

# COLFAX

# COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO



P 8-10  
MO'LE  
TRIBUTE

P 26-27  
COLFAX  
SPORTS

P 29  
SHAKESPEARE  
CONTEST

P 30  
BATTLE OF  
THE BOOKS



## IMPORTANT DATES

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### APRIL 3-7

PSSA ELA Testing Gr 3-8

### APRIL 10-14

No School/ Spring Break

### APRIL 19

PSCC/PTO Meeting

### APRIL 24-28

PSSA Math Testing Gr 3-8

### APRIL TBA

Plant Sale

### MAY 1-5

PSSA Science Testing Gr 4 & 8/  
Teacher Appreciation Week

### MAY 10

PSCC/PTO Meeting

### MAY 12-14

Middle Level Musical: Madagascar

### MAY 19

VIP Day

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

**Dear Colfax families and friends:**

There are just over 50 days left in the academic year. The fourth quarter of the grading cycle begins on March 30. Teachers will kick off annual testing in a few weeks. Though bittersweet, I am forced to acknowledge that the school year is winding to a close.

Luckily, there's still so much going on with the Colfax PTO! Be a part of your school and your community by donating to or volunteering with the PTO today. Enclosed, you will find many ways in which to be involved. I encourage you to contact me or any PTO Board member for more information.

Before describing some of the great events and activities that the PTO will support this spring, I want to take a moment and say "thank you" to the parents, teachers, family members and friends of Colfax who assisted with planning our 11th Party 4 Play, held on February 25, 2017, at the Edgewood Club. As many of you know, this annual event brings in more than half of the PTO's operating budget. We rely on funds raised at Party 4 Play to pay for field trips, the school garden project, lunchtime chess classes, the spring musical (I hope to see you there!), school technology, and so much more. This year, Party 4 Play Chair Chelsa Wagner, along with more than 20 volunteer committee members, organized a fantastic party! Thank you for your outstanding work.

At the end of March, once again, the talents of Colfax will be on full display at our school Talent Show. Join us on March 31 and prepare to be amazed by the countless skills and talents of our students . . . But wait, there's more! Save the date for the Middle Level Spring Musical - Madagascar Jr. Performances will be held on Friday, May 12, Saturday, May 13, and Sunday, May 14. The Talent Show and Spring Musical are yet more noteworthy examples of PTO-funded events.

I encourage you to consider being a part of the organizing committee for Colfax's Carnival, to be held on Tuesday, June 6. This community-wide event is fun for the whole family. Come enjoy games, bounce houses, food tables and more. As a special treat, our international families spend hours putting together tents reflecting the various countries represented at Colfax. Highlighting our strong community and its diversity is a perfect way to end the year. Contact VP Special Events if you are available to help with planning Carnival or, specifically, organizing the "international tents."

Lastly, I want to let you know that, per our Bylaws, the PTO will be holding its annual board elections in April and May 2017. The PTO President is selected in April and the remaining board members are selected in May. You can find a copy of the Bylaws on the PTO's website at [www.colfaxpto.org](http://www.colfaxpto.org). If you have any questions, please contact me at Julie Wilson, [president@colfaxpto.org](mailto:president@colfaxpto.org).

I look forward to seeing you.

**Julie Wilson, President**



# PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Dear Colfax Families,

I hope this edition of the Communicator finds you and your family doing well. The winter weather has been more than fair to us this season. We are all hoping that the month of March graces us with higher than normal temperatures that we have been experiencing thus far. The 2016-2017 school year appears to be speeding by at a lightening pace. Administration and staff are already into planning mode for PSSA testing, 8th grade promotion, end of the year field trips, and of course scheduling for the 2017-2018 school year.

Our specific PSSA testing schedule will be as follow:

**APR 3 - APR 7 ELA 3RD-8TH**

**APR 24 - APR 28 MATH 3RD -8TH**

**MAY 1 - MAY 5 SCIENCE 4TH, 8TH**

More specific information will be shared as we get closer to the testing dates. In an effort to minimize the number of make-ups days due to tardies and attendance we are planning a party for grades 3-5 and a field trip incentive for grades 6-8. Attendance, punctuality, effort, and behavior during the testing period will be emphasized. Students who meet these criteria will be invited to the party and field trip planned. The ultimate goal that we have for all of our students is that they be present during all of the assessment days and to do their best!

If you missed this year's Party4Play... you missed out on an evening of food, fellowship, and fun! Attendees had the opportunity to bid on live and silent auctions, gift baskets, and amazing raffle prizes all while raising money for our students and programs at Colfax. The staff at Colfax would like to thank each and every parent, community member, and sponsor who contributed to this year's event. Without the active roles that our families consistently play in our school and the generosity of sponsorship, many of the programs that enrich the education of our students would not be possible.

In closing, I would like to extend heartfelt warm wishes to our music teacher Mrs. Moule on her upcoming retirement. Someone once said "There is music in every child. The teacher's job is to find it and nurture it." Thank you Mrs. Moule, for planting the seed and nurturing a love for music in the students at Colfax.

Best wishes for a successful end to the 2016-2017 school year!

Yours in Education,

**Dr. Sanders-Woods**

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ColfaxPghPTO

# LIBRARY UPDATE (Ms. Reed)

## INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR SHANA KELLER 2/14/17

Black History Month is where we highlight achievements of people of color. Shana Keller, author of **TICKTOCK BANNEKER'S CLOCK** visited Colfax for two days, February 14th & 16th, sharing her incredible picture book. The students learned about Banneker's invention and how they might invent something in the future. Sharing her book awakens the creativity and curiosity of our students, which will last a lifetime. We thank her for taking the time to visit with us and look forward to her future works.

### 1. What was your inspiration for **TICKTOCK BANNEKER?**

My inspiration stemmed from Colfax when my daughter attended here some years ago. She was in Mrs. Conroy's 1st grade class. I saw the name Benjamin Banneker and was curious. I took an AFAM class in college and never came across his name. Surprisingly, after my research I found out that he was a landowner and he was born free, which entitled him to go to a Quaker school. His farm is located outside of Baltimore, Maryland.

### 2. What makes your book different from other books on Benjamin Banneker?

I focus on a specific achievement and one of his earliest inventions. He was an astronomer, scientist and also wrote an almanac. He actually saved Washington D.C. due to being part of the team that surveyed the land for the layout

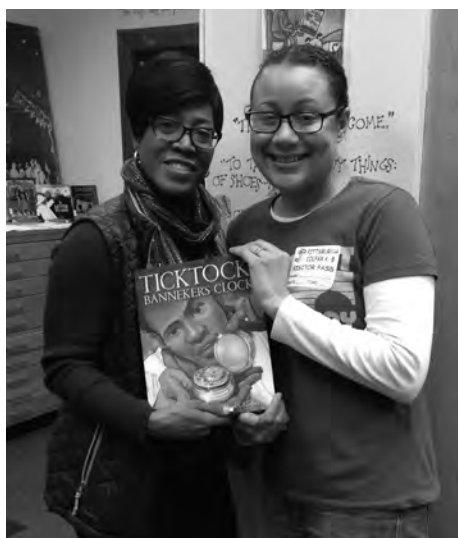
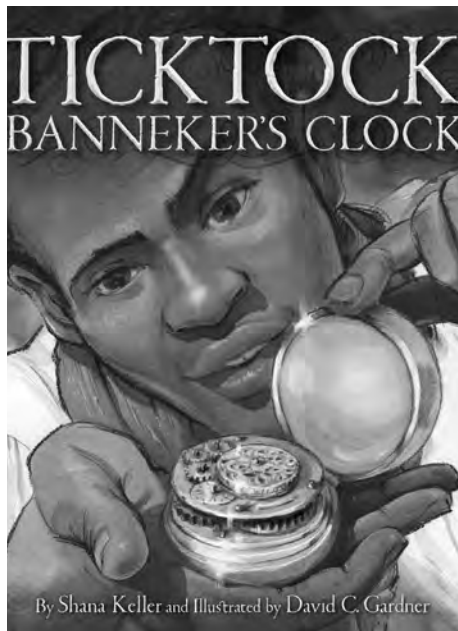
of the Capitol.

### 3. How do you feel your book has changed children's literature?

I believe my book has touched the hearts of children by seeing he is a person of color who was free. The book gives a different perspective on history. It also encourages young inventors to be curious.

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- The book took two years from research to print. The publisher found the illustrator, who has also worked on many Disney projects.
- The STEM applications are incredible. Detailing the step by step instructions and how students can apply it to their own lives is truly priceless.





# NEW FACES AT COLFAX

2nd Grade (Ms. Casey Weiss)

I dive into Colfax with a desire to help my students develop their own skills and interests. I graduated from Chatham with a focus on African-American history and then went on to earn Masters degrees in Food Studies (Chatham) and Early Childhood Education (Carlow). I taught preschool at the Jewish Community Center. Prior to Colfax, I have taught and student taught at Pittsburgh Allegheny, Pittsburgh Montessori, and the Environmental Charter School. Through these varied experiences, I have learned that all kids have a passion to learn and that my task is to let that passion take flight.

I bring several of my own passions into the classroom, not least of which is asking the children to get their hands dirty as they prepare a healthy smoothie or veggie dip (stop down on Fridays to see the cooking unfold). My summers are spent running the sustainable garden and chicken coop at the James and Rachel Levinson Day Camp. These activities allow me to combine my vocation with my avocation.

I have spent extensive time in Israel where I aided in the resettlement of Ethiopian Jews, managed a cow shed on a kibbutz and flipped pizzas among other adventures. I speak fluent Hebrew albeit with a Pittsburgh accent. As a proud fourth generation Squirrel Hill resident, I am, of course, an avid Steeler fan. Don't hesitate to stop me on my runs as I train for my first marathon.

Front Office (Michael Mensah)

You may have noticed a new face in the office recently. Michael Mensah joined the Colfax staff in February to help Pam in her many duties. I am originally from Ghana and have been living in Pittsburgh the last 2 years. In my spare time I enjoy playing soccer and running. Fun Fact: I have a sweetness for chocolate.

## HEALTH AND PE HAPPENINGS FOR SPRING (Mr. Lydon)

March has given us a little taste of spring that allowed some of our classes to actually get into the gym. Hopefully more nice weather will be coming our way. We will continue to talk about the importance of staying fit and maintaining our heart health too. Spring fitness testing will be staring up for the 3rd grade, so get your last minute training in. We will also be starting our track and field and fun dance fitness lessons.

## FACE COORDINATOR (Ms. Balik and Ms. Pozza)

The FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Coordinators are having a busy and exciting year so far. We are currently in the works of helping with Strong Women, Strong Girls, Common Threads, the Talent Show, VIP Day, and attending EFA meetings. It's been such a pleasure working with the Colfax community on so many successful events this year.

With only a few months left in the 2016-2017 school year, we would love to see you at a PSCC meeting! Our past PSCC meetings featured presentations from some strong community partners and offered a lot of information regarding our school curriculum including English Language Arts, Math, Library/Media Center, and Science. We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting before the end of the year!

APRIL 19, 2017 5:30

MAY 10, 2017 5:30



## PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Our Pennies for Patients Drive ended in March and we more than surpassed our goal of \$2017. The hardworking students raised the extraordinary total of \$3768.48! A big congratulations to the students in the Ms. Murry's, Ms. Mlay's, and Ms. Juhas' classrooms for collecting the most donations.

# TAKE NOTE: Happenings from the Music Department



## A Celebration of Culture and Diversity

On February 24th in the Colfax gym, Ms. Moule and the students in grades K-2 presented "A Celebration of Culture and Diversity." The show began at 1:25pm and the audience was a sea of captive friends and families. Each of the 15 classes sang a song from a different country, with lyrics in both English and the country's official language. The program ended with everyone joining in a refrain from the song, "It's a Small World After All." The pride and joy on the faces of the students reflected all their hard work and preparation and made it such a fun afternoon for all in attendance.



# 4TH/5TH GRADE CHORUS CONCERT



(Sivan Earnest, Parent)

On the cold and snowy evening of Tuesday March 14th, the fourth and fifth grade chorus concert took place in the Colfax Gym. Hearts were warmed as the inspiring sound of children's voices brought smiles to the family and friends who gathered in attendance. The song selection was delightful and included the hits, Hot Chocolate, Let There Be Music, and of course, the Colfax school song, Believe, Work, Achieve, written by our very own Victoria Moule!

Between songs children got up to share a "DID YOU KNOW?" about Mrs. Moule, which disclosed fun facts such as...

"DID YOU KNOW?"

-Mrs. Moule worked in a Disney store and played with all the stuffed animals!

-Mrs. Moule killed a rattlesnake and ate it, she has also eaten chocolate covered grasshoppers!

-Mrs. Moule was selected as 1 of 200 teachers to go to Japan, and that is where she tried sushi for the first time!

The night was bittersweet as it was revealed that this would be Mrs. Moule's final concert with Colfax school as she prepares to retire. She encouraged anyone who is participating in a musical event, signing or instrumental, to reach out to her and she will try to attend. As a parent of two Colfax students, I am incredibly sad to see her go. She has enriched our children's lives and worked hard to make sure that our entire school has exposure to the gift of music. Her creativity and passion for music education will be greatly missed by all!



# MRS. MOULE TRIBUTE



MRS. MOULE

WE WILL MISS YOU! MUSIC CLASS WILL NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU. ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!

- MARK, DAVID & TIFFANY STUCKEY

*Thank you so much, Ms. Moule for all you do and have done for Colfax! Your dedication has been truly wonderful for both the parents and students alike. We will all miss you and wish you nothing but the best in your retirement!*

*Below we have a much abbreviated sampling of the many ways you have touched the lives of the Colfax Community.*

*Mrs. Moule has been such a special, caring, amazingly talented teacher and friend to the school and me personally. I have had the chance and pleasure to spend over a decade working with Mrs. Moule. Working at many different schools over the years, I can honestly say she is one of the best this city has ever seen. What she is able to put together, whether it be in her classes of little ones drumming to a beat of an inspirational song or the many of kids who start their training on keyboards and other instruments or maybe the dazzling ear and heart pleasing sounds of her various chorus's. I would bet not everyone knew about all the extra hours she spent with the all-city choir and she even (she said for the first time in her life) wrote a song and the music for the schools little anthem "Believe-Work-Achieve!." The entire school was taught and sang the song and she was so proud....and deserved to be too, it was catchy. She and I have talked about how things have sadly changed over the years with the pull back and even elimination of the related arts and how educating the whole child seems to be getting lost or valued less by so many. She has never let this sadness hold her down though. It has been such an inspiration to see her continued passion for what she does and how important she knows she is to every child she teaches. The appreciation for hard work, appreciating the benefits of music and making things beautiful with your voice. She always seems to have a smile and fun spirit about her and it is so infectious. The school will certainly miss her and me too but I also wish her some fun times ahead while I'm sure she will enjoy times camping and doing much awaited travel plans with her hubby! You have earned the right to sleep in, rest your body, and enjoy some good times. I know her heart will miss her kids here too for sure between the stage performances and trips to Kennywood for competitions to just the cute songs and skits the kids do in classes. Once a teacher always a teacher and she will carry all the fun memories with her for a long and happy retirement. We love you Mrs. Moule and God bless on this new and exciting adventure ahead!*

-Love Mr. Lydon





**MARCH 2008**



**JANUARY 2011**



**MRS. MOULE,**

**MANY THANKS FOR BEING  
A SUCH A TREASURE OF  
COLFAX FOR SO MANY  
YEARS, AND FOR ALL THE JOY  
AND ENERGY YOU BROUGHT  
TO OUR KIDS AND OUR  
COMMUNITY.**

**WISHING YOU THE BEST IN  
YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.**

**- THE KUCHERA FAMILY**

Mrs. Moule

As I am sure most families new to Colfax can attest, the transition from preschool to Kindergarten is hardest on the parents! During this time for our family, my oldest daughter would come home with stories of all the wonderful songs and activities happening in your classroom, and would count down the days until it was her class's day for music. I can't tell you what a joy it was to know we had such an enthusiastic teacher caring and teaching our daughter. Your music program served as a bridge to welcome us into the Colfax Community, as I know it has done for some many before and after us. Thank you and good luck!

**- The Fiedler Family**



**AUGUST 2014**



Dear Mrs. Moule -It has been a true pleasure being your neighbor for the past five years. Your classes have graced my every moment with music. Children singing, the piano accompanying, I have enjoyed both the harmony and the dissonance. At least a few times a year I've attempted hearing screenings with drums pounding and thumping in the background. "Take me out to the Ballgame" has looped incessantly in my head every baseball season. Thank you for your creative energy and helping children explore the joy that music brings. We will miss you!

- Love, Nurse Rachel



MRS. MOULE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE KIDS TO PERFORM. WHEN MY SON WAS IN 5TH GRADE, HE GOT TO SING ON THE RADIO (ON THE SATURDAY LIGHT BRIGADE AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM RADIO STATION) WITH THE 5TH GRADE COLFAX CHORUS. FOR YEARS, MRS. MOULE HELPED WITH THE ALL CITY HONORS CHORUS. SHE SPENT HER WEEKEND MORNINGS IN REHEARSALS, PREPARING THE KIDS TO PERFORM IN THE SPRING.

-THE LIEBERMAN FAMILY



## COMMUNITY TIME

Mrs. Moule's last day of teaching before her retirement was March 16, 2017. To show her how important she has been to Colfax and how much she will be missed, the entire school celebrated her at Community Time that morning. The fifth grade chorus sang a song for her followed by a song from all the classes in Kindergarten through grade 4. Ms. Loeffert and Ms. Knab presented her with a painting, made from the fingerprints of all the Colfax students. Before departing, Mrs. Moule left the students with a few words, "Keep a smile on your face and a song in your hearts, and remember to sing loudly. I will always love you!" Finally, not wanting to miss the fun, all the students in grades 5-8 lined the hallways from the gym to the music room to send Ms. Moule off with applause.



# AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH



## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FACT QUILT

Ms. Bartels class took advantage of the unusually warm February weather to enjoy an outdoor lesson. Along with the rest of the first grade classes, they have been studying the work of illustrator Floyd Cooper and will be writing him letters about their favorite books. After listening to "Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King," a book written by Jean Marzollo and also illustrated by Floyd Cooper, the first grade students discussed how Martin Luther King Jr made a difference in the world. Each student was assigned a different fact to write and illustrate. They designed their piece and put it together to make a beautiful quilt.

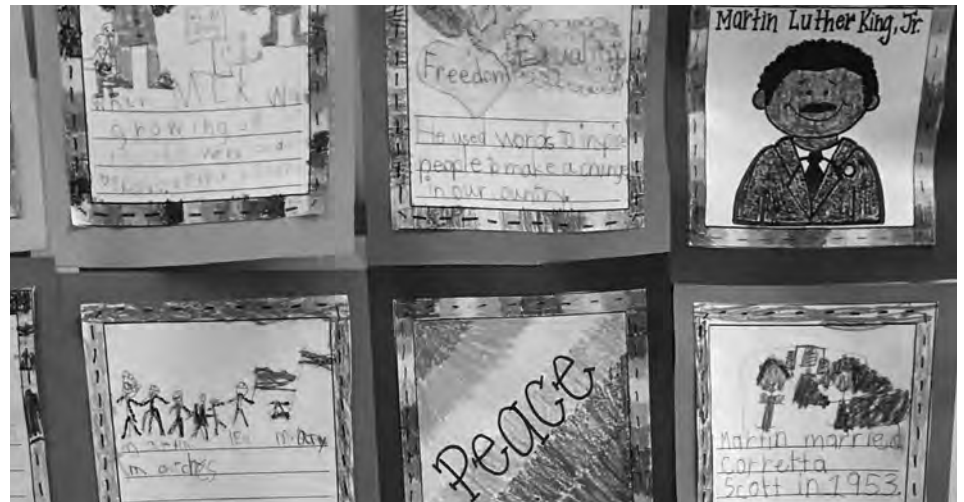
## AFRICAN AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

Ms. Reed's 3rd grade enrichment class created an African American Hall of Fame along the bridge to share and inspire all their fellow students throughout the month of February.

## GALLERY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND INVENTORS

African American History Month gives us a time to honor the many heroes who have sacrificed for the sake of racial equality. During this month we remember their stories and commemorate their achievements.

Ms. Pellegrini's 4th and 5th grade science students gathered information about several African American scientists and inventors on the internet. After taking notes, students used the writing process (prewriting, rafting, feedback/ revision, publication) to write a biographical paragraph about their chosen subject and create a relevant illustration. Students then presented their research to their classmates.





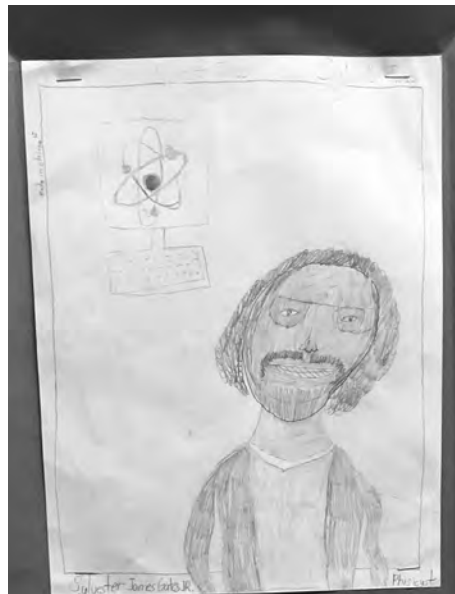
Jane C. Wright  
 Nearly 1,500 people die from cancer per day, and this number might have been more if it weren't for Jane Cooke Wright. Jane Cooke Wright was born in 1916 to a well-known family of physicians. She attended Smith College and went on to read important studies on cancer and chemotherapy at major institutes. She and her father discovered and developed chemicals that destroy cancer cells; these drugs are called chemotherapeutic agents, and they are still used today! Sadly, Jane died in 2013, but left a legacy behind her and her life-saving work.

Name: Beatrice Kwon Section: 5-1 Date: 1/29/17



Mae Jemison  
 From Decatur to space, Mae Jemison was afraid of heights, yet still became an astronaut. Mae Jemison was a highly admired scientist. First, she was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama. Next, Mae Jemison moved to Chicago, Illinois when she was 3 years old. She attended Stanford University for college. After college, Jemison continued to study and trained to become an astronaut. In 1992, Mae Jemison and six other astronauts flew on their ship (the Endeavour) for eight days. Mae's role on the space mission was a science mission specialist. This made her responsible for experiments involving the crew. Although she is no longer an astronaut, Mae Jemison may be part as the first African-American woman in space.

Name: Aoby Hilton Section: 4-3 Date: 1/29/17



Sylvester James Gates Jr.  
 Sylvester James Gates Jr. is an African American scientist who is an important part of our country because he is a leading physicist. Sylvester James Gates Jr. was born in December 15, 1950, in Tampa Bay, Florida, and is 66 years old. Sylvester James Gates Jr. who goes by the name "Jem" is a professor at Harvard College of Computer and went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology for college. Jem's father is a physicist who studied every thing like superconductivity, superconducting superlattices, superconducting superlattices, and when he was awarded with the "National Medal of Science". Sylvester is interested and will work on the research that he is doing in the paragraph you please learn more about this subject from American science book.

Name: Mia Brown Section: 3-4 Date: 1/29/17

**Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson**

1972 - 2015

Wrestler, Actor

The Rock was born Dwayne Douglas Johnson, an American actor, professional wrestler, and former professional football player. He is known for his role as "The Rock" in professional wrestling and his acting career in movies like "The Fast and the Furious" and "Jumanji: Welcome to Jungle".

**Mike Epps**

1975 - 2015

Stand-Up Comedian, Actor, Film Producer, Writer, and Rapper

Mike Epps is a stand-up comedian, actor, film producer, writer, and rapper. He is known for his comedy and his roles in movies like "Friday" and "Boyz n the Hood".

**Walter White**

1915 - 1952

Civil Rights Leader

From 1933 until his death, he was secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and has been a leader in the fight against racial discrimination and violence in the United States. He served on several government commissions, was a member of the Alabama National Guard, and was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is known for his role in the film "Boyz n the Hood" and his book "The Promised Land: A Journey to the Heart of the American Dream".

**India Arie**

1975 - 2015

Rapper, Singer, Actress, and Record Producer

India Arie is a rapper, singer, actress, and record producer. She is known for her soulful music and her role in the movie "Boyz n the Hood".

**Bill White**

1934 - 2015

Baseball Player

White is a former professional baseball player who played for the New York Yankees and San Francisco Giants (1955-1968). He was a first baseman and a power hitter, known for his home runs and RBI's.

**Stuart Scott**

1985 - 2015

Sportscaster

Stuart Scott was a sportscaster and anchor on ESPN, most notably on the network's SportsCenter. He was known for his energetic style and his role as the host of the "SportsCenter" show.

**Constance Baker Motley**

1921 - 2013

Civil Rights Activist, Lawyer, Judge, State Senator, and Federal Judge

Constance Baker Motley was a civil rights activist, lawyer, judge, state senator, and federal judge. She was the first African American woman to be appointed to the federal bench and to serve as a state judge.

**Babyface**

1959 - 2015

R&B Musician, Singer, Actor, and Record Producer

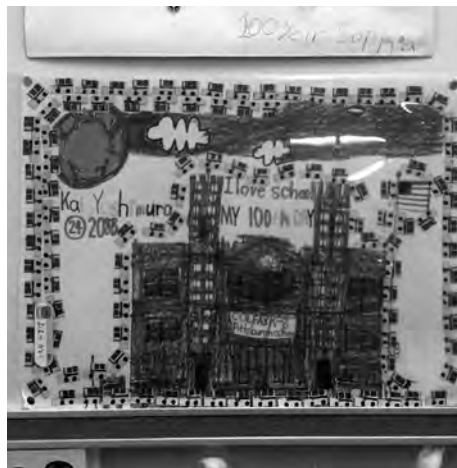
Babyface is an R&B musician, singer, actor, and record producer. He is known for his smooth sound and his role in the movie "Boyz n the Hood".

**Barbara Smith**

1941 - 2015

Journalist, Activist

Barbara Smith is an American feminist and socialist who played a significant role in building and sustaining the Black Panther Party in the United States. She is known for her activism and her role in the Black Panther Party.



## 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

After working hard on their 100 day projects, the first grade created a gallery wall outside their classrooms. The projects were wonderful and creative. To celebrate the day, they decorated their 100 Day crowns and created necklaces from 100 Fruit Loops.

The second grade decomposed 100 in as many ways as they could (come check out our mathematical thinking on the door of Ms. Weiss's classroom). They read *How Many Jelly Beans? A Giant Book of Giant Numbers!* by Andrea Menotti (check it out at the Carnegie Library!), and wrote number stories about the number 100 too. They discussed the many ways to count 100 and loved sharing their 100 Days Projects. Finally, they tried to put 100 apple jacks on a string.

It was a wonderful day!



# READ ACROSS AMERICA AND DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY



The National Education Association's Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 26Dr. Seuss's birthday. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and Colfax did too! What better way to celebrate books and Dr. Seuss than having a PJ day? The students, teachers and staff were all cozy in their pajamas, enjoying many activities throughout the day.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA POEM

You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,  
 To pick up a book and read with a child.  
 You're never too busy, too cool, or too hot,  
 To pick up a book and share what you've got.  
 In schools and communities,  
 Let's gather around,  
 Let's pick up a book,  
 Let's pass it around.  
 There are kids all around you,  
 Kids who will need  
 Someone to hug,  
 Someone to read.  
 Come join us March 2nd  
 Your own special way  
 And make this America's  
 Read to Kids Day.



# PI DAY

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world. The Greek letter Pi is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant – the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter – which is approximately 3.14159.

For the second year in a row, our wonderful teachers thought what better way to celebrate this day than giving their students the chance to Pie a Teacher in the Face. Even if you didn't have a chance to witness this fun event in person, these photos will surely bring a smile to your face! The joy and enthusiasm of our teachers couldn't be more evident.







The first grade classes took their winter trip to the Frick Environmental Center as part of the Habitat Explorers program. The students joyfully walked along Beechwood Blvd. from Colfax to the center, chatting and happy to be outside. The Environmental Center staff greeted the students and started their lesson with a review of all the elements necessary for a habitat: food, water, shelter, space, and air.

The students then learned about how different animals adapt as their habitats change with the seasons: migrating bird, hibernating ground hogs, squirrels burying nuts, deer choosing different foods to eat with the seasons. The students then went outside for a woodland walk to explore and look for signs of animals in the park. One group even noticed marks on a tree where a deer had been rubbing its antlers!



The final part of the lesson was a stewardship project: making a bagel bird feeder. Vegetable shortening was spread on a stale bagel and then it was dipped in various bird seeds. They must be a big hit with the birds because the only signs of the bird feeders made from the previous class were the lonely strings dangling from the trees! The trip concluded with a healthy snack and a song, "Habitat, Habitat, Have to Have a Habitat to Carry on."





## SECOND GRADE FIELD TRIPS



### FRICK HOUSE

The second grade classes made their second field trip to the Henry Clay Frick House in February. Following the 4 seasons with their visits, this was dedicated to winter.

After talking about colorful foliage in the fall, this time they talked about deciduous and evergreen trees. They observed, touched, and drew different tree barks, and then learned how to create wonderful winter scenes using colored paper, scissors, glue and crayons.

During their previous visit, the students planted chives under the direction of Farmer Paul. This visit, they got the chance to see how well their plants had grown. Again with Farmer Paul, the students were excited to chop the chives and other herbs to prepare a delicious and healthy dressing for their salads.

The last, and probably the most exciting part of their trip, was the actual visit to the Frick mansion. The kids were simply amazed! They could not stop wondering and asking questions about the Fricks and their lives, even on the bus during their return to school.

With the spring hopefully approaching soon, we will be back soon for our 3rd trip to the Henry Clay Frick House.

### PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY

March is Arts in Our Schools Month and in celebration all the PPS second graders gathered at Heinz Hall on March 7th for a concert! Superintendent Dr. Anthony Hamlet gave a special welcome to the students and kicked off the "Meet the Orchestra" concert.



# THIRD GRADE STRIP STROLL (Ms. Dulak)

On February 14 & 15, third grade students were able to participate in a field trip called "The Strip District Stroll" with Pittsburgh History Landmarks Foundation. The students boarded the buses around 9:30 am. We arrived shortly thereafter at St. Patrick's Church. There were 5-10 students in each group that were accompanied by teachers and/or chaperones. Each group represented a different country, and their nametags corresponded with a leader from PHLF. We were taken through a brief history of The Strip District, along with connections to the text, "Macaroni Boy", a novel in which we will be reading toward the end of the school year.

Merchants were gracious hosts to our large groups, and we were able to learn about the individuality of each store throughout the tour. We visited places such as; Mancini's Bread, Penzey's Spices, Penn Macaroni Company, Wholey's, St. Stanislaus, and more. We ended our tour with an additional stop to Klavon's for their incredible ice cream. There, we also learned more historical information given by the current owners. We would like to give a special THANK YOU to the PTO for allocating funds for the bus, as well as the ice cream for each student. As always, we are forever grateful to have this opportunity to provide students with a rich experience, and to help them love and respect our beautiful city!



## VERMICOMPOSTING IN 3RD GRADE SCIENCE

Check out how Ms. Pellegrini's 3rd grade science students produced vermicompost with Red Wigglr worms.





# FOURTH GRADE PARK STEWARDS

## A CHILLY WIND

(A haiku by Beatrice Boselli)

We went to the woods  
The winds whipped at our faces  
Then we had cocoa

The fourth grade classes took their second trip to the Frick Environmental Center for the Park Stewards Program in March and focused on descriptive writing about their experiences with nature. They learned how to create word webs to organize their thoughts in creating a description of an object. The students then headed out for a walk through the woodland to study what was happening in the park during the winter months. They found mushrooms growing and explored a stream. They also found the tiny trails left from bugs tunneling through trees in search of food. The students then came back into the classrooms to enjoy some hot cocoa and write about their experiences with either a haiku or a story from the perspective of an animal.

# FIFTH GRADE ANTI-BULLYING PROJECT WITH MS. MCCANN

Hello Colfax readers! We are the Cobra Writers! Our names are, Anya, Lilah, Riana, and Adele. Today's topic will be about what happens when you bully and why you shouldn't bully other people. We hope you enjoy this article, and understand how bad bullying is.

## BULLYING

What does bullying even do? Well first of all, we need to know what bullying is. Bullying is hurting someone verbally or physically. Now back to the question. It is terrible to be bullied, if you have never experienced it. Did you know that when you get bullied as a kid, it makes you more stressed as an adult? Yes, if you are bullied, it affects you when you grow up. I will be giving you tips to avoid being bullied, and to stop bullying.

Rule number one, put yourself in someone else's shoes. How would you feel if someone was picking on you? Rule number two, do something about it. Go and tell a teacher if it gets really serious. Those are our rules for you to get yourself out of bullying.

We hope that you won't bully or even get bullied. It is a serious thing. We hope that our school, Colfax, won't have any bullies.

## BULLYING FACTS

1. Over 3.2 million students are victims of bullying each year.
2. Approximately 160,000 students skip school every day because of bullying.
3. 17% of American students report being bullied 2 to 3 times a month or more within a school semester.
4. Over 77% of students have been bullied verbally, mentally, and physically.
5. The sad fact is that every 7 minutes a child is bullied on the playground.
6. In 4 teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and will only intervene 4% of the time
7. By age 14 less than 30% of boys and 40% of girls will talk to their peers about bullying.
8. Over 67% of students believe that schools respond poorly to bullying, with a high percentage of students believing that adult help is infrequent and ineffective.
9. 71% of students report incidents of bullying as a problem at their school.
10. 90% of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying.

### ANTI-BULLYING WORD SEARCH

F	R	A	Z	Q	T	U	P	S	Q	T	A
A	R	Q	R	B	U	L	L	Y	A	W	R
T	W	I	D	V	U	P	S	F	A	R	Q
R	Q	W	E	R	E	D	N	A	T	S	W
A	S	R	I	N	H	E	L	P	I	N	G
I	H	T	L	R	D	X	R	T	L	Y	M
N	T	Y	L	L	A	S	T	F	R	B	A
C	B	A	U	D	R	L	Q	R	T	L	N
M	N	O	B	D	I	F	F	R	E	N	T
R	E	D	N	A	T	S	P	U	H	A	S
Q	D	I	F	F	R	E	N	C	E	S	X

BULLY                      UPSTANDER  
 HELPING                      FRIENDS  
 DIFFERENCES                      BULLIED

Make as many words as you can with the word bullied.

Ex. bull

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_



3rd Grade is wrapping up their lessons with Farmer Paul for the winter. To finish things up they learned about simple machines. Did you know there are six (classical) simple machines? (Wheel and Axel, Pulley, Wedge, Incline Plane, Lever, and the Screw) For cooking lessons, students used child-friendly knives to demonstrate how a knife's handle can be viewed as a lever and the tip of the blade as a wedge. They used the knife to chop and prepare green onions and peppers for a tofu noodle salad. They also used a salad spinner to show how a wheel and axel can help us wash our vegetables.

When the weather shot up in to the 60s, the classes were able to learn about simple machines out in the garden! In addition to learning about what weeds are and why we pull them, they worked with hand shovels to show how a simple machine can help get work done in the garden. Once all the weeds are pulled, we will be planting the late winter/early spring cover crop to protect our soil and to give it a boost of nitrogen before the spring garden takes off! Farmer Paul is also busy planning this year's Wake Up the Garden event, which will be coming sometime in May. Please be on the lookout for ways you can participate!

Photo Caption #1: (Indoors) Students learn about simple machines by using knives to prepare vegetables for a delicious salad.

Photo Caption #2: (outdoors) Students work as a team to completely remove old plants and weeds from the garden to get ready for the spring plantings.

# MATH KANGAROO



The Math Kangaroo International Competition was held on Thursday, March 17th. Students from Colfax, along with others from around the city, gathered at Lawrence Hall at the University of Pittsburgh to take the Math Kangaroo test. As some may think, why would any child voluntarily choose to take a test? This was a question parents were asking themselves as they waited for their children outside the testing room. The look of accomplishment and pride on the faces of the students was the answer. These students have been preparing for months,

learning strategies and reviewing past test questions, and their excitement to show off what they had learned was enough to bring a smile to anyone's face.

We sincerely thank all the parent volunteers for helping to instill a love of math in our students: Newell Washburn, Azadeh Masalehdan Block, Dan Zitelli, Justin and Valenti-na Krauss, John Kitchn, and Marian Opoku-Dakwa. Your dedication to this program and our children is greatly appreciated!



**Math Kangaroo in USA**

*since 1998*

*International Competition in Mathematics*



# COMMON THREADS COOKING

Tuesdays after school, students in grades 3-5 have had the opportunity to participate in Common Threads cooking program. This program engages students' tastes and minds. This global class explores the culture and cuisine of ten countries. In the kitchen, young chefs learn how to follow a recipe, prepare and cook ingredients, and always leave the kitchen as clean as they found it!

The class challenges students to use a wide variety of cooking equipment and ensures that they know how to safely and effectively use each tool, including chef's knives, graters, peelers, stoves, and ovens. Graduates of this program are able to cook a balanced healthy meal.



28 Colfax girls in grades 3-5 have been building skills in leadership, self-esteem, and problem-solving by pairing with college-aged female mentors in the Strong Women Strong Girls program. The program follows a skills-based curriculum to teach the girls life skills such as communication, being determined and persevering through difficulty, as well as lessons in being a strong competitor. They girls have also been studying the biographies of strong women and girls throughout history and current-day heroines.



# 4TH/5TH GRADE BASKETBALL



The 4th and 5th grade basketball teams had a fantastic season this year. In the regular season, they competed against five other Pittsburgh Public elementary teams: West Liberty, Linden, Lincoln, Fulton and Faison. The girls' team finished with a record of 2 wins and 3 losses, and the boys' team finished with a record of 5 wins and 0 losses. The boys team moved on to the playoffs, and lost their first game in a very close finish to Allegheny Traditional Academy.



# SKI CLUB

(Abbie Campsie, Parent)

The Colfax Ski Club had three successful trips this year. This was not easy considering it was probably one of the worst winters for snow fall in recent history. In spite of the lack of snow, 54 skiers headed to the mountains of 7Springs. Some of our skiers are seasoned and others are completely new to skiing. Mr. Wolfe helps those who need it with getting their boots and skis on and we all make sure they are not late for their lessons. The other kids get dressed quickly and are out on the slopes as soon as possible. There is a level of independence the skiers enjoy although they must ski with a buddy and can never leave anyone on the slopes by themselves. The students are free to ski by themselves and check in for dinner and when it's time to come in for the night. Mr. Wolfe and I ski around hitting most of the runs making sure everyone is ok, occasionally they like to ski with us, but not very often.

This is my fifth year being involved with the ski club at Colfax. It has been incredibly fun and a wonderful activity to offer our students. Special thanks goes to Erin Montgomery, Alex Lucci, Jenn Herr, and Doug Wolfe for giving up several Fridays and agreeing to chaperone.





**SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (Coach Dominic Woods)**

Congratulations to the boys' and girls' middle level swim teams on their fantastic finishes at the Swimming Championships at the end of January! The boys finished first and the girls finished with a very close second place behind Pittsburgh Obama.

**GIRLS SOCCER (Coach Julie Montgomery)**

I'm looking forward to a great season of soccer. We have a lot of girls in sixth grade that are geared up and ready for try-outs. I'm hoping the weather cooperates with us so we can get ready to prepare for the 2016-2017 season. Last year, the girls bought new uniforms and we looked great and felt great. The new uniforms and our great attitudes launched us into the play-offs, I'm looking for the same level of success this year. Let's Go Colfax Cobras!!!

**WRESTLING (Coach Ryan Schmiedlin)**

The 2017 Colfax wrestling season will begin on March 8th and conclude with the City League championship on May 5. Returning starters Troy Jacobson, Lacey Hill, Dutch Mulder, Ian Denshaw, Dylan Mayer and Jack O'Connor are looking to lead Colfax to their third consecutive team championship. Practice will be every day after school from 3:00 to 4:15. All 6-8 students are welcome to join the team. Please contact or see Mr. Schmiedlin with any questions

**2017 BOY'S COBRA SOCCER TEAM (Coach Daniel Lydon)**

So our boys have been on quite a run over the last years and fingers crossed for another one this year. This is feeling like a major rebuilding year with losing at least 14 players from last year's team! I have seen some good young talent but never know who steps up and catches your eye at the try-outs. I hate that I won't be keeping everybody I know (the absolute worst part of coaching) but I do love the heart and effort they all show at the try-outs especially, but all season too. We start the season kind of late with the early byes but then things really get going in April and May especially with the games. Home games are at the Schenley Oval around 3:15-3:30 and it would be great to cheer our young team on. I look for kids that show great heart, toughness, not afraid of dirt, respectful to each other and the game, and just overall fun kids. We get all that then we will be winners no matter what the score. (Corny but true!) Look for updates in later issues and hope we have good news for you. Wish us luck.





## MIDDLE LEVEL UPDATES

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

The Middle Level End of Year Trip is almost here! The students will be going to Cincinnati on June 1st and 2nd. The 3rd and final deposit is due on March 24th. Many students wanted one more opportunity to raise money for the trip so be on the lookout for forms to get delicious locally made Pittsburgh Popcorn. Orders will come in by mid-April. What better way to get through the PSSA's and support our ML students?!

Congratulations to the ML students who competed in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) for Region 7. The 1st place winners will be presenting their projects at Penn State on May 14-16. A Colfax team of 8th graders also garnered kudos against tough competition for the Pittsburgh Public School district's African American Challenge Bowl, held at Greenway Center each year.

We're so proud of the Battle of the Books teams. Both the 6th grade and 7th/8th grade teams, McKee's Mavericks, finished in 1st place at the Carnegie Library's 2017 Battle of the Books. Ms. McKee would be so proud of her kids! A shout-out also goes to the students who participated in the annual Shakespeare Monologue contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Competing against more than 1,000 students from 100 local schools, the 53 students from Colfax had a fantastic experience. They are continuing their interest in theater and literature as they continue their study of the work of playwright, August Wilson.

On the sports front, wrestling and soccer tryouts went well and the teams are busy practicing for a great season. The district's spring season sports calendar is available at <http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/Page/1427>. So check it out and come support our Cobrathletes. Our talented song and dance students are busy rehearsing for the middle school show, Madagascar: A Musical Adventure. We hope to see many of you at the performances on May 13th and 14th.

Did you know that the 8th grade students have already been meeting with guidance counselor Ms. Erin Montgomery to pick their classes for high school? The annual 'field day' when all the 8th graders compete in fun activities at Blue Slide Park will be on June 8th. And last but not least, the big day of promotion will be here before we know it so please save the date of Friday, June 9, 2017 for the festivities.





# SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

(Ms. Montgomery)

SWENext DesignLab is an experience designed to encourage girls to choose a career in engineering. This is achieved through two concurrent programs that took place downtown in the William Penn Hotel in February.

## A. MIDDLE SCHOOLS GIRLS PROGRAM (GRADES 6-8)

## B. PARENT EDUCATOR PROGRAM (WHICH MRS. MONTGOMERY ATTENDED)

Imani Massey Miller, Ece Aydin, Anisha Wills, and Isabelle Hagley took time away from their busy Saturday schedules to enjoy this workshop. All the girls got to participate in hands-on engineering experiences with the members of the Society of Women Engineers. The girls had fun building and inventing objects or devices and meeting real engineers. Mrs. Montgomery and the parents got the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion with selected SWE members and outreach experts and learned about engineering careers, scholarships, college admission and resources available for the girls. It was a delight to see the girls build such wonderful objects and each girl received a goody bag and a T-shirt for participating in the event.





## PITTSBURGH YOUTH SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE AND SCENE CONTEST

(Antonia Allen, student)

One of the many morning enrichment classes students can be placed in, the Shakespeare/August Wilson class, offers the opportunity to compete in the Pittsburgh Youth Shakespeare Monologue and Scene contest. At the beginning of the school year, we began to explore Shakespeare's works by watching films and performances of scenes and plays. We were also told that we were to prepare a scene or monologue from a Shakespeare play to compete at the PPT (Pittsburgh Public Theatre) in the beginning of February. This proved to be a daunting challenge as I had never acted before and wasn't comfortable with it at all. As the groups began to form, I found myself doing a scene with two of my close friends. The process started as looking through many volumes of Shakespeare plays, trying to find interesting scenes meant for three players. We narrowed it down to three person scenes from Hamlet and eventually chose act three scene four. This particular scene entailed murder and accusations of adultery and thievery. I soon learned that performing and understanding such a scene would be no walk in the park. Performing was no longer saying the words with no clue of their meaning, it was understanding what we were saying and who we were playing. I had to ask myself questions such as, "How would Hamlet react to the knowledge of his mother's wrongdoings?" or "What motions would go along with the mood and the script?" These deep questions are difficult to answer and can only be explained through acting, something every person in the enrichment had to learn to do.

All of the students were required to be "off book" by the beginning of January, meaning that everyone had their lines and movements memorized. Many scenes and monologues were ahead of the deadline, and everyone soon caught up. It was around this time that our classes acting coach arrived, Karen Baum. Karen is a local actor here in Pittsburgh, and entirely lovely in every way. She was excellent with working with us on drastically improving our acting, speaking, and interpretation skills. All of her advice

helped us match our words to our action, our emotions to our character's emotions. She helped us become actors and actresses. Though we only met with her on my scene three or four times, she completely changed the way that we viewed and played our characters.

***"PERFORMING WAS NO LONGER SAYING THE WORDS WITH NO CLUE OF THEIR MEANING, IT WAS UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE WERE SAYING AND WHO WE WERE PLAYING."***

The competition itself was on February 7th, 2017, and nerves were running high in the days before. Rehearsals and practices became much more frequent and serious. My team members insisted on constantly reviewing and practicing our scene, which soon got on my nerves. We were the first in line to perform from our school, and weren't going to have any time in advance to think about how to position ourselves on the unfamiliar stage. The morning of the competition was the most nerve wracking of them all, partially due to the hour delay of Colfax's segment of the competition. The hours before were spent confiding our worries in each other and supporting our friends. Everyone from Colfax was seated inside the theatre and our scene was called. As we introduced ourselves to the judges, it began. Everything went so quickly and all of my nerves went away. We were performing in a competition and were doing well. Relieved at our apparent success, my scene members and I sat down. The rest of Colfax's performances were excellent and blew me away. For me, the takeaway was learning how to be someone else and conquering my fears of doing something outside of my comfort zone. It was an amazing experience and I would do it all again.



For the past few years, the Carnegie Library has held a trivia contest based on books named the Battle of the Books. The teams are required to read 10 books based on their grade level in preparation for the competition. The night of the battle, there are three rounds of questions (Character, setting, plot). The Battle Moderator reads each question twice, and then teams are given 30 seconds to write down their answers. At the end of each round, the Battle Moderator will announce the correct answers and the Team Scorekeepers will mark how many points were earned. Every round has one question from each title on the grade's booklist. The Battle questions are not interpretive questions, but relate to a character, the setting, or important events and have concrete answers. For example: In *Nimona*, what is Nimona's supernatural ability? Answer - Shapeshifter.



This year Colfax sent two teams to compete in the 6th grade and 7th-8th grade battles, each coached by Ms. Greco and Ms. Reed. In tribute to the wonderful, late Jane McKee, the teams each chose to keep the name McKee's Mavericks. I am sure they made her very proud!

On February 21st our 6th grade Battle of the Books team competed at the Carnegie Library Squirrel Hill and Won 1st place. They showed great teamwork and commitment as they competed against other private and charter schools.

On Tuesday, February 28th, twelve teams competed in this year's 7th and 8th grade Battle of the Books. Going into the third and final round of judging, Colfax was tied for first place with Pittsburgh Obama. When the competition was over and the scores were posted, the judges found that Colfax came in second place behind Obama. Obama was awarded the first place trophy and all participants began leaving the venue.



Believing that a mistake had been made, the quick-thinking McKees Mavericks realized that the scores had been tallied incorrectly! They approached the judges who realized that they had not given Colfax credit for a question that they had answered correctly. Since there was no time left for a tie-breaking round, the judges declared a first place tie between Obama and Colfax's McKees Mavericks.

As exciting as the final competition was, it paled in comparison to the diverse and interesting selection of ten books that students read in preparation for this year's Battle.

### **GO COBRAS!**

The first place 6th grade team members were: Audrey Olmstead, Hannah Schwartz, Ellie Kannel, Haruka Doi

The first place 7th-8thth grade team members were: Antonia Allen, Micah Primack, Jack Rosenthal, Nate Sirlin, Jacob Serbin



# CMU SCIENCE SQUAD AND THE PA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE REGIONAL COMPETITION

After the months of preparation spent with student mentors from Carnegie Mellon University, Mr. Wolfe's CMU Science Squad headed to Duquesne University for the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 7 Competition the first week in February. The student who earned a 1st place (the competition is based on accrued points), will travel to Penn State for 3 days to partake in the state level competition on May 14-16.

The commitment of the students to this process should make us all very proud of them. This is our 11th year offering this program at Colfax, and with 27 7th and 8th grade students, it is the largest yet. Mr Wolfe has had over 254 students participating over the years. The success of this program is rooted in Dr. Kisslinger's passion for this program, the dedication of the students, the direct support of their parents, and the support of so many at Colfax from teachers, coaches, and the administrators, and especially Mr. Wolfe!

PJAS History from PJAS website (<http://www.pjas.net>)

The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization of junior and senior high school students designed to stimulate and promote interest in science among its members through the development of research projects and investigations. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is divided into 12 PJAS regions. Each PJAS region consists of two or more counties

Scientific Research Categories from PJAS website (<http://www.pjas.net>)

**Behavioral Psychology (BEH):** The systematic investigation of mental phenomena of human and other animals, especially those associated with consciousness, behavior and the problems of adjustment to the environment.

**Biology:** This category is for the life science projects which do not fall into any other category.

**Biochemistry:** The study of chemistry within living organisms with emphasis of the process

**Botany:** The study of plants.

**Chemistry:** The study of the composition of matter and how matter can change.

**Computer Science:** The development of computer programs, algorithms, computer languages, and hardware.

**Earth and Space:** The study of the earth and extraterrestrial bodies and the processes affecting them.

**Ecology:** The study of the interactions and relationships of living things to their abiotic environment and to each other

**Engineering:** Using mathematics, science, and design principles to solve practical problems.

**Mathematics:** The study of numbers both pure and applied.

**Microbiology:** The study of microorganisms, which are defined as any microscopic organism that comprises either a single cell (unicellular) or cell cluster.

**Physics:** The study of matter and motion.

**Zoology:** The study of animals.

# COLFAX COMMUNITY EVENTS

## ICE SKATING

It was a perfect night with a chill in the air and snow falling down as well as many of our Colfax community. It was great to see so many faces out there especially Dr. Woods and with a smile!

Thank you all for buying all the goodies and the delicious hot chocolate! Next time we will have more!





**COLFAX  
TALENT  
SHOWCASE**

6PM . FRIDAY . MARCH 31

THE COLFAX GYMNASIUM  
PIZZA AND CONCESSIONS WILL BE SOLD

ADMISSION: \$2/ PERSON OR \$5/ FAMILY



Mark your calendars for the Colfax Talent Show on March 31st. Auditions were held after school on March 9th and the amazing students are getting their performances ready for the show. Please come and show your support of our talented community.

# K-2 PLAY DATE

Families of students in grades Kindergarten through second grade met up the first Saturday morning in February for a play date in the gym. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to let off some steam on a cold day while their parents' enjoyed time to chat with both new and old friends.

Another thank you to Mr. Jeff for his help with this event too!

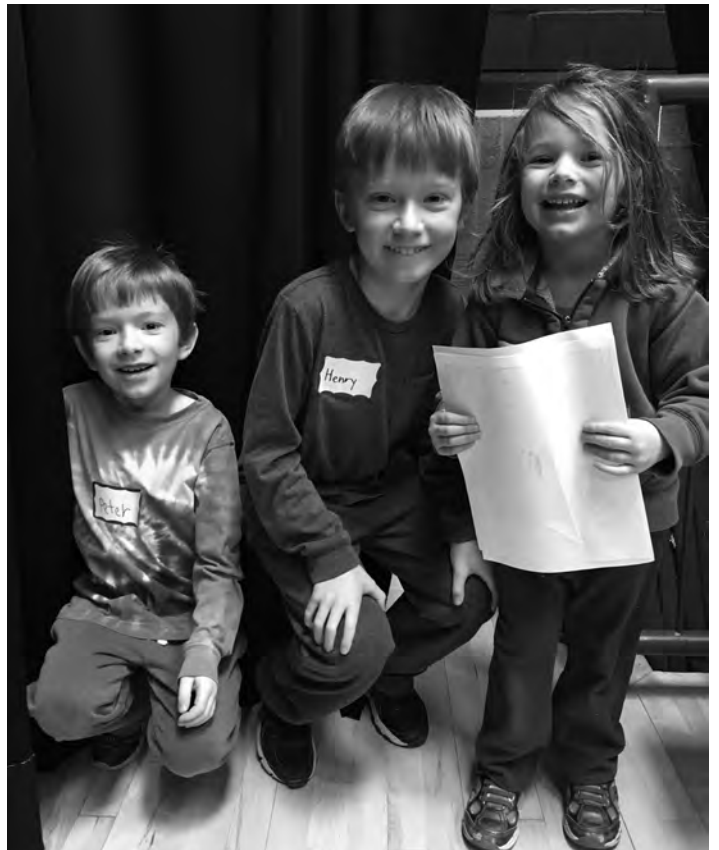


# MOVIE NIGHT

On March 10th, the Colfax community gathered again for a movie night. The large crowd had the choice to watch either *The Secret Life of Pets* or *School of Rock*.

A special thank you to Ms. Pozza and Mr. Jeff for their help and support with this event!





# FUNDRAISING UPDATES

## ASK DRIVE

The 2016-17 Ask Drive was another success this year for Colfax. I would like to say thank you to all the parents and grandparents who made a donation. These funds are crucial for our PTO to maintain all the programs, enrichment activities, and technology we offer annually. Every child at

Colfax benefits from your generosity. This year the Ask Drive raised over \$21,000. To the following families and individuals, we say thank you!

Abbie Campsie VP of fundraising

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Julie Wilson and Marcio Silva	Andrew Mor	Wendy Graves
Abbie Campsie and Ken Haber	Carol Smith	Lorrie and Charles Cranor
Dory and David Levine	Daphne Retter and Patrick Yoest	Joel Boyer and Ileana Boyer
Tiffany and Mark Stuckey	Mia and Arie Segall	The Primack Family
Nikole and Bill Fiedler	Sukanya Srinivasan and Henry Willis	Selami Rasul
Jitka Benedikova and Piervincenzo Rizzo	Ethan Semenov Family	Yohei and Kazu Doi
Inessa Tamar (Leo'n and Yoel Tamar)	Justin and Valentina Krauss	Darcy and Mike Gordon
Mark and Elizabeth Schwartz	Anne and Matt Kurzweg	Diana Burton and Raymond Belczyk
Jessie Ramey and John Zimmerman	Sonia and Wook Kim	Tom Bohman
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Susan Hartman	Joshua Bellin and Christine Saitz	Ann Belser
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Joji Monteliban and Gabby Gonzalez	Elizabeth and David Segel	Kristine Pugliese
Charlotte and Francis Lann	Charlotte Yano and Derek Bell	Chui Sian ong
Allyson Aldous	Silva Grandparents in honor of Marcio & Elena	Haixia Wang
Ellen Hayman	The Murphy Family	Stephanie Pashman and Jeremy Feinstein
William Harris	Christiana Ruggiero and Jon Patrick Boyle	Anonymous (8)
Emanuele Cauda		

# PARTY FOR PLAY

**Party for Play Raises Nearly \$30,000 for Our Students! Thank you!!**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who made the 11th Annual Party for Play a smashing success, raising nearly \$30,000 to benefit enrichment programs for our student body. Over 150 parents, teachers and friends attended the event, held on February 25th at the Edgewood Club. Everyone enjoyed great food and music, while socializing and bidding on all the fabulous silent auction items.

The silent auction included original art and jewelry, certificates to summer camps, hotels, cultural, sporting and recreation events and memberships, as well as certificates to restaurants and local establishments. Every single item was a hit and went to a great cause and a good home! Parents, teachers and Dr. Woods kept it moving on the dance floor, with a brief break for the live auction, which featured the always-popular "Principal for a Day" and "Gym Teacher for a Day."

Through the generous support of sponsors and patrons, all costs for the event were underwritten, so that every dollar raised during the event - from the silent auction, live auction items, raffle sales and beverages, as well as ticket sales, will go directly to student enrichment activities.

We are especially grateful for the entire Colfax community, who contributed in countless ways, from soliciting items for donations, volunteering time and resources, and more. We continue to be amazed by how so many of our parents go right into "mode," running the fine details of the event like a well-oiled machine. It is a testament to the uniquely vibrant and diverse Colfax community - a community that is crucial to the successful education and development of all our students.

We cannot thank you all enough. Beyond having a very successful event, we all had so much fun, and enjoyed the company of one another that we seldom get to appreciate in the midst of our busy family lives. If you weren't able to join us, know you were missed and we'll look forward to seeing you next year!

Chelsa Wagner & Khari Mosley (2017 Party 4 Play Chairs)

# Party4Play Sponsors & Patrons

District Attorney Stephen Zappala

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Lorrie and Chuck Cranor	Andrew Kiley	Carol Smith
Joao & Maria DeLima		Rebecca Stallings
Daniel J. Brasier		The Schaefer Famiy



# VOLUNTEER UPDATE

The date of this year's spring Carnival will be **TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH.**

Whether this will be your first year attending or your tenth, Carnival is a wonderful community event to celebrate the end of the school year. There will be food, games, inflatables, a dunk tank, cultural tents and more. In order to make this the best experience for our students, we need your help!

Many of our past committee chairs have graduated and or moved on to other duties. We currently have vacancies for the following committee chairs: Global CafÉ, Tickets, Cultural Tents, Games, and Prizes.

Please read below to learn more about all of the wonderful attractions we offer at carnival and email [events@colfaxpto.org](mailto:events@colfaxpto.org) if you can help.

## FOOD:

The Global CafÉ is a chance for Colfax families to donate their favorite dish: both homemade and store-bought. Volunteers will create a potluck table of salads, pastas, international dishes and more. You can purchase a plate to fill up with your favorites.

There will also be a grill area selling hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza as well as an area selling ice cream.

**Help needed:** A Chair is needed for this committee to coordinate the volunteers and coordinate the day of the event; Donating food to the Global CafÉ; Cooking at the grill the day of the event; Selling food the day of the event

## TICKETS:

Tickets are required to play games and kids can win prize tickets at these games that they can trade in for fun prizes! Game tickets will be available for purchase via pre-sale. Game tickets will also be for sale at the event using cash, check or credit card. You will need game tickets to play games, get your face painted, play in the inflatables or dunk a teacher at the dunk tank!

**Help needed:** Distributing flyers for ticket presale; Selling tickets the night of the event.

## CULTURAL TENTS:

Families at our school come from diverse backgrounds and this is our chance to show that off! Our cultural tents are created and staffed by students and their families. This is

a chance to see pictures and artifacts, hear music, see dances, try on clothes, and have a great time while learning about other countries. This year kids will also be able to get a special "Colfax Passport" stamped as they move between booths!

**Help needed:** Coordinating the cultural tent volunteers; Creating and staffing a cultural tent.

## GAMES:

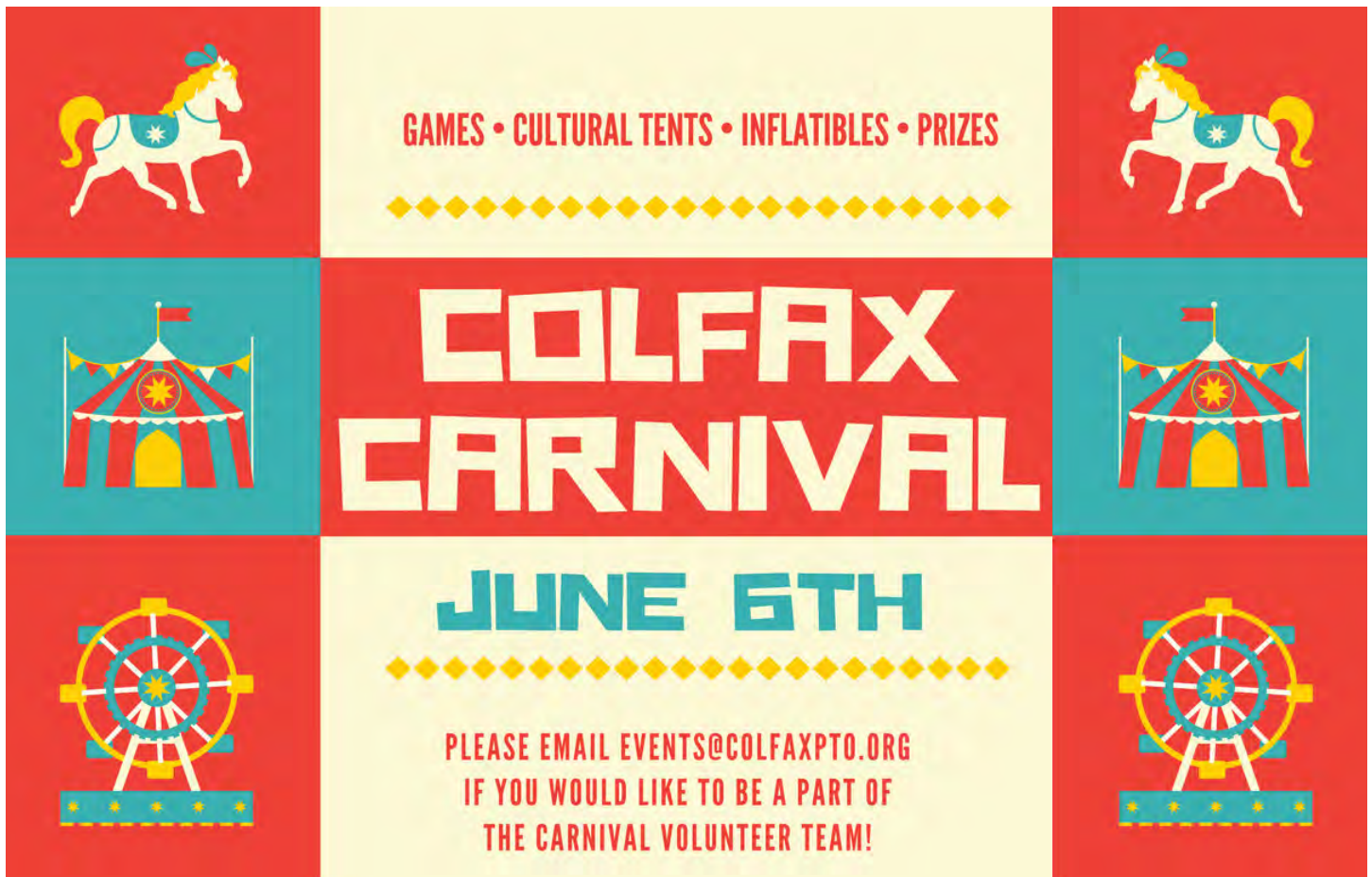
The lower parking lot is filled with games for kids to play and possibly win prizes. These are always a hit, but require the most volunteers.

**Help needed:** A Chair is needed for this committee to coordinate the volunteers; many volunteers are needed the day of the event to run individual games as well as set-up and take down the games

## PRIZES:

A large tent is set up in the upper parking lot so kids can redeem their tickets for prizes.

**Help needed:** A Chair is needed for this committee to coordinate the volunteers and coordinate the prize inventory; volunteers are needed the day of the event to pass out prizes.



**GAMES • CULTURAL TENTS • INFLATIBLES • PRIZES**

**COLFAX CARNIVAL**

**JUNE 6TH**

**PLEASE EMAIL [EVENTS@COLFAXPTO.ORG](mailto:events@colfaxpto.org) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE CARNIVAL VOLUNTEER TEAM!**

# PLANT SALE

**Just in time for Mothers' Day, the PTO will be holding their annual plant sale. Look for order forms to come out in April and plants will be delivered on May 10th.**

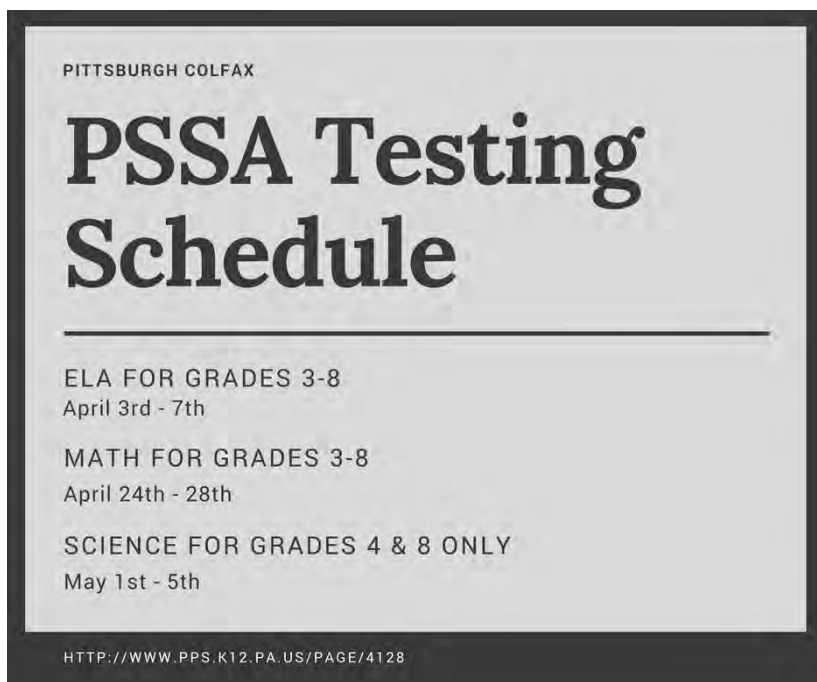
## COLFAX PTO NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

At the April PTO Meeting, the Colfax PTO membership will elect a President for the 2017-18 term (beginning on July 1, 2017). 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 at 6:30 p.m. Additional information will be posted, as necessary, on the Colfax PTO website. Please contact PTO President Julie Wilson with questions, [president@colfaxpto.org](mailto:president@colfaxpto.org).

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

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.



Turn in your BOX TOPS for a chance to  
**WIN a gift card!!**

Names will be drawn monthly from turn-ins. Simply place your Box Tops in a baggie with your name and homeroom and turn into your teacher!

Questions? Email: Kathryn [klingtonberry@gmail.com](mailto:klingtonberry@gmail.com)  
Or Cara [cd601@yahoo.com](mailto:cd601@yahoo.com)



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help buy the things it needs  
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# Steel City Rowing Club's Summer Camps

[steelcityrowing.org/summercamps](http://steelcityrowing.org/summercamps)



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

**Wildlife River Camps**  
**Ages 8-11**



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



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## Colfax Communicator

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Looking for an affordable way to advertise your business  
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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 (25% discount 4+ issues)
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

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- Logo or photography files 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.
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Contact our advertising sales representative for  
deadlines and more information:

Leslie Grodin

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



**ABBIE CAMPSIE**

**Magisterial District Judge**



*Colfax friends and families,  
I am pleased to announce I am seeking the  
position of Magisterial District Judge.*

*Abbie Campsie*

**I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

# MUSIC LESSONS

Learning music should be fun! Get started or take your playing to the next level at Sunburst School of Music.



**COLFAX FAMILY SPECIAL** a **\$50** value.  
Mention this ad and receive a free first lesson + \$10 off your first month of lessons  
Expires 1/1/2017

Sunburst offers lessons and group programs for Guitar, Bass, Drums, Piano and Music Production to kids ages 4+ and adults. We're conveniently located on Forbes Ave in the heart of Squirrel Hill. Call (412) 475-8280 today to set up your **FREE FIRST LESSON!**

Sunburst School of Music  
5843 Forbes Avenue, Suite 201  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219



[sunburstmusic.com](http://sunburstmusic.com)  
[info@sunburstmusic.com](mailto:info@sunburstmusic.com)  
(412) 475-8280

# There's something for every child at JCC Day Camps



- Skill-based learning activities and fun
- Great facilities
- Lunch provided
- Early morning and after-camp care available

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## J&R Day Camp: age 3-grade 5

June 19-August 18  
Family Park in Monroeville  
Choose at least 2 consecutive weeks;  
register for 2-9 weeks

Sports, arts, nature, Judaics, cookouts, swim lessons and free swim, ropes course, biking, tennis and more. Includes bus transportation.

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

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## JCC Specialty Camps: grades 1-8

June 13-16; July 17-August 18  
JCC Squirrel Hill and Family Park in  
Monroeville  
Register by the week

Camps include: Art, A Taste of the Great Outdoors, Basketball, Biking, Chill Out, Color War, Community Service, Computer, Creative Chefs, Dance, Frisbee, Golf, Jewelry, Just Press Play, Travel, Sewing, Snapology, Soccer and Tennis

For information: Meredith Brown,  
412-697-3520, or [mbrown@jccpgh.org](mailto:mbrown@jccpgh.org)

To register, contact  
**Lauren Goldman,**  
412-697-3540,  
[lgoldman@jccpgh.org](mailto:lgoldman@jccpgh.org)

**JCC  
PGH**

# COLFAX ART GALLERY

