



THE COLFAX COMMUNICATOR

The official newsletter of Colfax K-8 PTO

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Colfax K-8 Community,

I write with the hope and optimism that comes with the Spring season!

We have two great events coming up to bring the Colfax Community together. There's the Party4Play on Saturday, March 18 and the Spring Carnival on Tuesday, June 6. As the weather improves, please be on the lookout for our Colfax meetups held at different playgrounds across the city.

Of course, these events take a lot of effort and planning. We can always use more volunteers; please reach out to volunteers@colfaxpto.org if you can help! I also want to take a minute to personally thank Sarah Grubb, Kelly Anderson, Robin Taylor, and Lisa Zur for all of their hard work to make these events successful. If you see them in-person during pick-up or drop-off, please extend thanks to them.

I also want to thank the teachers, staff, and school leadership – as they have been working hard while understaffed due to a harsh flu season. Dr. Woods and her team work tirelessly to provide the best experience for our kids.

As always, if you have any ideas for how to help the school, please feel free to contact me directly at president@colfaxpto.org.

I hope to see you this Spring at some of our events!

Sincerely,

Dave Lebel
PTO President

2022-2023 PTO BOARD

PRESIDENT: David Lebel

TREASURER: Ross Ingram

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Ashley Ingram

COMMUNICATIONS: Robin Taylor

FUNDRAISING: Kelly Anderson & Lisa Guizzetti Zur

SECRETARY: Ross McGowan

SPECIAL EVENTS: Sarah Grubb

VOLUNTEERS: Joe Moore

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WINTER EVENTS

During January and February this year, the PTO hosted several community building events: Winter Movie Night and Colfax's first Student Art Show. It was wonderful to get our community together and see old friends as well as making new friends. If you missed us at these events, below are some photos. Please join us for some upcoming events: Party4Play on Saturday, March 18 and Colfax Carnival on Tuesday, June 6 as well as the upcoming playground meetups that are scheduled for the coming months!



PARTY4PLAY 2023

The Party4Play committee has been feverishly planning for Party4Play 2023! We are looking forward to seeing you on March 18 from 7-10pm at Rodef Shalom Congregation!



At the event, there will be food, drinks, live music provided by Jazzmania and Lindsay Dragan And Her Band, emceeding by local newscaster Liz Kilmer and a silent auction.

Come celebrate the day after St. Patrick's Day by helping us raise funds that support so many important initiatives at Colfax: field trips, technology grants, a relationship with Grow Pittsburgh, student enrichment, a middle school musical, and much more.

Attendees who purchase tickets prior to March 1 will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to local bookstore Riverstone Books. If you can't make it to the event, you can still view and bid in the silent auction by using the QR code to the left.

For Tickets/Auction:



We are also still looking for volunteers to help us during the evening. We would love to have your help, even just for a short time during the festivities. Use the QR code to the right to check out our volunteer opportunities.

To Volunteer:



Questions, Comments, Concerns: Robin (roberunies@aol.com) or Lisa (thezurfamily@gmail.com)

COLFAX COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The PTO is continues to highlight positive forces within the Colfax community with your help! Our most recent community members have been: Officer Grate (former Colfax security officer and current girls basketball coach), Mr. Rose (project assistant extraordinaire) and Ms. Donna (our very dedicated crossing guard who keeps the Beechwood & Phillips intersection safe each morning and afternoon! Each month we spotlight one person who goes above and beyond to make Colfax the special space we all know. If you have someone you'd like to nominate, scan the QR code or visit: <https://forms.gle/vJ4PD5uLiYFGpkhH6>



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

In 6th grade, students have been building cars out of 75% recyclable materials to use in their upcoming labs on force, speed and velocity--yes, these vehicles are made from recyclable materials AND yes, they actually move!



INTRAMURAL SPORTS UPDATE



Winter has been auspicious for the middle grades sports teams!

The 6-8th grade girls and boys basketball teams finished their regular seasons with resounding victories over Mifflin on February 21! Both the boys' and girls' teams made it to the playoffs!

The boys and girls middle school swim team participated in the citywide championship also on February 21 at Allerdice. The boys' team placed 1st and the girls' team placed 2nd in the meet!

Next up: Soccer and wrestling seasons!



FOURTH GRADE PHIPPS COLLABORATION

Fourth grade scientists had guest visitors from the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. This was the first of a 3 session partnership which culminates in a special field trip to Phipps in March!



GARDEN UPDATE

Hello Gardeners,

It IS Winter right? It is hard to remember that the garden is still resting with all of the mild weather we have been having here in Pittsburgh. Already at the garden we are seeing our spring bulbs start to poke their heads out of the ground and the birds are singing like spring has already sprung. However, our great marmot forecaster (Punxsatawny Phil) predicted at least six more weeks of winter, and so we are following suit and working with 2nd Grade to share winter cooking experiences. Already we have done some taste testing of different herbs and how they work with other ingredients, as well as planting seeds to grow some micro greens for our upcoming Garden Ramen day. If the mild weather continues we will be able to get out into the garden to start looking for other signs of the coming spring. Perhaps we can even attempt some early spring plantings with some weather protection.

In other Garden News, Farmer Caroline and I will be handling the tree pruning that occurs this time of year. We have learned a lot about pruning over the past few years even though neither of us identified as expert fruit tree pruners. Through our own research, talking with others, and trial and error, we have come a long way. This is a reminder that you do not need to be an expert when it comes to trying new things. Especially in the realm of gardening you should always feel comfortable trying new things. Some of them will work, some of them will fail, and the lesson is in the trying and trying again with the knowledge you gained in the previous year or season.

Looking forward to the true spring we will be enjoying lessons in the garden with the Kindergarten Classes, planting the garden, digging in the warmer soil, and getting our garden growing, while growing as students, teachers and gardeners.

Stay warm, stay dry and keep growing, just not too fast.

HAVE GARDENING
QUESTIONS?
INTERESTED IN
VOLUNTEERING?
FEEL FREE TO
REACH OUT TO
FARMER IAN AT

IAN@GROWPITTSBURGH.ORG



PLAYGROUND MEETUPS

Playground meetups will return this March with a series of 7 weekend dates for families to meet other Colfax families or greet new and potential Colfax families!

- 3/5: Blue Slide Park
- 3/25: Wightman Park
- 4/15: Blue Slide Park
- 4/30: Westinghouse Park
- 5/13: Blue Slide Park
- 5/21: Davis Playground
- 6/10 Blue Slide Park

Interested in helping or have questions? Contact Kelly Anderson (fundraising@colfaxpto.org).

ASK DRIVE

This year's Ask Drive was a resounding success thanks to you! We raised over \$29,000 thanks for the generosity of Colfax community members and businesses. These funds will be used throughout the year to support Colfax in ways such as field trips, classroom supplies, teacher appreciation and so much more. Thank you to the following donors for making it happen!

ASK DRIVE DONORS

Joshua Adelman
Allyson Aldous
Shannon Allen
Jennifer Alloo
Kelly Anderson
Daniel Bain
Paul Beecher
Jeffrey Bigham
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Stephanie Weinstein
Arthur Wolfson
Katherine Wrenshall
Anna Wukich
Charlotte Yano
Lisa Zur



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