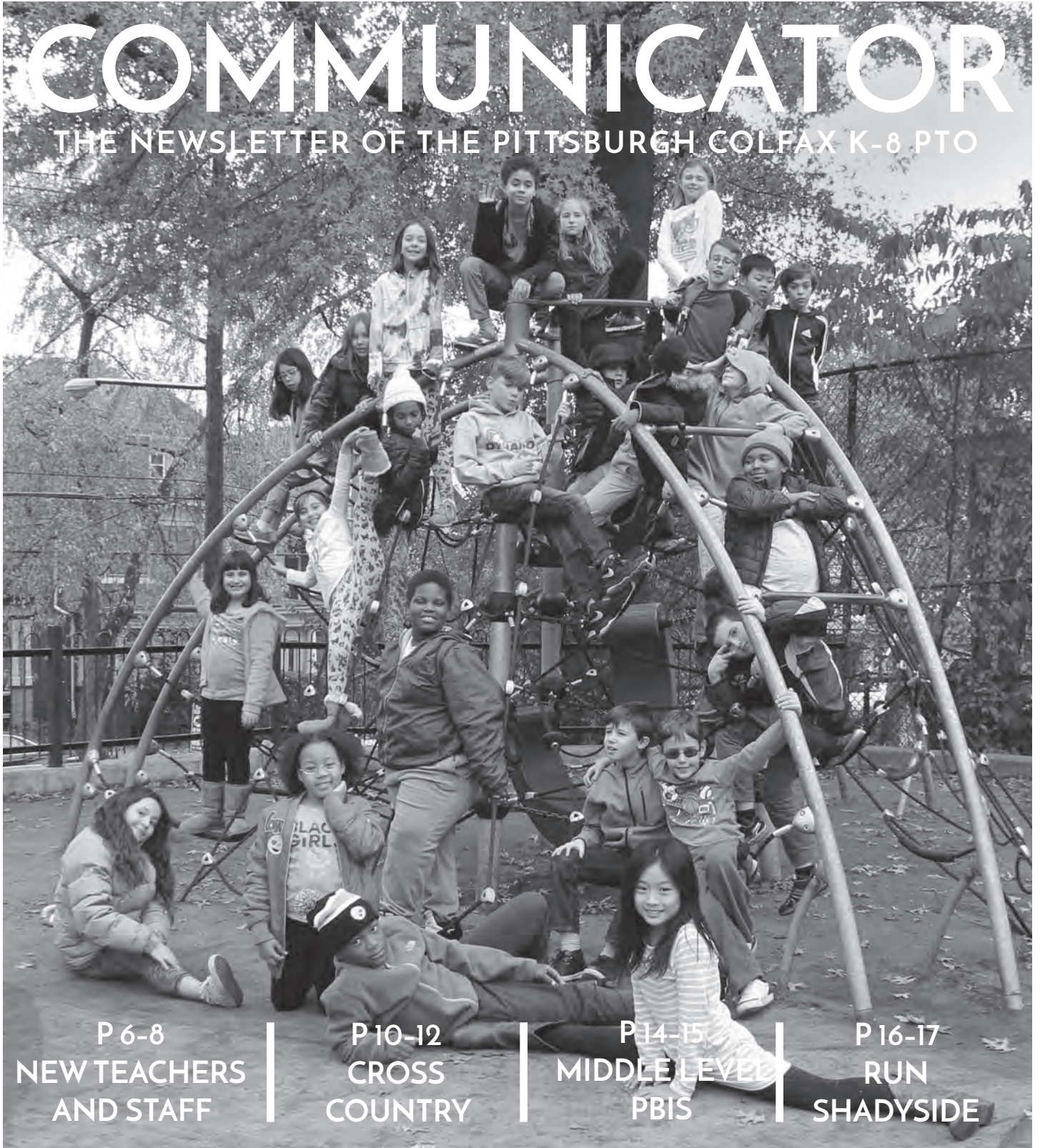


COLFAX

COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO



P 6-8
NEW TEACHERS
AND STAFF

P 10-12
CROSS
COUNTRY

P 14-15
MIDDLE LEVEL
PBIS

P 16-17
RUN
SHADYSIDE

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

2017-2018 COLFAX PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Julie Wilson
president@colfaxpto.org

Executive VP: Tiffany Stuckey
vicepresident@colfaxpto.org

VP Special Events: Dory Levine
events@colfaxpto.org

VP Fundraising: Abbie Campsie
fundraising@colfaxpto.org

VP Communications: Jeanine Weiss
communications@colfaxpto.org

Treasurer: Jitka Benedikova
treasurer@colfaxpto.org

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Malen
treasurer@colfaxpto.org

VP Volunteer Coordinator: Tiffany Stuckey
volunteers@colfaxpto.org

Secretary: Maribeth Hagley
secretary@colfaxpto.org

Faculty Rep: TBD

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

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF
Editor: Jeanine Weiss
Designer: Mary Dorfner Hay
Editorial Board: PTO Executive Board

Colfax PTO Site: www.colfaxpto.org

Join us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/pghcolfax

Dear Colfax Family and Friends,

During this month of Thanksgiving, I am so grateful for the support that the Colfax community has shown our school and our PTO. It's amazing how much we have accomplished in this first nine weeks of school. And there is so much more to come!

The Colfax community yet again proved our commitment to the Boys and Girls Club of Shadyside, during the October 1 Run Shadyside. Approximately 200 Colfax families, teachers, and friends participated in this year's race. In addition to supporting the Boys and Girls Club, the event raised almost \$2,000 for the PTO!

Later in the month, on October 27, more than a hundred people joined the PTO for Halloween Movie Night. This event supports our Middle Level students, to help them earn money for the end-of-the-year trip to Washington D.C./Hershey Park in May 2017. The younger children packed the room to watch the antics of *LEGO Batman*, and the older children watched love prevail in the recent re-make of *Beauty and the Beast*. Through the generosity of those who attended, the students will receive more than \$500 toward their trip.

All of our students will benefit from our fall Spirit Wear sale. I look forward to seeing the kids in their new apparel on our Friday Spirit Days!

I would be remiss not to thank all of the volunteers who make these events happen: VP Events Dory Levine, VP Fundraising Abbie Campsie, Anne Marie Kuchera, Amanda Cline, and Jenn Herr.

Speaking of volunteers, there are so many more folks who make Colfax what it is... A big thank you to Leslie Grodin for all of her hard work on pulling together the Colfax PTO Directory. This year, Ms. Lasek's third grade class was the winner of the directory challenge! The class will be given a \$50 gift card. Be on the lookout for the Directory in your student's bookbag. Additional thanks to Carolina Kuhn for coordinating the lunch/recess volunteer schedule (and to all those who volunteer to go on that schedule!); to Megan Beakley for overseeing the Cobra Store; Cara Donahue for running the Box Top program; to Rachel Rosenfeld and Emanuele Cauda who organized more than a hundred students interested in playing lunchtime chess into sensible classes; to Sukanya Srinivasan, Betsy Schwartz and Annie Kurzweg for serving as Middle Level Representatives; to Danielle Nicol and Chad Hilton who keep our PTO website running; and to the many, many parents and friends of Colfax who volunteer as Homeroom Representatives and with classroom and after school activities. **THANK YOU!** Colfax is an amazing community comprised of many parts. And you are an important part!

If you have not yet found an opportunity to participate, I encourage you to contact me. We are always looking for additional support. As background, any individual who will have contact with children must obtain clearances before volunteering at Colfax (e.g., holiday parties, tutoring, lunch-time volunteers). Before volunteering, each individual is required to submit:

1. A volunteer intake form
2. PA Child Abuse clearance (free for volunteers!)
3. PA Criminal clearance (free for volunteers!)
4. Federal Fingerprints (approx. cost \$26.50) OR Waiver Request and Residency Requirement for individuals who have resided in PA for 10 consecutive years.

More information and copies of these forms are available at <http://www.colfaxpto.org/volunteer>. If you have questions, please contact Executive Vice President and VP Volunteer Coordinator Tiffany Stuckey.

Finally, I am very excited to announce a new contest to design a new logo for the Colfax PTO! We are in the beginning stages of transitioning our PTO website to a new site. As part of that process, we have begun thinking about the PTO "brand." And who better to help us showcase what Colfax, and by extension the Colfax PTO, is than our students! Students will have an opportunity to work on their contest submissions in Art class. All submissions are due by December 20, 2017. Look for more information via backpack mail, weekly email and Facebook.

All the best to you and your family,

Julie Wilson
PTO President

Colfax Art Contest

PTO is sponsoring an Art Contest!

All Colfax students will be given the opportunity to design a new logo for the Colfax PTO. Logo submissions should be appropriate for use on the PTO website and PTO communications.



**Winners in K-2, 3-5, and
6-8 will each receive
\$50!**

Rules :

- Drawings must be black and white
- Entry must be on white 8" X 10" paper
- Must include Colfax or CX
- If mascot is used, it must be a cobra

DEADLINE: December 20, 2017

Mrs. Kaye and Mrs. Coles will give students who wish to participate the opportunity to work on their entry during art class. Please email Ms. Greco at rgreco1@pghboe.net with questions.

New logo selection will be at the discretion of the Colfax PTO, with consultation by Colfax administration.



IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 8
EARLY DISMISSAL

DECEMBER 9
BARNES & NOBLE
WATERFRONT
BOOK FAIR

DECEMBER 13
PSCC/PTO

DECEMBER 25
through **JANUARY 1**
WINTER BREAK

JANUARY 2
CLASSES RESUME

JANUARY 4
PPS PARENT ADVISORY
COUNCIL

JANUARY 10
PSCC/PTO



PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Greetings Colfax Families,

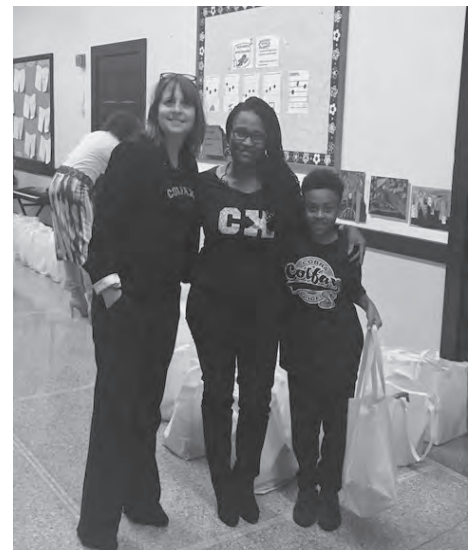
I hope this edition of the Colfax Communicator finds you and your family well. The school year is well on its way as we wrapped up Quarter 1 with report card distribution on November 16. Hopefully, this edition will help to share some of the wonderful things happening with our students and staff. The new Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Math (Edmentum) and Reading (ReadyGen) initiatives are in full swing and were introduced to parents by district level staff during our September and October PSCC meetings. Our Media Center is fully operational, and we were thrilled to launch our school-wide **Scholastic Reading Counts Program!** SRC is a reading management program that helps teachers encourage and assess independent reading. Students will earn points for the library books that they read. After students read a book, they take a short computer-generated quiz to assess comprehension. Many of the books and stories are aligned to our reading curriculum and are currently available in our Media Center and class libraries. We are excited about how this program will encourage students to read consistently. Prizes and special incentives awarded to encourage students to achieve reading goals.

The season of giving is upon us. This year, Colfax teamed with three other schools in our district for a **"Thanksgiving Food Drive Program for a Family of Four!"** As a school, we are committed to encouraging our children to make a difference in our communities and to seize opportunities to provide kindness and support to others in need. In past years, this service project has stretched across the entire City of Pittsburgh, feeding 300-350 women, men, and children. This year, our students participated in the service project by bringing in the donations, bagging food items, and delivering to our distribution site.

As native Pittsburgher know, November brings the official change in our weather. Students go outside daily for recess except when it is raining during their scheduled time or a temperature reading of 32 degrees or below. Remind your children to dress appropriately for the weather. Please note that many of our students have the same or similar coats and jackets. It is highly recommended that you label all outerwear to help decrease confusion in identifying belongings.

In closing, I hope the season of giving reminds us to be a little kinder, more helpful, and appreciative of every moment shared with others.

Warm Regards,
Dr. Woods



COLFAX WELCOMES NEW



Linda Strothers

This is my first year as a Paraprofessional at Colfax. I have 19 years with Pittsburgh Public Schools, as a Teacher Assistant in Early Childhood. The academic year of 2015 to 2017, I was introduced to a new concept called, Early Childhood Montessori Infusion Classroom which is an additional program at Crescent ECC. I've worked at Summer Dreamers for ten years at PPS. The summers of 2016 and 2017, I worked with PPS Extend School Year (ESY) which provides a continuation of special education. I graduated in 2011 with my Associates Degree as a Teacher Assistant. I feel honored to part of the Colfax Family and I appreciate the warm welcome from all the staff. I am excited to help support teachers to improve academic growth for all students!



Patricia Simunovic

I am the new Resource Room Teacher. My degree is in Special Education and Elementary Education. I have been teaching in the Pittsburgh Public School District for fifteen years. Last year, I was at Grandview Elementary where I was a Life Skill Support Teacher for ten years. I am very excited to be at Colfax this year. I am looking forward to working with the students here at Colfax and to a great year.



Sandra Moore

Ms. Moore comes to Colfax after spending a long career at the University of Pittsburgh. She is enjoying learning about Colfax and seeing the children as they move about the school. She looks forward to getting to know the staff and PTO. She loves to work out and enjoys the outdoors. An avid walker, look for her walking around the neighborhood and the school during lunch. Say hello.



Josette Brighenti

Josette Brighenti is the new SDSS (Student Data Systems Specialist) in the main office. She lives on a small farm in the Banksville section of the city, has a son in fourth Grade, two large, food-driven Labradors, and a ridiculous Goldendoodle. She earned a Bachelors Degree from Carlow University in 2006, majoring in Fine Arts, Art History and specializing in the macabre and the unusual. With over the ten years in educational sector, her experience in teaching, training and guiding others has served essential in working in a variety of professional and creative areas from The Scarehouse to the Art Institutes and now PPS. Known as a Jill-of-all-trades, unique and thrives with researching out of the box solutions with creativity and humor, she is happy to be welcomed here at Colfax.



Victoria Myser

Hello Colfax Families! My name is Victoria Myser. I am one of the new School Nurses hired this year. I am assigned to Colfax three days a week and I float to other schools two days a week. Whenever Nurse Short travels I will be at Colfax so there will always be someone in the Health Office!

I was born and raised in Penn Hills and was graduated from The University of Pittsburgh with my Bachelors in Nursing. I have been an RN for 31 years. I spent several years working at Shadyside Hospital caring for people who had open heart surgery and then took time off from my career to raise my two children Kathryn and Bradley. As my children grew older I started to work as a nurse substitute in my children's schools and found that I really loved school nursing. I went back to PITT to obtain my certification in school nursing about 12 years ago.

Prior to coming to Colfax this year, I worked as a school nurse in both the Gateway School District and Propel Charter Schools. For the last eight years I was the Director of Health Services for Propel Charter Schools.

When I am not at school I love to sew, do cross stitch and most anything crafty. My husband (Terry) and I have recently celebrated our thirty-first wedding anniversary. Since our children are grown, my husband and I love to hike and explore the wonderful Pennsylvania Wilds region any opportunity we get.

I really love helping to care for your children and all the staff at Colfax. It is a wonderfully warm school and I am blessed to work with so many diverse and talented children and so many compassionate and caring staff members!

TEACHERS AND STAFF



Paul Casey

My Name is Paul Casey. I have been teaching Health and Physical Education in the Pittsburgh Public Schools for twelve years. Last year I was at Pittsburgh Obama and in previous years worked at Pittsburgh Carmalt, Pittsburgh Oliver and Pittsburgh King. This year I will be working at Pittsburgh Colfax and Pittsburgh Arlington. I was very excited to get a position at Pittsburgh Colfax and hope to add some positive things to the already strong PE department. I attended Pittsburgh Public schools and graduated from Carrick High School, then later from Slippery Rock University. My wife, daughter and I currently live in Hampton Township.



Elizabeth Hazlett

I am in my thirteenth year of teaching. I have taught all but three years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. As a PPS graduate, it was always my dream to teach in the district I grew up in. I earned my BA in Music Education/Theatre from the University of Charleston in WV. As a music teacher, I believe that the students should learn all aspects of music and not just sing out of a book. In my classes we study theory, history, musical theatre, as well as singing and focusing on specific musical concepts. My goal is for my students to enjoy music and gain an appreciation for new music. It is great to be at Colfax and share my passion with all of the students and staff here.



Venneasha Davis

I am honored to be a part of your school community here at Colfax. I am a mom of three, wife, and creator and facilitator of my after-school program Sisters e S.T.E.A.M. Making and STEAM education is a huge passion of mine, and I cannot wait to share a little of me with all of you. My goal is to prepare your child for the twenty-first century. Our students will work together to become problem solvers, critical thinkers, innovators, all while communicating their ideas and results.

The sixth and seventh grade science course provides a core of knowledge and skills to prepare students for high school science. Students will engage in inquiry based hands-on learning. Through inquiry, our goal is to increase intellectual engagement and foster deep understanding through the development of project based; problem based, and designed based learning. Students will engage in an in-depth study of the following components of science: Life Science, Physical, and Earth. Students will examine patterns, relationships, and change within natural systems in addition to the relationships among science, technology, and society. Students will simultaneously build conceptual understanding and proficiency in scientific process skills. The skills targeted in this course are as follows: scientific questioning, experimentation and laboratory skills, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication of scientific findings. We have a strong focus on the Next Generation Science Practices and will be using STC Materials as our number one resource. The development of these skills is essential to preparing a student for inquiry-based high school courses.



Patti Bartolli

I am a third and fourth grade ELA teacher this year at Colfax. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. I have twenty years of teaching experience, including seven years teaching first grade in Las Vegas and thirteen years teaching prekindergarten at the Children's Museum for PPS. I am also a National Board Certified Teacher. I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me to Colfax and look forward to a wonderful year.



Rasheeda Rice

Hello Colfax Family! I have fifteen years elementary teaching experience. Being a primary educator is a never-ending learning process. I believe in student centered and data driven classroom practices. My philosophy for teaching is to always provide a nurturing learning environment in which all students can maximize their academic growth. Last year, I had the fantastic opportunity to teach second graders math and science. This year, I have the privilege to teach English language arts to our fifth grade! I am very excited about the ELA curriculum, which is brand new for the district. It is very engaging and exciting for the students. I look forward to a great first year!

COLFAX WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF



Zijie Cai

My name is Zijie Cai. I serve as an ESL Educational Assistant at Colfax K-8 and as a Chinese translator and interpreter for Pittsburgh Public Schools. I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Philology from Shanghai International Studies University and a Master's Degree in Teaching from Chatham University.

At Colfax, I mainly assist ESL teachers with not only Chinese speaking students but other ESL students from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds. I also help other school personnel when needed.

A little more about myself. I am originally from Shanghai and my mother tongue is Shanghaiese. I am a music aficionado. I listen to music of all genres, but rock and roll is definitely my favorite. I also enjoy collecting albums. It is a great honor for me to use this platform to introduce myself to the PTO.



Amanda Olshenske

Hello! My name is Amanda Olshenske, and I am so excited to be a fifth grade ELA teacher at Colfax! I attended Duquesne University, where I earned my Master's Degree in elementary education. I taught in Charlotte, NC for three years before moving back to Pittsburgh to join PPS two years ago. I got married this summer, and now live in the South Hills with my husband Brad, my Golden Retriever Murphy, and two cats Emma and Theo. I absolutely love all animals and volunteer at the Humane Society walking dogs whenever I can. In my free time I enjoy doing anything outdoors—hiking, camping, kayaking, and spending time with my family. I look forward to having an amazing year at Colfax!



Casey Weiss

It is my honor to be officially part of the Colfax community as a fourth grade math teacher. At Chatham, I obtained a bachelor's degree in US history with a focus on African American history and a master's degree in Food Studies. I hold a master's degree in education with certification pre-K to fourth grade from Carlow University. In addition to teaching math, I volunteer for Common Threads cooking program and Girls on the Run. In my spare time you might see me running in Frick Park or rooting on our Pittsburgh Steelers.

Students who solve the math challenge below (and show me evidence of their thinking) can come find me for a prize: Dante went to bed at 8:30 p.m. He slept for an hour and 15 minutes. He woke up and ate a snack for 30 minutes and then went back to bed and slept till 6:30 a.m. How long did he sleep?

In addition, Colfax welcomes

Rachel Knight and **Francine Smith**.



Brea Grady

Serving in a new role at Colfax, I bring sixteen years of experience teaching within Pittsburgh Public Schools. I carry a dual certification in Regular Education and Special Education. For thirteen years, I was a Learning Support Teacher in various schools throughout the district.

As a Learning Support Teacher, one of the most useful accomplishments I have made was gaining certification in the Wilson Reading System. This has greatly improved my ability to teach struggling readers how to be successful. Three years ago, I was chosen to be one of eight Wilson Reading Itinerant Teachers throughout the district as part of a grant. This was an extremely beneficial experience, as I was part of a knowledgeable group of colleagues all working toward a common goal.

I am proud to be chosen to join the strong and skillful staff at Colfax. My goal as a resource teacher is to provide valuable instruction focusing on individual needs, while also providing meaningful support for teachers. I believe teaching is all about building your practice from year to year, which is why I am excited to continue my career with a talented team that I can learn from as well.

PENNSYLVANIA TEACHER-OF-THE-YEAR NOMINATIONS DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15TH

The **Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Program** recognizes excellence in teaching by honoring K-12 teachers who have made outstanding academic contributions to Pennsylvania's school-aged children. Please encourage your staff, parents, students, and community members to nominate an outstanding educator in your building. The nomination form is available at <http://nnstoy.org/chapter/pennsylvania/>. Questions about the program should be directed to Jim Towse, State Coordinator, at -717-783-9542, or via e-mail to <mailto:jtowse@pa.gov>.

MATH KANGAROO REGISTRATION

The Math Kangaroo test will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018. Thanks to leadership from Dr. Woods and PTO President, Julie Wilson, Colfax will be a private site for our kids to take the test. Registration should become active in the next week and can be accessed here:

WEBSITE TO REGISTER

<https://app.donorview.com/XPqA>

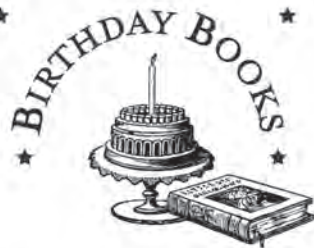
Private Code: **PAPITTS0003693**

The registration deadline is December 15, 2017.

In addition, vouchers are available to families who need assistance with paying the registration fee (\$20).

Finally, we are still seeking parent volunteers for grades 4, 7, and 8. We will be starting prep clubs in grades 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 in the next few weeks.

Please contact Newell Washburn (newell.washburn@gmail.com) for questions related to Math Kangaroo.



Leave your mark on Pittsburgh Colfax and celebrate your birthday with a book donated to the library in your name! A parent, family member or friend can donate a book to the library in honor of your special day. A book plate with your name will be added to the donated book. Birthday Books will be featured in the library and fellow students can even check out Birthday Books. The book will become part of Colfax and you will have a legacy here forever.

Donated Birthday Books may be a favorite book of yours or one from Ms. Reed's wishlist that is new or gently used. Hardcover books are suggested for durability.

*More detailed information will be coming soon,
so check the backpacks on Tuesdays!*

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COLFAX EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES!

Want to stay up-to-date about the goings-on at Colfax? Be sure to sign up for our weekly emails. Simply go to www.colfaxpto.org and click on the link to register for the emails. It only takes a minute to start receiving weekly updates and reminders about important dates, special events, and important announcements.

Did you know we also have a Facebook page? Check out our page at "Pittsburgh Colfax PTO" and keep on top of the things going on at our fabulous school!

If you have any questions or would like to submit an article or picture to be considered for inclusion in our newsletter, email, or Facebook, email our VP of Communications, Jeanine Weiss at communications@colfax.org.

CROSS COUNTRY SEASON WRAP-UP



Well they did it again!

After last season many thought it would be hard to beat.

Last year, the boys winning their first ever championship after coming so close in many years before.

The girl's completing a three part championship. So this year could they do it again? Wow did they!

Congratulations to the boys' team: after getting their first win ever last year, they went out and repeated the feat. It was a close battle but managed to pull it out. And the girls were overwhelmingly impressive winning their fourth championship in a row! They placed all seven of our finalists in the top twelve finishers. We had probably the best weather all season that I can ever remember having, and the kids worked so hard to improve their individual times throughout the season. Running through tough hills,

cramps, and humid conditions—they made it all worth it. We had a great showing at the Run Shadyside event too.

Best wishes go out to all of the runners but especially a group of eighth graders that will be missed and hope you all continue to be active and involved in some more school activities in the years ahead. You will be missed.

Lastly, I needed to make a special thank you to all the parents for allowing me to work with your kids and thank you to all the parents that gave extra help where ever they could with rides, help with timing, pictures, recording and even with the pizza party! More appreciated than you know for all of it. Enjoy the rest of the year and see you on next year's team!

—Love, Coach Lydon





GIRLS' TEAM

Piper Reck
 Cate Guilfoyle
 Ella Shorkey
 Hannah Schwartz

Jurnee Durrett-Finney
 Gabrielle Haber
 Ella Washburn
 Adi Schreiber

Hannah Hagley
 Audrey Olmstead
 Kimaria Samuel
 Haruka Doi

Abigal Feinstein
 Maya Holstein
 Dora Gordon
 Beatrice Kuhn

Jennifer Lin
 Virag Salvador
 Naomi Segel
 Rebecca Simonovsky



BOYS' TEAM

Ethan Anish
 Owen Blumen
 Avery Ruben
 Victorious Sankofa
 Ian Waite
 Ian Kuchera

Ethan Rosenberg
 Ben Stolarz
 Nate Sirlin
 Elias Trbovic
 Andrew Serbinin
 Torrey Bullock

Nate Chinman
 Noah Earnest-Hawken
 Gabriel Feinstein
 Liam Friedlander
 Caden Harper
 Luke Hunter

Devon Johnson
 Pavel Marin
 Henry O'Boyle
 Cole Schaefer
 Alex Schafer
 Michael Serbin

Dylan Nauhaus
 Yoel Tamar
 Josue Torres
 Fernando Vielma
 Ezra Dubowitz
 Spencer Waite

CROSS COUNTRY SEASON WRAP-UP CONTINUED



Photo by Nate Chinman



Photo by Nate Chinman



STRONG WOMEN STRONG GIRLS

Submitted by Chelsea Balik (First Grade Teacher/FACE Coordinator)

Strong Women Strong Girls is a nationally recognized mentoring program that serves girls in Grades 3-5. This innovative program helps build skills in leadership, self-esteem and problem solving through the study of contemporary and historic female role models. Along with skill building through the SWSG curriculum, elementary girls are also paired with a college mentor from a local Pittsburgh university. This year we are so excited to host the program for the entirety of the year with mentors from Carnegie Mellon University. During programming, the girls at Colfax will be encouraged to think about their own futures and will also have the opportunity to visit a college campus in the fall and learn about careers later in the spring. Girls will also think about personal goals and personal growth while empowering their own strengths. The program meets once a week for 90 minutes for until the end of April. We are excited to bring the opportunity for our Colfax girls to increase positivity through skill building and strong mentoring this school year!



PARTY 4 PLAY 2.0 NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**JOIN THE HOST AND/OR
PLANNING COMMITTEES**

**+SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD**

*Submitted by Chelsa Wagner and
Khari Mosley (Parents of Isaiah,
kindergarden and Thaddeus, third.)*

Nearly twelve years ago, Party 4 Play was created by the PTO in order to raise funds to complete Colfax's playground. The annual fundraiser (the largest fundraising event of the year for our school) is an evening of great company, food, drinks and music, all for the important purpose of supporting our students' extracurricular activities that fall outside of the school's budget. Last year we raised nearly \$30,000 with your help, and we hope we can count on you again this year.

This year will mark the twelfth annual fundraising event, and we want your ideas and energy so we may usher in the next generation of the event. We'll be thinking of how to rebrand the event so that it speaks to the current objectives. Dr. Woods has great ideas for investments that would truly take our school, classrooms and students to the next level (think technology especially). I believe we can beat last year's total by a considerable amount, and make many of those investments on Dr. Woods' wish list a reality—but we need your help and talents to do that. Maybe you can help us obtain auction items, maintain spreadsheets, mail requests, set up the event, mail thank yous...there are limitless ways to help, and every bit counts.

Last year I and my husband, Khari Mosley, chaired the event for the first time. This year, we are creating a host committee for the

event, with specific responsibilities divvied up so parents may easily contribute their time in a way that best fits their respective schedules. We have many parents who started this event when their kids were in the lower grades, and many of their children are now in high school... so while many of these "veteran" parents still graciously give their time and talents, we are at a critical time where we need some new recruits, who ideally can take on manageable pieces of this event, and we can tap into the knowledge of our veteran volunteers while we still have them here. Being able to interact with parents of older children and vice-versa, while also designing the plan for our big event for this year and years to come is a reward in an of itself...and we promise fun planning parties!

Will you join the planning and/or host committees? We'll convene a casual and fun planning meeting the week of December 4th. If you are interested in helping (even if that week doesn't work for you), please email: chelsawagner@gmail.com (note spelling of my name/ email address so it doesn't bounce back—Chelsa-no E-not ChelsEa). We can then pick a date that works for most of our volunteers. I will also send out more details via email.

Thank you!!

MIDDLE LEVEL POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

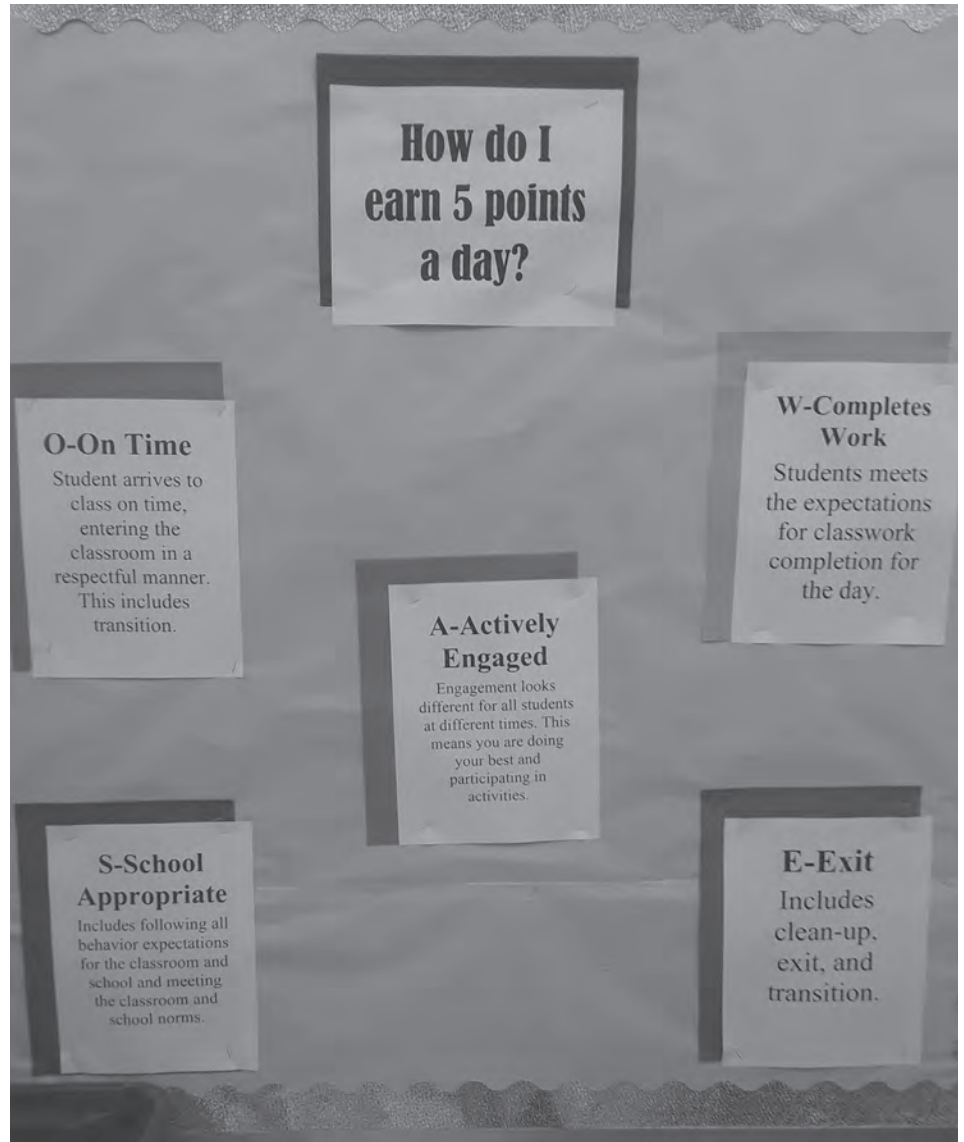
Submitted by Jennifer Herr (8th Grade ELA Teacher)

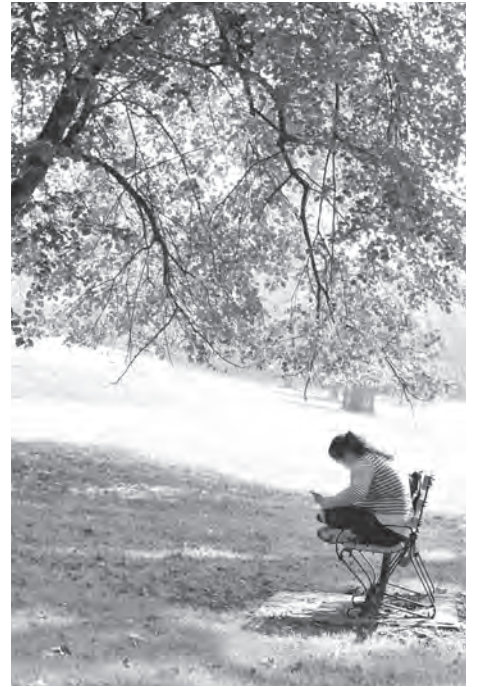
This year, students in Grades 6–8 will be working with a new incentive program that focuses on earning points as a reward for demonstrating positive behaviors.

Members of the Middle School Team have developed a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to motivate students and celebrate progress, as well keep track of daily classroom data with ease.

Each student has the opportunity to earn 5 points per day/per class daily. The 5 points are earned for the following 5 things:

- 1 O=ON TIME**
Student arrives to class on time, entering the classroom in a respectful manner. This includes transition.
- 2 W=COMPLETES WORK**
Student meets the expectations for classwork completion for the day.
- 3 A=ACTIVELY ENGAGED**
Engagement looks different for all students at different times. This means you are doing your best and participating in activities.
- 4 S=SCHOOL APPROPRIATE**
Includes following all behavior expectations for the classroom and school and meeting the classroom and school norms.
- 5 E=EXIT**
Includes clean-up, exit, and transition.





TEAM COLFAX RUNS SHADYSIDE

Submitted by Anne Marie Kuchera

For the sixth year in a row, Team Colfax made a strong showing at Run Shadyside. It was a beautiful morning for the race this year on October 7th, and 180 runners and walkers representing Colfax made their way to the finish line in support of Colfax and the Boys & Girls Club of Shadyside. Nearly 100 Colfax students ranging from kindergarteners to eighth graders crossed the finish line to cheers from friends and family, and high-fives from Mr. Lydon. Several Colfax students even sported their blue and gold on the medal stand. It was a sunny and celebratory morning in support of our school and our community partner.

THANK YOU to everyone who signed up and showed up. **Together, we raised over \$750 for the Boys & Girls Club, and nearly \$1,800 for our school PTO to support student programs at Colfax.** We look forward to doing it again next year!

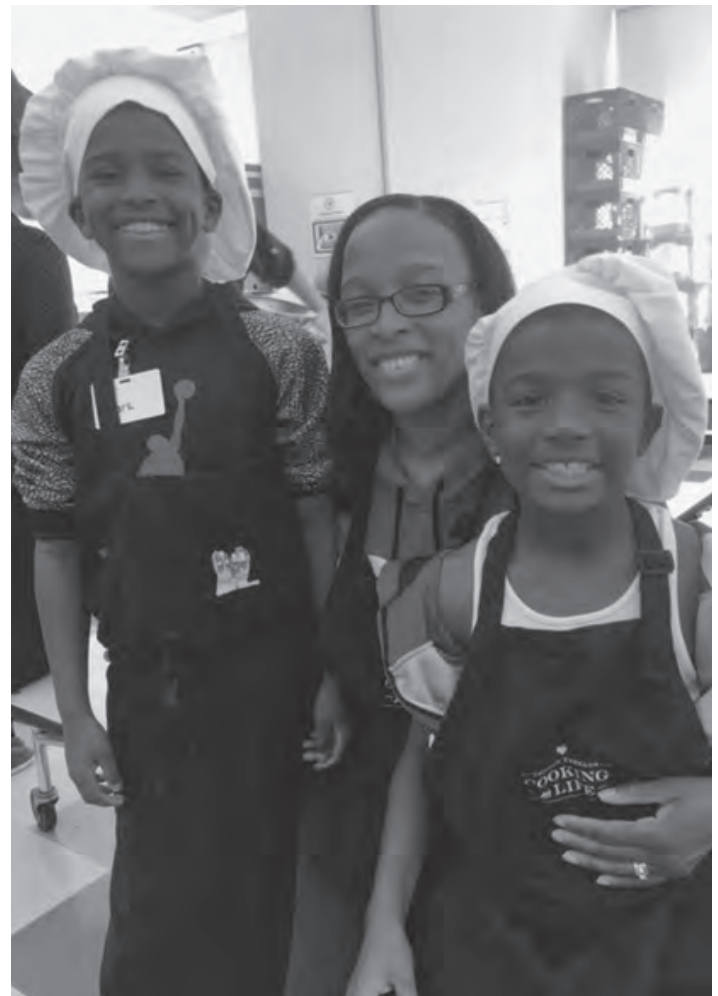




COMMON THREADS

Submitted by Patricia Pozza (3rd Grade Teacher/FACE Coordinator)

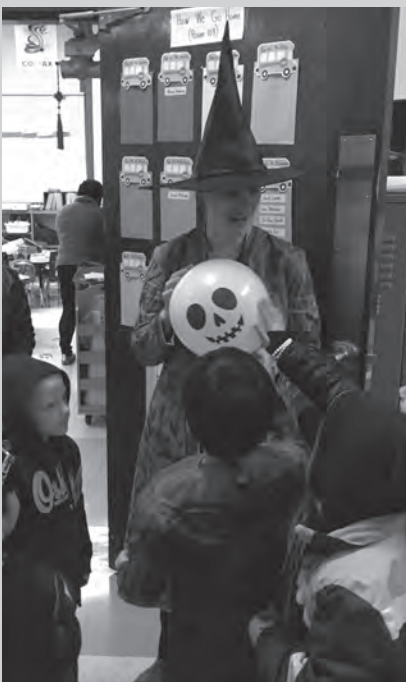
Colfax is partnering with Common Threads once again, to provide an enrichment opportunity that focuses on teaching children the importance of nutrition, physical well being, and empowering them to be agents for change. Students in grades 3-5, who participate will learn how prepare a variety of dishes from nine countries, while learning to safely handle kitchen equipment. Chef Danielle San Filippo, the program instructor will help the children understand the importance of creating well-balanced meals for themselves and their families. The program will be once a week for two hours.





ELEMENTARY UPDATE

October was an exciting month for students in K-5. Students ventured out on the first field trips of the year. They spent time in the garden. They started lunchtime chess, and Challenge 24. They started shopping with their Cobra Stamps at the Cobra Store. They enjoyed Crazy Hair Day. There was a movie night featuring *Beauty and the Beast* and *LEGO Batman*. And finally we finished the month with the wonderful Colfax Harvest Parade.



MIDDLE LEVEL FIELD TRIP AND FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Submitted by Sukanya Srinivasan (mid-level parent representative)

Here are some important reminders for Middle level families about the end-of-the-year trip for Grades 6-8. The Middle Level students are going to have an opportunity to tour Washington D.C. and enjoy Hershey Park! The dates are May 31 through June 1, 2018. Cost is \$320 per person. The first deposit of \$100 was due by Wednesday, October 18th. If there are students/parents that are interested, please email Mr. Ryan Schmiedlin at rschmiedlin1@pghboe.net or call the school directly at 412-422-3525. The next deposit will be due in January. Don't delay—reserve your child's spot today!

Several fundraisers have already taken place to help students pay for this trip, including the October 28th movie night where concession proceeds

benefitted the Middle Level, the Chipotle fundraiser night on November 15th, and the Sarris Candy Sale. Candies purchased through the Sarris sale will be delivered on December 12th. Thanks for Betsy Schwartz (bschwartz74@yahoo.com) and Anne Kurzweg (salzkurz@gmail.com) for organizing this for our kids!

Last year, students raised nearly \$5,000 to help defray their costs but we need Middle Level parents to get involved and get other fundraisers going. If you have ideas or would like to chair a fundraiser, the students could use your help! So please contact Sukanya Srinivasan (dr.sukanya@gmail.com) to get connected to the Middle Level committee in charge of fundraising and help make this annual trip available to all our students.



FLU SHOT REMINDER FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE

Nurse Rachel protects herself from influenza. She got her vaccine at the Carnegie Museum this fall. Don't you forget to get your flu shot, too!



GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS... FEATURING COLFAX'S OWN, AUDREY OLMSTEAD

By Chelsa Wagner

On September 27th, The Women's Law Project presented presented Fair:Play, a user friendly online tool designed to make schools accountable for their federal Title IX responsibilities for gender equity. The tool was designed at a code-a-thon, by young students (mostly all "girl coders") and included students from Pittsburgh Public Schools and other local districts. Fair:Play was unveiled at a launch party held at Google's Pittsburgh offices through a documentary style video put together by one of Colfax's own, Audrey Olmsted!

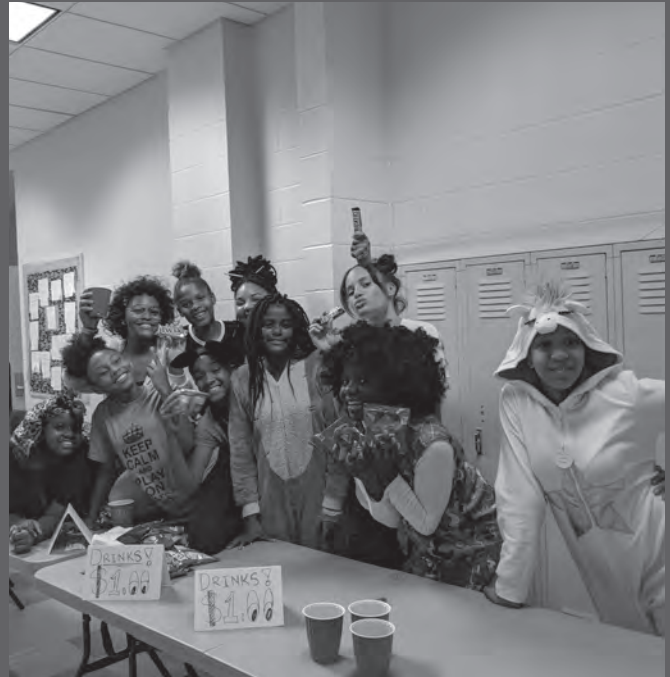
You can check view the tool at FairPlay.womenslawproject.org. It was incredible to see Audrey (and Colfax) represented in this critical effort. Audrey worked with a small team of girls to produce a video presentation that showed the audience how the coders created Fair:Play. Audrey's video featured personal stories from the team of coders and their thoughts on the importance of equal athletic opportunity.

Although Title IX has been in effect since 1972 at the federal level, not until 2012, though the continued leadership of the Women's Law Project, did Pennsylvania enact a law to require public schools to collect and report their data (I became involved in the effort as a co-sponsor of the bill during my time as a State House member). That bill required all Pennsylvania public schools to report their Title IX data. While that was a significant step, it produced mounds of spreadsheets from the Pennsylvania Department of Education in a big "data dump" of 40,000 excel sheets, with six million cells each year. So what was intended to help parents and students advocate at their local school was virtually impossible to decipher. The Women's Law Project pushed onwards, and convened students for a code-a-thon and Fair:Play was born. This tool allows you to enter your school's name into the site and see how it compares to State and County statistics. The hope is that having this information in a more digestible form in a convenient location will both provide accountability and incentivize schools to report more accurately in the future.

Thanks to the Women's Law Project, the entire team who created Fair:Play and especially to Audrey for an accomplishment that will not only help her fellow students (at PPS and well beyond), but will also help ensure equity for generations of female students. Kudos!

MOVIE NIGHT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

Thank you to everyone who came out and made our Halloween Family Movie Night a success! So many families came together to enjoy time with friends watching *LEGO Batman* and *Beauty and the Beast*, share pizza and snacks served up by our eighth grade volunteers, and wear costumes. Special thanks to all of the PTO volunteers who made this night possible. We are looking forward to the next one in the Spring.



COLFAX PTO CALENDAR 2017-2018

DECEMBER

December 1
Cobra Store Grades K-5

December 8
Early Dismissal 11:50am

December 9
Barnes & Noble Waterfront
Book Fair

December 13
PSCC/PTO Meeting

December 15
Cobra Store Grades K-5

December 25-January 1
No School—Winter Break

JANUARY

January TBD
Ice Skating Night

January 10
PSCC/PTO Meeting

January 12
Cobra Store Grades K-5

January 15
No School—MLK day

January 22-23
No School—Teacher Prep

January 26
Cobra Store Grades K-5

FEBRUARY

February 2
Early Dismissal 11:50am

February 9
Cobra Store Grades K-5

February 14 (*To be confirmed.*)
PSCC/PTO Meeting

February 16
Cobra Store Grades K-5

February 23
Early Dismissal 11:50am

MARCH

March 2
Early Dismissal 11:50am

March 3
Party 4 Play

March 9
Cobra Store Grades K-5

March 14
PSCC/PTO Meeting

March 15
Spring Movie Night

March 16
Cobra Store Grades K-5

March 23
Early Dismissal 11:50am

March 26-30
No School—Spring Break

APRIL

April 11
PSCC/PTO Meeting

April 13
Cobra Store Grades K-5

April 27
Cobra Store Grades K-5

MAY

May 7-11
Teacher Appreciation Week

May 9
PSCC/PTO Meeting

May 11
Cobra Store Grades K-5

May 25
Cobra Store Grades K-5

May 28
No School—Memorial Day

JUNE

June 1
Last Cobra Store Grades K-5


June 5
Carnival

June 7
Eighth Grade Promotion

June 8
Last Day of School

Looking for an affordable way to advertise your business or program? Reach hundreds of Colfax families and support the Colfax PTO by placing an ad in our newsletter! Contact our advertising representative for deadlines and more information:
Leslie Grodin,
Leslie.Grodin@verizon.net.

Karen Kendall
Owner

 412.445.7047

 EastEndTechConcierge@Gmail.com

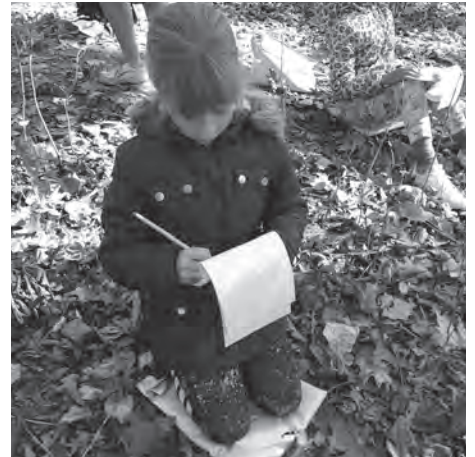
 /EastEndTechConcierge


**East End
Tech Concierge**

Helping to untangle today's technology!

FOURTH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE FRICK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER





Have the best summer ever at J&R Day Camp



*Register now to get
Early Bird rates!*

Age 3-Grade 5

June 18-August 16

Register by the week

**JCC
PGH**

For more information: Lewis Sohinki, 412-697-3537 or lsohinki@jccpgh.org

To register: j&rdaycamp@jccpgh.org



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

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

Your child can see the world

Spring break and summer travel programs by CISV build cross-cultural friendship and teach empathy and leadership skills for kids ages 11-18. International and domestic programs available.

Apply now: <http://pitt.cisvusa.org>



usa

building global friendship
pittsburgh chapter

*What more
do you want
from your house?*

Improve comfort and
efficiency. Create more
living space.



AJ Stones
Master Green Remodeler

Older houses
our specialty

Consulting and
Remodeling

ajstones.com
412-241-6042



SUNBURST
SCHOOL OF MUSIC



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



**FREE
FIRST
LESSON**



HAPPY FALL!

SAVE THE DATE

Pittsburgh Colfax K-8

BARNES & NOBLE
Waterfront
BOOKFAIR

Celebrate the Holiday season with Pittsburgh Colfax!

Saturday, December 9th shop all day

3-6pm activities only

Activities include:

- *Chorus performances by Colfax Choir
- *Our very own school spirit "drink of the day" the Cobra Freeze!
- *Learn all about the newest gizmos with the latest Tech and Toy demonstrations.
- *Lego build event for kids and Coloring Table for adults too!
- *Bring the entire family for an evening of fun to support our school!

You won't want to miss it!

CAN'T ATTEND OUR BOOKFAIR AT BARNES & NOBLE?

Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 12/9/17 to 12/15/17 by entering Bookfair ID #12272951 at checkout. A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school.

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKFAIR

Barnes & Noble
Bookfair

Supporting

Pittsburgh Colfax
Saturday, December 09, 2017
Waterfront/Homestead
100 West Bridge Street

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your organization.*



12272951

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble membership chips, textbooks, magazines, subscriptions, video games, purchased online, and other items owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for purchase. For details on what items are not eligible for purchase, please visit BN.COM/bookfairs and make sure you enter the correct Bookfair ID #12272951 at checkout.



purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your organization.*
Bookfair ID #12272951

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, digital content, purchases made at Cafes owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.

