**APRIL 2019** 



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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Greetings Colfax Families,

We made it through another Pittsburgh winter. We had a few cancellations and a few delays; always a challenge for parents. Now, it's smooth sailing into June. Speaking of June, we have so much to look forward to in the coming months. The musical that Ms. Edwards is directing (The Lion King Jr.), our annual garden event, the ML trip to Cleveland, orchestra concert, various grade level field trips, possible soccer and wrestling championships, Carnival and 8th grade promotion. Please be on the lookout for information about all of these and more in the weekly update.

Party4Play 13 went exceedingly well. We sold around 180 tickets. The venue was at the Phipps at Mellon Park which ended up being a great space for us. Unfortunately, we won't be able to have it there next year as there are plans for major construction to the building sometime soon. Our P4P Chair, Amanda Cline added some games this year and parents enjoyed a casino style atmosphere with blackjack, craps and roulette. Winners won tickets toward special prizes just for gamblers. She also had a 50/50 raffle for the NCAA games that night with live streaming so patrons could watch while at the event. This was one of the best events in my opinion.

It takes a lot to pull off an event like this. I'd like to use my letter to acknowledge some of those good folks. First, Amanda Cline who had amazing ideas and pulled them off. Taking charge of an event is not easy and she did it seamlessly. Cindy Chapanoske who oversaw every aspect of the auction both live and silent. This is no small feat, organizing and on your feet thinking are key and Cindy has both and more. Mary Dorfner Hay created the PTO posters on the wall and Sivan Earnest created the promotional designs for the event. Sarah Sirlin managed the classroom baskets. Gretchen Bierebaum served as our sponsor liaison and was very generous donating the beer. Amy Malen helped with set up, was very helpful in the planning and generously donated all the soda and mixers. Dory Levine and I did our usual trip around Shadyside gathering as many donations as we could. My husband Ken and I donated the wine and liquor. Dory was also in charge of gathering the wine for the wine pull. Cassie Quigley who took charge of the ticket sales. Nicole Fielder who implemented the lighting and her husband, the amazing Bill who created all the casino games! Leslie Grodin who solicited lots of good stuff and helped organize the baskets. The list goes on with additional volunteers who helped with set up and the dealers and folks who worked the door.

Last, I want to thank everyone who came to the event. Thank you for coming out and supporting your child's school. Thank you to the huge number of teachers, staff and administrators who spent their Saturday night with us. Participation is one of the biggest reasons Colfax is so successful. The event idea started with the need for a new playground and now is equally important in supporting the annual budget of the PTO. Dr. Woods would like to have a smart board in every class and the PTO has been very helpful in buying several of those. P4P helps to make this possible.

Have a fantastic spring break!

Abbie Campsie PTO President





















### **Thank You!**

To all the families and businesses for donating items and services to the auction or raffles, thank you. Without your support this event would not be possible.

Event Sponsors





Abbie Campsie and Ken Haber



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### Music and Lighting Sponsors





Let us partner with you to make your next event **memorable**.







# PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Greetings Colfax Families,

I hope this letter finds you all well and in good spirits. Can you believe that we are near the end of the 2018-2019 school year?! Spring is officially here, and our weather forecast has finally gotten the memo. We are finally experiencing consistent temperatures about 60 degrees. With the warmer temperatures, we are asking that you review our dress code policy with your child(ren) so that we are all on the same page. Middle level students had grade level meetings in which they were presented with picture examples of what is expected and appropriate. Students not meeting the dress code, will be required to contact a parent for a change of clothes/shoes. It is also important that we maintain consistent routines in class, homework, and behavior expectations. We want to have a strong and positive ending to the school year. Your support is appreciated.

As the year comes to a close, there are many plans for the students. Below are a few of the upcoming events and dates. Please remember to consistently check your child's teacher communications and PTO for additional information.

- May 16th, Lion King Jr. Musical
- May 17th-VIP day
- May 18th- 19th-Lion King Jr. Musical
- May 27th- No school
- May 30th and 31st -Middle Level Cleveland Trip
- May 30th- alternative ML activities-park for lunch and afternoon
- May 31st- alternative ML trip activity Fun-For-All 8:30-1:15
- June 5th- wave pool trip (3rd-8th)
- June 6th- alternative Wave pool trip
- June 7th- 8th grade field day
- June 10th- 8th grade promotion
- June 11th- Last day for students

In closing, I would like to extend our thanks to the PTO for yet another successful Party 4 Play fundraiser. The feedback regarding the new venue was very positive. It continues to be a great time for all and a very informal way in which staff, parents, and community members can interact on a more personal level. Kudos to all involved in the planning and donations for this year's event!

Sincerely, Dr. Sanders-Woods





### **IMPORTANT DATES**

APRIL 15-22 NO SCHOOL–SPRING BREAK

MAY 6-10 TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

MAY 27 NO SCHOOL–MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 30-31 MIDDLE LEVEL TRIP

JUNE 5 CARNIVAL 5:30PM

JUNE 11 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL





Fun at Recess





# 2019 MIDDLE SCHOOL SNOWBALL DANCE

On February 22nd, the middle schoolers laced up their dancing shoes for a night of dinner and dancing at the Colfax Middle School Snowball Dance.

The evening was a great success, thanks to the many parent, teacher, and student volunteers who organized the event—from the decorations, to the music; dinner to dancing—the students had a fantastic time. Just look at those smiles!



















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HELP!

# SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE/SCENE COMPETITION

On February 12th, 21 of our Colfax students (representing grades 6-8) competed in the Shakespeare Monologue/ Scene competition at the O'Reilly Theatre. The students worked extremely hard from September—January preparing their scenes and monologues to perform. Though none of our students made it to the final round, they all did a fantastic job and made Colfax proud!

### Shakespeare Students

6th: Abigail Hilton, Ekow Opoku-Dakow

7th: Riana Jones, Elizabeth Regier, Morgan Sinclair

8th: Ezra Dubowitz, Noah Earnest-Hawken, Abigail Feinstein, Eliza Gonzalez, Isabelle Hagley, Madison Hunter, Ellie Kannel, Ian Kuchera, Tommy Nicol, Audrey Olmstead, Cole Schaefer, Hannah Schwartz, Ella Shorkey, Ben Stolarz, Eli Wynn



### Let's All Practice Bus Safety!



Whether you ride the bus to and from school, the gifted center or a field trip, you need to make sure you are practicing bus safety every day! You never know if a bus must stop abruptly or if an emergency is happening on the bus, your safety comes first. Please remember to always do the following when riding the bus

- 1. Get on the correct bus
- 2. Sit down and stay in your seat
- 3. Keep hands feet and unkind words to yourself
- 4. Use an inside voice when speaking to your seat partner, use appropriate language
- 5. No throwing objects of any kind inside or outside of the bus
- 6. Eating and drinking not permitted on the bus

Bus safety is your responsibility, make sure you are practicing bus safety everyday by following the bus rules listed above.

Please remember riding the bus is a **privilege** not a right!

### **Together we can achieve Bus Safety Excellence here at Colfax!**

# 7TH GRADE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA FIELD TRIP

Submitted by Miss Hazlett

On February 28th, the seventh grade students attended a workshop given by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, in conjunction with the show *The Phantom of the Opera*. The students spent the day in two separate groups. Each group received a 2-hour workshop, as well as a tour of the Benedum Center.

The workshop gave students the opportunity to perform an actual scene from *The Phantom of the Opera*. The students were divided into 5 groups: actors, set design, costume design, light design, and sound design. Each group had a representative form the Cultural Trust Education program working with them to teach them how to do each job. Students were allowed to touch costumes, use the lights and sounds, and build their own set for their scene. At the end of the workshop, the students performed their scene, with lights, sound, costumes, and set for the other half of the 7th grade.

Overall, the students had a great time and were given the opportunity to discover and create different parts of musical theatre.













### Pittsburgh Colfax K-8

Presents



Music & Lyrics by Elton John & Tim Rice

Additional Music & Lyrics by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Hans Zimmer

> Book by Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi

Based on the Broadway production directed by **Julie Taymor** 

Artistic Director Alyce Edwards

Performance Dates: Thursday, May 16, 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 18, 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m. matinee

Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and "Luau Hawaiian Treat" written by **Will Van Dyke** 

"It's a Small World" written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Disney's *The Lion King JR*. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International. 421 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019 Script, music, and all other material © 2015 Disney Broadway Junior and MTI's Broadway Junior Collection are trademarks of Music Theatre International. All rights reserved.

# TEXT-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS

One of the most challenging standards to master in English Language Arts is analysis of informational and literary text. At Colfax, this has been a focus in reading classrooms. The students need to be able to cite textual evidence by quoting accurately from the text to explain what the text says explicitly and make inferences. The students are taught how to closely read the text in order to be able to find text evidence that matches the prompt and explain what it means. After evaluating student work, we find that most students are strong in comprehension and essay writing. A growth area for all students is how to analyze what they are writing about.

To help students further, teachers took a close look at "The Thompson Model" for analysis. (You can find the work of Jeri Thompson on the PDE website.) She provides a model for students to use that helps them to push their analysis. The model looks like this:

Explicit Evidence	Inference	What does it mean?	So What?
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The teachers work very hard to give each student feedback on their Text Dependent Analysis essays. After getting feedback on their last essay, the students were taught the Thompson Model for Analysis. Grades 4-8 worked in groups to revise a piece of text evidence using The Thompson Model. They shared out their findings and gave each other feedback at the end.

Students have been practicing the model in their classrooms. They have been taught an acronym to remember all the steps of analysis:

Text Evidence Inference Explain what it means So what?

Fifth grade students were also helping the fourth grade students with this work. When you can teach the model to another person, you have truly mastered the skill. Teachers are really hoping that this strategy TIES it all together for students.





Explicit Evidence	Inference	what does if mean?	SO WHAT?
manary is vivid Frown that mameril on I was	character tound some-	The main character discurring the beach changed their net because ineg sound source many num is life a second neme to the main char acter we call sec that men source of the beach and hoppy, becaused life anothed in	30 as the slowy continues we see hat they care alot about the events that take place aroun the beach this experivale be discovery the orach sets the slage far the vest of the intra tes beach





" Let's use this piece of text evidence, because we can really tie \_\_\_\_\_\_it in the prompt!" \_\_\_\_\_



#### Activity:

Students completed an initial TDA as a cold write. Mrs. Pat, Ms. Greco, and Mrs. Stefanyak scored all the initial TDA essays. The results were discussed with each 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ELA class, and as a whole we noticed that students needed to go deeper with their analysis. Our Reading Coach, Mrs. Stefanyak, then presented a lesson that helped students *go deeper* with their analysis. Students then had the opportunity to revise their initial drafts. Please enjoy our artifacts and revised drafts.



### TDA Assignment

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade PROMPT- In the passage

-

"Surfing lowa" Randy states that "surfing is in here" and taps his chest. Write a TDA analyzing how Randy's perspective helps Jeff realize he can "Surf Iowa" Use text evidence and analysis in your response.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade PROMPT- Authors often

present events and situations as a way to shape characters. Write an essay analyzing how the main character of "The Cormorant of Bathtub" changes in response to events in the passage. Use text evidence and analysis in your response.









# PARK STEWARDS FIELD TRIP

Submitted by Casey Weiss







On our last Park Stewards field trip, we explored signs of Spring!













# The best days of summer!



# steelcityrowing.org/summercamps

# K-5 SHINING STARS

We are excited to announce the fourth round of the K-5 Shining Stars. Students were chosen for the character trait Scholarly. Please congratulate the following students:



K-1 Musyt: **Eli Blackhurst,** K-2 Banycky: **Charlotte Baird** K-3 Hills: **Ellie Zur,** K-4 Filipek: **Sofia Semenov** K-5 Jackson: **Fatima Mustapha** 



1-1 Knab: Aubri Reese, 1-2 Morgano: Henry Aldous
1-3 Bartels: Gaku Satoh, 1-4 Gaussa: Joyce Yan
1-5 Eagan: Annika Puwanant

### **THIRD GRADE**



3-1 Campione: Kai Yoshimura, 3-2 Bartolli: Roi Kestenberg
3-3 Lasek: Anne Hoffmier, 3-4 Murray: Nasir Munir
3-5 Grady: James Vanhoundnos



2-2 Grujich: **Derreon Milton,** 2-3 King: **Anh Man** 2-5 Johnston: **Rosella Farkas,** 2-6 Juhas: **Sofia Protho** 2-7 Phillips: **Riley Galda** 

#### **FOURTH GRADE**



4-1 Lucci: Henry Schlosser, 4-2 Weiss: Chris Graves 4-3 Mlay: Ethan Semenov, 4-4 Pellegrini: Deandre Cleveland



5-1 Rice: Ilya Goryunov, 5-2 Olshenske: Thomas Aldous
5-3 Kress: Talia Dubowitz, 5-4 Franklin: Miles Bluman
5-5 Coles: Marley Kotkiewicz

### YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN WINNER

Submitted by Lorena Mitchell

Congratulations to 8th grader Ja'Heiry Pryor for winning the 2019 yearbook cover design contest. Ja'Heiry's design has many different hands representing the many different nationalities at Colfax. His border reads: "In this world we face racial discrimination, but if we stand together, we can show the world that love is stronger."

Ja'Heiry says "I chose this cover design because of the synagogue shooting" and since Colfax has a large Jewish population, he felt that it would relate to a lot of people. He also stated that the "hands that I used were actual people that are around me...no one person can be stronger by themselves...so we must come together as a whole to repel against any hate or negativity." He figured that using actual models would give his image more meaning to the school because the representation was meaningful to him.

Ja'Heiry will receive \$50 for his winning design and a free yearbook. To see his winning design as well as some of the other fantastic entries, you can purchase your own yearbook.

Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$25 each. Hard copies are \$35. If you purchase your yearbook online, you can personalize up to 4 pages for free when you purchase your yearbook online at https://ppscolfax19.picaboo.com/2018-2019. Deadline to personalize your book is May 10, 2019.



# K-5 SHINING STARS

We are excited to announce the fifth round of the K-5 Shining Stars. Students were chosen for the character trait Helpful. Please congratulate the following students:



K-1 Musyt: **Ida Anderson,** K-2 Banycky: **Shalev Cohen-Karni** K-3 Hills: **William Reutzel,** K-4 Filipek: **Maggie Weissberg** K-5 Jackson: **Alijah Yuoj** 



1-1 Knab: Laila Heffley, 1-2 Morgano: Zora Sondheimer 1-3 Bartels: John Vanenberg, 1-4 Gaussa: Kareem Alsaidi 1-5 Eagan: Valerie Chen



2-2 Grujich: Wyatt Mihalick, 2-3 King: Maayan Dubowitz
2-5 Johnston: Samya Lebel, 2-6 Juhas: Norah Schlosser
2-7 Phillips: Kaylee Philips



3-1 Campione: Katie Fiedler, 3-2 Bartolli: Ben Obernarnscheidt
3-3 Lasek: Tristan Edinger, 3-4 Murray: Alex Friez
3-5 Grady: Anala Nguyen

# SOCCER SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

### GIRLS' SOCCER

Submitted by Coach Montgomery

The season is off to a competitive start. We had a large group of girls tryout this year. Soccer is a really popular sport nowadays. The team consists of 10 eighth graders, 5 seventh graders, and 3 sixth graders. From our statistics, we have an older team, which sets us apart from many schools. We have had two games so far and scored 16 points!!! We are off to a strong start and will continue to grow as a team. Our team has lot of talent and through practice and hard work we can be a power house team. Home games are at Schenley Oval on Tuesdays, please come out and support the girls.



4-1 Lucci: Simone Johnson, 4-2 Weiss: Thomas Levine 4-3 Mlay: Pamela Yang, 4-4 Pellegrini: Kiran Arunachalam

BOYS' SOCCER

Submitted by Coach Lydon

This year's team, like every year, has many new faces and a few returning players to help provide leadership. They are a hard-working group of fun, talented kids and we have hopes for a good year. I love that the kids learn to deal with all kinds of weather and conditions but must find a way to battle through. We will face some serious competition in our division but that is also what makes it fun. If you get a chance, try to come out for a nice day and cheer us on. Wish us luck and maybe we will see you at a game or two. Special thank you to the PTO for their continued support of not only the school in general but also for our teams. They really helped us this year with some very much needed uniforms. We appreciate it so much.



5-1 Rice: **Dahlia Farkas**, 5-2 Olshenske: **Terry Waters** 5-3 Kress: **Jacob Shorkey**, 5-4 Franklin: **Eli Coffey** 5-5 Coles: **Khyla Herbert** 

# FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the 4th and 5th grade boys' basketball team!











The fourth and fifth grade girls' basketball team went undefeated until the playoffs! Great job, Cobra girls!



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.

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### 📕 June 24-28

Slapshots Hockey Camp: Grades 1-6 • FP Let's Get Crafty! Grades 1-6 • SQ Minecraft and Superheroes! Grades 1-3 • SQ Flag Football: Grades 2-6 • FP

### 📕 July 8-12

Hit the Links! Grades 1-3 • SQ Culinary Creations: Grades 1-3 • FP Woodworking Camp: Grades 4-6 • FP Video Game Design and GameBots! Grades 4-6 • SQ Flag Football: Grades 2-6 • FP

### 📕 July 15-19

Soccer Stars – Pittsburgh Soccer Academy: Grades 3-6 • FP Hoop It Up! Grades 1-3 • SQ Girls on the Run: Grades 3-6 • SQ Let's Get Crafty! Grades 1-6 • SQ Step It Up! With JCC Dance: Grades 3-6 • SQ

### 📕 July 22-26

American Ninja Warrior: Grades 3-6 • FP Elite Tennis Camp: Grades 1-6 • FP Mighty Kicks Grades 1-3 • SQ Woodworking Camp: Grades 4-6 • FP Mainstages Drama Camp: Grades 2-6 • SQ Go Mad for Science! Grades 1-3 • SQ

### July 29-August 2

Soccer Stars – Pittsburgh Soccer Academy: Grades 3-6 • FP Hoop It Up! Grades 4-6 • SQ Elite Tennis Camp: Grades 1-6 • FP Mainstages Drama Camp: Grades 2-6 • SQ Outdoor Extreme: Grades 3-6 • SQ

### August 5-9

Hit the Links! Grades 4-6 • SQ The Art of Fencing: Grades 3-6 • SQ Culinary Creations: Grades 1-3 • FP Ultimate Drone Obstacle: Grades 4-6 • SQ Outdoor Extreme: Grades 3-6 • SQ Go Mad for Science! Grades 1-3 • SQ Flag Football: Grades 2-6 • FP

### August 12-16

Junior Drone Pilots Grades: 1-3 • SQ STEMquest Grades: 4-6 • SQ Flag Football: Grades 2-6 • FP

### August 19-23

Circus of the Kids: Grades 1-6 • SQ

SQ – Squirrel Hill FP – Family Park



For more information: Jamie Scott • 412-697-3520 • jscott@jccpgh.org To register: Katie Whitlatch • 412-697-3540 • kwhitlatch@jccpgh.org JCCPGHDAYCAMPS.COM

### CONNECTIONS · VALUES GROWTH · FUN

The Colfax PTO would like to thank those who have contributed this year to our school. Your contributions make a lot happen for our children! You may not realize everything the PTO helps pay for, so here's a list!

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

**Grow Pittsburgh Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops Playground Care and Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival Field trip to the pumpkin patch \$10 per student towards field trips \$100 teacher grant

THAN

#### FIRST GRADE

**Grow Pittsburgh Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) Four field trips to the Frick **Environmental Center** iPads and Laptops Playground Care and Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival \$10 per student for field trips \$100 teacher grant

#### SECOND GRADE

**Chess Club Grow Pittsburgh Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops **Playground Care and** Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Field trip to Heinz Hall Field trip to Pittsburgh Playhouse Four field trips to the Frick Mansions Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival \$10 per student for field trips \$100 teacher grant

#### THIRD GRADE

**Chess Club Grow Pittsburgh Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops Pool Care and Maintenance **Playground Care and** Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival \$10 per student for field trips \$100 teacher grant

#### FOURTH GRADE

Chess Club **Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) Three field trips to the Frick **Environmental Center** iPads and Laptops **Pool Care and Maintenance Playground Care and** Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights** Talent Show Carnival \$10 per student for field trips \$100 teacher grant Basketball uniforms

#### FIFTH GRADE

Chess Club **Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump-ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops **Pool Care and Maintenance Playground Care and** Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival \$10 per student for field trip \$100 teacher grant Basketball uniforms



### **Colfax K-8 Car Magnets**

http://colfaxpto.org/fundraising.html

Purchase Colfax "Proudly Pittsburgh Public" car magnets by visiting the link above and completing the "order form." Car magnets are \$5 each with 50% of all sales directly supporting Colfax K-8 educational programs.

#### Be Proudly Pittsburgh Public

Through generous donations from *you*, the Colfax PTO consistently meets its financial targets to supplement Colfax K-8 educational programs beyond those possible through baseline Pittsburgh Public education: approximately \$100 per child, \$2500 per classroom, and \$10,000 per grade!

Many Colfax K-8 activities, educational materials, and community events are only possible through PTO funds. Visit <u>http://colfaxpto.org</u> to learn more.

#### SIXTH GRADE

**Chess Club Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops Pool Care and Maintenance Playground Care and Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival Musical Sports uniforms (flag football, wrestling, soccer, basketball as needed) \$10 per student for field trip \$100 teacher grant

#### SEVENTH GRADE

**Chess Club Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops **Pool Care and Maintenance Playground Care and** Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival Musical Sports uniforms (flag football, wrestling, soccer, basketball as needed) Bus to Shakespeare enrichment program \$10 per student for field trips \$100 teacher grant

#### EIGHTH GRADE

**Eighth Grade Promotion** Chess Club **Recess Supplies** (Balls, jump ropes, etc.) iPads and Laptops **Pool Care and Maintenance** Playground Care and Maintenance **PBIS** Incentives Fiesta Ice Skating **Movie Nights Talent Show** Carnival Musical Sports uniforms (flag football, wrestling, soccer, basketball as needed) \$10 per student for field trips \$100 teacher grants

