

# COLFAX

# COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH COLFAX K-8 PTO



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KING, JR."

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P 20-23  
VIP DAY

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**2018-2019 COLFAX PTO  
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**Colfax PTO Site:** [www.colfaxpto.org](http://www.colfaxpto.org)

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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Greetings Colfax families,

We've come to the end of the year. Wow, I feel like I was just writing my welcome back letter. The time has flown by this year. From a very well attended Fiesta to three packed performances for *The Lion King* the school year has been great. Colfax was recognized as a STAR school for excellence, we had 7 championship wins and 9 showings. We had 13 first place finishes at PJAS competition.

I'd like to congratulate our new PTO President Ross Ingram who will officially take over in July. His skills were unmatched as the VP of fundraising and I'm sure he'll make an excellent head of our PTO. We welcome Sarah Grubb (VP of Events), Mitch Franzos (Treasurer), Zauyah Waite (VP of Fundraising). We are saying goodbye to Marybeth Hagley (Secretary) and Dory Levine (VP of Events). Amanda Cline will return as our Secretary, Tiffany Stuckey will continue as our VP of Volunteer Coordinator, Carole Smith will continue as our Assistant Treasurer and Jeanine Weiss will continue as our VP of Communications.

Thank you to Alyce Edwards who did an outstanding job of directing her first musical at Colfax. The show was very organized with incredible energy. The costumes were adorable. Thank you to all of the ML parents who volunteered and help make the musical run smoothly. The audience really seemed to love it. Ms. Edwards is already thinking about next year.

Speaking of promotion... This is my official last Presidential letter for the Communicator. I have served on the Colfax executive board for eight years. One year as VP of Events, two years as fundraiser and five-and-half as president. I've worked with four principals during my years as president. It was always important to me that each principal understood the role PTO plays at Colfax. I think our organization has been a huge asset to the school and it's success. I'm honored to have played a role in facilitating that. I will admit it's not the easiest job, but it's a position where one can really make a difference for the school. That was always my mission. I'll miss many of the teachers, staff and administrators I've gotten to know over these past 12 years. Promotion will probably feel bittersweet as I say goodbye and look forward to the next four years.

Happy summer!

All the Best,  
Abbie Campsie  
PTO President





# PRINCIPAL REMARKS

Dear Colfax Families,

And just like that, the 2018-2019 school year has come to an end! As the school year ends with so many great moments and memories, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of the staff at Colfax, as each staff member strives to provide the best educational experiences for your children to help them reach their full potential. I am also grateful for the partnerships we have with our supportive parent community. Your collective efforts have made my job very rewarding. I am extremely proud to say that I am the Principal at Colfax. As many of you know, administrators spend most of the summer months planning for the upcoming school year. Interviews, scheduling, ordering, finalization of class lists, and building facilities projects are in full swing during this period. Feedback from parents, students, and staff are taken into consideration during the planning as we sincerely strive to do what's best for our kids. Finalized plans regarding class lists, schedules, and facilities updates will be mailed throughout the summer. However, if you have additional questions please feel free to contact me.

During the summer months, we urge all students to engage in some form of academic activities. We know this can be difficult to do in this generation of tech savvy kids, however, we also know that it is key in decreasing learning loss. Summer camps that include academic learning is an excellent way to keep students engaged in reading while on break. If you missed the deadline to enroll your students in Summer Dreamers, here are some other simple examples of ways in which students can be academically engaged over the summer:

- Keeping a journal to detail daily activities, family vacations, and excursions
- Visits to museums, landmarks, arts festivals, and other local cultural events
- Participation in the Carnegie Library's summer reading program
- Using measurement tools and recipes to cook with your child.

More educational and summer activities to engage students during the summer months can be found in your neighborhood newspaper and [@educationalworld.com](https://www.educationalworld.com).

This time of also year brings professional and personal new beginnings. We would like to wish Doug Wolfe a great start in his new role at Brashear High School. Thank you for your years of service at Colfax; those high school kids are in for a treat! Students, families, teachers, and staff would also like to extend our sincerest thanks our PTO President, Abbie Campsie for the countless hours devoted to benefit our students and school communities. Your presence will forever be felt at Colfax, and you will be missed by all!

I hope you all enjoy a safe, relaxed, and exciting summer break with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you in August!

Best,  
Dr. Woods Principal



Principal Aiello as Principal for the Day

# COLFAX PROUDLY PRESENTED "THE LION KING, JR."

*Submitted by Alyce Edwards*

*The Lion King, Jr.* was a great success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of a sizable cast, crew and many parent volunteers. The students involved in this show were cast members: Brandon Friez, Esther Forker, Riana Jones, Brooklyn Campisi, Lilah George, Ana Rosenthal, Elly Bertolet, Ella Greenfield, Norah Almsallam, Elizabeth Regier, Dominic McKenith, Salvatore Rizzo, Jenna Morabito, Josephine Squillante, Morgan Sinclair, Leilah Reed, Elizabeth Carroll, Amelia Carroll, Monica Neely and Alice Ai Chiotti Lee. The backstage crew members were Nicholas Efran, Elena Wurzel, Erica O'Hare, Zoe Obenza, Eli Wynn and Hanna Dennis. (Mrs. Edwards referred to this crew as the "dream team"!) This was Mrs. Edwards' first production at

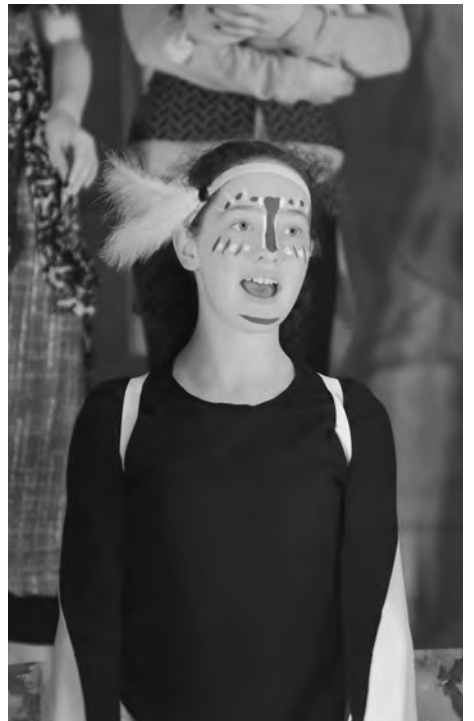
Colfax and it was no small undertaking. There were three performances on May 16, 18 and a Sunday matinee.

Rehearsals for this production began in February and the dedicated cast and crew put in many hours of after school and weekend rehearsals to pull off this large production.

The costumes, props and backdrop were created by Mrs. Edwards, crew members and especially Mrs. Edwards' daughter, Maria, who is extremely talented and was able to create many of the masks on her own.

Please follow [#lionkingjrcolfax2019](#) on Instagram, Facebook and/or Twitter for pictures of this wonderful production and to share photos of your own.











# CHALLENGE 24 TOURNAMENT

*Submitted by Mark Cohen*

Ten Colfax students in grades 4 through 7 participated in the District's Challenge 24 Tournament May 9 at Greenway, and they performed remarkably well. Nine advanced to the semifinals, seven to the finals, and two, 5th-grader Marc Lebita and 6th-grader Ekow Opoku Dakwa, won grade-level championships! For Ekow it was the second straight year winning the tournament. All three 5th- and 6th-graders who attended advanced to the finals.

All students who were selected for the tournament are members of the Challenge 24 Club, which meets every Thursday after school.

Following are the students who participated and their results:

**4th grade:** Cecilia Starr (finalist); Kevin Lee (semifinalist); Zhen Yan (semifinalist).

**5th grade:** Marc Lebita (champion); Kofi Opoku Dakwa (finalist); Matei Zivanov (finalist).

**6th grade:** Ekow Opoku Dakwa (champion); Swati Mylarappa (finalist); Jameson Maher (finalist).

**7th grade:** Morgan Sinclair.





# 7TH GRADE MATH: STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

*Submitted by Lorena Mitchell*

Using math while studying Environmental Science, 7th grade students are using pinto beans to simulate counting the deer population in Allegheny County. Students tagged 100 deer (marked pinto beans) and released them back into

the wild. Students then captured 25, 50, 100, 125 and then 150 deer and counted how many were tagged. They used proportions to estimate what the total deer population was based on their proportions.



# COLFAX GIRLS' SOCCER

Submitted by Amy Shorkey

## *Congratulations to the Colfax Girls Soccer team!*

The girls were undefeated during the regular season, taking them into the playoffs for a win at the championships! Way to go, Cobra Girls!!

Thank you to Coach Montgomery and Coach Greco for another successful season. In her seventh year coaching at Colfax, Coach Montgomery states that "the team really has a solid core that works well together." Players and families would agree that the duo of Greco and Montgomery also work well together. We thank them.

We also acknowledge the 10 eighth graders on this team and thank them for their hard work on and off the field. We love each and every one of you and are excited for your next adventure. To the 6th and 7th grade players and families, enjoy the memories and go Cobras!



# COLFAX BOYS' SOCCER

*Submitted by Coach Lydon*

Our boys' soccer team finished a surprising and fun regular season 7-1 and took the #2 seed into the playoffs. What a great season—from a rough try out to the end of the last game. We endured crazy weather, tough teams, harsh conditions, heavy rain and muddy practices; but the players kept coming back for more.

This was an amazing and fun group of kids that I so enjoyed just being around. The energy and heart they showed all year long was inspiring. We were heavy this year with 8th graders and their maturity, leadership and skill will be missed for sure. We also had a bunch of talented younger guys that stepped up. I feel they brought all that together and really played so much better as a team. I could not be more proud of all of them! I mentioned the heart of this team and that is what I feel best separated us from so many. Whether they were down in a game, in a game that we had well in hand, or one in where we were fighting a close one—the team responded with respect, discipline and, like I said, heart! We have two shut-out wins in the playoffs so far and are playing in the championship game coming up! No matter the result I am so happy with the awesome ride this season has been.

Thanks to the parents that supported us the whole season and especially the players that gave me such effort from practices to the games. A very special year, special players and just plain old good kids! Have a safe summer, I hope you all will keep playing and enjoying the game and being part of a teams of all kinds in the future.



# COLFAX BOYS' RUNNING CLUB

*Submitted by Amy Shorkey*

This year marks the second year for the Colfax Boys Running Club; an eight-week running club for boys in grades three through five. Thanks to our coaches Mr. Grate and Mr. Rose, this club is having another great season! With its "Never Give Up" motto, the club met every Tuesday after school taking runs in the school building, around the building and out on the Frick Park trails. Mr. Grate and Mr. Rose inspired the boys to be healthy and confident while having some fun.

The Boys Running Club concludes with their participation in the Allderdice Dragon Run 5K, a race through Schenley Park which supports Allderdice runners. Last year, several Colfax boys received medals in their age group. We wish them all good luck again this year and applaud them for their hard work. Thank you Mr. Grate and Mr. Rose for making it happen. Thank you Dr. Woods and Colfax PTO for providing funds for the club to continue. Thank you boys for your determination!



# COLFAX 4TH AND 5TH GRADE TRACK TEAM

*Submitted by Coach Lydon*

This year's boys' and girls' track team is such a nice, fun, and positive group of kids. They represented our school so well at each of their events.

The boys event on May 14th was run in tough, cold, and damp weather; but they toughed it out and when all the points were added up in the end the boys team finished first place and won the city championship!!

The weather forecast for the girls on May 16th changed at the last minute and it turned out to be a

beautiful day. The girls' team did outstanding! The meet was so close between us and the other schools. We had a few 1st place finishers along with some other kids that also earned our team points. The meet scores were very tight so as we left the meet they were still not sure who won the meet but no matter because a fun time was had by all!

Thanks to both the boys and the girls teams for a fantastic effort and days!



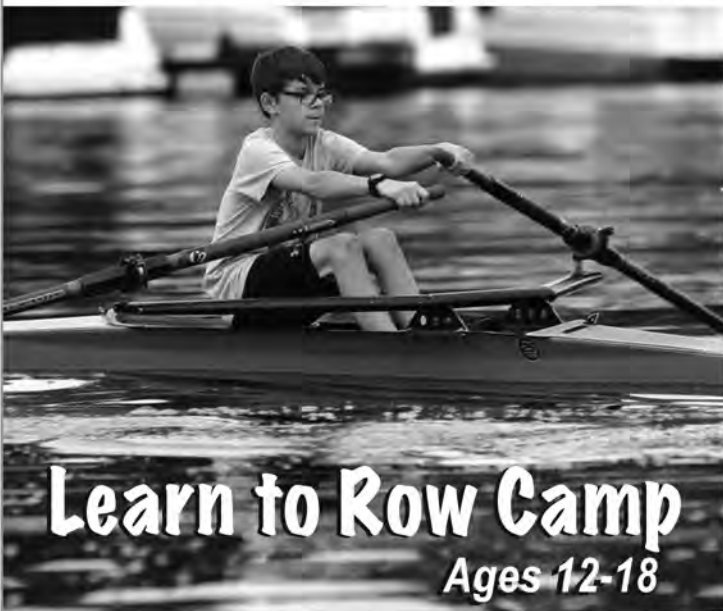








# The best days of summer!



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



**Wildlife River Camp** Ages 8-11

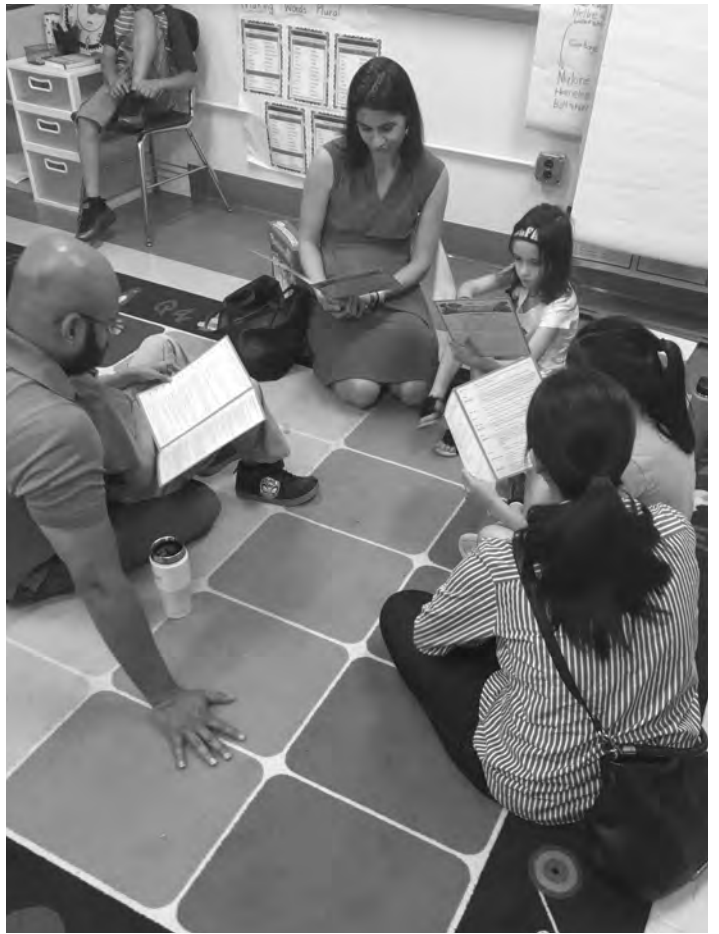
[steelcityrowing.org/summercamps](http://steelcityrowing.org/summercamps)

# 2019 VIP DAY









# SECOND GRADE FINAL FIELD TRIP TO THE FRICK







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



# 3RD GRADE FIELD TRIP TO MANCHESTER CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD

*Submitted by Ms. Bartolli*

On May 7th the 3rd graders went to Manchester Craftsmen's Guild to learn about Jazz music. They taught the students about the history of Jazz and about the instruments they play.





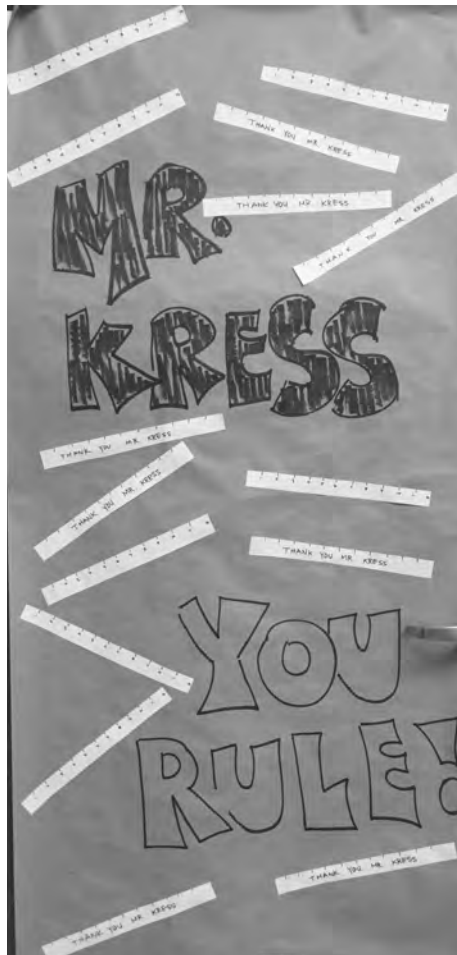
# All this and more at J&R Day Camp!

- Transportation to and from camp .....**INCLUDED**
- Daily swim lessons taught by American Red Cross-certified instructors in our Olympic-size outdoor pool ....**INCLUDED**
- Daily, delicious, healthy hot lunch plus two nutritious snacks and a popsicle .....**INCLUDED**
- On-site registered nurse.....**INCLUDED**
- CPR/First Aid-certified staff .....**INCLUDED**
- Outdoor high and low ropes challenge course.....**INCLUDED**
- Sustainable vegetable garden and chicken coop .....**INCLUDED**

**JCC  
PGH**

For information, contact Lewis at 412-697-3537 or [LSohinki@jccpgh.org](mailto:LSohinki@jccpgh.org)  
To register, contact Katie at 412-697-3540 or [KWhitlatch@jccpgh.org](mailto:KWhitlatch@jccpgh.org)









**sports**



**stem**

# JCC Summer Specialty Camps



**arts**

**outdoor  
adventure**



## June 24-28

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

## July 8-12

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

## July 15-19

- Pittsburgh Soccer Academy: grades 3-6
- Hoop It Up! grades 1-3
- Girls on the Run: grades 3-6
- Let's Get Crafty! grades 1-6
- Step It Up! With JCC Dance: grades 3-6

## July 22-26

- American Ninja Warrior: grades 3-6
- Elite Tennis Camp: grades 1-6
- Mighty Kicks grades 1-3
- Woodworking Camp: grades 4-6
- Go Mad for Science! grades 1-3

## July 29-August 2

- Pittsburgh Soccer Academy: grades 3-6
- Hoop It Up! grades 4-6
- Elite Tennis Camp: grades 1-6
- Outdoor Extreme: grades 3-6

## August 5-9

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

## August 12-16

- Junior Drone Pilots grades: 1-3
- Flag Football: grades 2-6

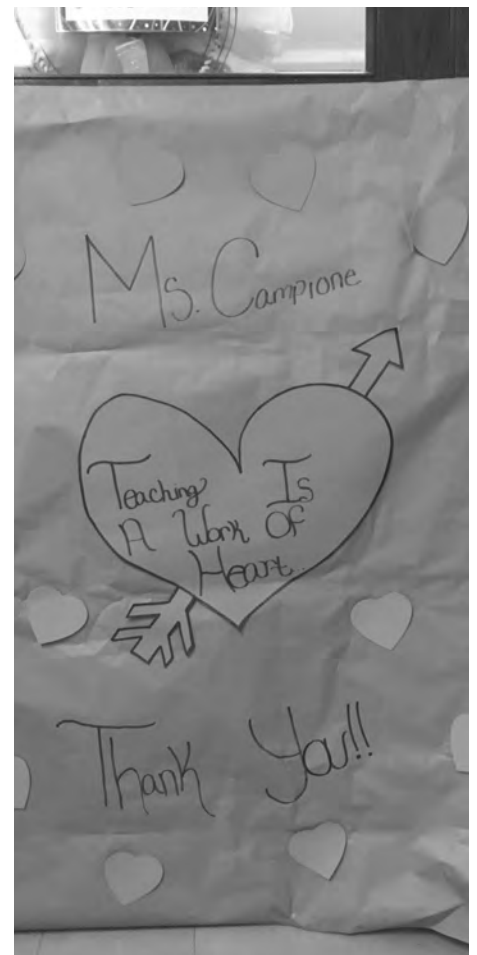
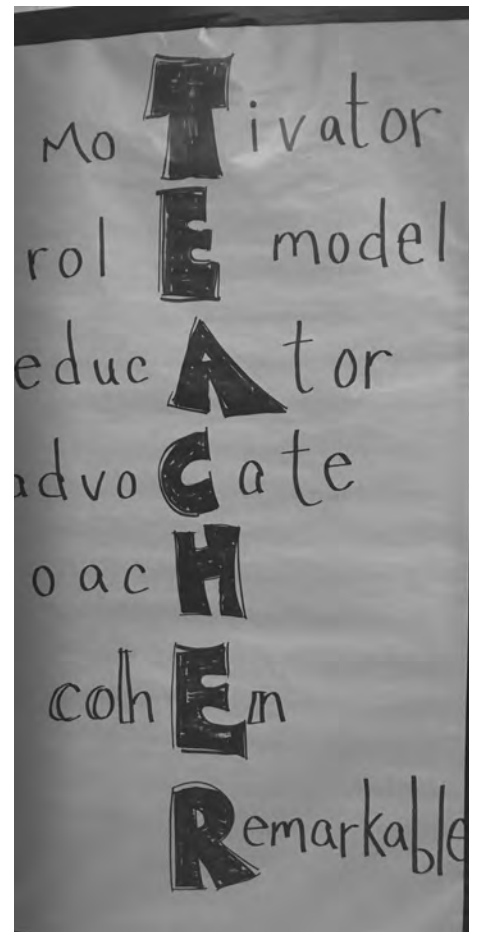
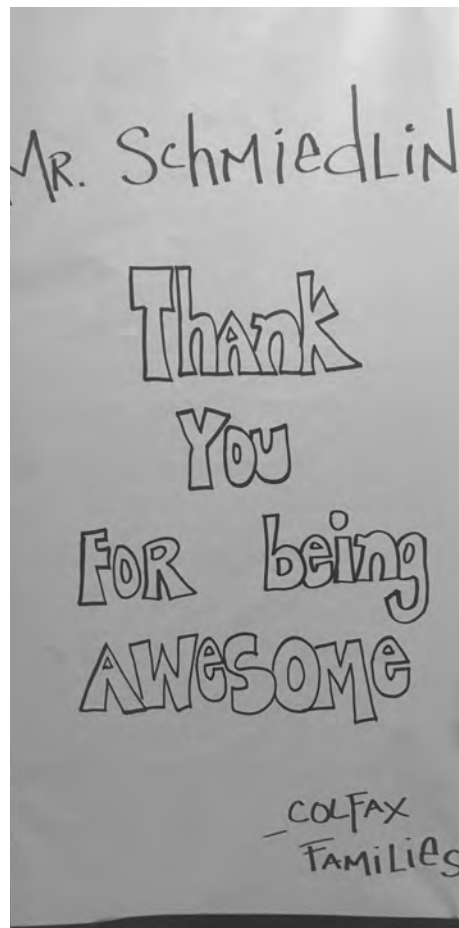
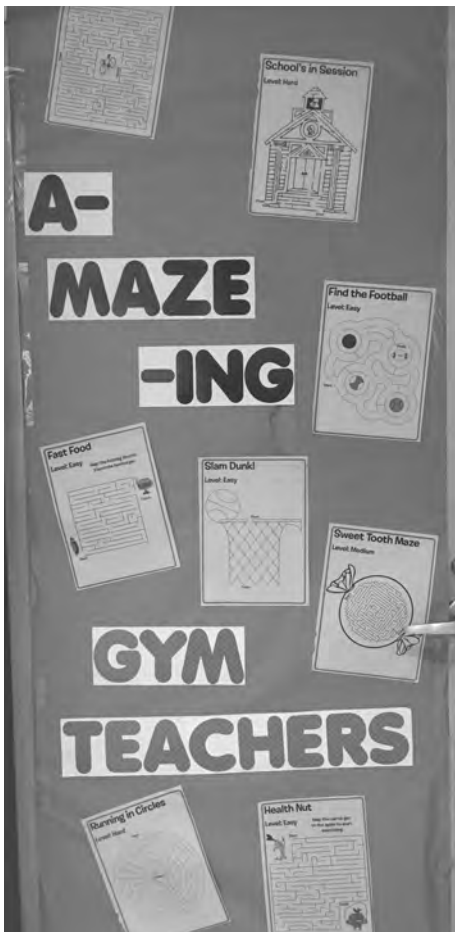
## August 19-23

- Circus of the Kids: grades 1-6

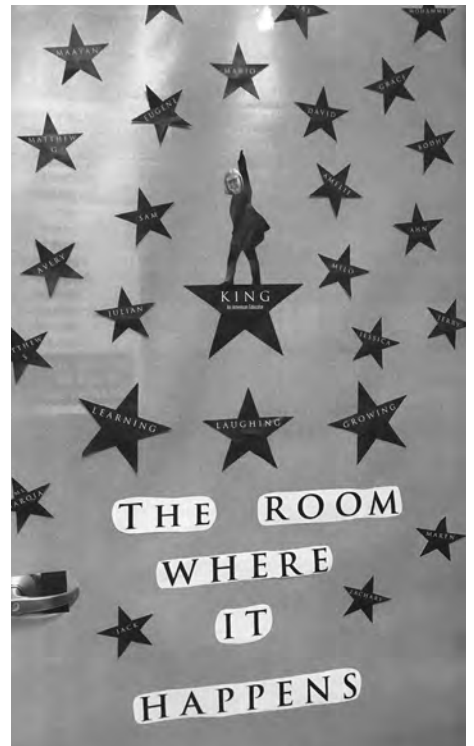
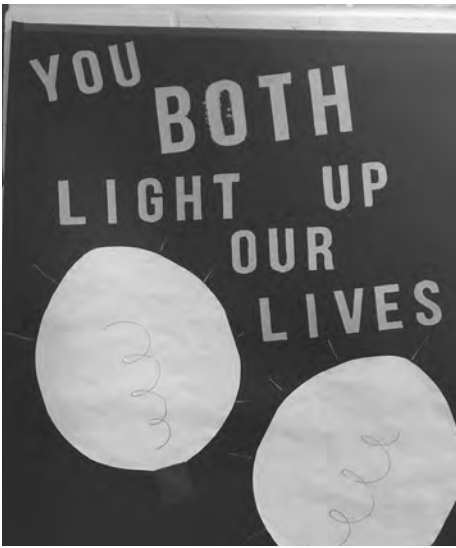


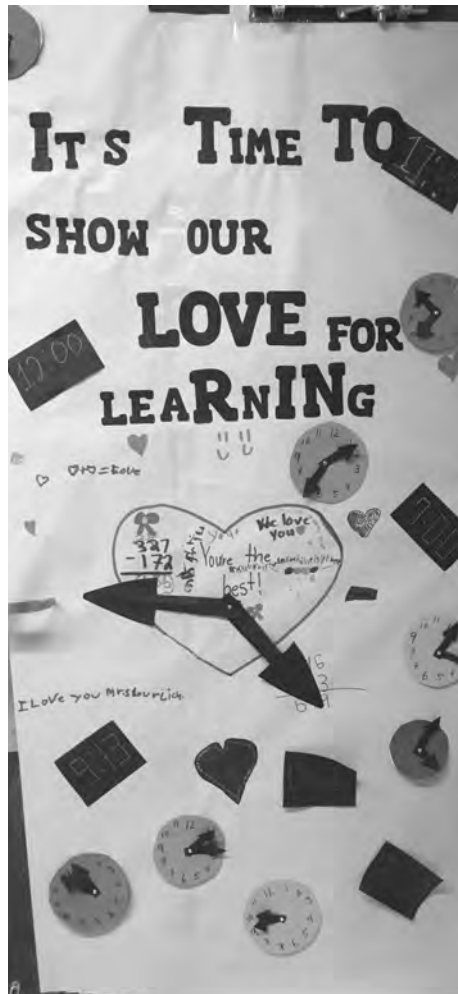
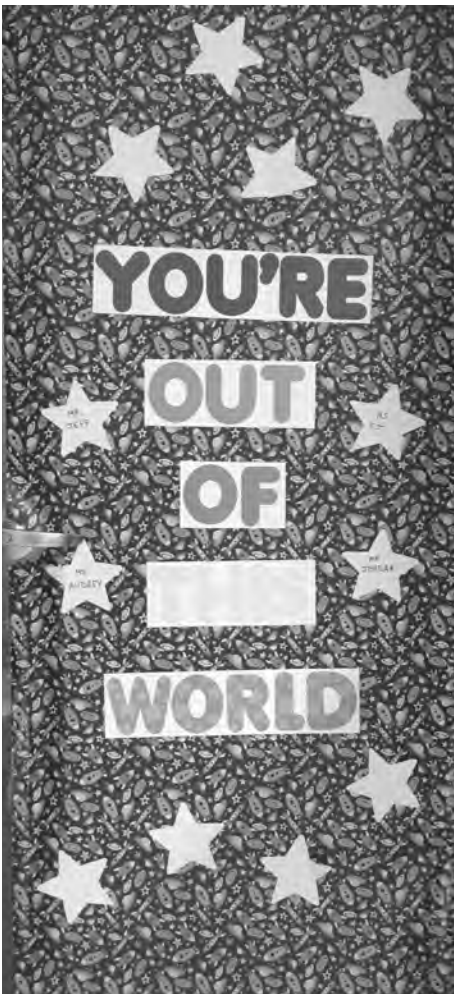
**For more information: Jamie Scott • 412-697-3520 • [jscott@jccpgh.org](mailto:jscott@jccpgh.org)**  
**To register: Katie Whitlatch • 412-697-3540 • [kwhitlatch@jccpgh.org](mailto:kwhitlatch@jccpgh.org)**  
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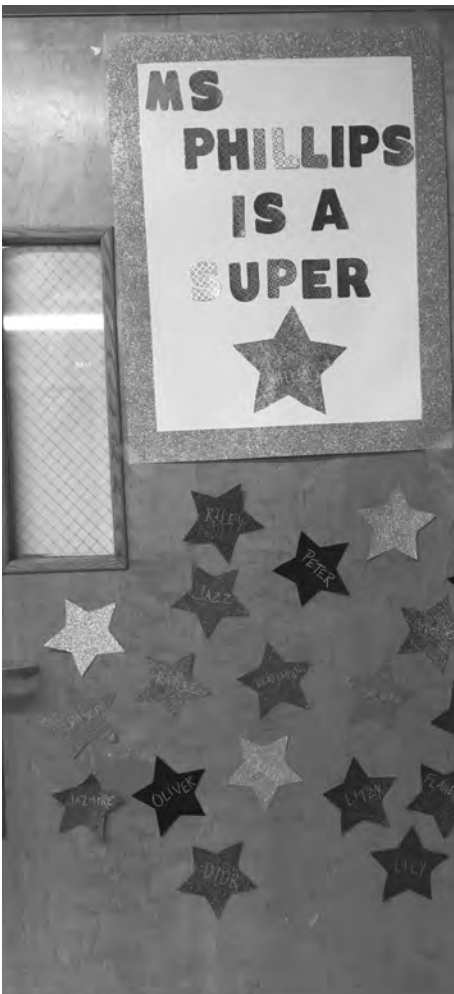
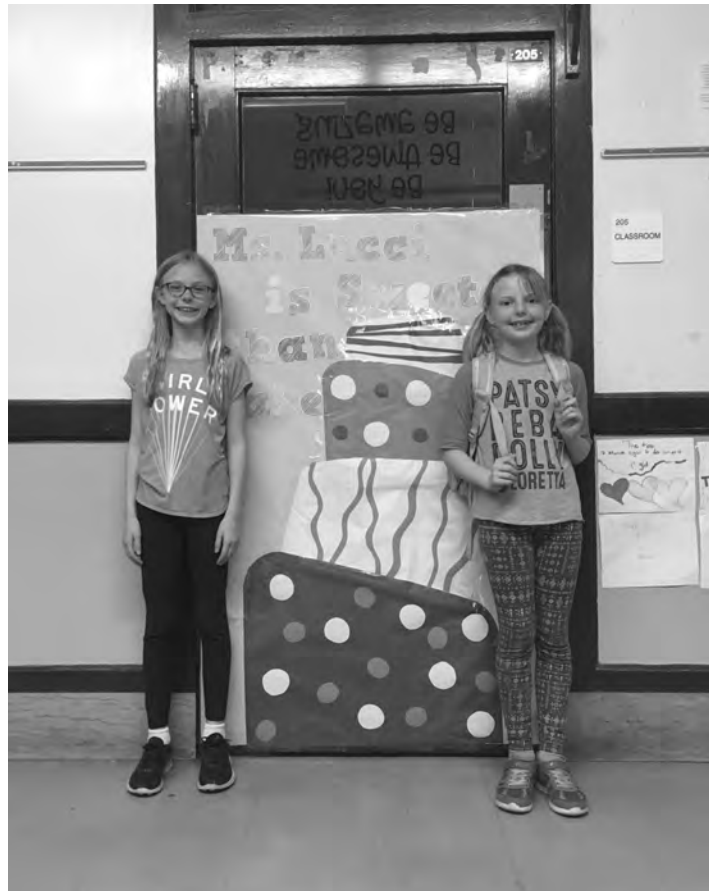
**CONNECTIONS • VALUES GROWTH • FUN**









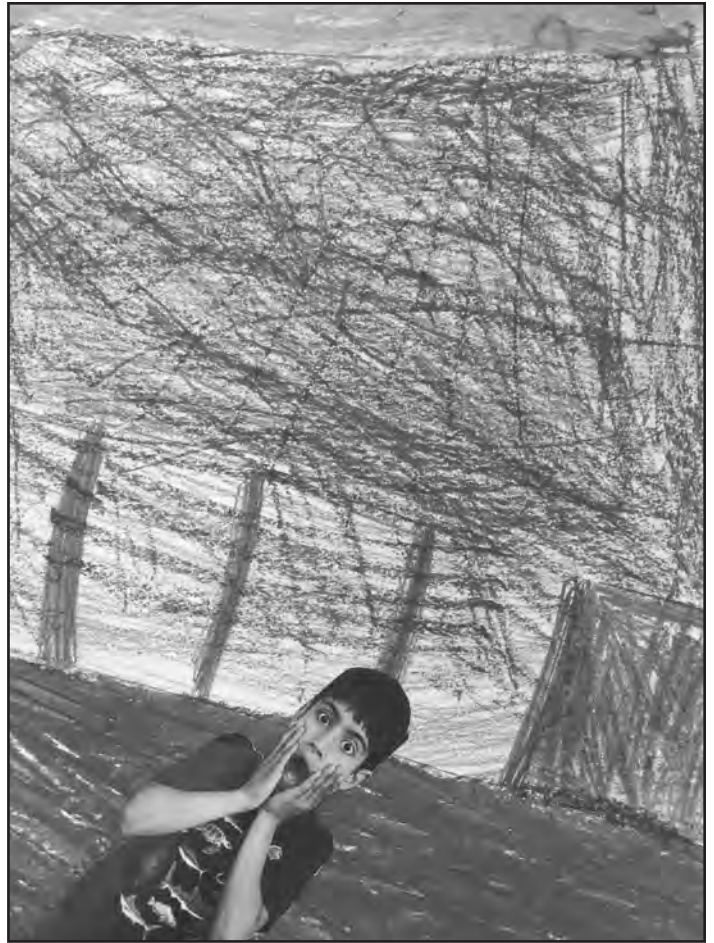


# THIRD GRADE PBIS FIELD TRIPS TO FUN SLIDES CARPET SKATE PARK AND BLUE SLIDE PARK

Submitted by Ms. Bartoli







# SUMMER BREAK IS HERE!

Fourth grade Edvard Munch *The Scream* portraits.