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Next PSCC/PTO Meeting
Wednesday October 14

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COLFAX COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLFAX K-8 PTO
VOLUME 14, NO. 1

October
2020

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

A Letter from the President

Sometime in early August, while I was busy wondering how e-learning was going to work, Dr. Woods asked me if our Colfax PTO could fund an e-learning training opportunity for our teachers. For \$10 per teacher? For 36 teachers that would volunteer their own time prior to the official start of the school year? Of course the PTO would support! We are going to make the 2020-21 school year work for all of us. Online. And together.

This is our goal: Work together to give our children the best enrichment opportunities possible. Our Colfax K-8 PTO sponsors many academic and extracurricular activities to achieve this goal including technology and technology-training to help our great teachers become great e-teachers.

To our Colfax K-8 families--we have all had different experiences over the past year and e-learning has posed many personal challenges. More than ever, we need to work together for all of our children. Please share your time (volunteers needed!) and resources (\$100 per child!) so we can help make sure this different school is a different-great school year.

And to our Colfax K-8 teachers and staff--you have

obviously put in a tremendous amount of (over)time, creativity, and passion to deliver a remarkable experience to our children. Thank you. You are indeed making e-learning work!

Sincerely,

Ross Ingram,
Colfax K-8 PTO President
Online. Together. Colfax.



PTO Funded Initiatives

Thanks to the generosity of our Colfax families, staff, and community, the Colfax PTO has been able to fund several initiatives that have contributed to making this different kind of school year as great as it has been.

So far this year, the PTO has been able to fund:

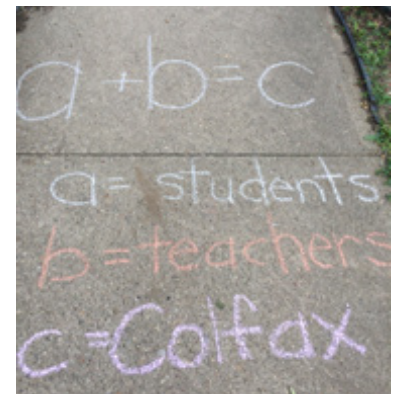
1. An e-learning training for teachers;
2. \$100 gift cards per teacher for use in their classrooms;
3. The purchase of web-cams for each teacher to facilitate online instruction;
4. A continued relationship with Grow Pittsburgh to continue with the maintenance of our beloved school garden.

Working together with our teachers and staff to meet the needs of the school community is a big part of what makes Colfax so great. Let's keep up the great work and continue to pool our resources, allowing us to support our students and create the most robust learning experiences possible!

Chalk the Walk

It's hard not getting to be together to start off this school year, but as we have learned from these challenging times, there are creative ways that we can team up and work together to make the best of the situation.

Showing our support and appreciation for our Colfax staff remains a priority for our families. This year, the Colfax community came together (in a socially distant and responsible way!) to "Chalk the Walk" around Colfax, decorating the sidewalks, stairs, and playground with colorfully-made messages and signs to cheer on the staff and welcome them back to the school for the 2020-21 school year.



Welcome New Teachers & Staff



Jacqueline Bingman

My name is Jackie Bingman and I'm so excited to be part of the Colfax Cobra team! I've taught 3rd Grade at Pittsburgh Langley for the last 7 years. I am looking forward to working with the kindergarteners to establish strong foundational skills and instill a strong passion for learning. I have two children, Ben and Ava. As a parent, I'm a firm believer in the importance of a strong parent and teacher team. Please don't hesitate to call/email me. I'm looking forward to a great year!



Nina Cerro

Hello Colfax Cobras! My name is Ms. Cerro and I am excited to start this school year with you! I am the new Resource Teacher. This year will be my 6th year teaching for Pittsburgh Public Schools. I graduated from Indiana University in 2014 with my Bachelor's degree and in 2018 from the University of San Diego with my Master's degree in STEAM education. I was born in Pittsburgh and still live in the area today. I love watching the Steelers play, reading, and going on walks around different parts of Pittsburgh. I look forward to a great year at Colfax.



Visit Us

6524 Wilkins Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Hours

Tuesday-Friday 7am-6pm
Saturday 8am-5pm
Sunday 8am-2pm

Parking

There is free on-street parking
on all nearby streets



Welcome New Teachers & Staff



Nathan Marx

Hello! My name is Nathan Marx and this is my first year at Colfax. I have been at Westinghouse for the past 3 years as a Health and Physical Education teacher, where I also coached the soccer and baseball teams. I am also the Girls' Varsity Swim Coach at Allderdice. I received my Bachelor's degree at Slippery Rock University with a minor in Aquatics. I enjoy all types of physical activity and I am a very active person. I look forward to this year at Colfax!



Sarah Simko-Zeminski

My name is Sarah Simko-Zeminski. I am very excited to be joining the Colfax team this school year! This will be my 13th year with Pittsburgh Public Schools. I am a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh where I earned my Bachelor's degree in History and my Master's degree in Secondary Social Studies Education. I live in the Level Green area east of Pittsburgh with my husband, two children, and our dog Barkley. When I am not teaching, I enjoy reading, cooking, spending time with my family, and being outdoors as much as possible.



Noranne Yarbough

Hello! My name is Ms. Yarbough and I am excited to join Pittsburgh Colfax's 1st grade self-contained team. I am a native Pittsburgher. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and my Master of Education from Carlow University with a certification in Elementary Education K-6. This is my 5th year teaching for Pittsburgh Public Schools. I have taught both ELA and self-contained for 5th, 3rd, and 2nd grade. Prior to teaching at PPS, I worked within the Steel Valley School District at Barrett Elementary as the 5th grade Math and Science teacher.

I have a 17-year-old son named Gavin. He is entering his senior year at Woodland Hills JR/SR High School.

I am excited to share in the learning and development of the scholars here at Colfax.

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Welcome New Teachers & Staff



Qualisha Zyhier-Williams

Qualisha Zyhier-Williams returned to Pittsburgh after over 20 years to serve Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) as the Assistant Principal at Colfax K-8. Prior to her return, she was named Associate Principal of Bailey Bridge Middle School after serving as the Assistant Principal at Falling Creek Middle School in Chesterfield County, Virginia for three years. While at Falling Creek Middle School, Zyhier-Williams worked to promote a positive, culturally rich, and inclusive school environment. During her tenure, she helped the school to achieve and maintain full accreditation.

Zyhier-Williams comes with diverse experience in educational technology and global connections after serving the Henrico County Public School (HCPS) division as an International Baccalaureate Middle School Science teacher. In 2015, she earned the Gilman Teacher of the Year Award at Moody Middle School. Her focus was project based learning with a heavy emphasis on technology integration for positive student academic outcomes. She also served HCPS as a special education teacher, a collaborative Science teacher, head basketball coach, PBIS Coach, and administrative aide prior to pursuing the path into school administration.

Zyhier-Williams earned her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Central Connecticut State University where she also played four years of Division I basketball and served as the team captain during her senior year. She earned multiple accolades during her basketball career, including the First Team All NBC Conference during her senior year. Following her brief overseas opportunities where she played in Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, and finally, France, her love for basketball continued as she volunteered as a recreation league coach for children ages 4-14, and as a competitive travel coach for children ages 8-17; resulting in college scholarship opportunities for numerous student athletes. Zyhier-Williams pursued additional studies in education at Virginia Union University, and earned her Master's Degree in School Administration from Central Michigan University.

Zyhier-Williams is the proud mother of three high school scholar student athletes who serve as community volunteers in their spare time. Her two daughters and son are multisport athletes who excel academically and athletically and help Zyhier-Williams to maintain her youthful and energetic spirit through constant activity and lots of laughter.

Qualisha Zyhier-Williams is extremely excited to learn and grow as a leader in Pittsburgh Public Schools and to join the dynamic family of students, faculty, parents, and community members at Colfax.

2020-21 PTO Executive Board

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Ross Ingram, president@colfaxpto.org

Executive Vice President

Mitch Franzos, treasurer@colfaxpto.org

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Stephanie Livshin, events@colfaxpto.org

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Lisa Zur, fundraising@colfaxpto.org

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Natalie Duarte, treasurer@colfaxpto.org

VP Volunteer Coordinator

Tiffany Stuckey, volunteers@colfaxpto.org

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Teacher Representative (Colfax's FACE Coordinators)

Amanda Olshenske,, aolshenske1@pghschools.org

Rebecca Bachman, rbachman1@pghschools.org

Middle Level Teacher Representative

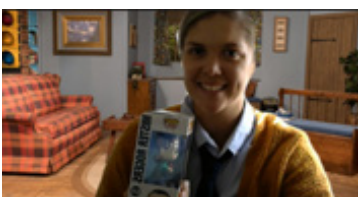
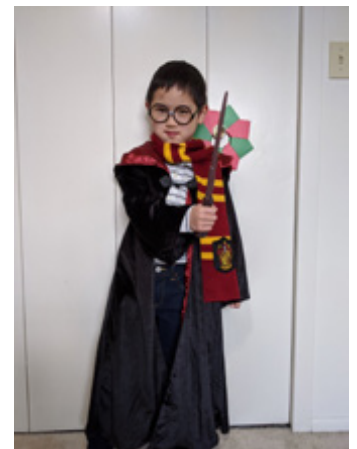
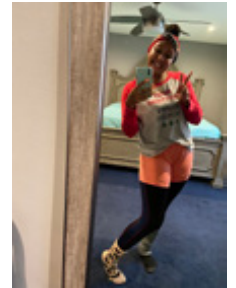
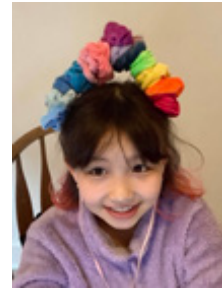
Jennifer Herr, jherr1@pghschools.org

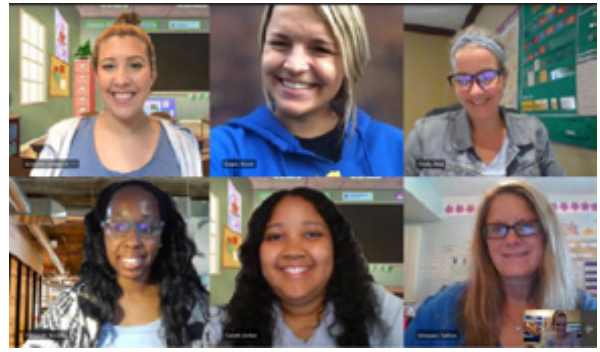
Principal

Dr. Tamara Sanders-Woods, tsanderswoods1@pghschools.org



PPS Spirit Week at Colfax





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