

COLFAX COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO | VOL 9, NO 4 MARCH, 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome | Elementary Updates | Sports | Winter Concert
Middle Level Updates | PARTY 4 PLAY | Clubs and more...



IMPORTANT DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

March 21-25 - Spring Vacation

April 11 - PSSA Language Testing Begins

April 13 - PSCC/PTO Meeting

April 18 - PSSA Math Testing Begins

April 19 - Report Cards Mailed

April 25 - PSSA Science Testing Begins

May 3 - Teacher Appreciation Day

WELCOME NOTES

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Hello Colfax Families,

Spring is here and it seems as if winter came and went in the blink of an eye.

In January, Colfax put on a wonderful winter concert highlighting our orchestra and choral students. Mr. Lee and Mrs. Moule did an incredible job of preparing our children. They performed remarkably! It should be noted that students do not have orchestra class or chorus on a regular basis. Participation is about two times a week as a pull-out from another class. This highlights the excellent job that Mr. Lee and Mrs. Moule did as the performance was top notch.

Ski club was a huge success this year with 65 skiers and 4 trips to 7 Springs. The club is open to all students who are in grades 4-8 and requires some level of independence. The beauty of ski club is that people who have never skied before get to participate as well as those who are more seasoned. I have heard from so many parents who are thrilled that Colfax offers their children this opportunity to learn how to ski when they otherwise would not have the chance. This is my fourth year involved in the ski club and it has really been so much fun. I want to acknowledge and thank our chaperones since we couldn't have ski club without volunteers: Ms. Lucci, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Murdock, Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Herr.

During the winter months, we also had two very successful fund raisers. First, we had our annual ASK DRIVE when the PTO sends home a letter requesting

contributions, of any amount, from parents and friends of Colfax. From this we raised about \$20,000! It is a fantastic display of generosity on behalf of the Colfax community. Our second fundraiser was our 10th annual Party 4 Play. Zauyah Waite and Jennifer Ganger took this on as Co-Chairs and did an outstanding job. The Edgewood Club was decorated beautifully. We had lovely baskets of goodies to raffle and dozens of items to auction. Last year's record was upheld with "Principal for the Day" going for \$2,000 in the live auction. "Gym Teacher for the Day" went for a record \$1,400! As a result, we grossed about \$27,000. What a wonderful night for Colfax. A true success for our 10th P4P.

If you contributed to the ASK DRIVE and/or donated or came to Party 4 Play, please know that without parents like you, we would not have the outstanding PTO that we do. It is only through your generosity and dedication to events like P4P that we are able to accomplish and provide all that we do to Colfax and our students.

On a separate note, congratulations to the ML girls' basketball team for winning the city championship two years in a row—a remarkable feat! It was an incredible game to watch!

Best Wishes,

Abbie Campsie

PTO President

PRINCIPAL'S REMARKS

Greetings Colfax Families,

I hope this edition of the Communicator finds you and your family doing well. Although the official start date is March 20, Spring has definitely been in the air! We have all been enjoying the unseasonably warm weather that the month of March has afforded us. Spring also is a period of planning. Teachers and Administration are hard at work finalizing budgets for the upcoming school year, reviewing staffing details to accommodate projected enrollment, and beginning the work of creating master schedules.

Please mark your calendars as our official PSSA testing period at Colfax are as follows:

- **PSSA ELS: APRIL 12-15**
- **PSSA MATH: APRIL 19-22**
- **PSSA SCIENCE: APRIL 27 & 29**

More specific information will be shared as schedules are finalized. Make-ups will be scheduled, as needed, throughout the testing window. In an effort to minimize the number of make-ups, however, we encourage families to arrange any time off school before or after the testing window. Attendance, effort and behavior will be emphasized, and incentives awarded to testing students in grades 3-8. We want our students to be present and to do their very best!

These last months have proven that "We are all gifted at Colfax." We celebrated the championships of our Girls Basketball team; our Boys Basketball team made the playoffs; individual swimmers on the swim

team placed; over 59 of our Middle Level students participated in the Shakespeare monologues at the Pittsburgh Public theater; our winter concert showcased stellar performances worthy of awards; and just two weeks ago, the 6th grade team won the first prize trophy in the city-wide "Battle of the Books." Our kids rock! Congratulations to all the students for going the extra mile. We greatly appreciate the staff members for the additional time given for extracurricular activities!

Hopefully, you did not miss the 10th annual Party 4 Play event. We experienced a record number of staff in attendance! Colfax friends and families enjoyed a night of exciting auctions, appetizers, dancing, conversation, and lots of laughter. I want to personally thank those who were a part of the planning committee, the donors and contributors, and the staff who assisted with the art projects and other miscellaneous tasks. A special thanks to the PTO for their tireless efforts to consistently provide opportunities to benefit our children through learning, exposure, and play.

As I reflect on how fast my first school year at Colfax has come upon me, I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support and for the feedback you have given to me. I realize that it is not always easy entrusting a new person with your most precious gift, but consistent communication, trust, and respect make for a smoother transition. I am looking forward to a strong finish to the 2015-2016 school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Woods

Principal

CLASSROOM NEWS

LIBRARY UPDATE

(written by Ms. Reed)

I am very happy to be your Colfax Librarian. I started in mid-January and would like to take this opportunity to tell you about myself and some of exciting things going on in our library.

I come to Colfax with a plethora of experience in education. I have taught 7th and 8th grade math, as well as 6th grade science in Atlanta, Georgia. The transition to media services was borne out of my love of literacy and technology. I take pride in providing the school community with a library they can be proud of and will continue the work of the beloved Jane McKee.

Currently, every student 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 opportunity to choose the reading material that they would enjoy. I will do my best to make sure titles that students enjoy can be found in the library. Also, if you see any library books at home please have your student return them to the library, so I can maintain accurate records.

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 1st languages. The collection is currently being shifted in the library and I hope to add Korean, Vietnamese and Yoruba to our collection soon.

In order to keep our library current, it takes money - so our last FUNDRAISER will come soon!

Of course our big money maker for the library is the spring Scholastic Book Fair. The last fair of the year will run from May 23-27, 2016. This will be our BOGO fair. Online shopping will also be available. Brochures will go out with all the specifics. Book Fair is always exciting! Obtain more 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 wish list 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.

Feel free to stop by and say hello.

Finally, thank you for being A Friend of the Library!

Sheila Reed, Ed.S

sreed1@pghboe.net

FOURTH GRADE PARK STEWARDS VISIT FRICK PARK



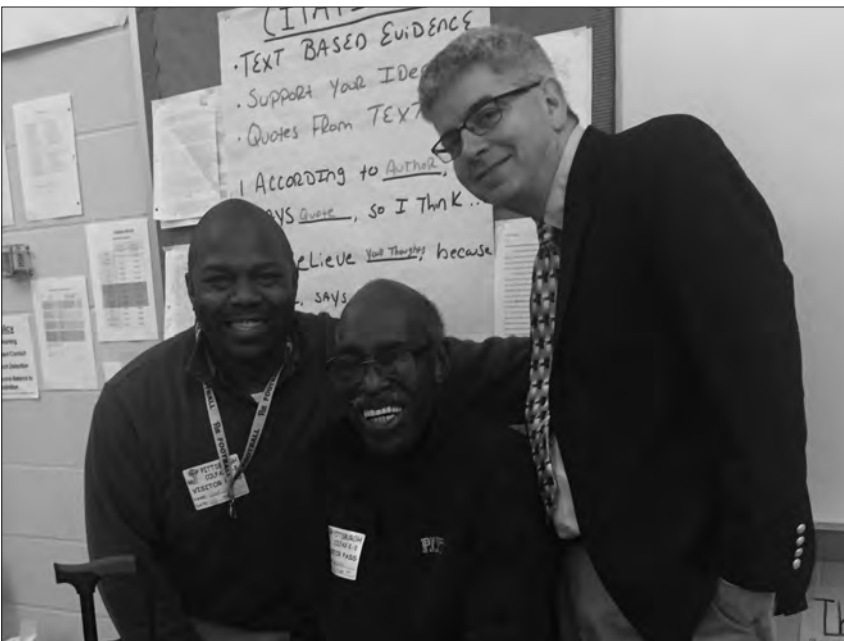
CLASSROOM NEWS

EIGHTH GRADE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(written by Mr. Cohen)

Bobby Grier, the first African-American ever to play in the Sugar Bowl, spoke to the 8th grade on February 25, 2016, as part of Black History Month. Mr. Grier was a Pitt football player when Pitt faced Georgia Tech on January 2, 1956. This was a notable game for two reasons: Mr. Grier was the first African-American to play in any bowl game in the deep south; and, as Pitt had demanded, seating in the stadium was not segregated -- a first. A month before, the governor of Georgia spoke out about both topics, proclaiming that no school from Georgia would ever play against a team with African-Americans (although they already had) or in integrated stadiums. Mr. Grier was the subject of several frontpage news stories at the time, and the Colfax 8th graders presented him with a poster-sized copy of the New York Times article from December 3, 1955, the first of many articles about him. All students signed it as a thank you card.

Mr. Grier took questions from several students, about racism, football, his time in the Air Force, and other points in his life. He was accompanied by his son, Rob.



CLASSROOM NEWS

5TH GRADE ART & POETRY FIELD TRIP

(written by Sivan Earnest, parent)

On Wednesday March 9th, the 5th graders got to attend a walking tour on the CMU campus. The tours were given by The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, the focus was on art and poetry. Students were encouraged to view the world around them and notice that art is everywhere, on the ground, on buildings, and possibly where you would least expect it. They had a chance to give their own interpretation of various works of art while on the tour. They then had the hands on experience of writing a poem using personification and creating a charcoal drawing to accompany their poem. An important take away from the trip, that we should all try to remember while going about our daily lives, "LOOK UP"!



COLFAX CONNECTIONS

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY (written by Ms. Bickerstaff)

February 12th brought together new English as a Second Language (ESL) families with some of our veteran international families at Colfax. The morning was filled with good conversation and good food that hopefully led to some new friendships being formed.



MIDDLE LEVEL UPDATE

MIDDLE LEVEL UPDATES

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

Our Middle Level students have been quite busy over the winter months with three ski trips (despite the constant weather changes), numerous top finishes in the Pittsburgh Junior Academy of Science competition, and several fantastic performances in the annual Shakespeare Monologue and Science Contest. Thanks to all of the support from parents, teachers and our outside coaches!

The third annual Colfax musical, *Guys & Dolls*, promises to be better than ever! Under the direction of Ms. Bridgette Purdue, the ML student cast and crew are already hard at work with after-school rehearsals. Volunteers are needed for to organize snacks, advertising and the cast party. Here are the dates for your calendar:

MAY 13 FRIDAY, SCHOOL MATINEE

MAY 14 SATURDAY, 7 P.M.

MAY 15 SUNDAY, 2 P.M.

The much anticipated annual end-of-year trip is only three months away: May 19-20, 2016! The fourth and final deposit for this trip to Cleveland, Ohio, is due April 8, 2016. Families should have received a reminder slip with the amount your child still owes (total cost of trip is \$299). Please contact Ms. Greco as soon as possible at rgreco1@pghboe.net, if you need to make payment/arrangements to secure your child's spot on the bus. One additional fundraising opportunity for the trip will be the Yankee Candle Sale. It will run from March 14 to March 30. Cost of items varies and will be chosen from the provided catalog, with many items less than \$10. ML students will be taking orders and payments, and students earn 40% of their sales towards their own trip costs.

Student Council will be back in action soon, so watch for information on the Spring Dance!

Contact Leslie Grodin (leslie.grodin@verizon.net) or Sukanya Srinivasan (dr.sukanya@gmail.com) to be added to the ML email list.

COLFAX SPORTS

(written by Ms. Malvin)

Congratulations to the Girls basketball team and to Coach Cohen for their second undefeated season and second Championship win! **GO COBRAS!**

The spring sports season has finally started! Both Soccer and Wrestling are underway! Coach Schmiedlin is working with his Wrestlers from Monday through Friday to get them prepared for their first match on March 31, 2016! Coach Lydon and Coach Montgomery are also working with their Soccer players to get them prepared for the season. Coach Lydon will hold tryouts from March 14 to 16. Coach Montgomery is starting her practice on March 14, for the girls. We are hoping for a wonderful season for both Soccer and Wrestling.

The sports banquet is quickly approaching. Though a specific date has not yet been selected, we are shooting for the end of May. If you are interested in assisting Ms. Malvin, please let her know And as always, if you have any sport-related questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Malvin at 412-529-8398 or at kmalvin1@pghboe.net

WRESTLING

(written by Coach Schmiedlin)

The 2016 Colfax wrestling season began on March 9, 2016 and will conclude with the City League championship on May 6. The Colfax wrestling team is growing each year, and this year is no exception. Returning starters Troy Jacobson, Darius Bruce, Sean Graves, Ian Denshaw, Daniel Caplan, Dylan Mayer and Jack O'Connor are looking to lead Colfax to their second team championship after winning it all last year. All 6-8 grade students are welcome to join the team. Please contact or see Mr. Schmiedlin with any questions.



GIRLS SOCCER

(written by Coach Montgomery)

Soccer is here and I welcome the warmer temperatures. We only have a few returning players from last year, so this will be a building season. I look forward to teaching our new players to love soccer just as much as I do. All players are required to have a positive attitude towards their teammates, coaches, opponents, referees, fans and their peers throughout the entire season. Each player is to practice the concept "We are a TEAM FIRST and an individual second"!! Our team will encourage and motivate each other with a positive talk, good communication on the field and learning new positions throughout the year. All players are required to attend practices and games in order to build self-confidence in their positions and in each other. Finally, all players are to be dressed and ready for practice at 3:00 p.m. We will be using the dreaded playground area out back as our practice field so

tennis shoes are required, but for the games we need cleats. It going to be a great year and I look forward to getting out there and playing. Go Cobras!!!

BOYS SOCCER

(written by Coach Lydon)

This year's boys soccer team will start out with tryouts on March 14 to 16, 2016. As always, we are hoping for a fun and competitive year. We lost a few teammates who have moved on to high school, or even actually moved away, but we are hoping the young talent continues to step up! The games start off in April and run through May. It looks like our "home" field will be up at the Schenley Oval so if you are looking for something to do after school maybe stop over to watch a game. Wish us luck! All this soccer talk means spring is right around the corner!

WINTER CONCERT

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

(written by Darcy Gordon, parent)

At the end of a beautiful winter day - where temperatures reached into the 60s - the Colfax community joined together on February 3, 2016, for its Winter Concert. Hundreds of friends and family members were welcomed by Principal Dr. Tamara Sanders-Woods who commented about the joy experienced from the sound of music coming from children. With that, guests sat back and enjoyed a delightful concert under the direction of our incredibly talented instructors - Mr. Brian Lee (instrumental music) and Ms. Victoria Moule (choral music).

Beginning, intermediate and advanced instrumental groups (percussion, guitars, bands and orchestras) performed a wide selection of music including holiday songs (3 groups played different versions of "Jingle Bells"), classical, the ever favorite "Old MacDonald," rock, blues, and contemporary. Mr. Lee kept the evening moving as 75+ instrumentalists moved on and off the stage. It was especially nice to have several Colfax alumni return to perform with the groups during some of the numbers.

The choral program - comprised of performances by the 4th, 5th and 6th grade choruses - included seasonal songs, "Martin's Cry" which relayed Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream for a world where all are equal, "Seasons of Love" (from Rent), and "The Hockey Song" (complete with Penguins jerseys, hockey sticks and lyrics customized for Pittsburgh by Ms. Moule). The final song, "Peace will Come," combined 80+ members of the 3 choruses. Chorus members played drums to accompany the song, and brought forward audience members to join in on the fun. With the words printed in the program (see below), Ms. Moule insisted on audience involvement prior to concluding the concert.

Peace, peace will, peace will come, let it begin with me.

We, we need, we need peace, let it begin with me.

Throughout the evening guests were invited to contribute to support the CX music program. The generosity of those gathered brought in \$525.10 for the program!

We are so fortunate at Colfax to have a strong music program thanks to the talents of Mr. Lee and Ms. Moule. We are grateful to them and to all who supported the Winter Concert with their presence, attention, applause, and donations. Finally, we are thankful for our wonderful students who shared their many talents with us.



WINTER CONCERT



COLFAX COMMUNITY

COLFAX WINS 2016 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS!

(written by Ms. Greco)

The sixth grade team from Pittsburgh Colfax won the first-prize trophy in the city-wide “Battle of the Books” 2016 competition, sponsored by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh! The Pittsburgh Colfax team retained the name “McKee’s Mavericks” in honor of their beloved librarian who tragically passed away this year. She was the original mentor and coach of the team. After she passed away, the team continued working in Ms. McKee’s memory with the help of Ms. Greco. They will be displaying the trophy they won in the Colfax library and inscribing it in honor of Ms. McKee.

The team consisted of: Antonia Allen, Micah Primack, Jack Rosenthal, Jacob Serbin, Nate Sirlin and Yoel Tamar.

In addition, Colfax had a team compete in the 2016 city-wide “Battle of the Books” against other 7th and 8th teams on February 23, 2016. The team consisted of Will Sinclair, Zev Haworth, Ian Zimmerman, Dakota Castro-Jarrett, and Mounir Mora Kpai.



MATH KANGAROO

(written by Newell Washburn, parent)

Math Kangaroo is an international math competition that started in France in 1991 and is held every year in March. The test has a multiple-choice format, but the questions are focused on problem solving rather than reciting facts. Exams are offered for students in grades 1-12, and millions of students participate worldwide each year. The official program is just the 75-minute exam to be held at the University of Pittsburgh on March 17, 2016, but 12 Colfax students in grades 3-5 have been preparing for the test with Ms. Sarah Ricketts and Colfax Dad Newell Washburn since December. All participants receive a t-shirt, a certificate, and a gift, but regional winners will be honored at a ceremony in May.

JOSH & GAB ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM IS A HIT!

(written by Ms. Pozza)

Thank you to the PTO for generously sponsoring an elementary presentation on Friday, February 19, 2016, by anti-bullying performers Josh & Gab. Josh & Gab partner with The Pittsburgh Children’s Museum to spread their message of self-love and making positive choices. The students enjoyed an interactive, developmentally designed presentation that included personal stories and music.



COLFAX COMPETES AT ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN BOWL CHALLENGE

(written by Mr. Schmiedlin)

On Friday, February 26, 2016, Colfax participated in the 22nd annual African American Bowl Challenge. The African American Bowl is a trivia contest based on Black history, where teams comprised of four students, from Pittsburgh Public Middle Schools compete against each other in a round robin format. Representing Colfax were Will Ganger, Josphat Mukogosi, Ben Lund and Sean Graves. They finished 6 out of 16 teams. In each round, the team scored higher and higher on their set of questions. As a group they did a great job of studying the material and supporting each other. I am very proud of all of them.



COLFAX COMMUNITY

CMU SCIENCE SQUAD

(written by Mr. Wolfe)

We have every reason to be proud of our science squad students, and their achievements this February! The students' perseverance and dedication have served them well, considering all the work they put into their research and learning of science topics since early September. On Saturday, February 6, 2016, Daniel Caplan, Hailey DeLaRosa, Lana Edwards, Ian Frank, Will Ganger, Sean Graves, Dante Greene, Nicole Gurvich, Claudia Musser, Dylan Olmstead, Aaron Ritter, Alyssa Starr, Aseyah Walker, Owen Capo-Stewart, Ian Denshaw, Guillermo Harris, Elijah Hudson, Joshua Jones, Matthew Langer, Spencer Lieberman, Traonna Malloy, Jah'Liyah Smith, Neel Willis, and Ian Zimmerman (Dvonne Barren, Johanna Garner, Ben Crivella, Marchle Lowe, and James Williams were unable to attend) earned 9 first places, 12 second places, and 3 third places.

Lana, Will, Claudia, Dylan, Aaron, Owen, Guillermo, Ian Denshaw, Matthew, and Ian Zimmerman have won the right to represent our school and district at the state competition in State College this May. Several of our students won the Duquesne University Excellence in Science Award; they are Will Ganger, Aaron Ritter, Owen Capo-Stewart and Guillermo Harris (who also won a PJAS Director's Award). Please help me celebrate all of our students success in this academic pursuit.



GIRLS ON THE RUN

(written by Anisha Willis, grade 4)

Girls On The Run (GOTR) is an after-school program that is sponsored by UPMC Magee Womens Hospital, for girls in grades 3-5. On Mondays and Thursdays for 8 weeks, girls and their coaches meet up, talk about healthy life choices, and run with each other. At the end of the season they gather at Hartwood Acres with all of the other

schools in the greater Pittsburgh area and run a 5K race. It is a phenomenal experience for all of the different girls. They all can just get together and run with passion. This year's amazing head coach is Ms. Suzanne Schreiber and the Colfax team is up and running!

WINTER COOKING PROGRAM IN 2ND GRADE WRAPS UP

(written by Farmer Paul)

Farmer Paul's winter cooking program is winding down with just one more recipe left to prepare with second grade. Here's a recap of what second grade and Farmer Paul have been up to.

Over the past few months while it's been too frigid to work outside in the garden, Farmer Paul has taught weekly cooking lessons to the second grade classes. The students learned about the continents, world cultures, and the diverse cooking traditions that span the globe.

Beginning in North America, they learned about Native Americans and prepared 3 Sisters Stew, a recipe that centers on squash, beans and corn. They next learned about Africa and the ground nut plant, also known as the peanut. They made a delicious Ground Nut Stew to go with this lesson. The class then travelled to the Middle East and learned about the wheat plant while preparing Tabbouleh Salad with Pita. After the Middle East, they learned about Japan where they prepared two recipes: Cucumber Salad and Rice Noodle Salad. Next

the class visited the Caribbean and enjoyed Platanitos, which is a fried plantain. For the final recipe, a second grade parent will help the class prepare her family's special recipe for Chinese Vegetable Salad.

As the spring thaw is here, Farmer Paul will begin teaching the first graders a series of lessons to get the garden up and running for spring and summer growing. If you would like to see what is growing in the garden and enjoy fun, garden based activities, please plan to attend the Wakeup the Garden/Open Green Space event coming in early May. Exact details for that event are being sorted out now and will be announced soon. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Farmer Paul at paul@growpittsburgh.org.

Farmer Mary, Grow Pittsburgh Volunteer, and Ms. Plummer prepare platanitos with 2nd grade students. Platanitos are fried plantains, which are a member of the banana family. Salt and a squirt of lime are added as the final step.



PTO UPDATES

TREASURER REPORT

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

This is the exciting time of year when most of the year's fundraising is behind us but most of the bills are still ahead of us, so we look very flush! The PTO has raised around \$47,700 so far this year, of which about \$24,500 has been spent.

Since the last Communicator came out, we have spent more than \$7,000 on school enrichment activities, including the school garden; early preparation for the spring musical; recess equipment; coaching for the chess and Shakespeare clubs; and, of course, many, many grants to teachers for classroom needs and Cobra Club expenses.

In the next few months, we anticipate paying for many more field trips and enrichment events, clubs, more spring musical expenses, and of course 8th grade promotion.

Our largest expense still remaining this year is the \$20,000 we budgeted for technology. We are partnering with the school to spend this money on replacing the current, dilapidated laptops with a new mobile computer lab.

Also of note, we have also received nearly \$300 in checks specifically earmarked for the library, in honor of late school librarian Jane McKee. Thank you to those who donated! The funds are being made available to the new school librarian to spend on new books for the library.

SAVE THE DATE - COLFAX CARNIVAL 2016

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016

FROM 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Games, Prizes, Food, Dunking Booth, Bounce Houses, Entertainment, Cultural Tents and more

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Contact Heather Sendera (AT 512-470-7743, hsendera@gmail.com) for info or to join the planning team.

COLFAX PTO NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

On April 13, 2016, the Colfax PTO membership will elect a President for the 2016-17 term (beginning on July 1, 2016). Voting will occur during the regular membership meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The remaining Board officers will be elected at the May membership meeting, which is currently scheduled for May 11 at 6:30 p.m. Additional information will be posted, as necessary, on the Colfax PTO website. Please contact PTO President Abbie Campsie at abbieshops@msn.com with questions.

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.

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.

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.

**Pittsburgh
Colfax K-8**



EXCELLENCE
FOR ALL

The Pathway to the Promise.™

2332 Beechwood Blvd | Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phone: 412-529-3525 | Fax: 412-422-4896 | Parent Hotline: 412-529-HELP (4357) | www.pps.k12.pa.us/colfax

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

Cara McKenna, Assistant Principal, cmckenna1@pghboe.net

Joan Murphy, Assistant Principal, jmurphy3@pghboe.net

Walker Dismissal for Grades 6-8

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Effective Monday, February 29, students in grades 6-8 that are walkers will now be dismissed at 2:43 PM. This means that they will be dismissed from their 8th period class instead of reporting to a dismissal room. This is a way to reduce traffic in the hallways at dismissal time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Colfax Administration

PARTY 4 PLAY

PARTY FOR PLAY 10 REPORT

Jenny Ganger and Zauyah Waite, Co-Chairs, P4P-10

Colfax PTO's tenth annual Party for Play was held on February 20 at the Edgewood Club. More than 130 parents, teachers, and friends came to enjoy good food, good company, and amazing auction items.

The PTO depends on this event for a significant portion of its budget, and we are happy to report that we met budget expectations. We are still waiting for final invoices and pledges so these figures are estimates, but at the time of writing, we have received payments and commitments of about \$28,000 and have paid expenses of about \$7,000, giving us a revenue of about **\$21,000**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, volunteered, or attended. We did it!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

P4P-10 COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: Zauyah Waite and Jenny Ganger

52 Raffle and Program Advertising: Jennifer Primack

Card Pull coordination: Yolanda Frank

Cookie Table: Junko North

Grade-Level Baskets: Dory Levine and Julie Wilson

Graphic Design: Sivan Earnest

Live Auction: Jessie Ramey

Silent Auction coordination: Donna Kruman

Student Artwork: Heather Sendera

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ann Anish, Alona Bloom, Abbie Campsie, Darcy Gordon, Leslie Grodin, Annie Kurzweg, Stephanie Livshin, Carol Luckner, Constance O'Connor, Sukanya Srinivasan, and Tiffany Stuckey. Thanks also to Evelyn Castillo for use of her supplies.

PROGRAM ADVERTISERS

Children's Community Pediatrics / Bass Wolfson Pediatrics

Dorian's Catering

East End Veterinary Medical Centre

Independent Brewing Company / Hidden Harbor

Law Offices of Wayne Gerhold

Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh

NuGo Nutrition

Preston Grafton Insurance

Pechersky, D.M.D. / Pittsburgh Children's Dentistry

Shorkey Auto Group

PATRONS FOR PLAY

Lorrie and Chuck Cranor

Eric and Mary Pat Friedlander

Jon and Amy Malen

Mia and Arie Segall

Sukanya Srinivasan and Henry Willis

Jim and Zauyah Waite

DONORS FOR PLAY

Anonymous

Sarah Galusha and Matt Chinman

Yohei and Kazu Doi

Elizabeth Goldberg and Michael Goldberg

Carolina and Bernhard Kuhn

Alex Lucci

Carol Smith

Crissy Hills

Maria Simonovksy

Julie Fiez

Constance and Kevin O'Connor

52 COBRA RAFFLE DONORS

Chris Allen

The Beakley Family

Scott and Michelle Bluman

Azi and Ethan Block

Abbie Campsie and Ken Haber

Jeremy Feinstein and Stefani Pashman

Amanda Godley and Ken Fisher

Darcy and Mike Gordon

The Monaco Family

Sunny Park and Jamie Tew

The Primack Family

Brian and Suzanne Schreiber

Sarah Sirlin and Brett Yasko

The Waite Family



PARTY 4 PLAY

IN-KIND DONORS

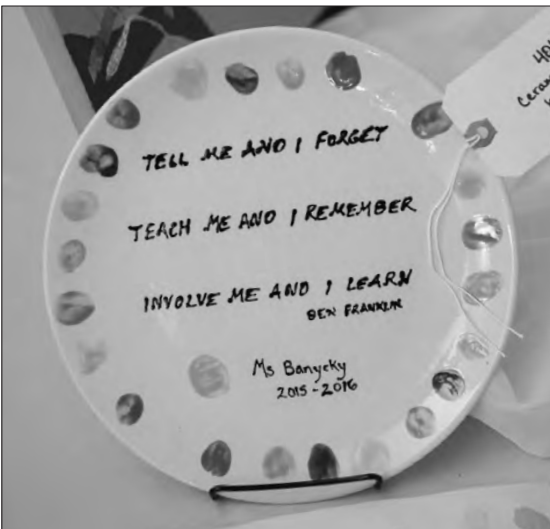
The PTO is grateful to the following businesses and individuals who donated items or services for the auction or the party. Please consider patronizing these businesses and when you do, please thank them for their donation to Colfax PTO. We apologize to any donors we may have inadvertently omitted.

14th Ward Baseball
412 Store
Allegheny Chesapeake PT
Allegheny Valley School
Alumni Theatre Company
Amy Shorkey
Bagel Factory
Bella Christies Bakery
Bethany Brown, Birth Doula
and Lamaze Certified
Childbirth Educator
Big Burrito (Mad Mex)
Cappy's
Carnegie Museums of
Pittsburgh
Carnegie Science Center
CBS Sports/KDKA
Chatham University Art &
Music Camp
Cheeks/Glassworks
Children's Museum of
Pittsburgh
Chloe & Isabel
Chocolate Moose
City Theatre Company
Club One Fitness
Color Me Mine
Contemporary Concepts
Coriander Indian Grill
Crazy Mocha
Cut & Sew Studio
Daviea Davis
Dawn Wallhausen / Dawn
Glassworks
Dina Ellen

DJ Crush
Donna Kruman
Dorian's Catering
Double Wide Grill
East End Brewery
Ellen & Bob Katzen
Five Points Artisan Bakery
Forbes Jewelry
Four Winds Gallery
Girasole
Glam
Go to Guys Handyman
Grandstand, The
GreenLight Juice
Gymkhana Gymnastics
Harmony Pilates
Harris Grill
Henne
Hepatica Florist
Hyatt House South Side
Independent Brewing
Company
Italian Village
JCC of Greater Pittsburgh
Jenkins Crum Band
Jenna Sue Vanderbrink
Jim & Zauyah Waite
Kards Unlimited
Kristine Woolsey
Legume
Little Green Wagon Garden
Designs
Mr. Danny Lydon
Colfax K-12
Dr. Tamara Sanders - Woods
Make your Mark Artspace &
Coffeehouse
Mary Suresh
Mrs. Betsy Juhas & Mrs. Sarah
Ricketts
Mrs. Bickerstaff & Mrs.
Stefanyak
NuGo
Petland (Village of Eastside)
Picket Fence
PICT Classic Theatre

Pinos
Pittsburgh Glass Center
Pittsburgh Opera
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Playhouse
Pittsburgh Public Theater
Pittsburgh Symphony
Orchestra
Platinum Salon
Pointe Brugge
Porch, The
Rachel Schlosser
Red Oak Cafe
Riverside Design Group, Inc
Sarris Candy ML Fundraiser
Schiller's Pharmacy
Dr. Sean Sherman
Shady Grove
Shadyside/Oakland
Courtyard by Marriott
Six Penn Kitchen
Social Restaurant
Spool Fabric Shop
Springhill Suites Marriott,
Bakery Square
Steel City Ukulele
Studio Booth
Studio E Hair
Sukanya Srinivasan
Sunburst Guitar studio
Tom Lauwers
True Runner
Union Project
Upcycled designs
Upper Crust, The
Waterworks Cinema
Wenning Entertainment
Whole Foods
WHPIX
William Penn Jewelers & Watchmakers
WiltonArMetale
Winfrey Amis Mandarino
Women of the Cloud Forest
Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh
Downtown
Yolanda and Jerome Frank

PARTY 4 PLAY 2016





Title I Parent Resource Center Order Form

As a Title I Parent, you may request a single copy of one or more (up to 10 titles) of the following booklets from the Resource Center completely free of charge. Please complete this form and check up to ten (10) items you would like shipped to you. Return the form to: Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127. ATTENTION: Title I Parent Resource Center. Fax: 724-458-5083

Date _____ School District _____

Name of Title I Parent (please print) _____

Parent's Mailing Address (please print) _____

I, Janiya Larkin, verify this request is from a Title I Parent in our school district.
(Signature of Title I Coordinator or Administrator)

Check up to ten (10) titles from the following booklets. * Indicates items for children

A. CAREER AWARENESS

- 1. After High School - What?
- 2. Landing a Job - Tips for a Successful Job Search
- 3. How to Encourage Attendance/Success at School
- 4. Next Step...College! Tips to Help You Find A School That's Right for You
- 5. Financing a College Education
- 6. Be Successful at Work
- 7. Career Planning...A Skill for the Future
- 8. What You Should Know About Job Interview Skills
- 9. Writing a Resume That Opens Doors
- 10. Balancing Work & Family
- 11. A Good Financial Start
- 12. Guide to Helping Your Teen Succeed in High School

B. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 4. About Setting Goals To Reach Your Potential
- 5. Assertiveness - Skills For Life
- 6. Teaching Children Responsibility For Their Learning & Behavior
- 8. 25 Ways Parents Can Build Children's Self-Esteem
- 9. Lo que usted debe saber sobre LA AUTOESTIMA
- 10. What Every Teenager Should Know about Peer Pressure
- 11. Raising Children of Character: a Parent's Handbook
- 12. A Positive Attitude, A Positive You!
- 13. Young People & Suicide - What You Should Know
- 14. Children and Depression - Learn the Facts
- 15. Know What? Bullying Hurts!* (ages 6-8)
- 17. What's Up With Beating Test Anxiety
- 18. Listening Well and Following Directions

C. PARENT/SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

- 1. Teach Children Respect
- 3. Being Involved in Your Child's Education
- 4. Protect Your Child From Drugs: A Parent's Handbook
- 6. About Your School Counselor
- 8. Your Parent - Teacher Conference
- 11. About Helping Your Teen Finish School
- 12. Internet Safety & Responsibility for Students
- 14. La Crianza De Los Hijos
- 16. Raising Your Grandchildren: A Grandparent's Handbook
- 18. Helping Children Learn to Resolve Conflicts
- 19. About Getting Along at School
- 24. The ABC's of Discipline at Home
- 25. Keeping Tabs on Your Child's Education
- 26. Your Guide to Supporting Your Child at School

D. SPECIAL EDUCATION

- 1. Helping Your Child Manage ADHD: A Parent's Handbook
- 2. Helping Children with Learning Disabilities: A Parent's Handbook
- 4. What Is This Thing Called Dyslexia?

E. LIFE SKILLS

- 1. What You Should Know About Being a Single Parent
- 4. What Kids Should Know About Divorce
- 5. Cooperative Co-Parenting - Making the Most of Custody Arrangements
- 6. Single Mothers Entering the Work Force

F. CHILD SAFETY

- 1. McGruff's Bicycle Safety: Coloring Book*
- 2. McGruff Safe Kids Identification Kit
- 3. About Child Safety
- 4. About First Aid
- 5. Let's Learn More About School Bus Safety Activities Book*
- 6. About After-School Safety: Coloring/Activities Book*
- 7. Home Alone After School - What Parents Should Know

G. CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Child Development from Birth to 3 Years Old
- 2. Child Development from 3-6 Years Old
- 3. Child Development from 6-9 Years Old
- 4. Child Development from 9-12 Years Old
- 5. About Your Child's Thinking Skills and Language Development: Birth to Age 3

H. TITLE I

- 1. Learn about Schoolwide Title I Programs
- 4. Understanding the No Child Left Behind Act - A Parent's Handbook
- 5. Parents' Rights in Education - A Guide to the No Child Left Behind Act
- 8. Title I - What Parents Should Know
- 10. Acerca De Su Programa Del Titulo I
- 11. Common Core State Standards - Academic Success

I. HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN

- 1. About Your Child's Learning Style
- 6. Effective Note Taking
- 7. Studying for Success
- 9. Homework Lessons for Parents
- 11. Your Child & Standardized Tests - Grades 3-5: A Parent's Handbook
- 12. Let's Improve our Test-Taking Skills* An Information & Activities Book (ages 9-12)
- 15. You, Your Child, and Math
- 19. 25 Ways Parents Can Read with Children
- 22. Starting School: Coloring Book*
- 23. Write to the Point-Tips to Write Effective Essays
- 24. Your Child and Writing
- 25. When a Bright Child Has Trouble Reading
- 26. Help Child w/ Homework Parent Handbook

J. FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Know What? Lying Hurts Everyone!* (ages 6-8)
- 2. Critical Thinking
- 3. Let's Say "No Way!" to Violence: Info & Act.*
- 4. TV and Your Child
- 6. What's Up with Social Media
- 7. Making the Most of Your Child's Summer Vacation
- 8. What Every Family Should Know About Getting Along At Home
- 9. What's Up with Cyber Bullying
- 10. Bedtime Struggles
- 11. Las Batallas A La Hora De Dormir
- 12. I'm Proud to be a Military Kid*
- 13. Succeeding as a Military Family: a Guide
- 14. Who Knew? The Eat Healthy Be Fit Issue (ages 9-11)
- 15. Preventing Bullying - Information for Parents
- 16. Know What? Fighting Hurts
- 17. Parents and Stress
- 18. Anger Management for Parents: A Parents Handbook

K. MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 1. Middle School - Moving on up
- 2. What's Up with Starting Middle School
- 3. Standardized Tests in Middle School
- 4. Preparing Your Child for Middle School Success

L. SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 1. About Addiction
- 2. On Living Drug-Free
- 3. Alcohol and Others Drugs - Keeping Tabs On Talking With Your Child
- 4. Trying Drugs - What Would YOU Do?

DISCUSSING IMPORTANT ISSUES WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Because Colfax receives Title I funds, any Colfax parent or guardian can request a single copy of up to ten free booklets to help them discuss important issues with their children. If interested, please complete the Title I Resource Center Order Form and return it to: Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127. Attention: Title I Parent Resource Center. Fax: 724-458-5083. Questions, contact Ms. Pozza at ppozza1@pghboe.net.

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 and sivanearest@hotmail.com

Advertising Guidelines

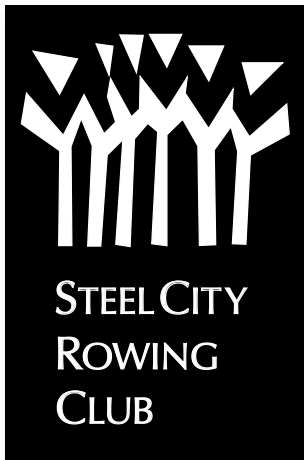
- Finalized copy should be emailed or attached in a Word document (all text should be edited, spell-checked, and final)
- Logo or photography files should be should be in .eps, .tiff or jpeg formats, 300 dpi at the usable dimension and sent via email (faxes and images pulled off of web sites are not 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



**WildLife River
Camps
Ages 8-11**

Camps start June 13
Monday - Friday
9:30 to 3:30
extended day
8:00 -9:30am &
3:30 - 5:00pm
Register online:
steelcityrowing.org
101 Arch Street
Verona, PA 15147
412-828-5565



**Learn to Row
Camps
Ages 12-18**

*What more
do you want
from your house?*

Improve comfort and efficiency. Create more living space.



AJ Stones
Master Green Remodeler

Older houses
our specialty

Consulting and
Remodeling

ajstones.com
412-241-6042




CAMP SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Camp Spirit is Pittsburgh's premier ultimate frisbee summer camp for boys and girls ages 7-14. Campers develop sportsmanship, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills.

Each camp is 5 full days: 9:30am– 3:30pm	
June 13 - 17	North (North Park)
June 20 - 24	City (Schenley Park)
June 27 - July 1	City (Schenley Park)
July 4 - 8	South (Moore Park)
July 11 - 15	North (North Park)
July 18 - 22	City (Schenley Park)
July 25 - 29	South (Moore Park)



Register Now! Camps.PghUltimate.org

REGISTER NOW FOR EAST END LACROSSE

eastendlacrosse.com

Lacrosse is a great opportunity for boys and girls, 2nd-8th grade, to enjoy a fun, fast-paced, team sport.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Girls' program	Boys' program
Adriane LaRussa	Alex Hershey
LaRussa@gmail.com	jalexhershey@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE
COLFAX
CARNIVAL
THURSDAY
JUNE 9, 2016

**YOUR
AD
HERE**



**THEY SEE A BIRD
WE SEE DISCOVERY**



JCC Day Camps: Providing exceptional experiences to every child
Call Lewis Sohinki at 412-697-3537

Colfax PTO Site: www.colfaxpto.org

Join us on Facebook and Twitter: ColfaxPghPTO

www.facebook.com/pghcolfax

The Executive Board:

2015-2016 Colfax PTO Executive Board

President, Abbie Campsie: president@colfaxpto.org

VP Fundraising, Heather Sendera: events@colfaxpto.org

VP Communications, Julie Wilson: communications@colfaxpto.org

VP Volunteer Coordinator, Tiffany Stuckey: volunteers@colfaxpto.org

VP Fundraising, Jenny Ganger: fundraising@colfaxpto.org

Treasurer, Ray Obenza: treasurer@colfaxpto.org

Assistant Treasurer, Marjorie Carlson: treasurer@colfaxpto.org

Secretary, Yolanda Frank: secretary@colfaxpto.org

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



Newsletter Staff

Editor: Julie Wilson

Designer: Sivan Earnest

Editorial Board: PTO Executive Board