

CARLYNTON

School District News



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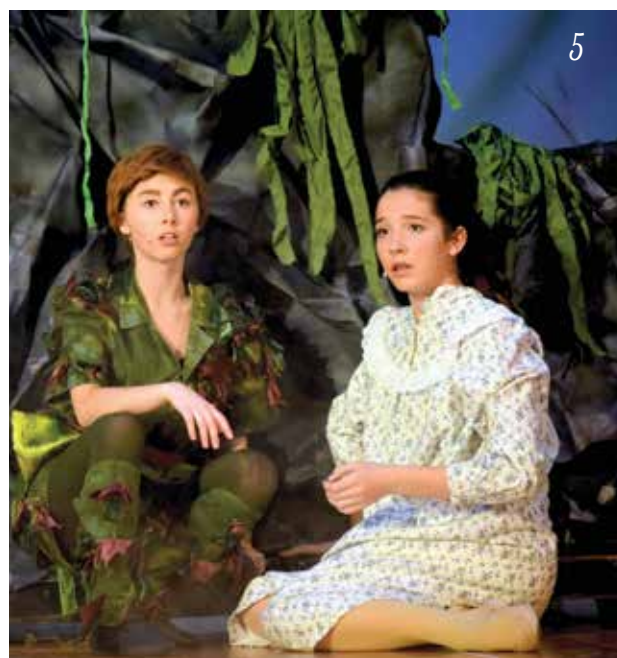


The Adventures of Peter Pan

The story of Peter Pan came to life on the Carlynton stage this past winter, with performances by a talented cast and the support of a disciplined crew who hastily moved cumbersome sets in the dark.

The mythological world of Neverland took shape with bright scenery and creative lighting in a tale involving the Darling family of England. Upon taking flight with Peter Pan, the Darling children befriend the Lost Boys but find themselves ensnared in a rivalry against Captain Hook and his smarmy pirates. Wendy, the oldest Darling sibling, meets a petulant fairy named Tinker Bell who vies for the attention of Peter. The Darlings are enchanted by a constant struggle between Tiger Lily, a Native American princess and her squad, a sly crocodile with a taste for human flesh, and the notorious Captain Hook and crew who spearheaded a quest for attention and revenge. The story ends as the Darling children return home, taking the Lost Boys with them and leaving Peter Pan to his life of perpetual boyhood.

Directed by theater teacher, **Tonilyn Jackson**, and assisted by colleague **Tracy Post**, the principal characters of the cast included **Camryn Kwiatkoski** as Peter Pan, **JP Cantwell** as Mr. Darling and Captain Hook, **Sydney Mollica** as Tinker Bell, **Tara Wade** as Mrs. Darling and Tiger Lily, and **Elizabeth Duffy**, **Elana Heffner**, and **David Holderbaum** as the Darling children. Much of the scenery was designed and painted by art teacher **Michelle Dzurenda** with set construction managed by a team of parents.





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Opposite page: **1)** The Darling family gathers around their beloved dog "Nana" in their home in England. **2)** Peter Pan enters the home of the Darlings through an open window in hopes of finding his shadow. **3)** Princess Tiger Lily leads her squad on a quest to protect Peter Pan from danger. **4)** The Lost Boys hope to hear Wendy Darling speak after she was accidentally shot by an arrow. **5)** Peter Pan and Wendy hide from the notorious Captain Hook.

This page: **6)** Tinker Bell stirs a fog that rises over the water as the ship of Hook and his crew draws near to the hiding place of Peter Pan. **7)** Mermaids greet a shifty crocodile who is out to eat the other arm of Captain Hook. **8)** Tinker Bell is envious of Wendy Darling and her siblings, who have become mentors and friends to the Lost Boys. **9)** Tinker Bell, vying for the attention of Peter, warns the boy of Captain Hook's plot to capture her. **10)** The evil Captain Hook blackmails his own crew, forcing them to do what he asks. **11)** Peter challenges Hook to a duel to gain freedom for the captured Wendy **12)** Hook roars as his crew is defeated after going head to head with his nemesis. **13)** The Darling children return home following their adventures in Neverland and are greeted by joyful parents. **14)** Peter is met with the decision to stay with the Darlings or return to Neverland. He decides to return and forever remain a boy.



The create space on the second floor of the junior-senior has been dubbed "The Shop."



A sneak peek of the recording studio, before equipment was installed.

The Shop is **OPEN**

The space that formerly occupied the library in the junior-senior high school is nearly unrecognizable to those who once made use of the room to study, read, or check out a book. Old carpeting was been lifted and floors now have a concrete, industrial vibe. The chunky tables and chairs have been swapped for pillows, bean bag seating, and workstations. Rows of shelving with books have been replaced by a living wall, computers, televisions, and power tools. On a back wall, a large graphic with gears and lettering reads, "The Shop at Carlynton, 100% Student Made." Lettering on another wall suggests the room's purpose: "Mentoring tomorrow's entrepreneurs."

In a day when every student has the potential to carry a global library on a device in his or her pocket, the role of a physical library has been reimagined to invite student communication and collaboration. The Shop at Carlynton is engaging students

by way of a hands-on, cooperative learning environment where they can share knowledge and resources to design and create in a variety of dimensions using real-world applications. The space, modeled after YOUmedia at the Chicago Public Library and guided by a partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, is facilitated by Fluency Project Coach **Wendy Steiner**. Funding through a Ready to Learn grant has made the space possible.

Work stations throughout The Shop engage users across all core disciplines of the curriculum. A model train platform incorporates circuitry and engineering. A venture to design and build a large-scaled model to replicate one or more of the three local communities, when completed, will integrate the train making its rounds through the boroughs.

In a far corner, a gaming area is fostering game design and development. A separate studio offers students the chance to work with CAD, three-dimensional printing, and animation software. Next door is a recording studio, allowing students to create and record podcasts, rehearse for auditions, or practice a musical instrument. A quiet reading nook and a living wall of herbs and house plants adds some ambience to the room.

Fashion design, jewelry making, nail art, a Lego station, silk-screening, a poster maker, and an area for building with power tools, soldering, and wood burning rounds out several other work areas. Future plans includes the installation of art, photography, and robotics stations, and a food lab to explore and create hydroponic gardens. Student interest will drive forthcoming additions to the space.

The Shop is open during school hours and Mrs. Steiner offers training workshops before and after school. As students become proficient in areas, they will become leaders or mentors to guide others through the learning process. Items created in The Shop will be sold, steering students to explore entrepreneurial opportunities.

Credit for the transformation of the creative space goes to district maintenance staff who worked tirelessly to remove furniture, carpeting, strip and level the floors, paint the walls, constructed a platform for trains, and upgrade electrical circuits, as well as installing new equipment. Image 360 of Crafton was contracted to design and install the wall graphics.

An open house will be held in May to enable parents and community members to visit and explore The Shop.



The back wall suggests the purpose of the innovative space. Students will have the opportunity to sell items they create.

District Hires Director of Fiscal Affairs and Budget

Christopher Juzwick, a Robinson Township-native, was hired as Director of Fiscal Affairs and Budget for the district at a school board meeting in January. The position was filled following a lengthy search and interview process.

Juzwick brings a wealth of experience in accounting and finance. Most recently, he served as controller for the Promowest Northshore Complex, better known as Stage AE, where he administered all financial aspects of the company including yearly budgets, financial projections, and auditing procedures. He found the means to save the corporation thousands of dollars by creating a customized accounts receivable and payable process.

Working in education will be akin to a mission, said Juzwick. "I will have a chance to see how decisions made through



Mr. Chris Juzwick

computers. Seeing students succeed will be a reflection of that."

Coming from the private sector of finance, Juzwick believes his business background will give him an edge to grasping the economics of public education. "I realize that every decision

my office will effect students, whether it's finding monies to extend a no-longer funded grant or working with administration to stretch the budget for more

matters when it comes to spending, saving, and investing."

Years previous, Juzwick was employed as an accountant for Sapa Extrusions, ANH Refractories, and the accounting firm of Parente's of Science in accounting from Robert Morris University after completing undergraduate studies in accounting at Grove City College.

Juzwick and his wife Brittany reside in Robinson with three-year-old daughter Tenley. His wife is also an accountant. Chuckling, he commented, "I know, we sound like a really fun couple." Chris, as he prefers to be called, said he does have some connections to Carlynton – his grandmother and two sisters are alumni.

The position for business manager opened last fall following the retirement of Kirby Christy. Mr. Christy held the position for 28 years. William Reilly, retired Finance Director of the Freeport Area School District, where he spend 40 years, adeptly retained the role in the interim.

SAVE THE DATE

2018



■ Taste of Carlynton -

The second annual Taste of Carlynton sponsored by the Carlynton Education Foundation will be held April 23 at Chartiers Country Club from 6:00

to 8:30 pm. The food tasting extravaganza will feature menu selections from local restaurants and treats from neighboring bakeries and sweet shops. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at carlynton.org.

■ **Kennywood Park School Picnic** – Tickets to this year's school picnic at Kennywood will go on sale in schools April 4. Only cash will be accepted and tickets are \$26 each. The school picnic is Thursday, May 24.

■ **Kindergarten Registration** – Kindergarten registration will be held March 22 at Carnegie Elementary and April 5 at Crafton Elementary. Children must be registered at the school located within the community in which they reside. Rosslyn Farms residents should register at Crafton Elementary School. Children must be five (5) years of age on or before August 15 to qualify for enrollment into kindergarten. Kindergarten students will begin the 2018-2019 school year with a "staggered start." This will allow children to adapt to the new schedule and become comfortable in a new learning environment.

March 22

March 22-25

March 26

March 30-April 2

April 4

April 5

April 6

April 23

April 24

April 26

April 27

May 11

May 16

May 18-23

May 22-June 1

May 23

May 24

May 25

May 28

June 1

Carnegie Elementary Kindergarten Registration

Spring Musical, *The Boy Friend*

JSHS Second Annual Blood Drive

Spring Break

Kennywood Picnic Ticket Sale

Crafton Elementary Kindergarten Registration

JSHS Mr. Carlynton Pageant

Taste of Carlynton, Chartiers Country Club

JSHS Spring Band Concert

JSHS Spring Choral Concert

In-Service Day, No School

Elementary Spring Choral Concert

Elementary Spring Band Concert

Senior Final Exams

Underclassmen Final Exams

JSHS Career Fair

Sixth Grade Move Up Day (Orientation)

HS Chalk Art Day

School Picnic at Kennywood Park

Junior-Senior Prom at the Wyndham Grand

Memorial Day, No School

Last Day of School

Inspired!

"HIGH ACHIEVEMENT ALWAYS TAKES PLACE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF HIGH EXPECTATION." – *Charles Kettering*

When walking through the halls of any of the three school buildings in the district, it is nearly impossible to ignore the motivational quotes displayed on walls. Subtly, the words are intended to inspire and challenge students to stay focused, to achieve a dream or reach a goal, despite any circumstances.

Collectively, the inspiration is making a difference.

★ Last year, several Carlynton High School students were charged with the challenge to create sustainable energy by devising a vertical wind turbine as an energy source for the Pittsburgh-based Energy Innovation Center (EIC). In October, those same students were recognized and applauded at a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil a 40-foot wind turbine erected on the property of the innovation center. The wind stack closely mirrors the design developed by students last winter.

With a vision for design in alternative energy, seniors **Saman Majed** and **Sean Steding** displayed the three dimensional model they created in class using drafting software and a 3-D printer. The non-directional turbine model designed by the teens featured colored floodlighting to indicate speed and power generated by the turbine. Seniors **Shane Baroni-Meyers**, **Tashe Ann Earle**, and **Kaylee Goolsby** also contributed to the creation and design of the model. The EIC has sponsored a "Design Challenge" for the past three years with a goal of connecting students to STEM careers through real-life projects.

★ The Carlynton Junior-Senior High School Interact Club, a community service organization, was named the



Standing with Pittsburgh-area dignitaries, Sean Steding and Saman Majed take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Energy Innovation Center of Pittsburgh.

2017-2018 Small Club of the Year by rotary clubs in District 7300. The Interact Club is sponsored by the Carnegie-Collier and Crafton-Ingram rotaries and enlists students in grades seven through 12. English teacher **Chelsie Fris** is the club advisor.

The Interact Club achievement was founded on the diversity of service projects in which the group has participated. In the past year and a half, members have promoted literacy by collecting books and placing Little Free Libraries at each elementary building. They collected thousands of can pull tabs, took the aluminum to a scrap yard, and donated the profits to the Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh. Members volunteered their time to work the annual school district-sponsored Breakfast with Santa, which raises money for the Back Pack for Kids food program. They organized, collected, and shipped shoes to Nicaragua, and sold candy grams and sent the proceeds to the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. The organization also partnered with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carnegie to assemble fleece blankets and crochet plastic grocery bags into mats for the homeless in association with Light of Life Rescue Mission.

In addition to volunteering time to benefit the community and beyond, the Interact partakes in a number of Rotary events to learn about leadership and global affairs.



Standing with Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Sean and Saman proudly raise the model of a wind turbine they designed in the classroom.



Following the surprise delivery of 187 new Chromebooks, seventh graders Dom Carlson, Bridget Maloy and Lily Barber enthusiastically volunteered to carry the laptops inside.

★ Carnegie Elementary was recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a Title I High Progress School. The accolades came on the heels of the school successfully closing the achievement gap in mathematics and reading based on 2016-2017 PSSA test results.



Teachers Nathan Milsom and Gerald Pepe stacked the boxes of Chromebooks in the Cougar Collaboration Center as students carried them inside.



Carnegie Elementary first graders Emmett Spitzer and Ali Al Masri and fourth graders Damien Holloway and Ariyanna Smith lifted signs for all to see during a motivational assembly.



Aiden Scullion, a second grader of Carnegie Elementary, responds to a question posed by Educational Partnership program specialist Sarah McKay.

As a high progress school, an award was presented to Principal Lauren Baughman at the Improving School Performance Conference held in Pittsburgh. The elementary school is also eligible to become a National Title I Distinguished School as established by the Division of Federal Programs.

Title I is designed to help students served by the program to achieve proficiency on challenging academic achievement standards. The federal program provides funding to address the needs of students who struggle with math and/or reading.

Likewise, Carnegie Elementary efforts received the attention of the Education Partnership Adopt-A-School program. In January, all students in the school received "Power Tool Homework Kits" filled with school and hygienic supplies. An inspirational assembly offered the chance for students to interact in a number of ways. Some were selected to come to the front of the auditorium to hoist placards that read: "work hard, be kind, try something new, and don't be afraid to fail." Carnegie-Collier and Crafton-Ingram rotaries, the businesses of Amcom and Hefren-Tillotson, and McKnight Elementary in the North Allegheny School District collaborated with the Education Partnership as generous sponsors. Former Carnegie Principal Carla Hudson attended the assembly. She is now assistant principal of McKnight Elementary.

★ A conventional fire drill at the high school on an early December morning took students outside as usual. Unexpectedly, the sound of sirens halted students from re-entering the building as police chiefs of Robinson Township, Carnegie, and Crafton Boroughs arrived in patrol cars. Majorette **Ashlea Haigh** followed, twirling a fire baton in step with the performing drum line. A district dump truck shadowed the procession. In the back of the truck was teacher Ryan Gevaudan, wearing a Santa hat and tossing candy to students. This routine fire drill was suddenly unconventional.

As the dump truck came to a halt, Principal Michael Loughren climbed aboard and shared a pleasant surprise. The truck was filled with 187 Chromebooks, a donation from Digital Promise and Google. As the laptops were unloaded, students eagerly volunteered to carry the cargo to the Cougar Collaboration Center, a multi-media classroom used for classroom lectures and STEAM activities.

Carlynton Junior-Senior High School is one of 50 schools nationwide selected for the Dynamic Learning Project, piloted and supported by Digital Promise, EdTechTeam, and Google. The project aims to improve equity in education by empowering teachers to leverage technology in more powerful ways. Ryan Gevaudan, after receiving extensive training last summer, serves as the coaching fellow for the program.



Carnegie Elementary students show off the Power Tool Homework Kits they received following an assembly.



MAKING HEADLINES



A high school peer-to-peer project is partnering Life Skills and science students in an adopt-a-plant initiative to allow young teens to mentor while learning about the growth cycle of plants. Using the school's greenhouse, students are propagating babies from spider plants and nurturing them until they are large enough to share with others. The spider plant is among several houseplants known for improving indoor air quality by filtering out volatile organic compounds. Students have learned that ozone, or smog, is the main component of air pollution which filters into homes



The high school green house is home to plants being nurtured to improve the air quality in classrooms.

and other indoor environments. Spider plants have been effective in reducing ozone concentrations in classrooms. In connection with the adopt-a-plant project, improvements to the green house are underway, making the space wheelchair accessible.



Crafton Elementary sixth grader **Sean Hart** finished with a top score at the Sumdog math competition sponsored by Allegheny County in October. The online contest assesses math proficiency through the use of mathematic equations and games.



Upperclassmen enrolled in the Holocaust Studies semester course traveled to the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh in Squirrel Hill to learn more about the era of the Nazi regime. They were accompanied by teacher **Timothy Patsko**.

While there, students observed The Butterfly Project, an art exhibit of ceramic butterflies meant to symbolize the lives of some 1.5 million children lost during the war. Harry Schneider, an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor, shared his story. "I was told to stay alive so I could tell the world of the atrocities that took place," said Schneider. Schneider's family escaped the war camps by fleeing to the dense forests of Poland and later crossing into Russia. Born just outside of Warsaw, he was two-years-old when German soldiers visited his home and burned it to the ground.

After viewing artifacts from the Holocaust and watching a documentary, the students hopped on a bus to travel several blocks to the Holocaust memorial, Keeping Tabs. Keeping Tabs is a collection of six million can tabs collected over an 18-year period.



Junior Alexis Dixon chats with survivor Henry Schneider after he shared memories as a child in war-torn Germany.

The tabs represent the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. The sculpture, made of 960 glass blocks, stands nine feet high and spans 45 feet in width. Each glass block contains 6,250 can tabs. From the air, the sculpture is intended to portray a segmented Star of David.



Each block in the Keeping Tabs memorial contains 6,250 can tabs. From the air, the memorial resembles the Star of David.



Mr. Patsko and students, standing in front of the Keeping Tabs memorial, were enthralled by the remarkable commemorative.

Students across the county participated in the contest. Sean accurately computed 947 math questions to finish in the top five percent.



The high school forensics team, coached by teacher **Maggie Wilson**, takes part in several competitions each year. Students strive to improve public speaking skills as they gain self-confidence. In October, junior **Arabella Hunt** captured second place in Dramatic Interpretation in a novice tournament sponsored by Upper St. Clair High School. Other competitors getting their feet wet in the competition included junior **Rory Dougherty**, sophomores **Jaimee Cabili** and **Mathias Spragg**, and freshman **Reece Smith**.



Carnegie Elementary fourth graders assembled in a movie theater during non-school hours to see the film, *Wonder*, after reading the book by the same name in class. The fictional storyline characterizes the adversity and triumphs of a young boy who was born with mandibulofacial dysostosis, a condition which causes severe facial deformities. The heartwarming tale provoked discussion in class about bullying and acceptance. Shortly after seeing the movie, the three fourth grade classes and teachers gathered in a classroom on a sunny afternoon to Skype with screenwriter and movie producer of *Wonder*, Stephen Chbosky. A native of Upper St. Clair, Chbosky patiently answered questions posed by students about the movie. They learned the film was shot in Vancouver, Canada, and was completed in 45 days. Chbosky's daughter played the role of Via, the sister to the star of the film, August Pullman. The producer said he worked closely with *Wonder* author R.J. Palacio while filming and was sure to get her consent before making any changes to the storyline. In one instance, a movie referenced in the book was changed because the licensing rights for *The Sound of Music* could not be attained. Students learned that nearly 500 boys were auditioned for the role of Jack Will. The boy selected for the part was British and he learned to speak English without an accent within a few weeks. Several times during the nearly 45-minute Skype, Chbosky applauded the students for their intuitive questions and behavior. "You're representing Pittsburgh proudly," he told them. One last question raised by a student asked Chbosky if the experience

of filming the movie changed him. He answered, thoughtfully, "I used to think in terms of deformity. Now I think in terms of different. And being different is okay in my book." Chbosky just finished filming *Prince Charming* for Disney. He is well known for writing and producing *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.



Fourth graders of Carnegie Elementary had the opportunity to Skype with Wonder producer Stephen Chbosky after reading the book and seeing the film.



Students in **Mrs. Maureen Berlinger's** ninth grade biology classes took scientific steps to solve the question, "What brand of dish soap makes the biggest bubbles?" The "bubbleology" experiment compared three common soap brands, Ajax, Palmolive, and Dawn. Using the soap and straws, students carefully blew bubbles to determine a correlation between the price of a brand



Ninth grader Kay Perino carefully blows a bubble using a straw during a "bubbleology" experiment.

and the size of a bubble. The freshmen found that creating surface tension, a bond that holds water molecules together, created the largest, almost elastic-like bubbles. They used a metric measuring system to determine the circumference of each bubble's ring left behind on lab tables after popping the clear, shiny dome. The science activity is a favorite among students who freely admitted the lesson was fun.



A team of eighth graders comprising **Adam Engelka**, **Aiden Forrest**, **Michael Kozy**, **Lukas Prepelka**, and **Owen Schriver** competed and finished third at the annual History Bowl held at the Heinz History Center. Over 400 participating students from school districts across the county were challenged through a series of questions, creative writing activities, and problem solving undertakings as they explored the exhibits. In a separate competition, sophomores **Anya Carrasco**, **Hannah Clark**, **Elana Heffner**, and **Olivia Robb** placed third in a Battle of the Books contest held at the South Hills Area Literature Festival. The girls read an assigned list of books beforehand and battled to answer trivia related to the content, as well as completing a poster. In addition, they had the chance to work with a professional author to develop writing techniques.



A Food Around the World event held in the high school cafeteria introduced a number of unfamiliar culinary delights to students. Sponsored by English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher **Jessica Bartholomew**, English Learners in grades 7-12 made and brought native dishes to share with classmates, teachers, and administrators. Among the many options, eighth grader **Shaimaa Hourizada** presented a milk and fruit smoothie and freshman **Fakhar Munaf Mohammed** displayed a chicken, rice, and legumes platter of Biryani. Both dishes are popular in their native homeland of Syria. Corn and rice tamales represented Guatemala and were made by siblings **Santos**, **Juana**, and **Maricela Pastor Gonzalez**. Irina Lutsiv showcased cheese pancakes to reflect her homeland of Ukraine. Other dishes represented foods from the Dominican Republic, Iraq, and Puerto Rico. Mrs. Bartholomew, who works with 14 ESL students this year, organized the event to enable English learners to shine among

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MAKING HEADLINES *continued*

peers while giving them a chance to exercise public speaking skills in English. Students were required to describe the dish and its history in a written report and provide the recipe. Correlating with the ESL program, a newly formed Cultural Club is providing a social gathering opportunity for students from different countries. The club is giving new students a chance to network with other teens in the school and to exchange information about language, culture, and customs. Over 30 students have been attending the meetings on a regular basis under the sponsorship of Mrs. Bartholomew and teachers **Marlynn** and **Steven Vayanos**.



Sisters Juana and Maricela Pastor Gonzalez made and shared delicious rice and chicken tamales wrapped in palm leaves for the Food Around the World event.



Biryani, a spicy Iraqi dish, was one of the many foods offered at the cultural luncheon.



Cultural Club is providing a social atmosphere for students to discover the customs and culture of peers.

Greetings for the Season



The artwork of junior **Julia Roussos** was selected for the annual school district holiday card this year. A design contest was held in November, facilitated by art teachers **Michelle Dzurenda** and **Marlynn Vayanos**. Four card designs were selected as finalists and displayed in the high school office for faculty, staff, and students to "vote" for a favorite. In addition to Julia's card, finalists included senior **Piper Stevens**, and juniors **Cameron Heiser** and **Alexis Jolly**. In recognition of her work, Julia received a Barnes and Noble gift card.

A holiday tree recently on display at the Pittsburgh International Airport featured ornaments made by Carnegie Elementary students in Diane Criste's art classes. The tree was adorned with handmade paper ornaments fashioned to feature familiar architecture and landmarks of Pittsburgh, including the incline, bridges, downtown buildings,



Ornaments made by Carnegie Elementary students were displayed on a tree at the Pittsburgh International Airport during the holiday season.

the Kennywood Park arrow, and designs featuring the logos of the Pirates, Penguins, and Steelers. Prior to making the ornaments, students researched and studied the history of Pittsburgh's most popular sights. The tree remained on display throughout the holiday season and was featured among a half dozen others with ornaments made by students from neighboring school districts. This is the third year students of Carnegie have participated in the decorating contest.



Thirty-seven pints of blood or plasma were donated at the first annual blood drive of the year, equating to 111 lives saved. High school students, teachers and staff, and several community members participated in the drive that took place on the auditorium stage in January. In association with the American Red Cross, the blood drive created advocacy and awareness for donor demand and the importance of saving lives in hospitals and disaster recovery. Members of the Interact Club and National Honor Societies sponsored the event. They will host a second drive March 26. Individuals interested in donating blood can email teacher **Jamie Sonnie** at Jamie.sonnies@carlynton.k12.pa.us to schedule an appointment.



Junior Lacey Rybacki receives a high five from classmate Alexis Dixon during a blood drive held at the junior-senior high school. Every donor was paired with a friend who offered support and encouragement.



Crafton Elementary second graders in **Jessica Bigler**'s class participated in a service project in cooperation with Scholastic Books by holding a pajama drive. Scholastic gives a book and the pjs to children deemed at-risk for every pair of brand new pajamas donated. Collectively, the class gathered

and contributed 21 pairs of pjs to Scholastic Books. For their efforts, the group was rewarded with an ice cream sundae party. On a national level, Scholastic received 129,353 pairs of pajamas in 2017 and over 100,000 books were donated to children of all ages. Next year, Mrs. Bigler hopes to hold the drive on a larger scale by inviting other classes to participate.



Crafton Elementary second graders display pajamas they collected for a Scholastic PJ drive.



Carnegie Elementary teacher **Scott Donnelly** has parlayed two summer STEM professional development experiences into student-centered, international, real-world engineering projects. In November, all fifth graders participated in the "Pringles Mail Challenge," an experiment to design a package to protect a single Pringles chip as it traveled through the U.S. Postal system and was delivered to another participating school. Using an engineering design process, packaging materials had to be recycled or re-purposed and had to fit into a plain, unpadded, clasped envelope. Final scores were based on a simple formula using the condition of the chip upon arrival to its destination as well as the mass of the packaging. Packaged chips were mailed to schools in Florida, Washington, Kentucky, Georgia, and Germany. Students also received 16 packages from these states to which they carefully opened and judged in order to calculate a final score. Many of the reveals were captured on video or live streamed with participating schools via Google video chat. Carnegie engineers fared well against the competition with several design teams finishing in the top 10 (out of 58 packages). The second engineering project was limited to only one

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Geologist Jeffrey Smith took Carnegie third graders on a virtual tour into a geode mine.



In combination with science lessons about rocks and minerals, Carnegie

Elementary third graders made a virtual tour through a geode mine in Chihuahua, Mexico, thanks to visiting geologist Jeffrey Smith who used photos and video clips to simulate an excursion deep into the earth. While on the imaginary journey, students tunneled 100 feet beneath the dessert, climbed through mine shafts of the Las Choyas Geode Deposit, and used a pick-like tool to chisel geodes from volcanic rock that surrounded it. Afterwards, they learned geodes are spherical gas bubbles that form in lava as it hardens. Quartz is the main mineral found in geodes as well as opal and agate. Mr. Smith displayed a number of geodes of all sizes on a table. Youngsters were able to examine the colorful crystals while waiting in line to observe the geologist as he cracked the hardened shell of geodes he pulled from a bag using a weighty iron apparatus. Every student received a geode with a sparkling treasure inside. Smith has traveled to Mexico on many occasions to mine geodes. One of his more vibrant stones is on display in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.



Carly Conroy, Rayanne Bigos, Dane Colberg, and Grayson Jodon examined the different shapes and sizes of geodes on a display table.



Kaylee Bell, Isabella Cairns, Hanalee Nordeen, Ella Wurga, Zoey Harrist, and Jackson Keeney waited in line to observe as a geode was cracked open by geologist Jeff Smith.



of Mr. Donnelly's three classes due to a time difference with STEM partners in Hanoi, Vietnam. Chemical engineering was the basis for this collaborative cultural exchange. Despite the distance in miles, students worked simultaneously using a module from Engineering is Elementary called "Improving the Play Dough Process." After each lesson in the module, the young engineers took part in a live video chat, with a 12 hour time difference, to discuss the successes and failures of the particular lesson with peers in Hanoi. The pupils also exchanged cultural information, music, and winter holiday traditions. Mr. Donnelly believes month-long project went well beyond science. "In today's political environment and an economy that is constantly becoming borderless, I feel it is important for my students to realize the world is not centered on the USA." He went on to say, "Chances are good that today's elementary students will be working in an

international marketplace when they are adults, so I am excited to expose them to children in other parts of the world." Mr. Donnelly met one of the founders of the STEM school in Vietnam at a summer conference in Boston. A partnership was formed with the goal of developing collaboration opportunities for youth. Students found the engineering projects to be inspiring. **Anna Bell** liked the trial and error process used to complete the tasks. The cultural interaction was also valued. "It's cool doing projects that real people see," said **Ian McGee**, "I like chatting online with my partner in Vietnam."

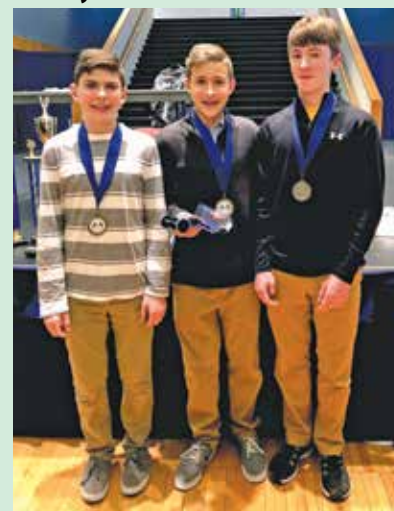


High school band director **Todd Obidowski**, with the assistance from parent boosters, hosted the Western Allegheny County Area (WACA) Honors Band Festival in the auditorium January 22-23. The festival featured talented musicians who meet high academic standards. Fifteen Carlynton scholars were selected to participate in the festival: **Faith Aliano, Kyle Auth, Jaimee Cabili, Hannah Clark, Rodrigo Corral, Elana Heffner, Kassidy Heidkamp, Hayley Kerns, Sam Knabel, James Lukasewicz, Kevin Macmurdo, Sara Macmurdo, Brooke Martineck, Sofia Notaro, and Evan Walker**. Students from Chartiers Valley, Cornell, Montour, Moon, Quaker Valley, South Fayette, Sto Rox, and West Allegheny gathered for the music event for two days of rehearsals and an evening performance before parents. Students were fortunate to be tutored under the direction of Dr. Travis Weller, arranger, composer, and college educator from Central Pennsylvania.

The winter and spring season are hailed as a time for students to demonstrate aptitude by way of instrumental music festivals. In February, junior **Sam Knabel** and sophomore **Jaimee Cabili**

performed in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) district band festival. Also in February, junior high students **Abigail Fox, Georgie Gamble, Victoria McIntyre, Sarah Pallus, and Alyssa Schepis** were selected to perform in the Western Area Middle Schools Honors Band Festival hosted by Moon Area Middle School.

Battery Car Racers



The team of **Michael Kozy, Lukas Prepelka, and Owen Schriver** captured first place at the seventh and eighth grader battery car race held on the campus of Duquesne University in February. Carlynton was also represented by the fourth place team of **Azjia Gardner, Pierce Greiner, and Audrey Robb**, and semifinalists **Colin Dugan and Simon Schriver**.



Elementary students can experience the excitement of partaking in a music festival once they reach fourth grade. This year, four students from Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools will represent the district at the 2018 Singfest at Eden Elementary in the Pine-Richland School District in March. Selected to perform in the choral event are sixth graders **Gabriel DiPietro and Sienna Schmidt** of Carnegie, and fifth grader **Olivia Thompson** and sixth grader **Sean Hart** of Crafton. The PMEA Elementary Band Festival will be hosted by the South Fayette School District in May. **Sean Hart**



The Pringles Challenge motivated fifth graders to engineer a package using recycled materials to mail a Pringles chip to another school without breakage.



After every Play Dough module, students chatted with peers in Vietnam to discuss the outcome of the lesson. From the Hanoi point of view, Eva Mattucci was among the fifth graders to participate in perceptive discussions.



Over 150 students occupied the stage for the WACA Honors Band Festival hosted at the high school in January. Fifteen students from Carlynton participated, including junior Sam Knabel.

and **Chikomsa Orji** of Crafton and **Bailey Vetter** and **Julia Zayats** of Carnegie will represent their schools at the two-day festival.



For the second time in two years, sophomore **Jamie Cabili** has taken first place in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 7 competition. She received top honors for researching, testing, and reporting on the speed and height of drones constructed from a variety of materials. The competition,



First place PJAS award winner Jaimee Cabili.

hosted by Duquesne University, involves some of the best students from school districts in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties. Jaimee was also recognized by the Society of Women Engineers and was presented with a certificate of excellence. She now advances to a state-wide competition held at Penn State in May.

Rewards for Reading



A student-wide assembly at Crafton Elementary gave the PTA a chance to recognize and award the top Accelerated Readers in the school. The names of students with the most AR reading points were placed into a large plastic jar. Special guest, the cougar mascot, arrived just in time to draw four names from the container. Fourth grader **Aida Varghese**, third grader **Alexandria Glass** and first grader **Nai'Tier Davenport** were the lucky winners of a Barnes and Noble gift card. A Kindle Fire went to a very happy **Jonathan Engle**, second grader.



"Welcome to the 2018 Olympic Games!" The hype of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, was the impetus for a multi-week curriculum-wide project involving fifth graders at Carnegie Elementary. Led by teachers **Scott**

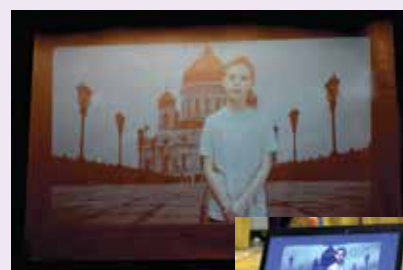
Donnelly and **Erin Cummings**, students held mock Olympic opening ceremonies in the school's auditorium, with music, a parade of Olympians waving flags, and a torch bearer. Inviting fourth graders as their audience, students worked in teams to provide a history of the Olympic Games, the symbolism, and a summary of sporting events. Prepared with video and Google Slide presentations, teams reported on six participating countries: Canada, France, Norway, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands. Presentations provided specific details of each country, disclosing the size and location, the culture, population, currency, languages, climate, flag, and Olympian champions of the past. The fifth graders also calculated the distance in miles and kilometers for each country to travel to South Korea and the cost of an airline ticket. As a side note, they revealed that Carnegie Elementary is 6,798 miles or 15 hours by air travel to South Korea. The slide presentations were interrupted briefly by three pre-recorded videos of students who emulated live news broadcasts from South Korea and Russia. The video reports relayed current weather conditions in Pyeongchang and informed viewers that Russia was banned from the games; they were disqualified after discovering past athletes used PEDs, or Performance Enhancing Drugs. In addition to researching, writing, and preparing slides for the Olympic presentation, student artwork depicting athletes was created and hung in hallways. In math and science classes, the youngsters experimented with Hot Wheel cars and tracks to simulate distance and speed of skiers and used fractions and decimals to calculate data retrieved on the Internet with times of competing Olympians. Gym and music lessons incorporated Winter Olympic events and music. The project was addressed in nearly every subject – Language Arts, math, science, history, art, and physical education. For their efforts, students received points for completing projects and assignments and were presented with gold, silver, and bronze medals at the conclusion of the study.



During the opening ceremonies of the Olympic presentation, students made a paper chain by interlacing blue, yellow, black, green, and red rings, representing the Olympic rings logo. Opening ceremonies began with each child holding the chain as they entered the auditorium, linked together as one.



Josh Montooth was the proud torch bearer for the mock Olympic ceremony.



Fifth grader Ryan Hines reported "live" from Russia, telling viewers the country would not participate in the Winter Olympics because athletes used Performance Enhancing Drugs. The videos were created using Green Screen Apps.

