# COLFAX 

COMMENTGAOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF TH PITTSBURCH COLFAX K-8 PTO
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P 16-17)
SHITINC STARS

P 20-23 FRICK FIELDTRIPS

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## Colfax Ask-Drive Fundraiser

Deadline: December 31, 2018
http://colfaxpto,org/donate.html
The Colfax PTO is accepting donations as part of its annual Ask-Drive fundraiser. Contributions can be made by visiting the link above and following the directions to donate. Each gift, in any amount, helps.

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 http://colfaxpto.org to learn more.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

## Season's Greetings Colfax Families,

This year is flying by. We're already in December which is one of the busiest months. We are having fundraisers, collecting money for teachers and hosting the annual faculty/staff holiday luncheon.


December always feels like the month of generosity with so many holidays and gift giving. It's also the time of year that we remember our dedicated and hardworking teachers. Many homeroom reps organize classroom gifts for their teachers and parents respond in kind often resulting in the teacher receiving something very generous. At Colfax, we have 30 devoted teachers without homerooms, four enthusiastic custodians and three dedicated secretaries. As a PTO, we like to recognize and say thank you to all these folks who might otherwise be forgotten. We hope to collect enough money to give everyone a $\$ 25.00$ gift card. I would like to personally say thank you to those of you who regularly donate money to this fund. It is very much appreciated.

Our annual ASK DRIVE campaign is still going on. Many parents and grandparents have donated, but we haven't quite met our goal. This money is important for us to maintain all the programs and services that we offer our children here at Colfax. Our PTO spends about $\$ 100.00$ on every child at Colfax! Kindergarten through second grade enjoy the garden, trips to the pumpkin farm, trips to Frick Environmental Center, trips to Frick Mansion, trips to Heinz Hall, trips to the play house as well as chess and end of year trips to the science center. Grades 3-5 enjoy Ducky tours, Trolley tours, Laurel Caverns, Science Center, chess club, Heinz Hall, History Center, the Cobra store, ballroom dancing, Pitt-CMU architecture tour, sports uniforms, and a trip to the wave pool. Grades 6-8 enjoy the musical, the Cobra store, History Center, Natural History Museum, Shakespeare Contest, Math Kangaroo, Chess club, Science center, trips to Meadowcroft, sports uniforms and to the wave pool. This list is not all encompassing. There are more programs, enrichment, and field trips that the PTO helps support that are not listed. Just think, if we didn't have enough money to continue, what would we have to terminate? Please don't make us have to choose. If you haven't donated yet, there is still time. We will take any amount large or small. Donation questions should go to Ross Ingram at VPfundraising@Colfax.com.

I hope you and your family have a joyous holiday season.
Warm Regards,
Abbie Campsie, PTO President


## Show Your Spirit! <br> Purchase a Colfax K-8 Car Magnet! Only \$5 Each



## 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

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## 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


## PRINCIPAL REMARKS

## Greetings Colfax Families,

I hope this edition of the Colfax Communicator finds you in good spirits and ready to end the year on a positive note! It is the time of year when we find ourselves a little kinder, more giving, and more appreciative of quality time spent with loved ones.

As some of you know, Students and Teachers Achieving Results (STAR) is a school-level award that recognizes PPS schools making extraordinary gains in student achievement. Schools earn STAR status by being within the top $25 \%$ of Pennsylvania schools, rank-ordered for growth or by meeting approved student outcomes criteria (for special schools).

I am thrilled to announce that PPS Colfax was notified last week that we are one of the five PPS schools that received STAR status this year. This is the first year that Colfax has received the STAR status and we are beyond ecstatic!! We are planning for a January celebration to recognize our staff and students for this grand accomplishment. Dr. Hamlet will be our guest as he presents us with our STAR award. We would also like to extend our congratulations to the other four PPS schools receiving STAR status:

- Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8
- Pittsburgh Clayton Academy
- Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8
- Pittsburgh South Brook 6-8

Tis the season... for inclement weather. Please be sure to plan for delays, cancellations, and early dismissals. It is always good to consistently talk about those plans with your child(ren). As a reminder, we have outdoor recess whenever possible and when the weather is above 32 degrees. Students should be dressed for the weather with coats, hats, gloves, and/or scarves. Labelling the tags of outerwear helps to quickly assist when looking for lost and forgotten outerwear throughout the winter months.

Lastly, I would like to extend a huge thank-you from our entire staff for your thoughtfulness and generosity given during this season. We appreciate the time you spend volunteering, encouraging words shared to staff, and valued partnership in supporting our students.

Warm regards,
Dr. Sanders-Woods


Ava Webb mixed media third grade


Olena Podvysotska pencil
third grade


Anya Zimanov
collage
seventh grade

## IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 1
NO SCHOOL/WINTER BREAK

## JANUARY 9

PTO/PSCC MEETING

## JANUARY 21

NO SCHOOL/DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING DAY
JANUARY 28-29
NO SCHOOL/TEACHER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAYS
FEBRUARY I
EARLY DISMISSAL/HALF-DAY

# CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS 

Congratulations to the Colfax boys' and girls' cross country teams, who finished in First Place for the 2018-2019 year! Way to go, Cobras!


# The best days of summer! 

 steelcityrowing.org/summercamps



## SPIRIT WEEK



MS. MURRAY'S FOURTH GRADE MATH CLASS, LEARNING MATH WITH PUMPKIN SEEDS



## CHESS CLUB <br> Submitted by Jitka Benedikova



As the year of 2018 is slowly coming to its end, so does the first semester of chess classes at Colfax.

For those of you who are new to the school and do not know yet, at Colfax we offer two different chess programs: a lunch-time chess program and an after-school chess program.

The lunch-time chess is taught once a week during lunch and recess period and thanks to our PTO, its completely free to all students interested. This program starts at first grade and continues through middle school. The first grade kids are the beginners, who learn the basics of chess, while the kids in other grades (second-eighth) should know a bit about the game. Our chess teacher, Gabriel Petesch, is looking forward to continue teaching your kids also in the next semester.

The Colfax after-school chess classes take place on Wednesday afternoons. It is intended for students who already know how to play chess and want to learn new strategies and moves as well as be ready, for example, to compete for team Colfax in local scholastic tournaments. This program is open to kids of all ages who know at least basics of the game. Please note, that this program does not have external funding and there is a fee for this program. Families interested, but who would struggle to pay the fee should contact the teacher, Jules Coulson, and ask about scholarship opportunities.

Please, if you have any questions about Colfax chess programs, do not hesitate to contact me at cxlunchchess@colfaxpto.org.

I wish you all great holidays and I look forward to seeing you at school!


## MOVIE NIGHT!

The PTO sponsored movie night was a great success with Hotel Transylvania 3 showing in the cafeteria and Black Panther showing in the gym.


## SWIMMING

Submitted by Erika LaVelle
Congrats to the fourth and fifth grade swim team for winning the city championship at Taylor Allderdice on December 4, 2018. They competed against six other schools to clench first place for both the boys and the girls.


Girls Team:
Terresa Cauda
Annabel Oberbarnshidz Abigail Smith Sophia Monaco Hazel Pearson Laila Protho Zoe Casci Dahlia Farkas Addison Augustine Ana Rosenthal Amelie Scherer

## Boys Team:

Ethan Sememov Jacob Blackledge Thomas Aldous Will Wittek Mark Stuckey Jameson Cooley Will Kuchera Zach Coffey Manny Lee Miles BLumen Eli Coffey Kofi Opoku-Dakua Michael Beakley Anthony Kuntz



## all this and more at J\&R Day camp!

Transportation to and from camp $\qquad$ IIMCLUDED

Daily swim lessons taught by American Red Crosscertified instructors in our Olympic-size outdoor pool $\qquad$
Daily, delicious, healthy hot lunch plus two nutritious snacks and a popsicle. $\qquad$

On-site registered nurse $\qquad$ INCLUDED

CPR/First Aid-certified staff $\qquad$ IIMCLUDEDOutdoor high and low ropes challenge course $\qquad$ INCLUDED

Sustainable vegetable garden and chicken coop

# K-5 SHINING STARS 

We are excited to announce the first round of the K-5 Shining Stars. Each month a student from each homeroom will be chosen for exemplifying a HISS character trait. The character trait for October was Involved. Please congratulate the following students:


K-1 Musyt: Adair Kelsey, K-2 Banycky: Josh Fitzgerald, K-3 Hills: Kosuke Hachisuka, K-4 Filipek: Kelis Brown, K-5 Jackson: Aria Morgan


2-2 Grujich: Justin Kragten 2-3 King: Anh Man, 2-5 Johnston: Jane Allan, 2-6 Juhas: Neve Reutzel, 2-7 Phillips: Jade Williams


1-1 Knab: Shimpei Matsumura, 1-2 Morgano: Gabriel de la Maza, 1-3 Bartels: Teresa Sheih, 1-4 Gaussa: Qua'zire Ferguson, 1-5 Eagan: Ayra Bagalkot


3-1 Campione: Noah Peralta, 3-2 Bartolli: Demi Reck, 3-3 Lasek: Shriyans Joyasawal, 3-4 Murray: Addison Cooley 3-5 Grady: Ellie Miller


4-1 Lucci: Erik Mednis, 4-2 Weiss: Ca'mya Cooley Young 4-3 Mlay: Esmerelda Garcia-Gomez, 4-4 Pellegrini: Sam Livshen


5-1 Rice: Jacob Fischbach, 5-2 Olshenske: Teresa Cauda 5-3 Kress: Jusiera, 5-4 Franklin: Henry Sedgewick 5-5 Coles: Zahra Nauhaus

# JHINXSPATIN 

## Now is the time to get your home ready for the spring market!

Contact me today to discuss your options and for a FREE MLRARE RN:MySIS of your home!


Amanda Cline
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services Shadyside Office Office: 412-361-4000
Mobile: 412-627-1567

Real Estate Services 自


## THIRD GRADE STUDENTS EXPLORE ALASKA

Submitted by Patti Bartolli
Third grade enjoyed a slide presentation on Alaska's past and present from Anabel Lantzman's father, Eric Lantzman. He is a former resident and doctor of Alaska. He shared books and his knowledge of Alaskan landforms, weather, clothing, homes, schools, transportation, food, fun and games, animals, and health practices. The presentation reinforced information learned in our previous story, Athabascans, and our current story, The Year of Miss Agnes. Thank you, Mr. Erik, for preparing an educational presentation for all of us to enjoy and for answering all our questions. We especially liked your wolf hat and walrus jaw!


# COMMON THREADS 

Submitted by Casey Weiss
Every Tuesday, we meet and travel to a new country by cooking authentic food. So far, we have made Mexican, Peruvian, and Italian cuisine. Students have the opportunity to learn basic cooking skills while enjoying and learning about culture.


6520 Wilkins Ave • Squirrel Hill • 15217 • (412) 521-BAKE Tuesday-Friday 7am-6pm / Saturday 8am-5pm / Sunday 8am-2pm

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# FOURTH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE FRICK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER 

 10,




# SECOND GRADE FRICK ART AND HISTORICAL CENTER 





We know the teachers at Colfax are great, and are thrilled when that recognition extends beyond our classrooms. Recently, Ms. Beth Pelligrini, shared with us that an article she wrote has been published in the Yale periodical, On Common Ground. On Common Ground is a publication of the Yale National Initiative (YNI) to strengthen teaching, of which Ms. Pelligrini is a fellow (Summer 2O17).

Established in 1978, the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute is an intensive and sustained collaboration
among Yale faculty members and public school teachers. It is a widely recognized model of high-quality teacher professional development. The Initiative is a long-term endeavor to influence public policy on teacher professional development, in part by establishing Teachers Institutes that will provide state and local policy makers effective examples of the innovative Institute approach in their own communities.

Ms. Pelligrini has shared her article with us, and we join her in celebrating the success of publishing.

## Macro and Micro Comparison in Understanding Disease

By Beth V Pellegrini

"Micro Life in a Macro World: Understanding Life at the Microscopic Scale and the Heth 1 . Pellegrint is a Sctence Farcher ar Colfac K-8 in Puitsburgh. Pemnyytvania.

Spread of Discase" is a curriculum unit written for my fifth-graders in the Pitsburgh Public Schools. The unit was inspired by Mark Saltzman's seminar, "Engineering of Global Health." When 1 initially considered applying for the Yale National Initiative, the seminar seemed a
siretch from the work 1 do with my students, But as I thought about Dr. Saltzman's seminar description, global health and biomedical engineerung technologies, I was intrigued, which 1 knew meant that my students would be, too. My school, Colfax Elementary, was a site of Dr. Jonas Salk's
first polio vaccinations; in fact, 1 previously taught in the classroom where the shots were administered. I also considered my students with illnesses: Croln's Disease, Sickle Cell, Diabetes, Cerebral Palsy, asthma, blindness, together with the many illnesses in their home lives, and the ordinary maladies that beset all schools - colds, fla. viruses, allergies, asthma, and the like. I realized that most children have no way of knowing where these problems come from, or why, which led me to formulate a plan for my unit.
I also contemplated my district earriculum, which consists of science lessons in which projects are put together, like pizzabox solar ovens, or taken apart, like owl pellets, and natural phenomena are observed. Wuile engaging, the seience content in these projects is narrow, shallow and disconnected from students' everyday experiences. Through my unit, I sought memorable ways to weave in content that relates to everyday life.
My students are racially, coonomically. and intellectually diverse: $1 / 3$ identified gifted, I/3 from poverty and I/10 English Language Leamers. My concern is always to maintain rigorous standards but not to "lose" anyone owing to lack of prior knowledge. Yet I know that students who come from poverly enter sehool with a huge deficit in the words that they've been exposed to, known as the Malthew Effect. Children who are exposed to rich vecabulary at early ages easily acquire more vocabulary later in life, while the opposite is also true and lends to be the condition of children from poverty. Hence it is imperative that these kids learn many words in comprehensible contexts. Science instruction is the ideal seemario in which this can occur:
Having begun with the nature of matter, we then analyzed atoms, molecules and their parts at the micro level, and how these relate to the states of matter. The kids were fascinated by the steaming and boiling of water in my glass kettle, taking note of bubbles, which seemingly formed from
nothing, as well as melting ise and the swift evaporation of the spritzed water they smeared across their tables. To help understand cells we had to investigate seale. They learned the vast range in size of microscopic particles, akin to the vastness of space at the macro leyel. Students were astonished learning the scale of the aniverse on iPads (scaleofuniverse.com), ranging from quantum foam ( $10^{-35}$ ) to the estimated size of the universe ( $10^{22}$ ), with everything in between. Throughout the unit I have enjoyed hearing "wow!", "That's so cool!" and "I don't want to go!" when the bell rings. Next came investigating abiotic and biotic matter, all leading to the study of illnesses and how they spread.
Each day I relish the $100 \%$ engagement of all students as 1 bear them debating whether rabies is contagious or whether you can "catch" cancer. Soon we will investigate the different sources of illness, their treatment and the historical advances in sanitation which have led to vastly improved health. "When are we going to learn about the flying corpses of Kaffar" they ask me, stemming from a tantalizing tidbit I had left them with when we segued into the architecture unit. "Why do only black peopie get Sickle Cell Disease?" "Do plagues still exist?" When they sniffle or ask to go to the nurse, they wonder whether their problem is likely from a microbe, a predisposed illness, or something in the environment.
As we reach the end of the unit, which culminates in a research project about careers related to any area of science fouched on within the unit, 1 am still delighted by the enthusiasm of my students. But I think what 1 like most of all is that through this unit, in the face of all the problems we are dealing with - school shootings, political divisiveness, social tensions - I get to show them hope, I can tell them that our many serious problems are nothing like the problems faced by our ancestors. with their poor sanitation and hygiene, lack of treatments, and lack of medical knowledge, and that we are living in the healthiest era the world has ever known.


Learn more at our next Meet \& Greet
January 13, 2019, 5:00 to 7:00 at 6759 Forest Glen Road, 15217 (private residence)
Info: pittsburgh.cisvusa.org

## The Camp Experience of a Lifetime

CISV sponsors Spring Break, Summer and Winter 2020 Programs that make a difference-for your child and for the world.

CISV Pittsburgh 2019 Travel Programs
Village: An international peace education camp for delegations ( 2 boys, 2 girls) and adult leaders from twelve nations. Delegates must be age 11 between June 1 and Aug. 31.
Calgary, Canada July 05 - August 01
Mexico City, Mexico July 05 - August 01
Interchange: A 4 -week program where 3 boys/3 girls and an adult leader are partnered with delegates from one other country. Each delegate hosts and is hosted by his/her partner at home, making this a family experience. Delegates must be age 12 or 13 between June 1 and August 31.
Location: TBA
Step Up 14 or 15: A 3-week international leadership camp for delegations (2 boys, 2 girls) and adult leaders from 8-10 nations. Delegates must be age 14 or 15 between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2018.

Tel Aviv, Israel (age 14) July 15 - August 06 Miami, Florida (age 15) July 12 - August 03

Junior Counselor: Travels independently to assist staff and director at a Village. Delegate must be age 16-17 on first day of program.
Roskilde, Denmark (F) July 05 - August 01
Jacksonville, Florida (M) June 28 - July 25
Youth Meeting: An 8- or 15-day program exploring intercultural issues in a regional context. Single delegates must be age 16-18 and travel independently. Group delegates (3 boys/3 girls) must be age 12-13 or age 14-15 between Nov. 1 Jan. 31 or Mar. 1 - May 31 with an adult leader. Munich, Germany (12-13) April 15-22 Vilnius, Lithuania (16-18) April 21-28
Bogota, Colombia (16-18) June 29 - July 13
Santiago, Chile (14-15) Jan. 3-17, 2020










# Colfax 2019 Yearbooks <br> Cover Design Contest 

## This years' theme is

## \#strongerthanhate

This year's yearbook will celebrate Colfax's diverse population and all the wonderful ways that we show unity, collaboration and love. Our cover design will also reflect the best that Colfax has to offer. Design a cover that shows what is \#strongerthanhate. The winning design will receive $\mathbf{\$ 5 0}$ cash and a free yearbook.

Colfax students and staff will have an opportunity to vote for the design February 27March 1 in their homerooms.

## Criteria:

Your Design Can:

- include student pictures
- be computer generated instead of hand drawn



## Rules: Your design

- should be completed on $81 / 2 \times 11$ paper white paper (no lined or grid paper)
- include this years' theme "\#strongerthanhate"
- must have your name and homeroom printed on the back of your design
- Only one design can be submitted.

Make sure that your designs are school appropriate before submission.

## Deadline for submissions is Friday, February 15, 2019

$\Rightarrow$ Submit to Ms. Mitchell in room 213 or Ms. Maas in Room 208

# Pittsburgh Colfax 2019 Yearbook 

## Cover Design contest

Application

Name: $\qquad$ Homeroom:
Entry \#
(for Ms. Mitchell only)

Please describe your cover design: $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


## Our Locations

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

Jim Shorkey Mitsubishi Uniontown
1048 Pittsburgh Road Uniontown, PA 15401 PH: 724-415-3111

## Jim Shorkey Mitsubishi

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

## Jim Shorkey Kia <br> Uniontown

 1050 Pittsburgh Road Uniontown, PA 15401 PH: 724-415-3210Jim Shorkey CDJRF
13230 Route 30
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
PH: 412-872-2400
Jim Shorkey CDJR North Hills
7670 McKnight Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237 PH: 412-367-7200

Jim Shorkey Ford 1234 Long Run Road White Oak, PA 15131
PH: 412-751-2130
Jim Shorkey
Commercial
185 Colonial Manor Rd. North Huntingdon, PA 15642

PH: 724-382-3366

Jim Shorkey Alfa Romeo Youngstown
14 Anderson Ave.
Youngstown OH 44515
PH: 330-792-5221

Jim Shorkey CDJRF Youngstown 4850 Mahoning Ave
Youngstown, OH 44515
PH: 330-792-5221

Jim Shorkey Kia
Wexford
10785 Perry Hwy.
Wexford, PA 15090
PH: 724-741-1170

## www.JimShorkey.com



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Leslie Grodin, Leslie.Grodin@verizon.net.

COLFAX PTO CALENDAR 2018-2019

## DECEMBER

December 24-January 1
No School-Winter Break

## JANUARY

January 21
No School-MLK day
January 28-29
No School-Teacher Prep

## FEBRUARY

February 1
Early Dismissal 11:50am
February 22
Early Dismissal 11:50am
February 23
Party 4 Play

## MARCH

March 8
Early Dismissal 11:50am
March 22
Early Dismissal 11:50am

## APRIL

## April 15-22

No School-Spring Break

## MAY

May 10
Early Dismissal 11:50am
May 27
No School-Memorial Day
May 30-31
Middle Level Trip

## JUNE

June 5
Carnival 5:30pm
June 11
Last Day of School


