



Get Involved Today

The success of the Colfax PTO is only made possible through the generous donation of the time and talents of our parent volunteers. We need your help to make this school year the best one yet! We often put out calls-for-volunteers through our weekly emails, on Facebook, and at our PTO meetings. But you don't have to wait for us to ask!

Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to: homeroom parents, recess monitors, main office assistance, event-specific volunteering, and fundraising.

To sign up to be a volunteer, contact our VP Volunteer Coordinator, Tiffany Stuckey: volunteers@colfaxpto.org. See reverse side for regarding clearances for certain volunteer activities.

PTO Monthly Meetings:
2nd Wed each month

Stay Informed

PTO WEBSITE, EMAIL & DIRECTORY SIGN-UPS
<http://www.colfaxpto.org>

PTO FACEBOOK
facebook.com/pghcolfax
PPS FACEBOOK
facebook.com/PittsburghPublicSchools

COLFAX TWITTER
[@PPSColfax](https://twitter.com/PPSColfax)
PPS TWITTER
[@PPSNews](https://twitter.com/PPSNews)
PPS CALENDAR
<http://pghschools.org>



COLFAX COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLFAX K-8
SPECIAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION

August
2019

Quality Supplemental Education • Fundraising • Parent-Teacher Collaboration • Community Communication & Support

A Letter from the President

Last year my wife, Ashley, was volunteering at Colfax a day or so after some of our students went on a field trip to Settlers Cabin Park Wave Pool. While walking down a hallway, Ashley saw one of our daughter's classmates and asked, "How was your trip to the wave pool?" The student looked how a child typically looks when asked a question from a familiar, but not very familiar, adult--vague and unresponsive. But then the student slowly squared himself to Ashley, and with serious eye contact, carefully expressed, "That was the best day of my life."

And that's our goal--we will work together as a community to provide our children the opportunities to have the "best day" of their lives. The PTO sponsors many academic and extracurricular activities to achieve this goal (including trips to the wave pool!). Your time (**volunteers needed!**) and resources (**\$100 per child**) are absolutely essential to continue the good work of our PTO alumni. Please help provide a future for our children full of their own wave pool moments.

Sincerely,

Ross Ingram, PTO President
Proudly Pittsburgh Public

Supporting our Students

Supporting our students is the cornerstone of the PTO. Vigorous fundraising allows us to financially contribute to various programs and grant-funding on which our community has come to rely.

The programs the PTO has supported include: the Colfax Spring Musical, the "Edible Schoolyard" Garden, programming at the Frick Environmental Center, and the Chess for Youth Program. Additionally, the PTO provides monetary grants to the teachers and school in order to help provide a more robust learning environment for the students. Such grants have included: field trip grants (\$10 per student), Middle-Level grants to aid in fundraising for the middle level end-of-the-year field trip, teacher classroom supplies grants (\$100 per teacher), a principal's discretionary fund (\$10,000 per year), as well as grants for technology and infrastructure (examples: iPads/laptops, recess supplies, pool care/maintenance, and playground care/maintenance, \$15,000 per year).

Fundraising efforts vary from year-to-



year, and we are always open to new ideas. The following fundraising activities have become staples for the PTO and will be undertaken again this year:

- Ask Drive:** a large donation drive directed towards current families, their extended families, alumni, and community members
- Party 4 Play:** an adults-only party and auction, typically held in the winter/early spring
- Carnival:** an annual end-of-school celebration; wrist-bands sold at the event help off-set the cost of the event and add to our fundraising efforts
- Other:** ads from corporate sponsors in the PTO newsletter, spirit wear sales, Run Shadyside, and Box Tops for Education

Edible Schoolyard

Provided to students as a collaboration between Colfax and Grow Pittsburgh, the Garden Coordinator teaches hands-on garden classes to elementary students within the science curriculum. The Colfax PTO provides important funding to support the Garden Coordinator and programming.



Why PTO Matters...

The Colfax PTO routinely supports numerous services and programs throughout the school year. Money raised through fundraising provide valuable opportunities to our students.

Colfax Musical

Each school year, the PTO supplies funds to provide a theater coach and help support an after-school drama club for middle level students. Performances are in the Spring. Past shows include Lion King Jr, Penguins of Madagascar, and The Aristocats.



Frick Environmental Center

The Frick Environmental Center is a nature center operated by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Funding from the Colfax PTO connects student with experienced park stewards who provide nature-based learning and outdoor opportunities to our students.

Upcoming PTO Events



Colfax Spirit Wear

On sale from Sept 2 to Sept. 13. Stay tuned for more information.



Fiesta, September

Colfax family potluck dinner to kick off the new year.



Movie Night, Fall / Spring

Held in the Fall and Spring in the school cafeteria and gym, families can choose from two movies to be shown.



Ice Skating Night at Schenley, Winter

Skate under the stars for free at the Schenley Oval Ice Rink.



Carnival, June

A Year-end celebration involving carnival games, bounce houses, dunk-a-teacher booth, and food.

Chess for Pgh Youth

Administered by PPS and the chess master and scholastic director of the Pittsburgh Chess Club, this program includes two 6-week programs for students who already know how the pieces move. The program meets one each week during lunch / recess and offers also a novice class for students in first and second grades to learn how to play. This is free thanks to PTO funding.



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Important Note: Volunteer Clearances

Some volunteer opportunities - those that involve working directly with students or student information - require clearances. Our volunteer coordinator and main office can help determine if clearances are required. Specific information on obtaining clearances can be found at the PPS website at: <http://www.pghschools.org/Page/3958>