

COLFAX

COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO



P 6-9
BOYS' AND GIRLS'
SOCCER

P 16-17
WRESTLING
WRAP-UP

P 20-23
SPRING
MUSICAL

P 40-44
VIP DAY
PHOTOS



A LETTER FROM THE PTO

Greetings Colfax Families,

We are getting close to the end of the year here at Colfax and finally enjoying some nice weather. We had our board elections in May and I'd like to announce and congratulate our new executive board for the 2018-19 school year.

Abbie Campsie – President
Jeanine Weiss – VP of Communications
Dory Levine – VP of Events
Ross Ingram – VP of Fundraising
Tiffany Stuckey – VP Volunteer Coordinator
Marybeth Hagley – Secretary
Amanda Cline – Treasurer
Carol Smith – Assistant Treasurer

It's hard for me to believe, but next year will be my last year as a parent at Colfax. I will take on the position of President, but I am looking for someone who will step up to be trained and work with me next year with the plan of taking over as the head of the PTO the following school year. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please email me at president@colfaxpto.org.

In early May, we celebrated teacher Appreciation Week at Colfax. The PTO provided a catered lunch for every teacher and staff member in the building. This year we provided Chinese food which was a big hit. Our wonderful parents stepped up and helped decorate all of our teacher's doors as a way to let them know they are appreciated. Parents also brought in gifts to let teachers know how much they mean to us. Special thanks goes out to Tiffany Stuckey who worked tirelessly to make sure every door was decorated.

The Colfax middle level put on its 5th Junior musical this year. The cast performed *The Aristocats*. The show was a huge success and lots of fun to watch. We had a lovely audience for both performances. Candace Walker (our director) and Mrs. Lorena Mitchell (our faculty advisor) did a wonderful job helping the students prepare for the show.

June 5th is carnival and everyone is invited. In case you are unfamiliar, carnival is our end of year huge celebration with carnival games, bouncy houses, cultural tents, face painting, food from the grill, ice cream and the dunk tank. (Where is Ms. McKenna?) If you've attended in the past, you know we need your help. Carnival requires many volunteers to be a success. Looking forward to seeing all of you on June 5th.

Have a wonderful summer.
Warm Regards,
Abbie Campsie – PTO President



2017-2018 COLFAX PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Abbie Campsie
president@colfaxpto.org

Executive VP: Tiffany Stuckey
vicepresident@colfaxpto.org

VP Special Events: Dory Levine
events@colfaxpto.org

VP Fundraising: Abbie Campsie
fundraising@colfaxpto.org

VP Communications: Jeanine Weiss
communications@colfaxpto.org

Treasurer: Jitka Benedikova
treasurer@colfaxpto.org

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Malen
treasurer@colfaxpto.org

VP Volunteer Coordinator: Tiffany Stuckey
volunteers@colfaxpto.org

Secretary: Maribeth Hagley
secretary@colfaxpto.org

Faculty Rep: TBD

Middle Level Teacher Rep: Raffaella Greco
rgreco1@pghboe.net

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Jeanine Weiss

Designer: Mary Dorfner Hay

Editorial Board: PTO Executive Board

Colfax PTO Site: www.colfaxpto.org

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pghcolfax

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 5
CARNIVAL

JUNE 7
8TH GRADE PROMOTION

JUNE 8
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

AUGUST 24
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
FOR GRADES 1 - 8

AUGUST 29
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
FOR KINDERGARTEN



Girls on the Run
VIP Day

PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Dear Colfax Families,

This has been a fast and exciting school year! One that included many new district initiatives, curriculum changes, and the half days in which district-wide professional development took place. We appreciate the patience and support given as we were learning and implementing the new changes to meet the needs of students and staff. The foundation of those initiatives has been established and the understanding of how they align will be demonstrated in the upcoming school year. We look forward to seeing the positive effects that it will have on our students!

As many of you know, administrators spend most of the summer months planning for the upcoming school year. Interviews, scheduling, ordering, finalization of class lists, and building facilities projects are in full swing during this period. Feedback from parents, students, and staff are taken into consideration during the planning as we sincerely strive to do what's best for our kids. Finalized plans regarding class lists, schedules, and facilities updates will be mailed throughout the summer. However, if you have additional questions please feel free to contact me.

In our final newsletter every year, I encourage you all to incorporate reading, writing, science, and math into your child's regular summer activities. This year, I would also like to suggest introducing Mindfulness exercises to your entire family. Mindfulness is "Paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and nonjudgmentally. Bringing one's complete attention to the present experience on a moment-to-moment basis." The physical and mental benefits of mindfulness could include:

- reduced stress, anxiety, and depression
- less negative thinking and distraction
- improved mood

We could all benefit from taking purposeful instances throughout the day to turn off distractions and to be fully engaged "in the moment." I hope you all enjoy a safe, relaxed, and exciting summer break with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you in August!

Best,
Dr. Woods Principal



VIP Day, Kindergarten-First Concert

2018 BOYS COBRA

Submitted by Coach Lydon



Talented, relentless, skilled, team-players: These are all words that can describe this year's very special boys' soccer team.

Only once before, and now once more, has our boys' soccer team gone the whole season undefeated. Not an easy feat!

They can be so proud, as I am of them, of the hard work and the accomplishments they have had so far as we head into the playoffs. This was a team that lost 14 players from last year, and who have come together so well to play as a team; improving as a team each game.

Each player has their own talents and strengths, and when they pull those strengths together, it is fun

to watch. This team has not only shown such character and grace when playing a game that was seemingly in hand, but has also demonstrated toughness and grit when playing a game that could go either way in a second.

I love watching how a player can trust the players behind them knowing they will be there if they need them. Making a mistake is not so risky knowing someone will be there to help you up again.

The playoffs were a tough and huge challenge, going into overtime with a tied score, and unfortunately, losing after a shootout. No matter to us though! We had a great season and they are all champions in my book! Way to go Cobras!

SOCCER TEAM



Do what you love the most at JCC Specialty Camps



**JCC
PGH**

June 11-August 17 • Sports • All about Drones • Nature • Technology • Community Service
For information: Lewis Sohinki • 412-697-3537 • lsohinki@jccpgh.org
To register: Katie Whitlatch • 412-697-3540 • kwhitlatch@jccpgh.org

GIRLS' SOCCER 2018 SEASON UPDATE

Submitted by Naomi Segel, team goalie



The season began with tryouts. Luckily, a perfect number of girls showed up for tryouts. Four sixth-graders, ten seventh-graders, and three eighth-graders. We had very diverse team. Everybody on the team makes a difference whether scoring the goals, keeping people from shooting goals, or saving goals.

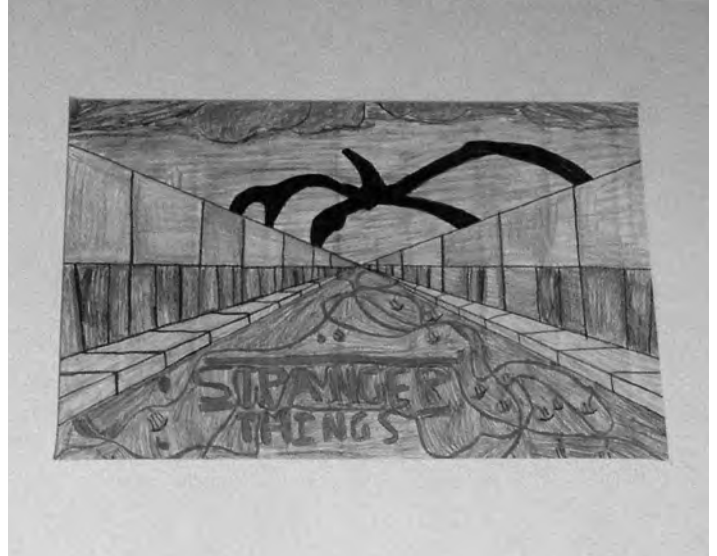
Our team hasn't let in a goal all season, and we are the top of our division. With a schedule of playing eight games in the regular season, we were in for lots of fun. Unfortunately, of the eight teams, three of them either didn't have a team, or forfeited. With the season being shorter than expected, it was very important for us to not lose a game. With a team that works together so well, this was not a problem. We were undefeated heading into the playoffs, and congratulate CAPA on winning the championship. It was a great season! GO COBRAS!





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CITY ART SHOW PARTICIPANTS AND WINNERS!

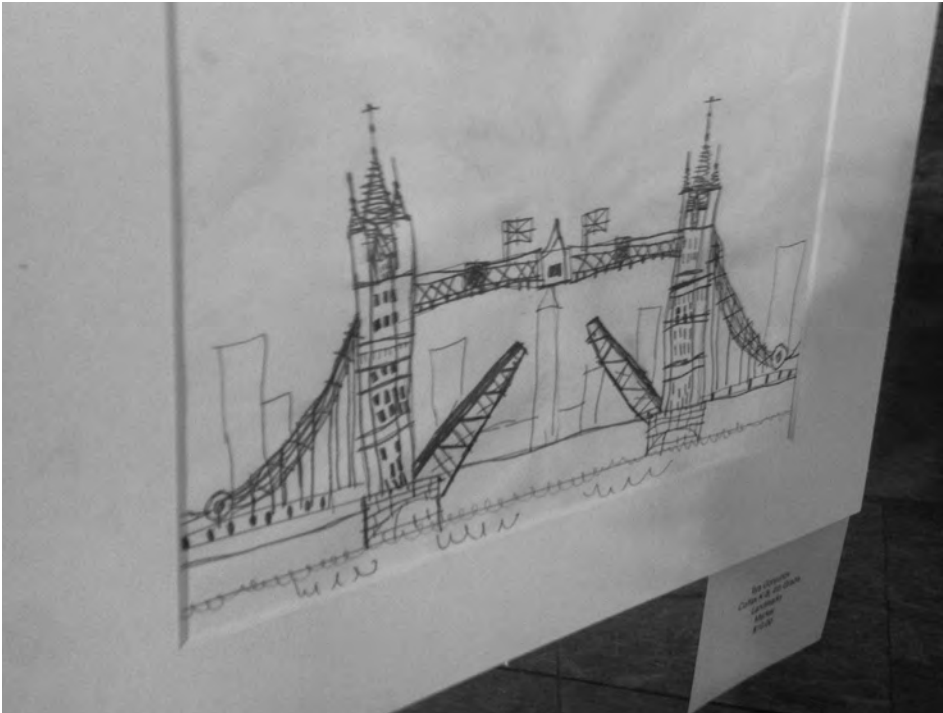
Submitted by Katelyn Kaye



Elia Gonzalez
Curtis K-4, 7th Grade
Painting of the Ocean



Zoe Oberma-Bridges
Curtis K-4, 7th Grade
Paint the Koi Fish
Watercolor
8th, 10



Congratulations to Zoe Obenza-Bridges in 7th grade for winning 1 of 4 Juror's Awards for all 6th to 8th students!



Other participants included:

Ilya Goryunov

4th Grade

Sierra Cruz

4th Grade

Adrianna Buenaposada

4th Grade

Brooklyn Campisi

4th Grade

Annabel Tew

5th Grade

Reiley Donley

6th Grade

Donise Griffin

8th Grade

Eliza Gonzales

7th Grade

Zoe Obenza-Bridges

7th Grade

“IF YOU’RE NOT FROM...” PROJECT

Submitted by Erin Dulak

PSSA's are over! As a result, we decided to go outside for a breath of fresh air! We worked on a creative writing project called, “If you’re not from...” This was very enjoyable for all of the students, because they could write about practically anything they wanted. I encouraged the students to think outside of the box. They came up with some great topics. Some decided to write about their current or past residence, others chose a sport (ie. The Soccer Life), and everyone at least wrote one verse that pertained to ELA or their homeroom. I wanted to share a few pictures and examples from our beautiful outside adventure.



NATHAN

If you're not from Room 204,
You don't know the love,
You can't know the love.

The love Mrs. Dulak gives us,
The love spreads across the classroom.
The love in people's hearts,
The love on the walls.

If you're not from Room 204,
You don't know the love.

ZAHRA

If you're not from Room 204,
You don't know our friendship,
You can't know our family.

We are family forever,
We go through ups and downs.
Through our loopy-loops and swirly-swirls,
We are family and nothing can change that.

If you're not from 204,
You don't know friendship.





TALIA/HANNAH

If you're not from Squirrel Hill,
You don't know Murray,
You can't know Forbes.

It is such a great community,
There are endless amounts of people.
With dogs all around,
Everyone comes together to have fun.

If you're not from Squirrel Hill,
You don't know Murray.

MRS. DULAK

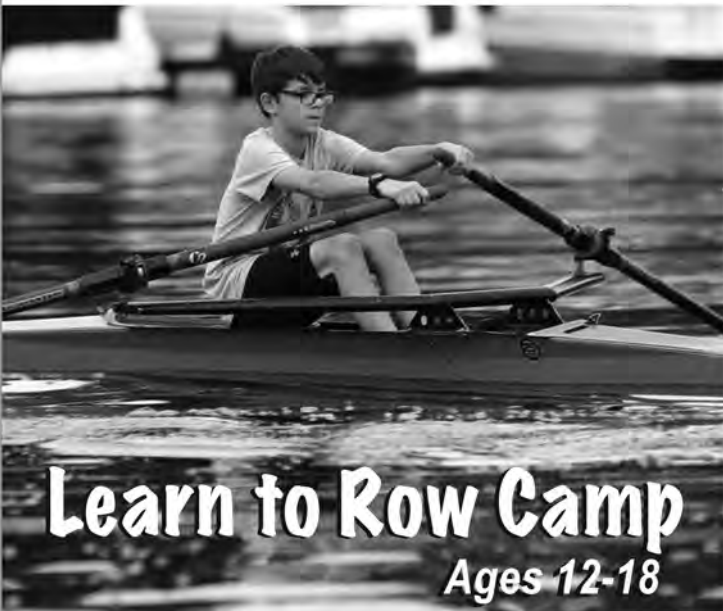
If you're not from Mrs. Dulak's ELA class,
You don't know our family,
You can't know our family.

We have laughed and cried together,
We are here for each other no matter the
weather.

We always know Mama Bear always has
our backs,
A student in ELA is a child of Mrs. Dulak's.

If you're not from Mrs. Dulak's ELA class,
You don't know our family.

The best days of summer!



Learn to Row Camp
Ages 12-18



**Wildlife River
Camp** Ages 8-11

steelcityrowing.org/summercamps

CHALLENGE 24 COMPETITIONS

Submitted by Tracy Tuchin and Mark Cohen

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this year's Challenge 24 competitions, showing that our Cobras have the mental muscle to work through even the toughest of challenges!

At the elementary competition, three fourth graders and three fifth graders participated.

Representing fourth grade were: Kofi Opoku Dakwa, Adriana Buenaposada, and Zeki Polat. Kofi won first place; Adriana won

fourth place and Zeki placed in top 12.

Representing fifth grade were: Ekow Opoku Dakwa, Amelia Carroll, and Nicole Kang.

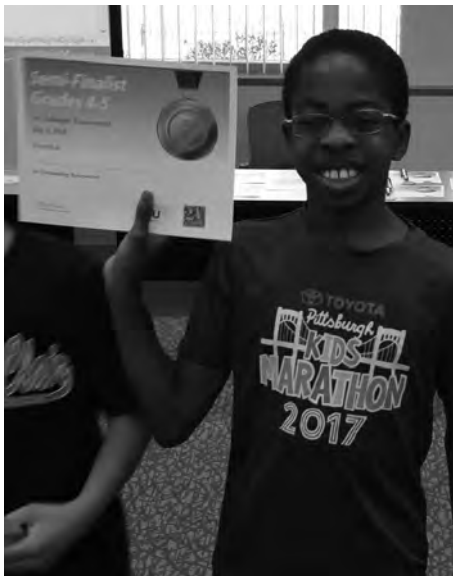
Ekow won first place; Nicole placed in top 12.

Ekow also qualified for and participated in the Western Pennsylvania tournament finishing in second place. Had there been a state tournament scheduled this year, he would have qualified for that as well!

Six students participated in the

middle-level competition: Alejandra Buenaposada, Antonia Allen, Haruka Doi, Lizzy Sindhi, Yuna Nakamura and Becky Zhou.

All six advanced to the semi-finals! Alejandra, Haruka, and Lizzy then advanced to the final round. In 7th grade, Haruka took third place and Alejandra took fourth; Lizzy earned second place for eight graders. Our 7th grade team did really well as they battled with other schools in the room. Way to Go!



ELEMENTARY UPDATE

Submitted by Valentina Krauss, K-5 Representative

Springtime might just be the busiest time of year for kids in elementary school. April brought PSSAs, and for the students who worked so hard on them, special rewards like classroom parties and trips to Blue Slide Park. Students in K-2 did not take PSSAs, but had their own challenging assignment—keeping quiet while the older students were testing.

As the countdown to summer began, there were end of the year field trips, and positive behavior incentives. There was another awesome movie night, the middle level musical, band and choir concerts. The playground was again full of happy sounds at recess. Students cashed out their Cobra Stamps at the last Cobra Store of the year. Teacher Appreciation Week brought opportunities to thank the wonderful teachers and staff that make our school so special!



WRESTLING SEASON WRAP-UP AND OPEN MAT INFORMATION

Submitted by Mr. Schmiedlin

Congratulations to the 2018 Colfax wrestling team on a great season!

Leading the way for the Cobras was champion Fernando Vielma (80 lbs) and 2nd place finishers Devon Johnson (90 lbs), Jacob Goldberg (95 lbs), Marcus Wahila (105 lbs), Diego Portela-Velez (110 lbs) and Dutch Mulder (210 lbs). All wrestlers wrestled worked hard this season and should be proud of their accomplishments.

In addition to the Colfax season, any current or future wrestlers (grades 3-8) are welcome to take part in the open mat practices that will be held at Allderdice this summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 pm. More information regarding summer wrestling opportunities will be sent out later.





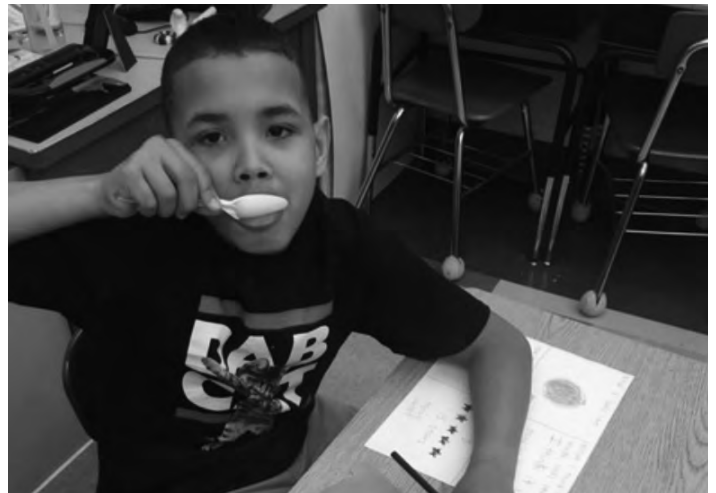
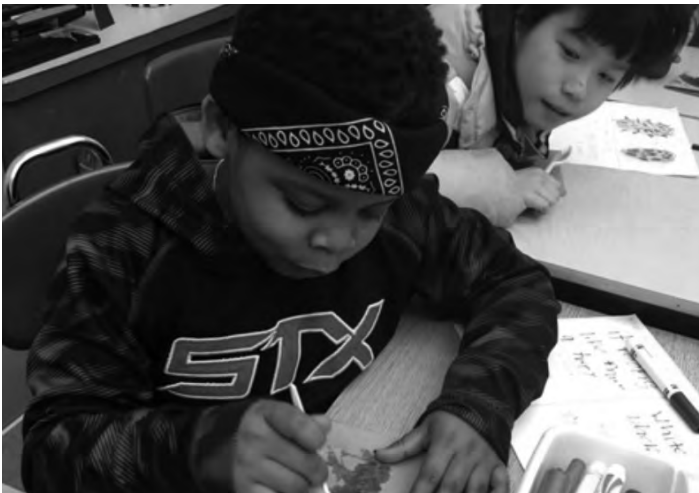
ADVENTURES IN DRAGON FRUIT

Submitted by Brittany McCann

Miss McCann's 4th and 5th grade students were reading a story about dragon fruit. Many of them were not sure what a dragon fruit was, so we brainstormed some possible ideas. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a dragon fruit was a fruit made just for dragons? Miss McCann promised that the next day, she would bring in a dragon fruit for the class to taste. However, if you know Miss McCann, we couldn't just taste the dragon fruit for fun—she turned it into a learning activity.

First students passed around the dragon fruit and drew their observations. Students remembered in their reading that you do not eat the skin of a dragon fruit, so they wrote that down on their paper. The most common words they used to describe the outside of a dragon fruit were bumpy, rough, red, and green. Then, students had to make

a prediction about what the dragon fruit would look like on the inside. The student answers were varied, but one student ate dragon fruit at home and said it was white with black spots. He was so convincing, many students changed their predictions. Now, when it was time to cut it open, we also made it into a division problem to find out how many equal parts we needed so everyone got to try the fruit. The look of anticipation on their faces was delightful, for when we cut it open—our dragon fruit was a deep magenta color with black spots. Even Miss McCann was surprised, but then she found out that she bought red dragon fruit! The students cheered with glee and were eager to fill in the third box on their template—what the dragon fruit tasted like. All students gave the dragon fruit five stars and said they would definitely try it again!





Hit the Road with us at Noar/Bogrim Travel Camp



**JCC
PGH**

WHAT A SHOW! THE COLFAX SPRING MUSICAL TAKES THE STAGE WITH "THE ARISTOCATS"





Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of this year's middle-level spring musical on your outstanding performances!



From set design and costumes, sound and lighting, to singing, choreography, and acting—all your hard work and dedication shined through!



Each member of the musical, in both the cast and the stage crew, spent countless hours after school and during their lunch periods, working on developing a truly student-created performance. Each of your talents were highlighted and your passion for creating a quality show was demonstrated. Thank you for delighting the audience with a great show!

Thank you also to the director, Candace Purdue, and to Ms. Mitchell, both of whom worked tirelessly with the students to make this year's musical come to life. Your dedication to these students is immeasurably appreciated!





Put on a Show at JCC Performing Arts Camp



**JCC
PGH**

Grades 4-10 • June 18-July 13
For information: Kathy Wayne • 412-412-339-5414 • kwayne@jccpgh.org
To register: Katie Whitlatch • 412-697-3540 • kwhitlatch@jccpgh.org

Annie Jr.
Our 2018 show

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Submitted by Rachel Short, CRNP



Tree Pittsburgh Planting

Greetings from the nurse office! We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer. Enjoy all the wonderful outdoor places in our beautiful city. Remember to protect yourself from the sun, mosquitoes and ticks. To get ready for next school year, kindergarteners, 6th graders and 9th graders need to submit a copy of their most recent well-child. All 7th graders need to be vaccinated against meningitis, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

Have the best summer ever at J&R Day Camp



**JCC
PGH**

June 18-August 17 • Age 3-Grade 5 • Register by the week
For information: Lewis Sohinki • 412-697-3537 • lsohinki@jccpgh.org
To register: Katie Whitlatch • 412-697-3540 • kwhitlatch@jccpgh.org

SECOND GRADE FIELD TRIP TO HEINZ HALL

Submitted by Alyce Edwards

The entire second grade had a fantastic field trip to Heinz Hall to hear and see the world class, Grammy Award winning Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra on May 4th, 2018. These students spent a lot of time learning about the families of instruments of the orchestra in music class. It was a wonderful trip and the second-grade classes were well-behaved and respectful.

I would like to give a big shout-out to all of the second grade teachers, Mrs. Grujich, Mrs. Hricik, Mrs. Juhas, Mrs. King and Mrs. Phillips for all of their help in preparing for the trip, to the PPS Fine Arts Department for coordinating the field trip along with the amazing staff at Heinz Hall and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, to our Colfax administration for approving this educational trip and keeping the arts a priority in our schools and to the fantastic cafeteria staff for preparing our lunches for when we returned.

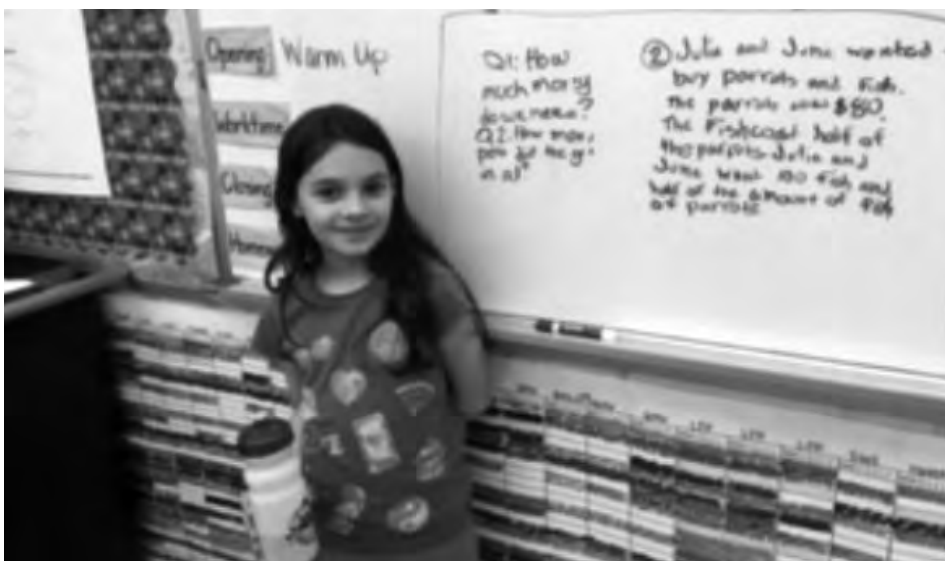
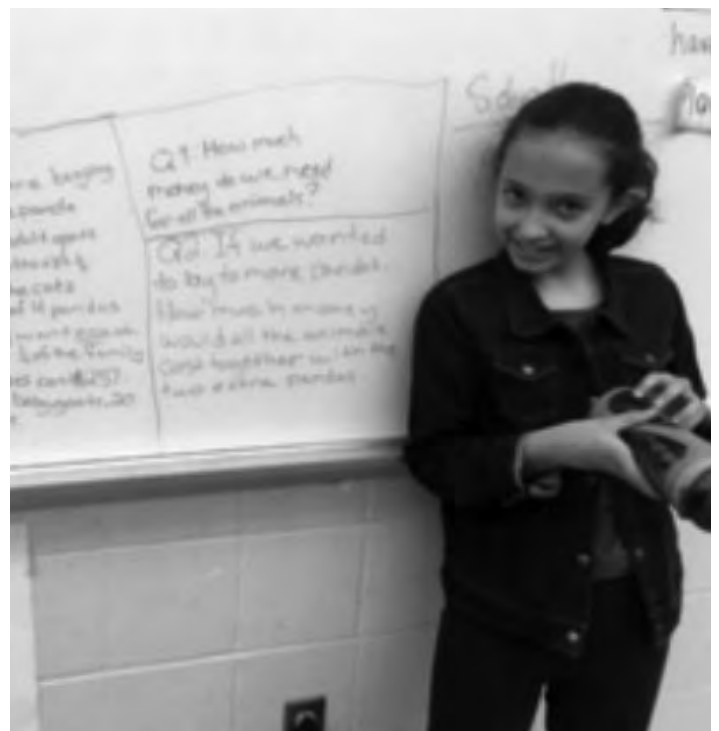
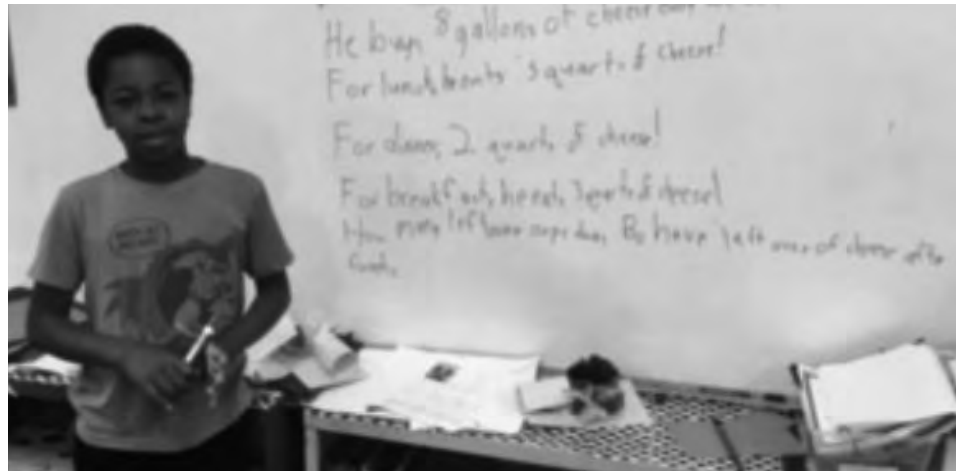


PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
**BUILDING PRIDE/
BUILDING CHARACTER
TOUR (EITC PROGRAM)**





STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN MATH PROBLEMS



2018 CHESS CHAMPIONS



6520 Wilkins Ave • Squirrel Hill • 15217 • (412) 521-BAKE

Tuesday-Friday 7am-6pm / Saturday 8am-5pm / Sunday 8am-2pm



5843 Forbes Ave
Squirrel Hill
sunburstmusic.com
(412) 475-8280



**FREE
FIRST
LESSON**

LIBRARY UPDATES

Submitted by Sheila Reed



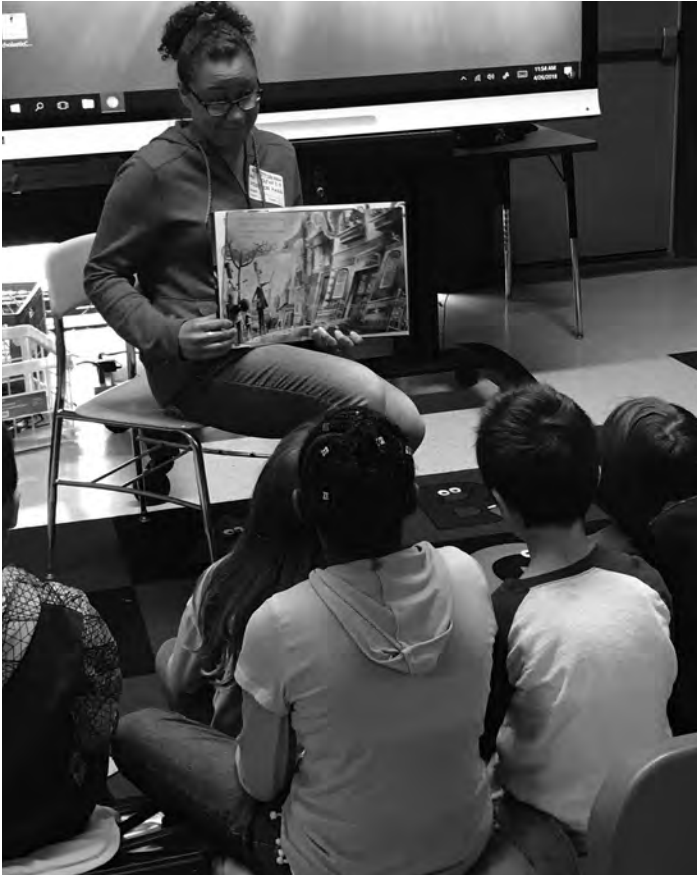
A big thank you to our BLAST (Bringing Libraries and Schools Together) School Outreach mentor Zia Meyer. She visited Colfax throughout the year supporting our library program.

BLAST supports educators working with young children by visiting classrooms to offer interactive, literacy-enriched activities that nurture reading interest and development, supplement classroom lessons and provide equitable access to public library resources. BLAST helps educators enrich the elementary school classroom experience.



AUTHOR VISIT

Shana Selway, author of *TickTock Banneker*, visited Colfax and read stories from newly released books. She says, "I love coming to Colfax to spend time with the students"! Thank you for visiting and we will see you next year!



JUNE 1 - 8

Our students enjoy this time to freely choose 1 or 2 books of their choice for summer reading. Please think of the library as you do your spring cleaning. We will accept books that are in good condition. Please drop off in the library.

BOYS RUN THE 5K DRAGON RUN



TRACK UPDATE

Submitted by Coach Lydon

Congratulations to the fourth and fifth grade boys track team for winning the city championship!!! Well done! Congrats as well to the girls team for finishing in second place overall! An amazing season for all!





**What more
do you want
from your house?**

Improve comfort and
efficiency. Create more
living space.



Older houses
our specialty

Consulting and
Remodeling

ajstones.com
412-241-6042



Karen Kendall
Owner



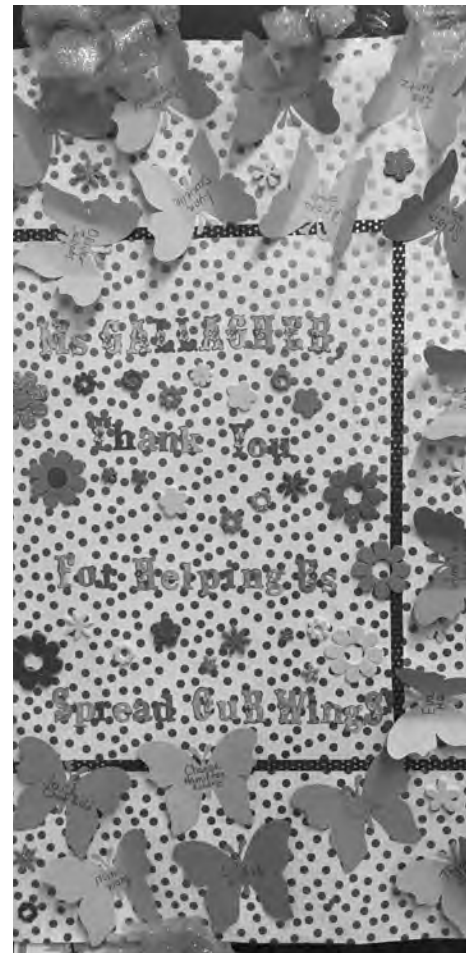
☎ 412.445.7047

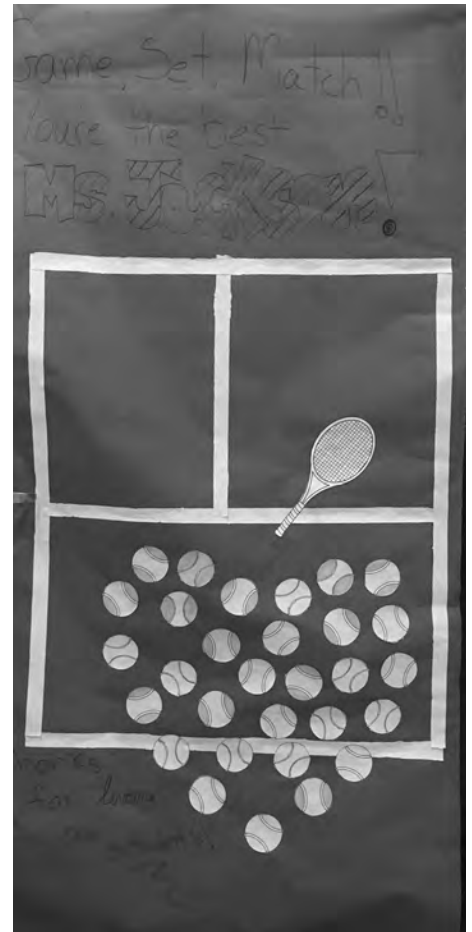
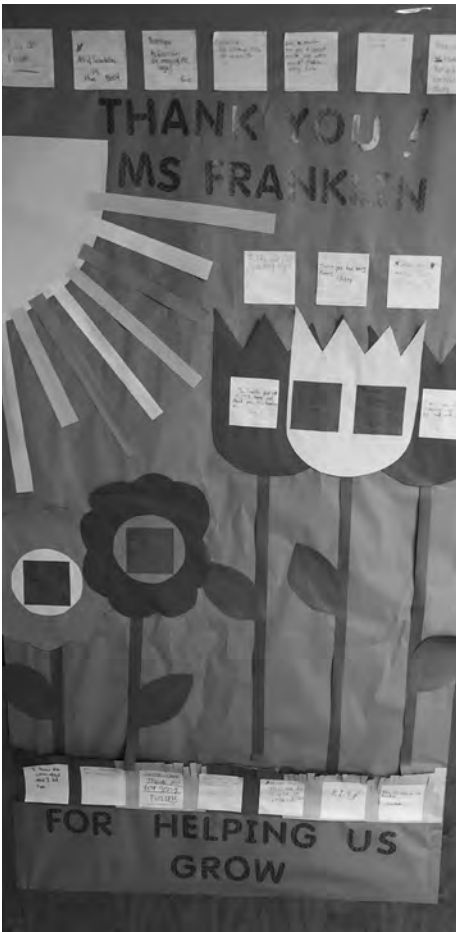
✉ EastEndTechConcierge@Gmail.com

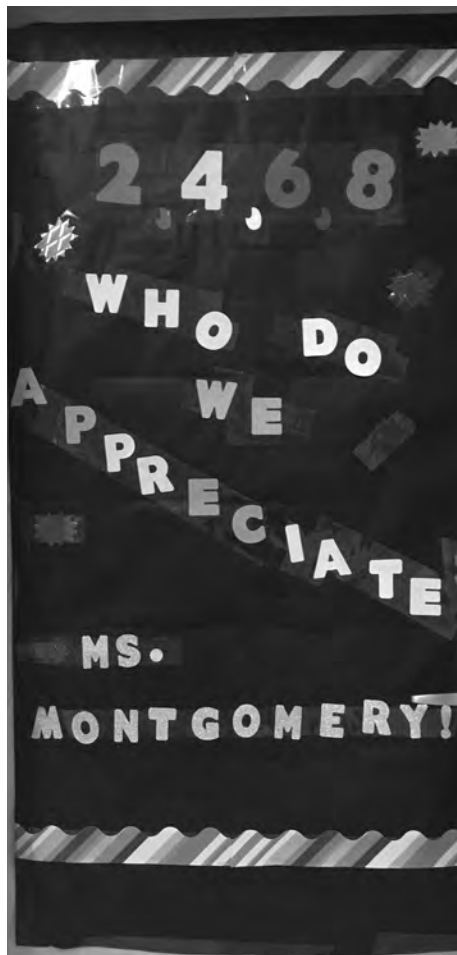
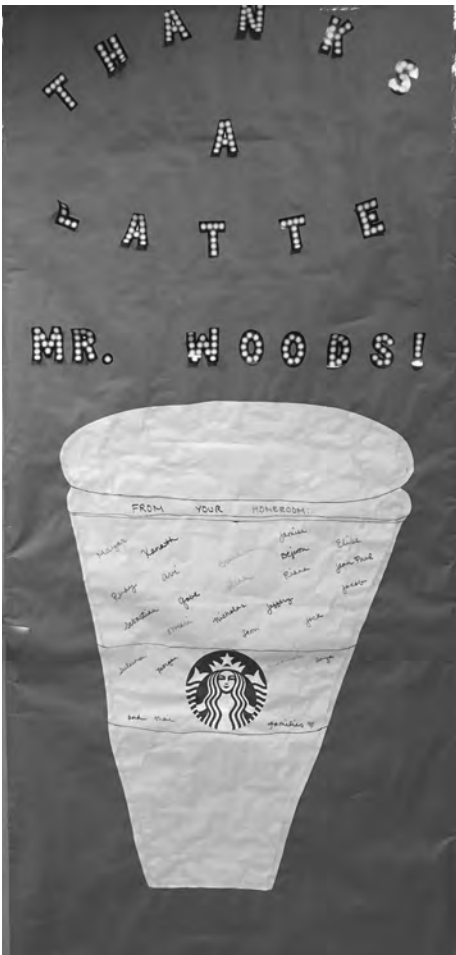
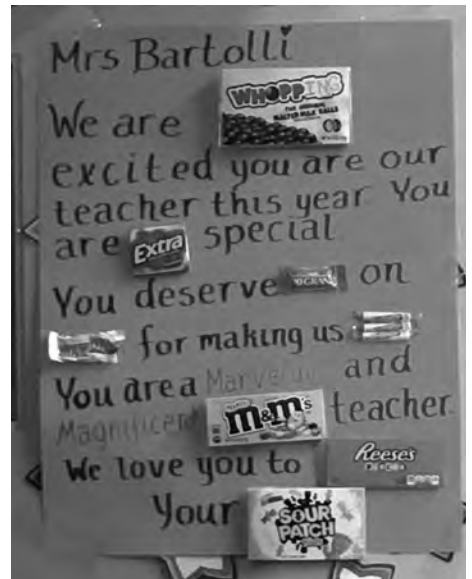
f /EastEndTechConcierge

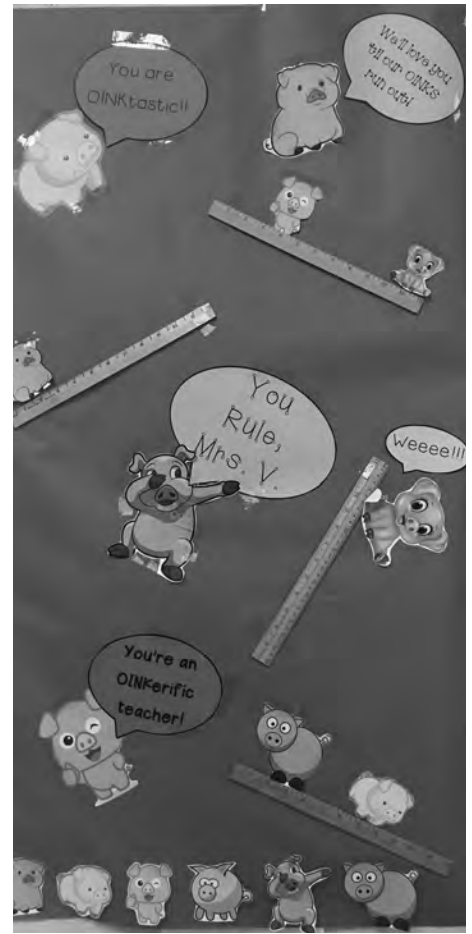
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

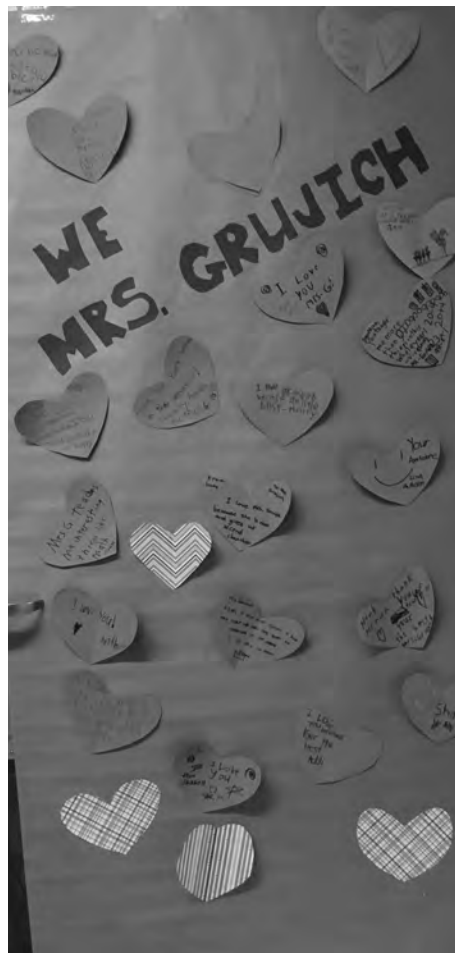
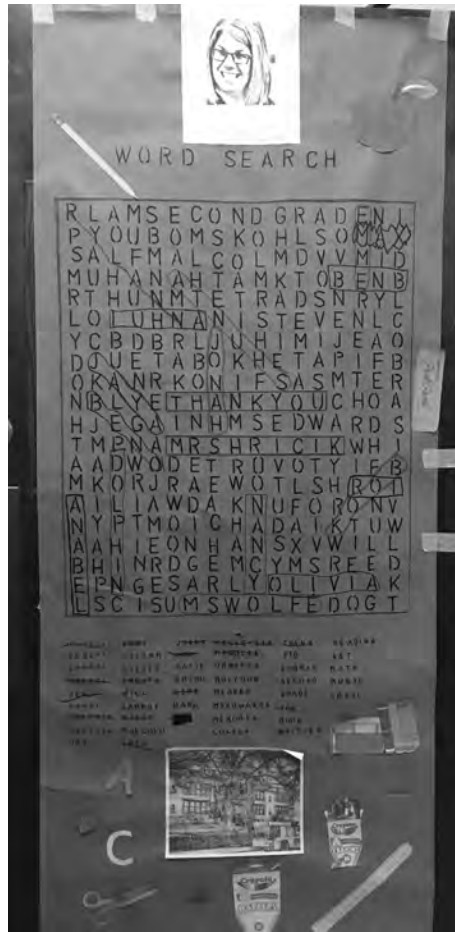
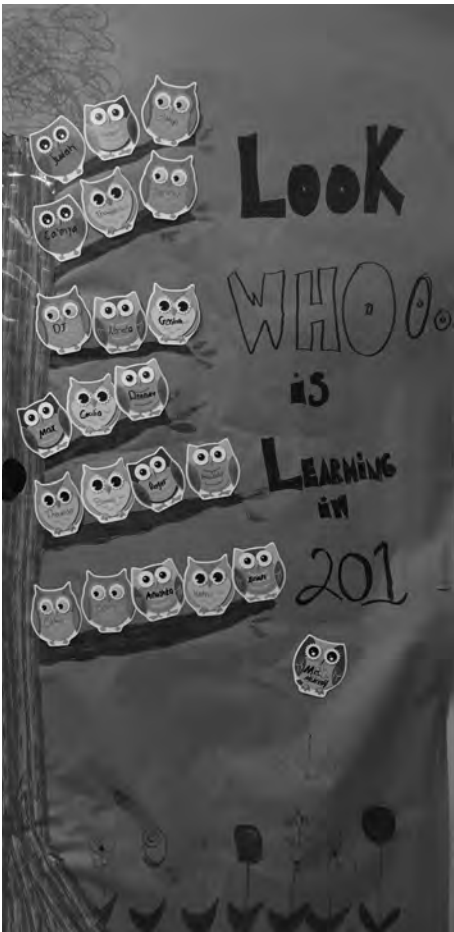
Teacher Appreciation Week was May 7th through 11th. Each year the Colfax Parents work together to make this week special for teachers to show them how much they are loved and appreciated. Volunteers decorated the doors as well as purchased gifts to be sure teachers were showered with notes and small tokens of appreciation all week long.

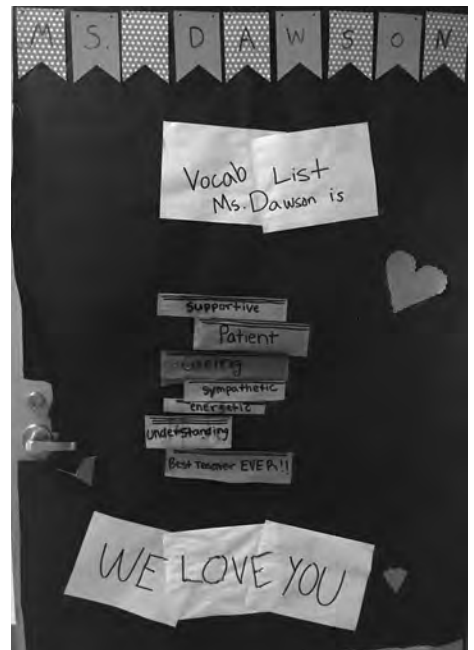
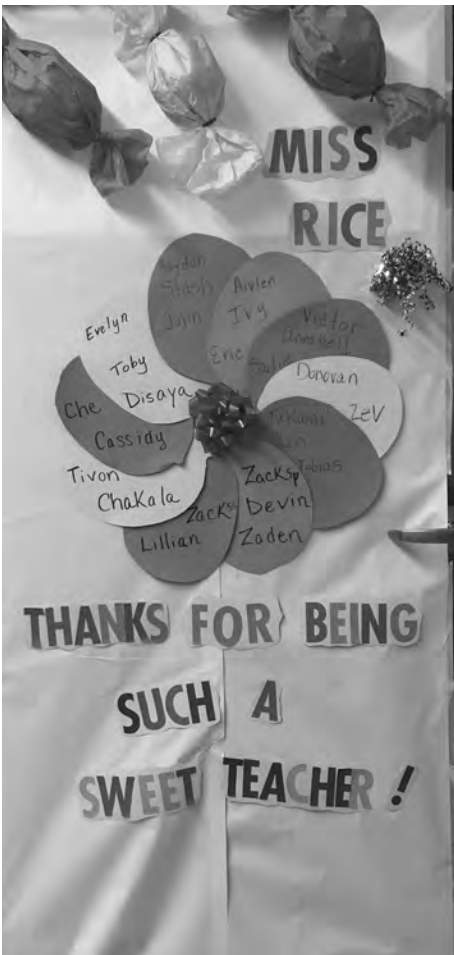








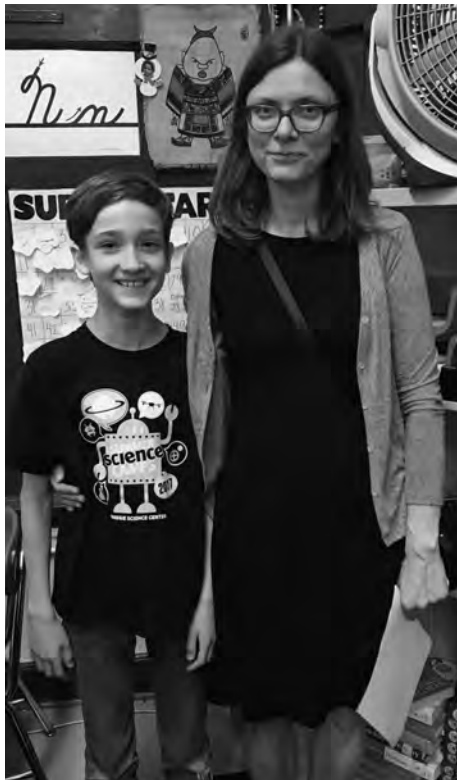


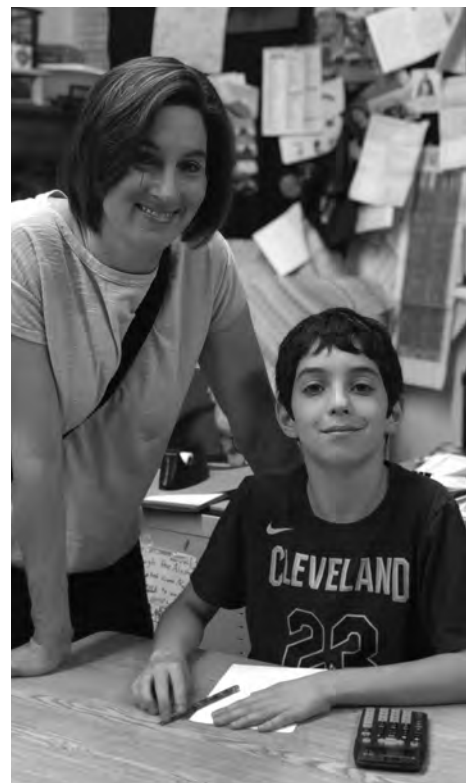
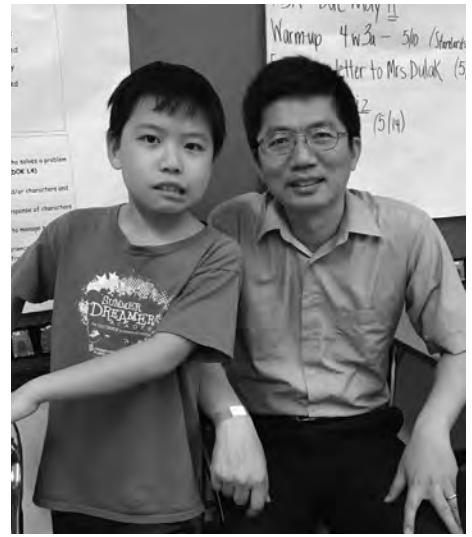


VIP DAY











we support Colfax Elementary



Jim **SHORKEY**
AUTO GROUP

WHAT A GREAT DAY!

Our Locations

Jim Shorkey Kia
12900 Route 30
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
PH: 724-515-1000

Jim Shorkey Mitsubishi
13339 Route 30
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
PH: 724-863-0600

Jim Shorkey CDJR
13230 Route 30
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
PH: 412-872-2400

Jim Shorkey Ford
1234 Long Run Road
White Oak, PA 15131
PH: 412-751-2130

**Jim Shorkey Mitsu.
Uniontown**
1048 Pittsburgh Road
Uniontown, PA 15401
PH: 724-415-3111

**Jim Shorkey Kia
Uniontown**
1050 Pittsburgh Road
Uniontown, PA 15401
PH: 724-415-3210

Jim Shorkey North Hills
7670 McKnight Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
PH: 412-367-7200

**Jim Shorkey
Commercial**
185 Colonial Manor Rd.
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
PH: 724-382-3366

www.JimShorkey.com



CHRYSLER

DODGE

Jeep



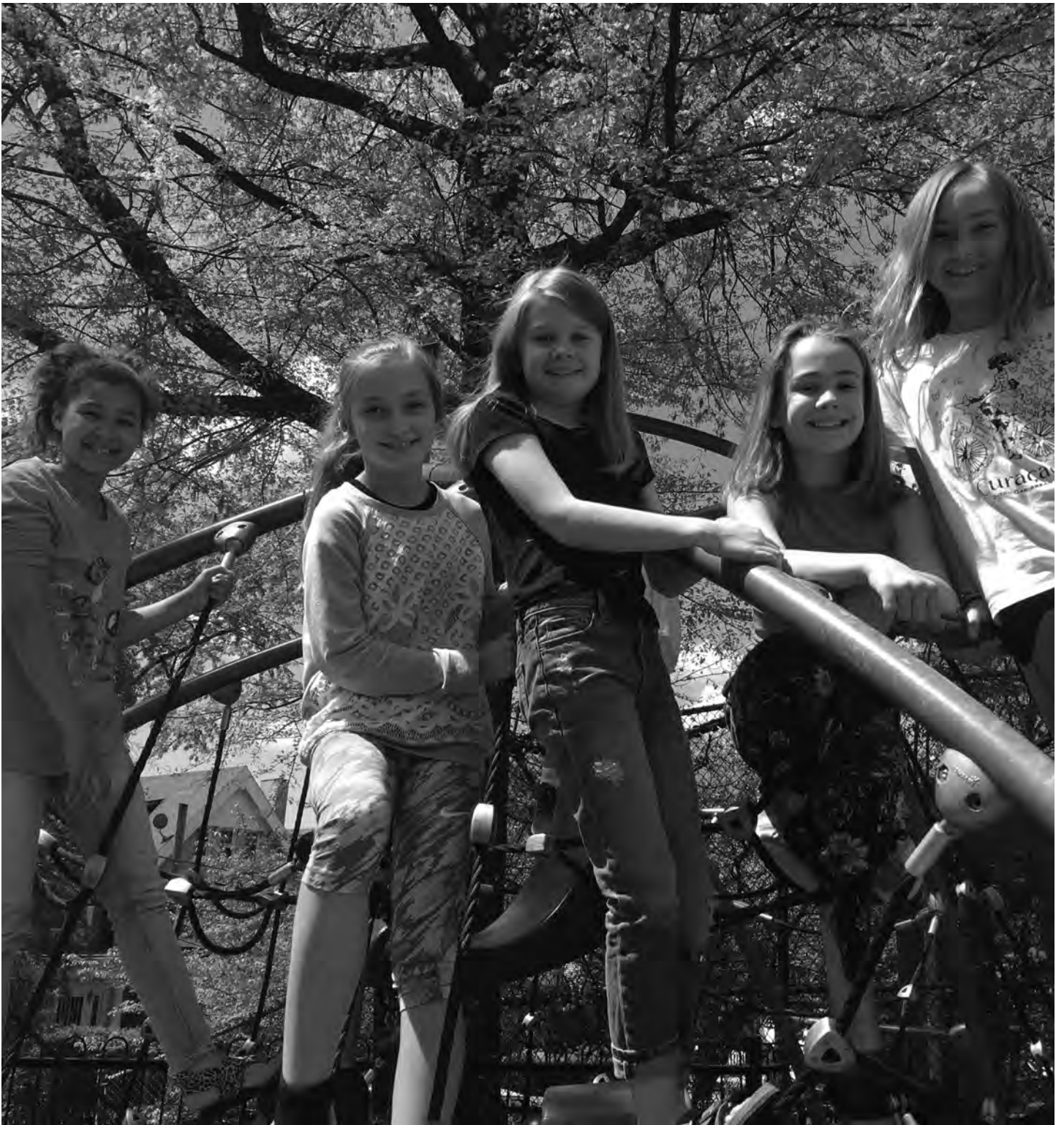
RAM



MITSUBISHI

KIA





HAPPY SUMMER

from the Pittsburgh Colfax PTO