates and friends as they watched the movies. There was a concession stand and all proceeds and donations went to help fund the end-of-the-year trip for the middle level students. Thank you to everyone who attended!!

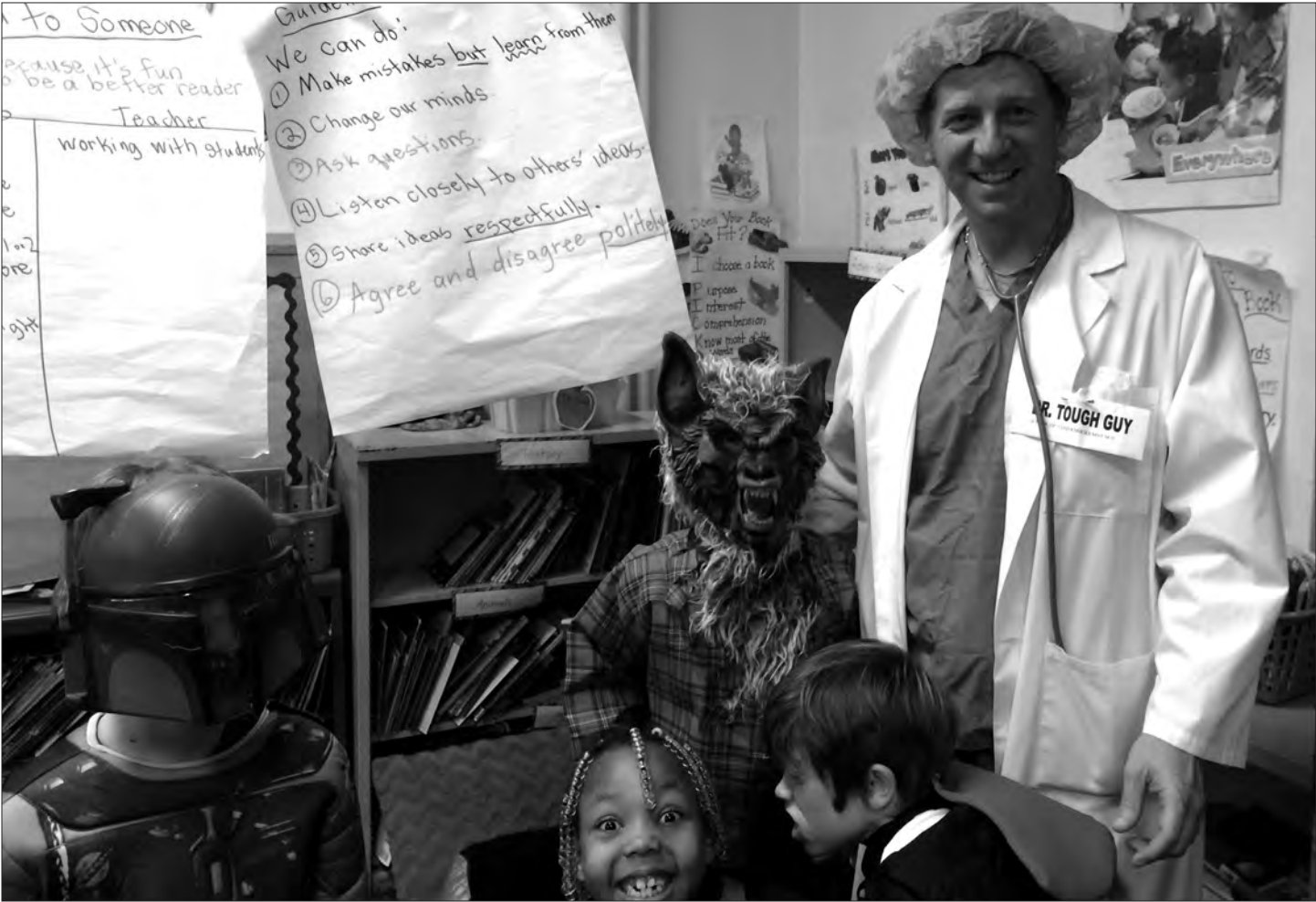


# COLFAX SPOOKY AND FUN





# HALLOWEEN PARADE





# STUDENT COUNCIL

## COLFAX STUDENT COUNCIL

### OFF TO A BIG START

(written by Ms. Dawson)

On Friday, October 30, more than 80 Colfax students from grades 6, 7 and 8 filled our dance hall (the Coco Cady family-organized, beautifully decorated gym) and dining hall (usually known as our cafeteria) for the 2015 Student Council-organized Fall Dance. DJ's Rosa Johnson, Chelynn Harvey, and Amani Wesley kept the music flowing, and dancers moving. Following a break for pizza and parent-contributed snacks, students returned to compete in the dance contest.

Student Council's big drive now is to collect contributions to help the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank distribute food to the growing number of our area's families who need support. With our Pennies for Peanut Butter drive, our Student Council is working to encourage all Colfax students to contribute by filling the peanut butter jars and other containers now on teachers' desks in every classroom. Student Council members are helping our school community learn of the big need in our area for food support. We have learned that one peanut butter jar full, even of just pennies, can be used by the Food Bank to buy eight jars of peanut butter.

The Colfax PTO has always been a strong supporter of Student Council activities, for which our students (and teachers) are immensely grateful. We are especially appreciative of the support organized by Sukanya Srinivasan and Leslie Grodin, this year's PTO Middle Level organizers.

Questions and comments are always welcome. Please address them to the Student Council faculty sponsors, Mr. Schmiedlin at [rschmiedlin1@pghboe.net](mailto:rschmiedlin1@pghboe.net) and Ms. Dawson at [kdawson1@pghboe.net](mailto:kdawson1@pghboe.net).



**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS  
BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

(written by Ms. Murdock)

On Wednesday, October 28, many 4th through 8th grade teachers and Colfax Assistant Principal Ms. McKenna went to East Hills to meet with families. The visit was intended to strengthen the relationship between home and school. There was a huge turnout of both students and parents. An enormous thank you to everyone that took the time to come and meet with the staff from Colfax. We hope to continue this type of collaboration throughout the year.





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# GARDEN NEWS

## ALLDERDICE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY LEND A HAND AT COLFAX

(written by Farmer Paul)

A few years ago Allderdice High School did not have a school garden. There was no motivated effort to focus on horticulture. That all changed when a group of students and a supportive adult got organized and started the Allderdice Horticulture Society (AHS). Now in its second year, the AHS has installed permanent garden beds on the Allderdice campus and has increased its membership to 16 students. The teacher in charge is Ms. Trish Withers, who teaches PE and Health. She also has a child who attends Colfax. Fun Fact...more than half of the students in the Allderdice Garden Club are former Colfax graduates.

On Wednesday, November 4, the AHS took a field trip to Colfax. The goal for the day was to learn about preparing a garden bed for the winter and planting cover crops. The high school students left Allderdice and walked to the Colfax garden. They ate pizza and salad and soon got to work. After a mini-workshop by Farmer Paul on tool safety and the work to be done, they removed dead plant material and weeds, tilled the soil, planted peas, and finally watered the seeds. In just about an hour, the group weeded and seeded four large garden beds. By working with Colfax on this project, the AHS helped complete an important garden task, and now they can apply what they learned to their garden space at Alderdice.



Pictured here from back to front is Kielan Donahue, Allderdice senior who started the Allderdice Garden Club, Trish Withers, Allderdice PE and Health teacher in charge of the AGC, and Caitlyn Withers, Colfax Garden Club member and 3rd grader.



After lunch the high school students got to work on clearing the garden beds. They were also joined by two Grow Pittsburgh staff members, Jake and Danele.



## COLFAX GARDEN CLUB

(written by Ms. McCann)

Colfax's Garden Club began on September 30, 2015, when permission slips went out to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families. Garden Club is run by Farmer Paul from Grow Pittsburgh and two parent volunteers, Farmer Maren and Farmer Sarah. Third grade Math and Science teacher, Brittany McCann, is the teacher coordinator for the Garden Club.

We had such an overwhelming response (over 40 students) that we created TWO Garden Clubs! Garden Club A includes students from homerooms 202 and 203. Garden Club B includes students from homerooms 201, 205, 210, 212, 206, and 204. There is currently a wait list; those students will be given an opportunity to join the Spring session of the Garden Club. If you are interested in adding your child's name to the wait list, please email Ms. McCann at [bmccann1@pghboe.net](mailto:bmccann1@pghboe.net).

On October 2, we had our first Garden Club meeting with Group A. Students were very excited to eat their lunch in the garden and then explore the garden with Farmer Paul, Farmer Sarah, and Farmer Maren. Group B's first meeting was October 9, but unfortunately we had inclement weather. However, Farmer Paul, Farmer Maren, and Farmer Sarah took Garden Club B into Ms. McCann's classroom for a great lesson about the garden and expectations.

Garden Club is not all work and no play, for each lesson is followed up by a tasty treat from our garden! Our first treat was a kale smoothie and our second treat was sweet potatoes. Students were also allowed to harvest and sample items from the garden under the supervision and instruction of Farmer Paul, Farmer Maren, and Farmer Sarah.

If you have any questions about Garden Club, please contact Ms. McCann at [bmccann1@pghboe.net](mailto:bmccann1@pghboe.net) or 412-529-4141 or Farmer Paul at [paul@growpittsburgh.org](mailto:paul@growpittsburgh.org).



# BUILDING EDUCATION

## FIFTH GRADE ARCHITECTURE EXPLORATIONS WITH CMU: EQUIP BACKPACKS

(written by Mrs. Pellegrini)

The mission of CMU's Architecture Explorations is to provide an architectural foundation for children and youth, which imparts a knowledge and appreciation of the built environment, encourages creative expression and critical thought, and inspires civic responsibility. Each program addresses "What is Architecture?" and "Who is an Architect?", and focuses on a specific topic related to architecture and academic learning objectives for each age group.

Through CMU's new EQUIP Architecture Backpacks program, architecture professionals visit the school and implement projects contained in a backpack. Each classroom has been assigned a different architect who will visit our classrooms eight times.

Concepts addressed in the backpacks include: design thinking, precedent knowledge, spatial and geometric abilities, and communication. This program gives our students time to work with young, dynamic professional architects who work in Pittsburgh.



## STEM STARS

(written by Mrs. Pellegrini)

STEM Stars is an afterschool program for Middle School girls. It is a collaborative project of the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh and Carnegie Science Center. The purpose of STEM Stars is to improve academic achievement and increase interest in, and awareness of, STEM topics and careers among economically disadvantaged girls; and decrease opportunity gaps that negatively impact these girls' successful matriculation through the STEM education pipeline and into STEM careers. STEM Stars addresses barriers associated with middle school girls' engagement in STEM: inadequate access, opportunity, academic preparation, and attitudinal barriers that limit success and persistence in STEM. STEM Stars provides reading; math and science remediation and enrichment; hands-on project-based STEM activities; life skills

development; mentoring; pre-college experiences; and STEM career exploration.

Students meet Wednesday and Thursday afternoons during after-school sessions incorporating hands-on STEM experiments, STEM competitions, project based learning, Web-based games and tutoring, CanTeen, and career exploration. Transportation home can be provided on the Activities bus.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Pellegrini at [bpellegrini1@pghboe.net](mailto:bpellegrini1@pghboe.net)



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## PARK STEWARDS

(written by Mrs. Pellegrini)

The Park Stewards program engages 4th and 5th grade students in comprehensive exploration activities of specific habitats located in Frick Park. Through three sessions of guided, hands-on activities and nature journaling, students gain a deeper understanding of how the changing seasons affect a specific habitat. To further connect students to their site, they perform stewardship activities that build investment and improve their site's health.

In late October and early November 2015, students in Ms. Lucci's, Ms. Theiss's, and Ms. Mlay's homeroom classes visited Frick Park, observed the seasonal changes and biodiversity in the park, captured their findings in a journal, and overall, learned about the value of parks and greenspaces.



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## CHESS CLUB

(written by Mrs. King)

The Chess Club is off to an amazing start this year. Chess is not only fun but promotes critical thinking, strategy making, cooperation, as well as etiquette!

We have a new teacher, Ben Johnson, who has infused a lot of fun and action into his lessons. We had so many students who wanted to play that we added an extra class! We now have five classes being offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the lunch periods. The 1st and 2nd grade classes for students who already know how to play has a whopping 34 students! We are also running an exclusive 2nd grade "learn to play" class, as well as an exclusive 3rd grade class. The 4th and 5th graders play together on Thursdays as do the middle school students.

We have some great parent volunteers but could definitely use some more. All are welcome! Jenny Ganger and Rachel Rosenfeld are our parent sponsors this year, as this is probably Jenny's last year at Colfax (boo-hoo!). They have done so much to organize the program and make it as popular as it is. Thanks to the PTO for helping to support this fabulous program. We are going to have a great team this year!





# COLFAX TOUCHDOWN!

## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

(written by Dr. Woods)

Colfax students were personally invited by NFL Hall of Famer and Founder of “The Bus Stops Here” Jerome Bettis and representatives from “My Brother’s Keepers Alliance” to the the Steelers vs. Baltimore game on Thursday, October 1. Students were permitted in the press room and had the opportunity to ask Mr. Bettis questions. They were given his personal perspective on what they needed to do to achieve success throughout their life — Education ranked first! Topping off the night was the halftime Hall of Fame ring presentation. It was a memorable night for our students!



## TREASURER REPORT

(written by Ray Obenza, Treasurer,  
and Marjorie Carlson, Assistant Treasurer)

### *What does the PTO do with my donations?*

We hear that question a lot!

Your PTO donations fund a wide variety of educational activities: field trips, school clubs, the school garden, tablets and computers, the spring musical, and more. We work to ensure that our teachers and administrators have the resources they need to provide a great education to all our kids. It's a big part of what makes Colfax, Colfax!

This year, the PTO has a budget of about \$80,000. Our biggest expense this year will be on technology to help with classroom learning — budgeted at \$20,000, more than double over previous years!

The entire budget is available on the Treasury section of ColfaxPTO.org, but here is a brief summary:

**Technology 25%**

**Enrichment activities like special interest courses, chess club, and the garden 16%**

**Events, including the spring musical and eighth grade graduation 15%**

**Field trips of all types 14%**

**Principal's discretionary fund 13%**

**Equipment and supplies, including playground equipment 6%**

**Teacher grants and staff appreciation 6%**

**Overhead like printing, postage and insurance 4%**

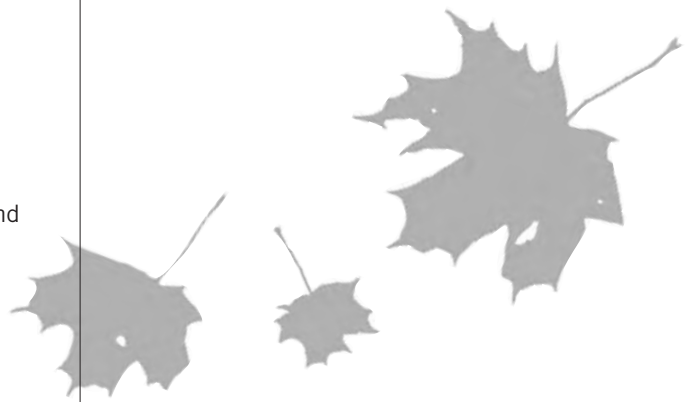
Where does all this money come from? Our biggest fundraisers are Party 4 Play and the annual Ask Drive, but every school fundraiser and donation plays its part in making sure we can provide our kids with great educational opportunities!

If you have any questions about the PTO's budget or spending priorities, don't hesitate to contact us - Ray Obenza and Marjorie Carlson - at [treasurer@colfaxpto.org](mailto:treasurer@colfaxpto.org).

## 2015-16 COLFAX PTO OFFICERS

We are pleased to announce that the Executive Board has filled its vacancy for Assistant Treasurer.

Marjorie Carlson joined the PTO board this year as Assistant Treasurer. She is new to Colfax — her daughter Zoe just started first grade this year — but she and her family have lived in Squirrel Hill for about five years. Marjorie is a graduate student in computer science at CMU. In her spare time she likes to - no, just kidding, she doesn't have any spare time!



November 2015

Dear Pittsburgh Colfax Family,

On behalf of the Colfax Parent Teacher Organization, we hope that your children are off to a good school year. We are writing to ask you to show your support for Colfax by supporting the Colfax PTO.

PTO-funded programs touch every grade level and every student. The PTO provides vital support for the Edible Schoolyard garden, the Frick Environmental Center program, class field trips, the Middle Level Theatre program, classroom technology, teacher grants, chess classes, the Cobra Store, and much more. The PTO also provides a \$10,000 discretionary fund to our principal and takes responsibility for upkeep of the playground, which was funded entirely by PTO efforts. Indeed, without PTO funding, Colfax would have to give up many beloved programs and activities.

This year, the PTO plans to spend nearly \$80,000 on Colfax and its students. *We are counting on your donations to help meet the budget.* A gift of any amount is welcomed, appreciated, and will be put to good use. Donors will be acknowledged alphabetically in the Colfax Communicator (although you have the option to remain anonymous if you prefer). We welcome others to participate in this drive as well—please share this message with grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, and other friends.

Thanks to your support, Colfax PTO is making our school better for our kids. We hope you will consider showing your support by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Pittsburgh Colfax PTO.

On behalf of the executive board of the Colfax PTO,

Jennifer Ganger  
Vice-President, Fundraising    Abbie Campsie-Haber  
President

**Pittsburgh Colfax K-8  
Parent Teacher Organization**  
2332 Beechwood Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412-529-3525  
Colfaxpto.org

**2015-2016 Executive Board**

Abbie Campsie  
*President*

Alex Lucci  
Patricia Pozza  
Raffaella Greco  
*Staff Liaisons*

Dr. Tamara Sanders-Woods  
*Principal*

Marjorie Carlson  
Yolanda Frank  
Jennifer Ganger  
Ray Obenza  
Heather Sendera  
Tiffany Stuckey  
Julie Wilson  
*Officers*

Tax exempt ID: 20-3274732  
(Parent-Teacher Organization)

Please make checks payable to *Colfax PTO* and mail to:  
Jennifer Ganger, VP Fundraising  
1264 Bellerock Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Credit card donations may be made using PayPal at [www.colfaxpto.org](http://www.colfaxpto.org) or in person at PTO meetings and other events.



**Pittsburgh Colfax K-8  
PTO 2015-2016 Donation Form**

The PTO will recognize all contributors (alphabetically and without mention of amount) in the Colfax Communicator. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let us know.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**I/We would like to donate:**

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$200    \$500    \$1,000   Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please recognize this as a gift from: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We prefer to remain anonymous

*Please make checks payable to Colfax PTO and mail to  
J. Ganger / 1264 Bellerock St / Pgh PA 15217 or visit [www.colfaxpto.org](http://www.colfaxpto.org) to contribute via PayPal.*

*All donations are tax deductible.*

Is your donation eligible for a matching gift from your company? If so, please include your organization's matching gift form when sending in your contribution.

*Thank you!*

**SAVE THE DATE**

# PARTY 4 PLAY

**FEBRUARY 20, 2016**

Party 4 Play is Colfax PTO's annual adults-only party and live auction fundraiser.

This year, we will celebrate **Party for Play's 10th anniversary!**

The Party 4 Play committee has already begun planning the big event. You will hear more details about the party in the coming months.

If you'd like to get involved, or if you have auction items you're ready to donate, co-chairs Jenny Ganger at [jennifer.ganger@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.ganger@gmail.com) and Zauyah Waite at [zwaite@chatham.edu](mailto:zwaite@chatham.edu) would love to hear from you.

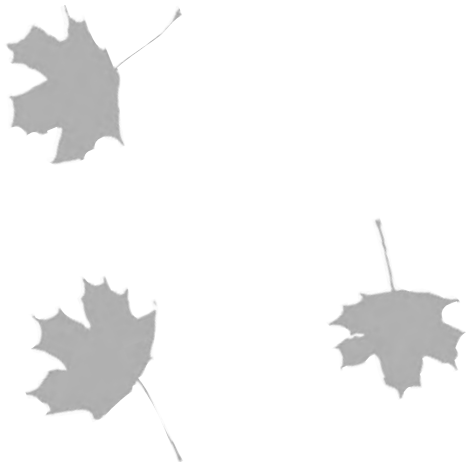
# GET INVOLVED

## 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](mailto: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 at [alepitt@gmail.com](mailto:alepitt@gmail.com) or Tiffany at [tcstuckey18@me.com](mailto:tcstuckey18@me.com) for more information.

## STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT COLFAX!

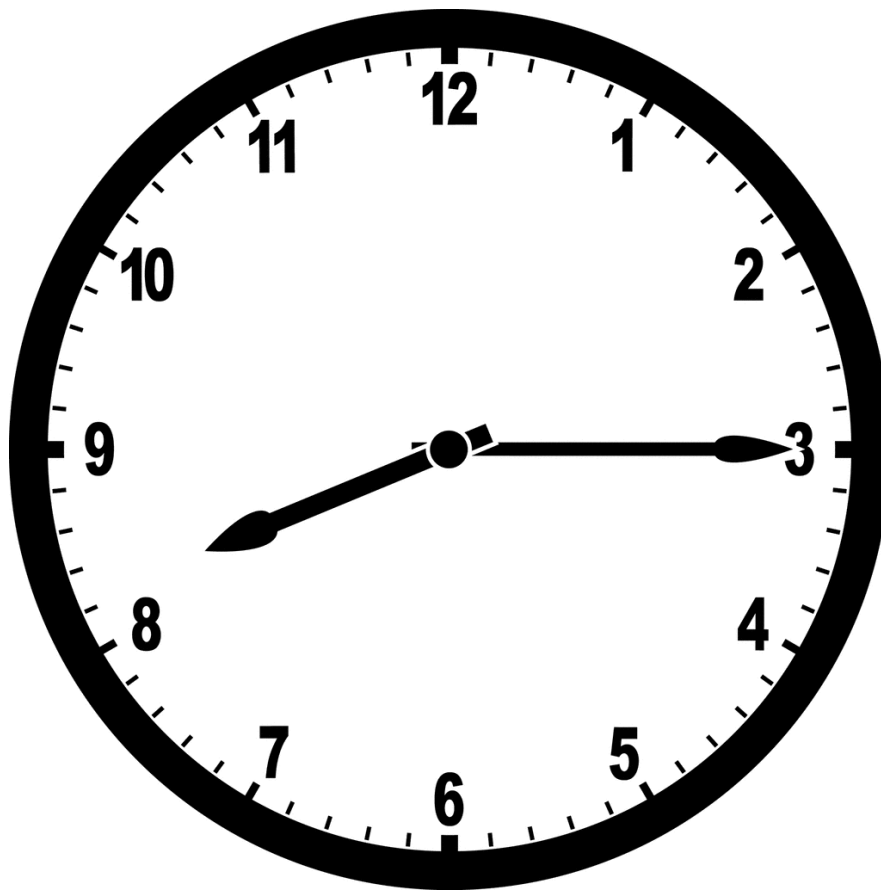
(written by Julie Wilson, VP Communications)

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](http://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](http://www.colfaxpto.org) and click on the big blue "Sign Up" button at the top of screen.

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## **Attention Parents and Students:**



**The scheduled homeroom period is now from 8:10am – 8:15am. If students are not checked into their homerooms by 8:15am, they will be marked “unexcused.” Legal reports of attendance are generated from our homeroom period, so please understand the importance of students getting to homeroom on time. Legal consequences for unexcused absences and tardies can include a Truancy Elimination Plan Conference, magisterial involvement, and/or a report to a community agency. If a student arrives after 8:15am, they are expected to get a tardy slip from the main office or late desk to give to their homeroom teachers upon arrival.**

**Thank you!**



# Colfax Communicator

**Your Ad could be HERE!**

Looking for an affordable way to advertise your business or program?

Reach hundreds of Colfax families and support the Colfax PTO by placing an ad in our newsletter!

Size of Ad	Width x Height	Ready to Print Ads: Price Per Issue <small>(25% discount 4+ issues)</small>
Business Card	3.65" x 2.275"	\$27
Quarter Page	3.65" x 4.84"	\$48
Half Page	7.5" x 4.84"	\$78
Whole Page	7.5" x 9.875"	\$153

Please email a pdf of your ad to [Leslie.Grodin@verizon.net](mailto:Leslie.Grodin@verizon.net) and [sivanearest@hotmail.com](mailto:sivanearest@hotmail.com)

## Advertising Guidelines

- Finalized copy should be emailed or attached in a Word document (all text should be edited, spell-checked, and final)
- Logo or photography files should be should be in .eps, .tiff or jpeg formats, 300 dpi at the usable dimension and sent via email (faxes and images pulled off of web sites are not acceptable as they will not print clearly). Please do not email files larger than 5 megabytes.
- *Communicator* will email the advertiser a pdf proof for final proof-reading purposes.
- All ads created by *Communicator* remain the property of *Communicator* and cannot be used by other organizations.



Contact our advertising sales representative for deadlines and more information:

Leslie Grodin

[Leslie.Grodin@verizon.net](mailto:Leslie.Grodin@verizon.net)

# Colfax is now participating in Labels for Education along with the BoxTops program

Don't miss them on some of  
your favorite products



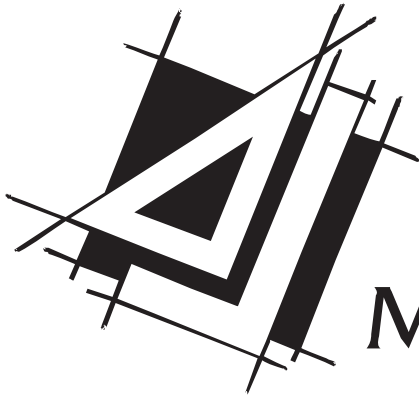
Students should turn the bagged 'Labels' into their homeroom teacher.  
Please remember to label with the students name and homeroom.



Feel free to contact Cara Carey with any questions [cd601@yahoo.com](mailto:cd601@yahoo.com)

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**There's a special experience for every child at the JCC**

## **JCC Clubhouse After-School Program for Kindergarten-Grade 6**

- Homework assistance every day
- Top-quality facilities, including gyms and heated indoor pools
- Trained, caring, creative staff
- Gym games, art projects, cooking, free swim, science, nature and drama
- Staff-supervised walks to JCC after-school classes
- Age-appropriate homerooms
- Healthy snacks
- Visits to the playground and library

**JCC  
PGH**

**For information: Lewis Sohinki, 412-697-3537, or [lsohinki@jccpgh.org](mailto:lsohinki@jccpgh.org)**

Colfax PTO Site: [www.colfaxpto.org](http://www.colfaxpto.org)

Join us on Facebook and Twitter: ColfaxPghPTO

[www.facebook.com/pghcolfax](http://www.facebook.com/pghcolfax)

**The Executive Board:**

**2015-2016 Colfax PTO Executive Board**

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VP Fundraising, Heather Sendera: [events@colfaxpto.org](mailto:events@colfaxpto.org)

VP Communications, Julie Wilson: [communications@colfaxpto.org](mailto:communications@colfaxpto.org)

VP Volunteer Coordinator, Tiffany Stuckey: [volunteers@colfaxpto.org](mailto:volunteers@colfaxpto.org)

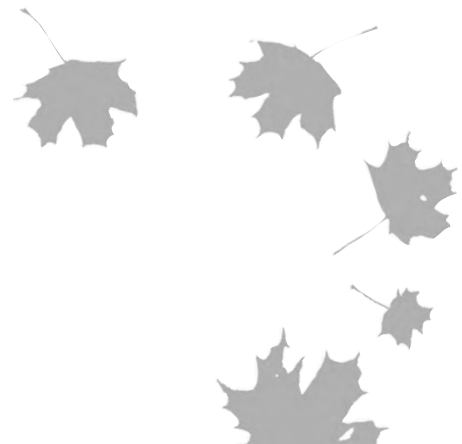
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