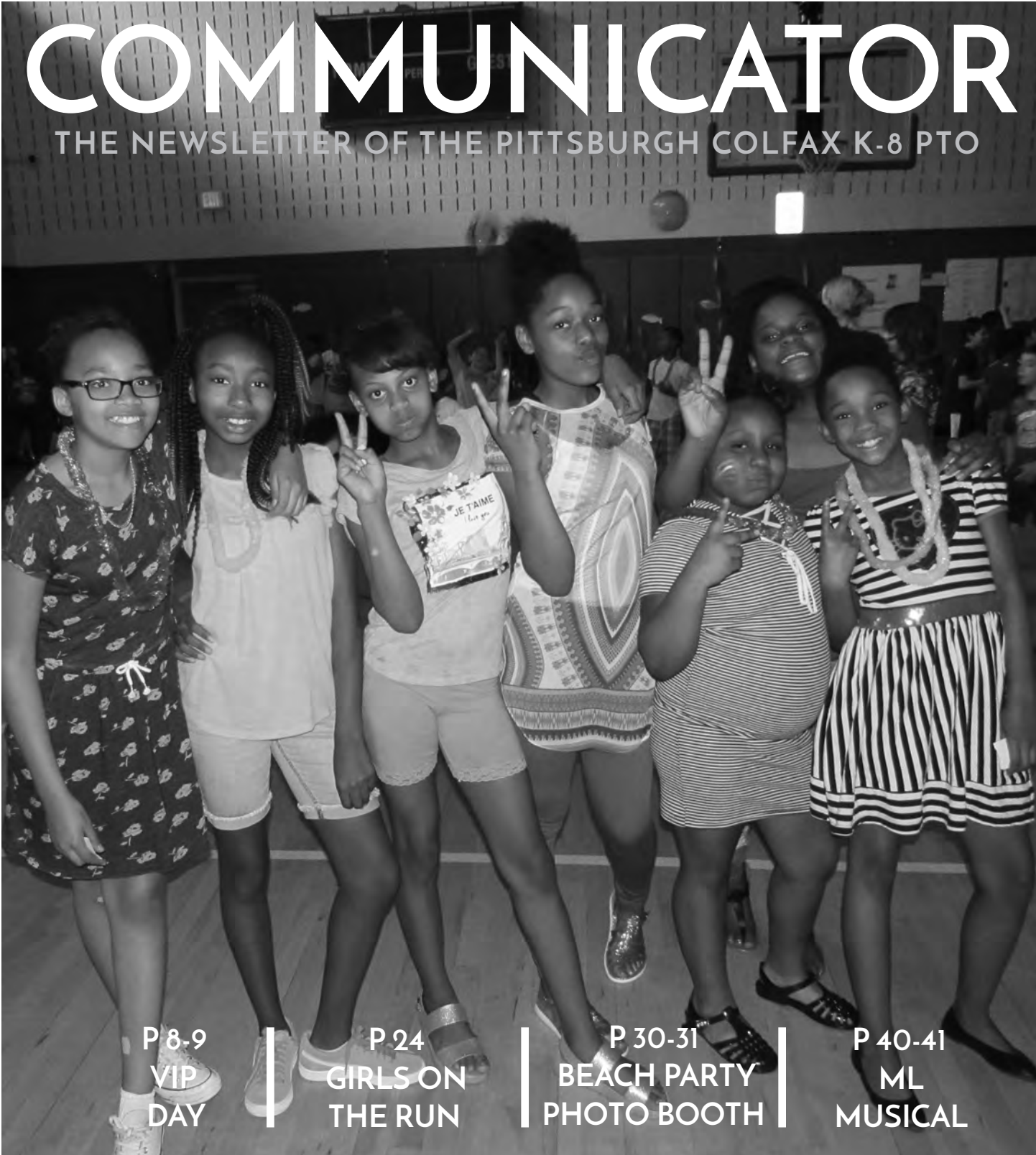


COLFAX

COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO



P 8-9
VIP
DAY

P 24
GIRLS ON
THE RUN

P 30-31
BEACH PARTY
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P 40-41
ML
MUSICAL



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

DEAR COLFAX PARENTS AND FRIENDS,

Thank you for an outstanding year. I began the year as your new PTO President and, I'll admit, the challenge was a bit overwhelming. How could I ensure that Colfax maintained its high level of excellence? That we could continue, as the PTO has for so many years, to provide such incredible opportunities and activities to our students? That we would continue to support Colfax teachers and staff in their efforts to cultivate an environment of learning? Of course, as I soon recognized, nothing I did alone guaranteed Colfax's success. . .

Our community thrives because you give to Colfax with your time and with your monetary donations. In short, Colfax is a better place this year because of the support of parents, family, and friends like you.

This semester, through the generous donations of parents and friends, the PTO sponsored a visit to the Kindergarten classes by the Children's Museum; the Gateway to the Arts program, in which visiting artists came to each of the 2nd grade classes; the downtown Trolley Tour, during which our 3rd graders went to the Courthouse and Incline; and a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo for our 5th grade students. In addition, the PTO continued its relationship with the Frick Environmental Center. For the last several years, the PTO has partnered with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on the 1st grade Habitat Explorers and 4th grade Park Stewards programs. Standing alone, these programs cost more than \$8,000 a year – an impossible expenditure without your support.

It's not all work and no play at Colfax! This year, the PTO was pleased to support the Middle Level Cinco de Mayo party and both the PSSA incentive-based Beach Party (grades 3-5) and trip to Zone 28 (ML). By all accounts, students had a blast! Finally, with PTO funding, every eligible student in grades 3 to 8 will be invited to the annual swim party as a reward for their work in gym class during the year.

I would be remiss in failing to thank the nearly 100 parents and volunteers who participated in Teacher Appreciation Week. Some showered teachers

with small gifts; others decorated classroom doors, wowing both teachers and staff with their creativity. And with your financial support, on May 1, the PTO hosted a luncheon for teachers, staff and administrators. Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked to make this week happen. A special thank you to VP Volunteering Tiffany Stuckey and to all of the homeroom representatives for coordinating the week's efforts.

One of the highlights of the spring semester is the Middle Level Musical. More than 30 students came together to put on Madagascar Jr., on May 12-14. What an amazing job they did, under the direction of skilled artist Candace Perdue! Both young and old alike were enchanted by the performances. Did you know that the PTO devotes more than \$6,000 to the musical, every year? I can't think of a better way to support the many talents of our Colfax students.

Finally, I want to reiterate a very special thank you to all of the volunteers who make Colfax run: the homeroom representatives; the recess/lunchtime volunteers; the volunteers who make it possible for our students to participate in both daytime and after-school activities such as Math Kangaroo, Chess Club, Garden Club, Ski Club, Science Squad, Movie Nights, and the K-2 Play Dates; and the classroom volunteers who assist teachers both on a regular basis and during special events. I can't possibly list all of your names and activities, but know that, on behalf of the Colfax PTO, we are exceptionally grateful for you and the time you spend at Colfax.

And thank you to this year's PTO Executive Board: VP Fundraising Abbie Campsie, VP Special Events Dory Levine, VP Communications Nikole Fiedler, VP Volunteering Tiffany Stuckey, Treasurer Jitka Benedikova, Assistant Treasurer Chelsa Wagner and Secretary Maribeth Hagley.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer. See you next year!

Best regards,

JULIE WILSON



PRINCIPAL REMARKS

DEAR COLFAX FAMILIES,

I cannot believe that our final newsletter for the 2016 -2017 school year is here! My 2nd year as principal of Colfax feels as special as it did last year. My relationships with staff, students, and families has grown with a deeper understanding of individual and community needs. Consistent communication, feedback, self-reflection and respect of differences has been the key elements in fostering those positive connections. Our team understands the significant role that positive relationships with our families and communities has on a student's overall success.

The end of the year can be as busy as the beginning of the year with fieldtrips, changes in schedules/dismissals, and scheduled vacations. Please make sure that you follow procedures to avoid confusion and to eliminate errors in recording absences. In addition, special attention should be given to notification letters and Robo calls detailing special events and fieldtrips planned. I also urge you all to sign up to receive our PTO weekly bulletin which offers another avenue of information specific to our school. And if you are a Facebook and Twitter user, please friend our pages to see pictures of our students and staff featured throughout in many of the academics, sporting, and activities that have taken place throughout the year.

During the summer months, please remember to incorporate reading, writing, science, and math into your child's regular activities. We know this can be difficult to do, however, we also know that it is key in decreasing learning loss. Some simple examples of ways in which students can be academically engaged over the summer are: • Keeping a journal to detail daily activities, family vacations, and excursions • Visits to museums, landmarks, arts festivals, and other local cultural events • Participation in the Carnegie Library's summer reading program • Using measurement tools and recipes to cook with your child "More educational activities and ideas to engage students during the summer months can be found at educationalworld.com." I hope you all enjoy a safe, relaxed, and exciting summer break with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you in August!

Yours in education,

TSW

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 6TH

Carnival

JUNE 8TH

8th Grade Field Day

JUNE 9TH

8th Grade Promotion

JUNE 12TH

Last Day of School

AUGUST 28TH

First Day of 2017-2018 School Year,
Grades 1 through 8

AUGUST 31ST

First Day of 2017-2018 School Year,
Kindergarten

TEACHER AND STAFF UPDATES

RETIRING STAFF - PAM BURFORD (written by Amy Shorkey, Parent)

The Colfax community would like to acknowledge our secretary, Pam Burford, for her 31 years of service to Pittsburgh Public Schools and wish her well in her retirement. Pam started her career at Brashear High School, moved to Schaeffer Elementary where she stayed for 22 years, and started here at Colfax in 2012. Anyone stepping into the office can see the busy activity and countless responsibilities that come with the job. Despite Pam requesting “not be made a fuss over”, we would be remiss in not saying thank you for taking care of our school, the staff and our families. Pam plans on staying home and enjoying retirement...sounds so good and so well deserved.

Pam would like to “thank all the parents and staff for all their kindness they’ve shown me throughout the years”. We say you’re welcome, but thank YOU! Enjoy the next chapter.



TEACHERS TRANSFERS

Each year within the PPS District, teachers are given the option to transfer to openings in different subject or grades levels. A number of our Colfax teachers are excited to announce they will be taking advantage of these opportunities.

- Ms. Balik will be moving to 1st grade.
- Ms. Juhas will be moving to 2nd grade.
- Ms. Murray will be moving to 3rd and 4th grade Math.
- Ms Musyt will be moving to Kindergarten.
- Ms. Theiss will be moving to 3rd grade Science and Social Studies.
- Ms. Tuchin will be moving to 5th grade Math.
- Ms. Stefanyak will be supporting teachers as the Literacy Academic Coach.

LIBRARY NEWS

(Ms. Sheila Reed, Librarian)

BOOK DONATION DRIVE

Thank you for your support this year. All programs were a success because of the Awesome Community we have here at Colfax.



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(written by Ms. Beth Pellegrini)

The Teachers Institute Approach, established in 1978, is an intensive and sustained collaboration among Yale faculty members and public school teachers. The first such university-school partnership to be permanently endowed as a unit of a university, it is a widely recognized model of high quality teacher professional development. In 2004, after the successful testing of this model in a four-year National Demonstration Project, the Institute launched the Yale National Initiative to Strengthen Teaching in Public Schools. The Initiative is a long-term endeavor to establish Teachers Institutes that will provide state and local policy makers effective examples of the innovative Institute approach in their own communities.

Teachers Institutes focus on the academic preparation of school teachers and on their application in their own classrooms of what they study in the Institute. A Teachers Institute places equal emphasis on teachers increasing their knowledge of a subject and on their developing teaching strategies that will be effective with their students. At the core of its program is a series of seminars on subjects in the humanities and sciences. Topics are suggested by the teachers based on what they think could enrich their classroom instruction. In the seminars, the university or college faculty members contribute their knowledge of a subject, while the school teachers contribute their expertise in elementary and secondary school pedagogy, their understanding of the students they teach, and their grasp of what works in the crucible of the classroom.

Successful completion of a seminar requires that the teachers, with guidance from a faculty member, write a curriculum unit to be used in their own classroom and to be shared with others in the same school and other schools through both print and electronic publication.

Ms. McCann and Ms. Pellegrini had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Teachers Institute in May and will attend again this summer.



PA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

(written by Mr. Douglas Wolfe)

This May, 8 students represented Colfax and the Pittsburgh Public Schools proudly. They enjoyed 3 days up at Penn State Main Campus where they toured the school, experienced dorm life, and forged bonds with each other through a shared experience. Colfax fielded 8 students (the most from any Pittsburgh Public Middle School): TraOnna Malloy, Michaela Krasik, Donise Griffin, Taleah Barren, Maya Shook, Nate Sirlin, Deveon Steele-Franklin, and Khyir Johnson. We came home with 3 First Place and 5 Second Place finishes. I cannot express how proud I am, and we all should be, of these students.



The PTO would also like to congratulate Mr. Wolfe on receiving an Elementary School “Excellence in Science Teaching” Education Award from the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh. Mr Wolfe said he was humbled to be recognized and “it was just nice that an outside organization takes in interest in what goes on in our schools.”

FACE COORDINATORS

(written by Chelsea Balik, Fifth Grade Teacher/FACE Coordinator)

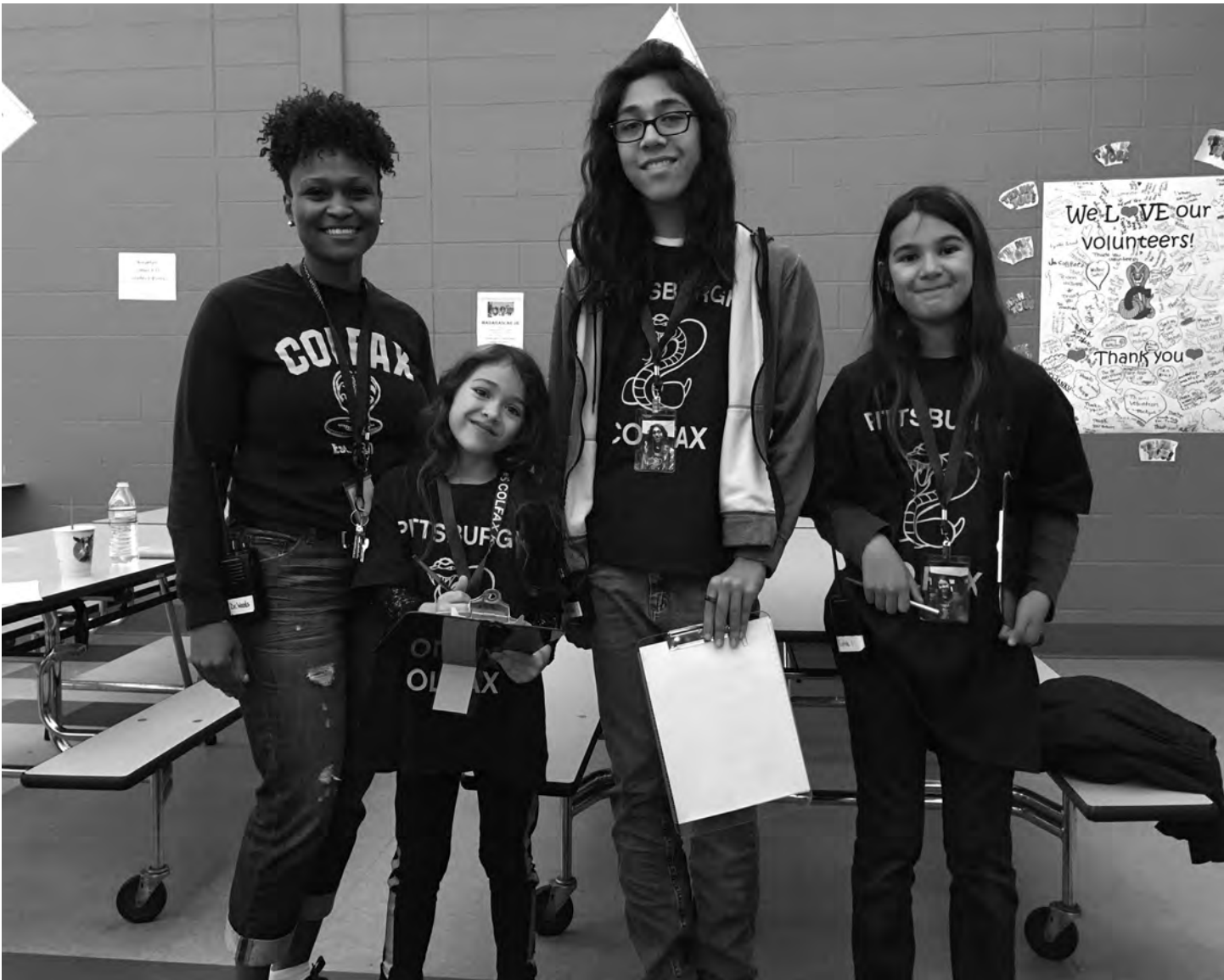
The end of the year is always a busy time with the culmination of events and celebrations! On May 12, we celebrated the volunteers of Colfax by hosting a catered breakfast. We truly appreciate all of the people who help at our school to make things run smoothly.

On this day, we also had three special guest principals helping Dr. Woods. Thank you to the Principals Sol, Sofia, and Joaquin Montelibano!

On May 19, we celebrated our students' Very Important

People with a special day for guests. Family members, friends, and role models checked in and went to meet their child in his/her classroom. Teachers and students were excited to share the great accomplishments of the year during the classroom visit. The day ended with a "lunch date" in the cafeteria and some fun at recess. Thank you to the volunteers, community members, and staff for making the events a success!





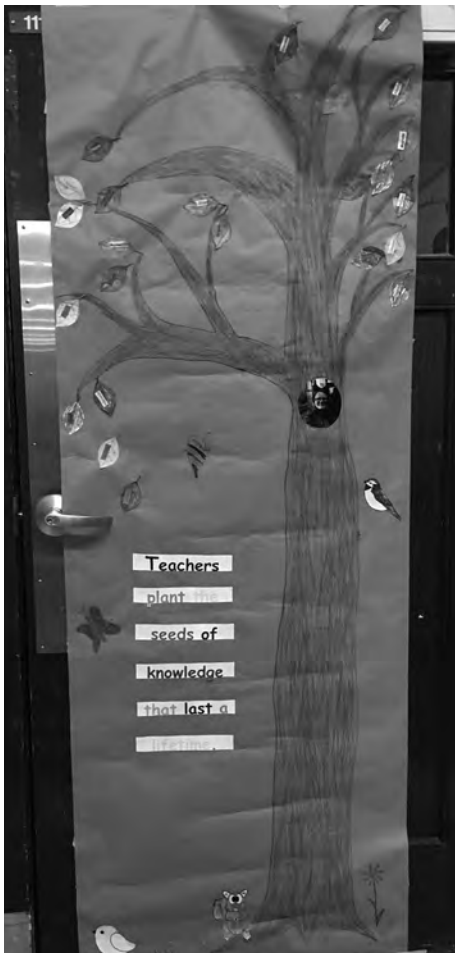
VIP DAY

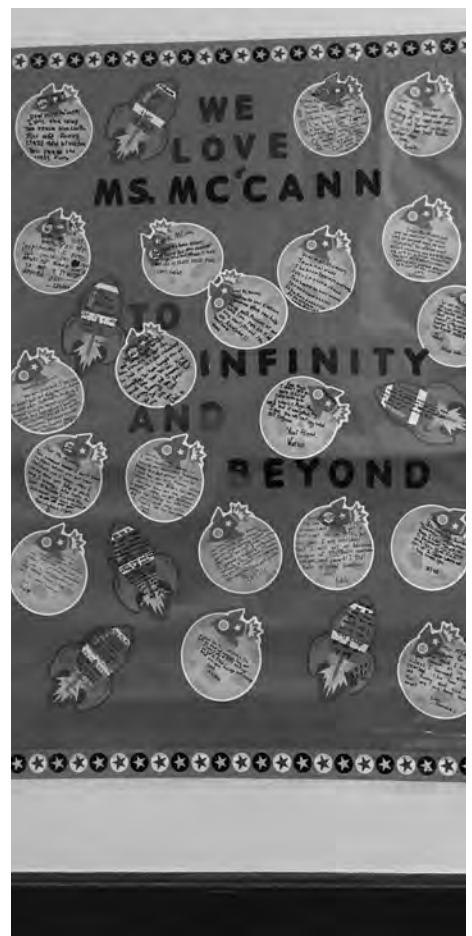




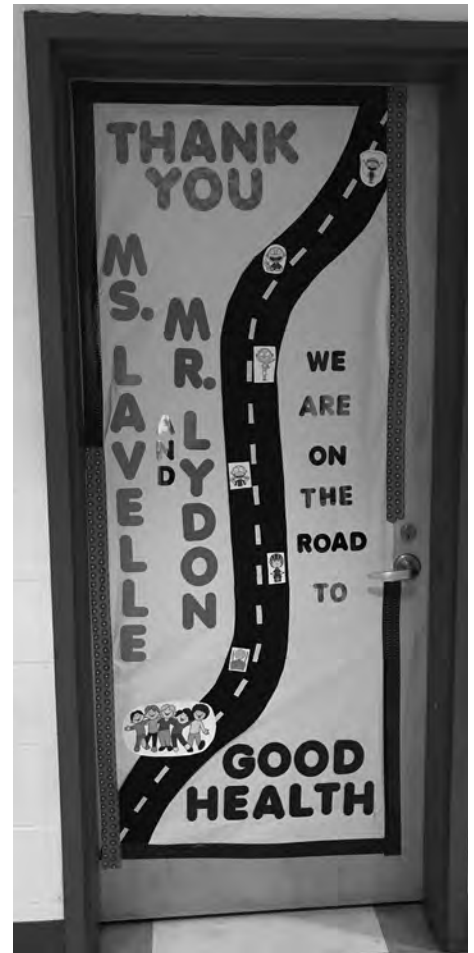
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

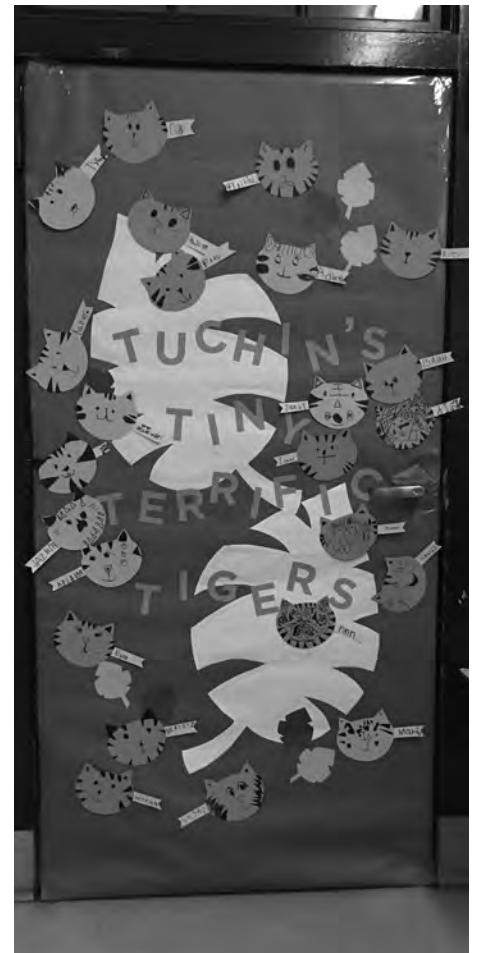
Teacher Appreciation Week was May 1-5. Each year the Colfax Parents work together to make this week special for teachers to show them how much they are loved and appreciated. Volunteers decorated the doors of every teacher in the school as well as purchased gifts to be sure teachers were showered with notes and small tokens of appreciation all week long. To conclude the week, the PTO hosted a catered luncheon for all the staff and faculty to enjoy.













HEALTH AND PE HAPPENINGS MAY

(written by Daniel Lydon, PE Teacher and Coach, dlydon1@pghboe.net)

For the last report we have much to tell and even more to be so proud of with our kids here at Colfax. I have been blessed with being able to work with many of the kids in different sports as well as in class and this is a report on the sports that we have had in the spring with a couple of pictures we could find to include. First, just a really nice time both the 4th and 5th grade boys and girls elementary track teams had on May 16th and 18th. Both teams not only competed strong, but even more importantly represented themselves and Colfax

so well. The teams did so well that they each ended up finishing 2nd place overall in the city championships! Well done and a pleasure to see the fun in action! 5th graders, not afraid of a bit longer runs, may be interested in cross country next year when they come back as big 6th graders. Thanks for making such a fun day and lasting memories!

And the parents want to thank you to you, Mr. Lydon for all your hard work in organizing our students to participate in this fantastic event!





GARDEN NEWS

(written by Farmer Paul)

WAKE UP THE GARDEN 2017!

On Thursday, May 25th, the annual Wake Up the Garden event took place after school. In between rain showers, families helped plant a new strawberry bed, transplanted flowers and tomatoes into the garden, weeded out the shrubbery near the playground and planted new flowers in that space. In addition, a group of middle school students took part in a litter pick up project all over campus. Families also toured around the garden to check in on the new plants that are living there now and had the chance to take home a free basil plant. Throughout the event, Grow Pittsburgh had seedlings for sale and signed up families for summer garden care. Special thanks to Anne Marie Kuchera and Sukanya Srinivasan, Colfax parents, for helping organize this awesome event. If your family is interested in helping care for the garden over the summer, please e-mail farmer Paul at paul@growpittsburgh.org.





CLASSROOM NEWS

FIRST GRADE HABITAT EXPLORERS FIELD TRIP



2ND GRADE

(written by Ms. Casey Weiss)

We continue studying arrays and began to look at addition problems as equal groups of items that we multiply. Arrays and equal groups are fun tools to use to begin to think about the basis for multiplication (third grade skill). Money and the concept of buying multiple items from a grocery store was another topic of discussion- it was tough!

We read a beautiful story called Ugly Vegetables, about a little girl who was embarrassed about what her mother grew in their garden deeming the produce "ugly". Once she realized the vegetables grown were going to be used for an amazingly delicious traditional Chinese soup, she wound up loving her garden. We talked a lot about culture and tradition. We also talked and wrote about how sometimes we may have strong opinions or ideas about something but may decide to change our minds. Farmer Paul had our class in the garden in celebration of Earth Day. We planted beans, scallions, and lettuce. We also helped pull out weeds and explored worms. We had a resident artist join us (Miss Joanna) throughout the month of May. She helped us create magnificent panels of the phases of the moon. We also enjoyed a wonderful dancing circle and discussed the concepts of precipitation and condensation with her through various movement exercises.

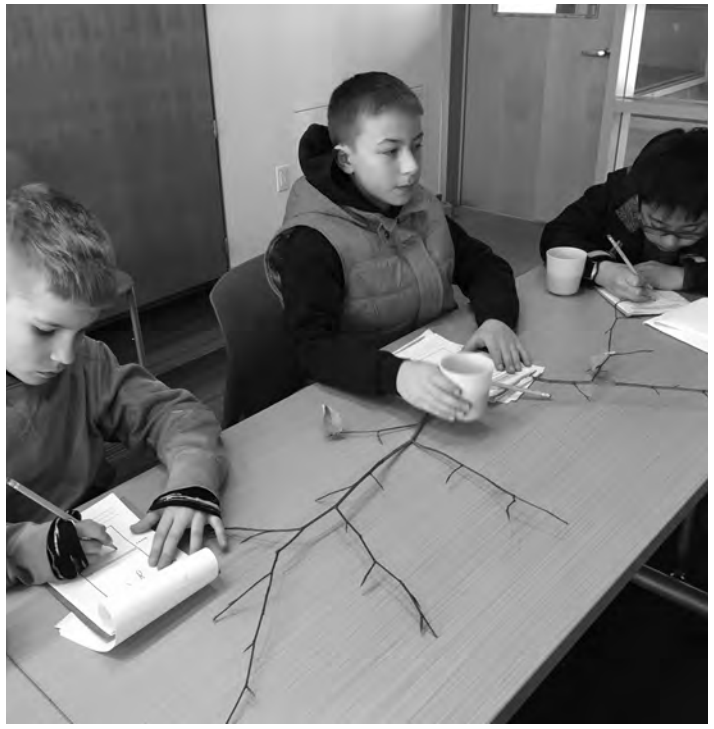
I was thrilled to bring the marathon medal to school and students enjoyed wearing it throughout the week. The medal is just a small token of an accomplishment but it meant much more to the students-they can do IT (whatever "it" is).

We also had Mr. David come from Include Me to talk about how we need to be aware of what our own strengths are to affect others.





FOURTH GRADE PARK STEWARDS FIELD TRIP





GIRLS ON THE RUN

(written by Ms. Casey Weiss)

On your marks, get set, run! Girls on the Run (GOTR) has been having an incredible season full of miles, motivation, and memories. GOTR is all about fitness and friendship. We have been building camaraderie and friendship by participating in many group exercises focused on trust and communication. We talk about topics like community, friendship, integrity, honesty, and inclusion. Running is an integral part of this worthwhile program. We have been consistently building up our mileage by seeing personal goals. If we ran four laps around Colfax one week, why not push for six the next practice? By setting smaller goals, we are able to work up to longer runs. The last few weeks were very exciting for GOTR participants. On Monday, May 15th we had a 5K practice run with the GOTR runners from Community Day School. It will be great to team up with another school for fitness and fellowship! After the 5K practice run, we ran our GOTR Spring 5K at Hartwood Acres at 9 am on Sunday May 21st. Families showed their support for the participants by cheering and running along too. Our girls had a fun celebration the day after their 5K- a reward for all of their hard work and dedication. Thanks to all of you for supporting Girls On The Run and girls- you rock!



KIDS OF STEEL AND THE PITTSBURGH KIDS MARATHON

(written by Ms. Malika Sinha)

On the cold and rainy morning of May 6th, 2017 a group of Colfax students and their families participated in the Kids of Steel (KOS) Kids Marathon. The KOS program is part of P3R, a nonprofit organization that is passionate about promoting the love of running and enhancing community access to health & fitness education and activities. KOS is an award-winning, free youth physical activity and nutrition program designed to instill lifelong, healthy habits in children. The Kids Marathon was a one mile fun run for KOS participants

and their families. The Colfax KOS coordinators were Ms. Lavelle and Ms. Sinha.

Kids who participated in KOS:

- COMPLETED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GOALS
- TRIED NEW FOODS BY WORKING ON NUTRITION GOALS
- LEARNED THE BENEFITS OF SETTING A GOAL, TRAINING AND ACHIEVING THAT GOAL

Make sure to congratulate all of our KOS Kids Marathon Finishers!!!



INTERMEDIATE LEVEL PSSA INCENTIVE PARTY

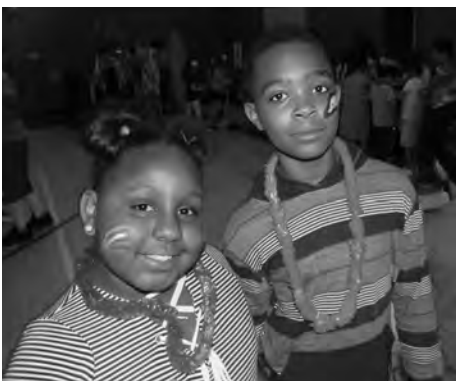


In recognition for all their hard work and dedication during the PSSA testing, the Intermediate teachers held a “Beach” Party for students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Ms. Lasek and parent volunteers decorated the gym the day before the event. Then, on May 17th, students enjoyed Rita’s Italian Ice, face painting, a photo booth and temporary tattoos, and best of all the fantastic DJ entertainment of Ms. Lasek’s father.











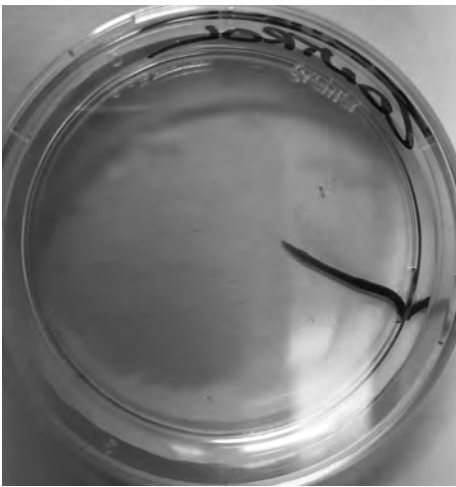




PITT MOBILE LAB

Students in Ms. Pellegrini's science classrooms had the amazing opportunity to take part in an addiction lab in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Mobile Lab. Students studied the effects of nicotine on planarian.

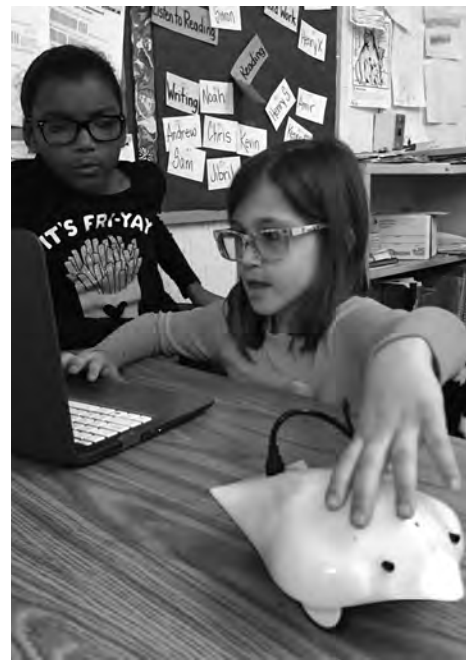
The Mobile Lab is a self-contained, traveling laboratory that allows students to use current, high-end equipment to perform laboratory investigations. It is the latest exciting addition to a very active K-12 science education outreach effort sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biological Sciences.





CODING AND ROBOTICS

Did you know that one Colfax parent, Tom Lauwers, helped to found an educational Robotics company called Bird Brain Technologies? Tom works with many schools throughout the region to use his Finch robots to introduce students to coding and robotics. Tom graciously volunteered to teach a lesson with his Finch robots to the homerooms of Ms. Juhas and Ms. Weiss. After a short demonstration, the students broke up into small groups to try to make their robots “dance” and move in a square. The enthusiasm of the students was so contagious; the STEAM committee will be using some of the funds they received from a PPS grant to purchase Finch Robots for Colfax next year.



ML UPDATES

By Leslie Grodin and Sukanya Srinivasan ML Parent Representatives

As we wind down the final semester, we would like to mention some recent Middle Level highlights.

-ML students had a rockin' time at the spring dance on May 6th. Thanks to Ms. Dawson for organizing this fun event.

-The whole school enjoyed a wonderful performance of this year's musical, *Madagascar Jr.*, with three shows, including an in-school performance for grades K-5. There is so much talent at our school! Thanks to our director, Ms. Purdue for her strong leadership and to Ms. Greco for being our awesome teacher representative.

-After several weeks of PSSA testing, our children celebrated at Zone 28 where they bowled, played laser tag, and tried their luck at the arcade games.

-Congratulations to our future scientists who participated in the 83rd annual PJAS competition. They traveled to Penn State on May 14-16 to present their science fair projects. Thanks to Mr. Wolfe for his guidance.

-In sports news, a big shout out to our wrestling team, who are once again the city champions! Thanks for Mr. Schmiedlin for leading the way. Both the boys' and girls' soccer teams advanced to the semi-finals. Both teams went into overtime and had a long series of a penalty kick shoot out. It was a tough loss for both teams, but it was a great season!
High-fives to Ms. Montgomery, Ms. Greco, and Mr. Lydon for their hard work. All of our student athletes celebrated their successful seasons at the sports banquet held at Frick Park on May 26th.

-ML students and families participated in the Colfax School's Family Garden Night and Campus Clean-up on May 25th by volunteering in the campus-wide litter pick up and flower planting. It was a great chance for the Colfax community to work together and for our students to give back.

-A celebration of hard work and dedication took place on May 25th at the Merit Scholar ceremony. Congratulations to the students who maintained a 3.75 or above average this year.

-Congratulations to Nate Feinstein, Spencer Lieberman, Traonna Malloy, and Chadchai Tongdee for receiving awards from the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. These awards for excellence in history and citizenship will be awarded at a ceremony later this summer.

-Upcoming events include the much anticipated End of Year trip (June 1-2) to Cincinnati, OH, the 8th grade field day where the students will engage in some friendly and fierce competition, and finally the 8th grade promotion on June 9th.

8th Grade Families: Please join us to celebrate as the Colfax Class of 2017 gets ready to leave the Colfax nest and move on to high school! There will be a ceremony on Friday morning June 9th in the gym/auditorium with a small reception to follow. Please sign up to help with decorations and food items for the event by contacting Sukanya Srinivasan at dr.sukanya@gmail.com or Leslie Grodin at leslie.grodin@verizon.net.

We are looking for a couple of ML parents to take over the job of ML representatives next year. If you are interested, please let us know!

ML SPORTS UPDATE



WRESTLING

(Written by Coach Schiedlin)

On May 5th, the Colfax wrestlers won their 3rd consecutive team championship. Of the 17 wrestlers who competed in the championship, 13 made it to the finals with 6 winning individual championships.

Eli Wynn (75 lbs), Dylan Mayer (95 lbs), Lacey Hill (100 lbs), Darius Bruce (110 lbs), Troy Jacobson (115 lbs) and Jack O'Connor (138 lbs) all took 1st place in their weight classes. While, Jacob Goldberg (85 lbs), Ethan Jacobson (90 lbs), Ian Denshaw (105 lbs), Cole Feldstein (145 lbs), Max Applbaum (165 lbs), Dutch Mulder (210 lbs) and Devan Martin (250 lbs) all finished second in their weight classes. Overall, it was a tremendous season and I am very proud of the amount of hard work and dedication put in by each wrestler this season.



GIRLS SOCCER

(Written By Coach Montgomery)

I want to give my 8th graders captains a special shout out. I appreciate your dedication to the team during practice and the games. The girls really look up to you and appreciate your advice. You will be missed. As for the rest of my eighth graders, good luck on playing soccer for the DICE or any other organization. We finished the season with 6 wins, 2 losses, and 1 tie and qualified for the playoffs. We defeated South Brook 2-0 in the quarter finals. The semi-final match was thrilling. It went into overtime and then a shoot-out. As one parent said, "It was bonkers and still so fun despite the loss."





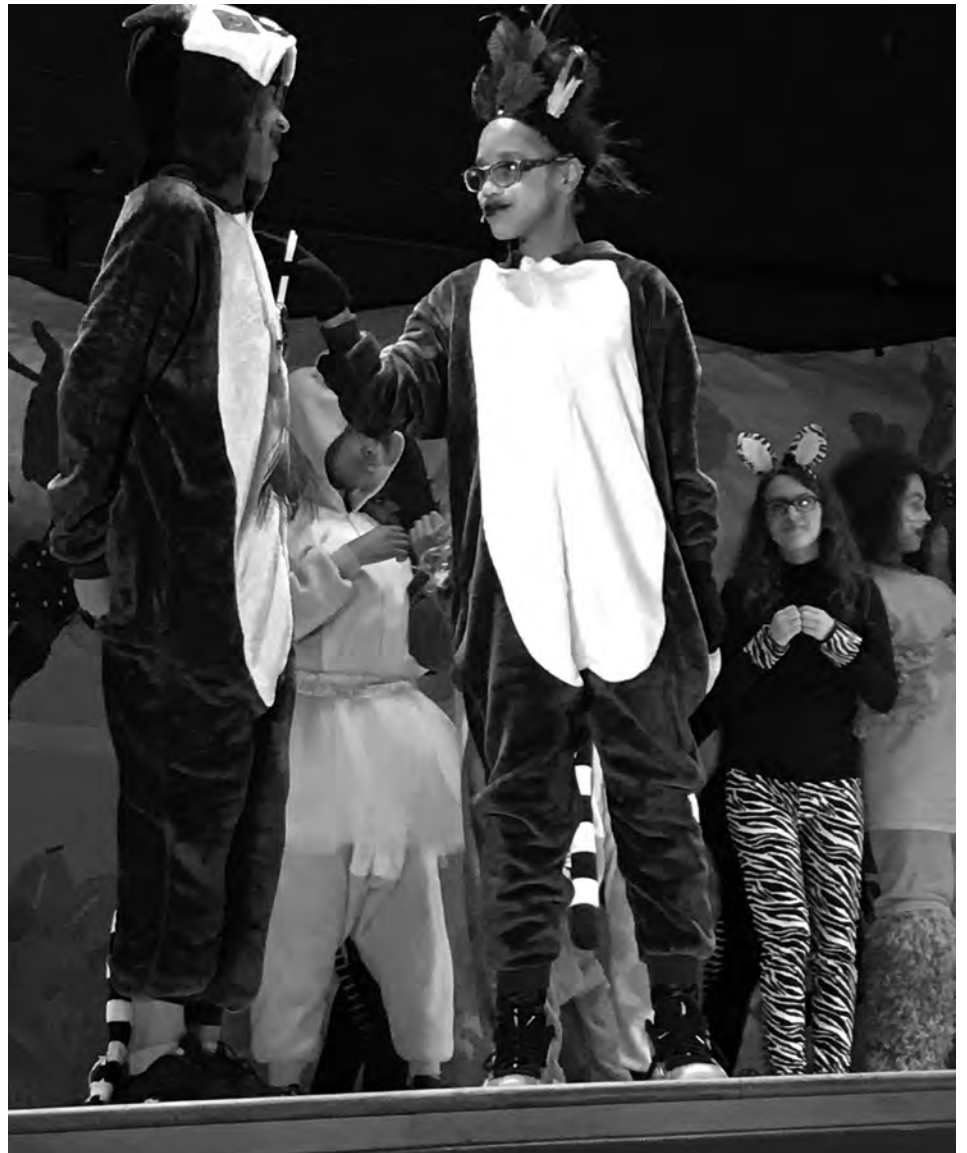
BOYS SOCCER

(Written by Coach Lydon)

The middle school boys' soccer team had an impressive season. Losing 13 players from last season was a huge challenge but the new team came together in such a way that I think surprised many. I could not be more proud of the work ethic, toughness and team work that these guys showed all year. They enjoyed being around each other and really gave all effort to work as a team. It showed in their performance too. We finished the season with a record of 8-1 and made the playoffs as the #2 seed. We played our first round playoff game and it was a tough, sometimes I would say chippy, match but our Cobras came out on top and won 3-1! We moved on to the semi- final round and gave it our all. It was a heartbreaking loss in overtime with a shoot-out and a final score of 4-5. I couldn't be more proud of these guys and it was an honor to be with them all season! To ALL my 8th graders, especially the ones I had for three years,—you will be missed. Wish you good luck in high school and hope you will continue to play but you will always be part of the Cobras! Thanks to all the parents and the support you give to us all year long with all the sports, especially the ones I run. You are so appreciated and valued for the work you do in bringing up such hard working and fun kids. Tough time of life in so many ways but also some of the most memorable and fun times too. Have a great summer, be safe and play hard!



MIDDLE LEVEL MUSICAL





COMMUNITY EVENTS



TALENT SHOWCASE

Colfax talent was on display on March 31st as students performed at the annual Colfax Talent Showcase. Performances ranged from singing and playing musical instruments to dancing and performing gymnastics. A very big thank you goes out to Tashia Terry for organizing and preparing the students for this fantastic show!





Memory Tile Order Form

The front hallway of Colfax is filling up with Memory Tiles! Commemorate your teacher, your class, or your student. Make a great work of art to share with others. These ceramic tiles can become gifts or keepsakes, or they can be mounted in Colfax's entryway to create a life-long memory. The basic cost for a Memory Tile is \$26.

Student name _____ Homeroom _____
 Phone number _____ Email address _____

On my Memory Tile, the name should read: _____

1. I would like the following Memory Tile layout in the STYLE and COLOR indicated below (sample layouts are on the back of this sheet):

Style #1: o Portrait Solid COLOR: o Navy o White o Gold	Style #3: o Portrait Stripe Color: o Blue o Green o Purple	Style #5: o CX Color: o Navy o Light Blue o White
Style #2: o Portrait Color: o Light Blue o White o Gold	Style #4: o Building Color: o Navy o Light Blue o Gold	Style #6: o Colfax Color: o Navy o Light Blue o Gold

2. I would like this phrase to appear on my Memory Tile (select only one):

- Colfax Class of 2017
- Colfax 8th Grade Class of 2017
- Thanks for all the memories...*

3. If you have chosen a PORTRAIT style, how will you give us your photo?

- I will scan my photo at medium resolution (wallet size or 5" x 7") and email it to fundraising@colfaxpto.org.
- I am supplying a paper photo, enclosed with this order form.

I am enclosing my design, which follows the instructions. See www.colfaxpto.org/tile-instructions.pdf for instructions.

4. Payment information:

- I am enclosing \$26 in cash or check, payable to Colfax PTO.
- I will pay \$26 using PayPal at www.colfaxpto.org.

**GIVE COMPLETED ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT TO THE MAIN OFFICE.
 Questions? Contact VP Fundraising (fundraising@colfaxpto.org)**



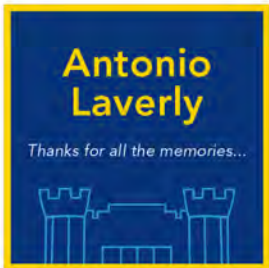
STYLE #1: Portrait Solid
COLOR: Navy, White, or Gold



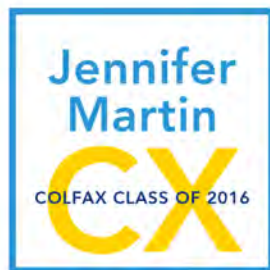
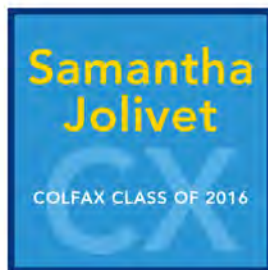
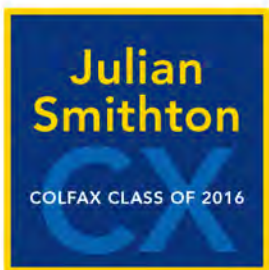
STYLE #2: PORTRAIT BAR
COLOR: Light Blue, White, or Gold



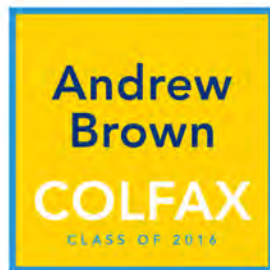
STYLE #3: PORTRAIT STRIPE
COLOR: Blue, Green, or Purple



STYLE #4: BUILDING
COLOR: Navy, Light Blue, or Gold



STYLE #5: CX
COLOR: Navy, Light Blue, or White



STYLE #6: COLFAX
COLOR: Navy, Light Blue, or Gold

TREASURER'S END OF THE YEAR REPORT

(Written by Jitka Benedikova, Treasurer)

As our school year is quickly getting to its end, I, as the PTO Treasurer, would like to take a moment and present you with a brief summary of this 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Please, take a moment and have a look at this year budget on the next page and see for yourself where all your money went. It has not only the approved budget numbers for this year (2016-2017 Budget column), but the actual Income (Net Income column) and Expenses (Expenses column) as of May 15, 2017.

As you can see, we had good fundraising year. Our total revenues are approximately \$59,000, but we are looking forward yet to receive funds from Carnival (our end of the year event) and finalize totals from the Plant and Bulb sale.

Total Expenses paid by today, May 15, 2017 are \$43,000, but additional \$27,000 are anticipated before the fiscal year ends June 30, 2017. These expenses include mostly our kid's end of the year field trips, technology and school supplies for next year, 8th grade promotion etc.!

Here is the overall summary of the PTO EXPENSES for your records:

1. Educational activities: These take up almost 48% of the PTO expenses (about \$40,000 this year).

These include:

Frick Environmental Center (Habitat Explorers, 1st grade and Park Stewards, 4th grade)
Frick House and Museum (2nd grade)
Grow Pittsburgh (gardening club)
Enrichment (special interest courses, Chess Club, etc.)
Spring Musical

2. Field trips: the PTO gives every child in our school \$10 toward their field trip. With all of our students, this totals \$10,000 (around 14% from our budget).

COLFAX PTO BUDGET 2016-2017			
	GROSS INCOME	EXPENSES	NET INCOME
INCOME-FUNDRAISING			\$58,809.94
General Donations/Ask Drive	\$20,390	\$491.07	<u>\$20,200.02</u>
Winter Fundraising Event (Party For Play)	\$36,643	\$6,843.32	<u>\$29,823.72</u>
Other Fundraisers			
Run Shadyside			<u>\$2,104</u>
Plant and Bulb Sale			
Newsletter Advertisements			<u>\$1,754</u>
Carnival		\$1,931.77	
Boxtops	\$10.00		<u>\$10.00</u>
Family Nights (Fiesta, Iceskating, Movie night)	\$1,379.34	\$1,476.21	<u>-\$96.87</u>
Talent Show	\$614.00	\$130.41	<u>\$483.59</u>
Miscellaneous (e.g. spiritwear, restaurants, artware sale.)			<u>\$2,481.26</u>
Mad Max dinner			<u>\$2,050</u>
Bank interest earned			<u>\$2.65</u>
PROGRAM EXPENSES		\$43,524.04	
Educational Activities		\$25,246.4	
Enrichment Activities (teachers grants, chess club, etc.)		\$7,273.11	
Frick Enviromenta Center		\$6,575	
Frick House (field trip)			
Grow Pittsburgh (gardening club)		\$6,000	
Spring Musical		\$5,398.29	
STEAM program (one time expense) **			
Field Trips		\$3,185.24	
Principle Discretionary Fund		\$4,853.35	
Middle Level/Cobra Store		\$1,843.10	
Technology (e.g., laptops, tablets)		\$4,535.08	
School Infrastuture (e.g., outside equipment, school supplies, pool)		\$1,458.67	
PTO Business Expenses (e.g., Insurance, Professional & Legal fees)		\$1,191.30	
Teachers abd Staff Appreciation		\$1,158.97	
Miscellaneous (e.g., 8th grade promotion, artware tiles, spirit wear)		\$51.93	
Shaded colums reflect net income/program expenses as of 5/19/2017			
Checking Acct balance as of 5/19/2017	\$57,143.65	Note: Does not reflect checks cashed after 5/18/2017	
Savings Acct Balance as of 5/19/2017	\$16,077.95	Note: Does not reflect checks cashed after 5/18/2017	
** One time expense only			

3. Principal's Discretionary Fund: The principal receives \$10,000 (also 14% of the PTO expense).

4. Teacher Grants: Every teacher in our school receives a \$100 grant at the beginning of a school year to buy necessary supplies for their classrooms.

5. Technology spending: (laptops, computers, and printers) is allocated around \$8,000.

6. School Infrastructure spending: In total, outside recess equipment, school supplies and items for the swimming pool receive \$2,000.

7. Miscellaneous Items: As with any budget, miscellaneous items hit our budget, such as teacher and staff appreciation events, 8th grade promotion, etc.

As for looking forward, our fiscal year 2017-2018 new budget is going to be proposed and ratified on our first PTO meeting next school year, in September 2017!!! Any possible changes are going to be announced there. So, please mark your calendar and come!!!

As a Treasurer, I would like to THANK YOU for all your support to our school! I wish all of you to have a wonderful summer and see you all back in the fall.

PARTY 4 PLAY SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Thank you to all the silent and live auction donors who made this year's Party 4 Play a huge success. We couldn't do this event without their support. We ask our Colfax community to support these great organizations that support our school!

***Due to the volume of donations that are dropped off and picked up right before the event, and that not all were collected with donor forms, we know there are several wonderful donors who are not reflected above. Please email any omissions to chelsawagner@gmail.com so we may correct our records and recognize them in the next issue of the Communicator. Thank you!**

Dr. Woods
Pittsburgh Pirates
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Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Heinz History Center
Pittsburgh Aviary
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Western PA Conservancy
Color Me Mine
Cut & Sew Studio
Ten Thousand Villages
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Ben Johnson
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American Girl
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Waterworks Cinema
Grow Pittsburgh
Blue Ribbon Farms Inc
Ryer Martial Arts Academy
Pittsburgh Glass Center
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Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Courtyard by Marriott Shadyside
Double Wide Grill
City Theatre Company
Hyatt House South Side
Fred Miller Jewelers
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Petland - Village of Eastside
The Pittsburgh Marathon
Bella Christies Bakery
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JCC of Greater Pittsburgh
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Mike Gordon
Avalon Organics
The Great Escape Room
Independent Brewing Company
Camp Spirit of the Game
Kennywood
Dinette
Ace Hotel Pittsburgh
Murray Avenue Grill
Manor Theater

Edgewood Club Membership
Littles
Orr's Jewelers
Point Brugge
Hepatica
Pittsburgh Playhouse
Market Street Grocery
Big Burrito
Pittsburgh Opera
Pinos
Pict Classic Theater
Pittsburgh Ballet Theater
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
Pittsburgh Pirates
Riverhounds Soccer
Wyndham Grand
Ellen & Bob Katzen
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Pittsburgh CLO
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Frick Park Market
Chocolate Moose
NUGO Nutrition
Shadyside Variety Store
Wildtree
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Braasch Acupuncture
Buffalo Wild Wings
Gifts Unlimited
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Giant Eagle
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We are only as successful as our audience. Please encourage others to sign up for the PTO's weekly emails. It's easier than ever! Just go to the Colfax PTO website, at www.colfaxpto.org and click on the big blue "Sign Up" button at the top of screen.

**632 Kirtland Pt. Breeze
\$400,000**



**1345 Murdoch Sq. Hill
\$550,000**



**4745 Bayard St. Shadyside
\$1,200,000**



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Steel City Rowing Club's Summer Camps

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J&R Day Camp age 3-grade 5

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Choose at least 2 consecutive weeks;
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PGH**

To register, contact
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from the Pittsburgh Colfax PTO

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GYM

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