

# CARLYNTON

## School District News



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# You Can't Take It With You



The fall play, *You Can't Take It With You*, opened to audiences November 29 on the Carlynton Junior-Senior High School stage. The 1937 Pulitzer Prize-winning play took viewers on a riotous course led by a talented cast eager to portray the eclectic characters of the Vanderhof-Sycamore-Carmichael clan.

The plot takes place entirely in the large house of an unconventional New York City family. It includes the patriarch of the family, Grandpa Martin Vanderhof, a deliberate-thinker who shelters snakes and has never paid taxes. His daughter Penelope "Penny" Vanderhof Sycamore spends her days writing adventure-filled melodramas and is married to Paul Sycamore, an eccentric fellow who manufactures fireworks in the basement of the home with the help of an assistant, Mr. De Pinna.

Paul and Penny have two daughters. Essie Sycamore Carmichael makes candy for a living but dreams of becoming a ballerina, even though she has no talent. Essie is married to Ed Carmichael, a xylophone player who prints catchy phrases and encloses them within the packaging of Essie's candies before

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1. In an opening scene of the play, Penny is found writing at her desk as son-in-law Ed plays the xylophone. They pay little attention to an explosion that occurred in the basement, even though the room becomes filled with smoke.
2. Dreaming of becoming a ballerina, Essie dances across the room every time her husband plays the xylophone.
3. Handyman Donald returns to the home after taking the family dog for a walk.
4. Grandpa Vanderhof shares words of wisdom and encouragement with daughter Penny.
5. Wilber Henderson visits the family home to question Grandpa about possible tax evasion while son-in-law Paul Sycamore sits at the table, listening quietly.
6. Mr. DePinna and Paul discuss the cause of an unexpected firework explosion in the basement.
7. Boyfriend Tony Kirby arrives to the family home to pick up Alice for a date, only to be greeted by overzealous family members.
8. Following an evening out, Alice and Tony return home to sit at the family table for some intimate conversation.
9. Tony charms the lovely Alice as he continues to win her love.
10. Actress Gay Wellington, dressed in red, visits the family home to learn more about Penny's writing and the possibility of performing in one of her plays.
11. Actress Wellington brings with her a entourage of actors who wait patiently near her side, eavesdropping on every word.
12. The clan meets Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, who visit a day earlier than



- expected. The Kirbys are not pleased by curiosities they find.
13. Donald returns home from the store with groceries while Alice tries to hide her embarrassment of the family.
14. While the Kirbys wait for dinner to be prepared, Penny leads the group in a game that prompts tension between Mr. and Mrs. Kirby.





### Cast of Characters:

Penelope "Penny" Sycamore.....	Jane Grabowski
Grandpa Martin Vanderhoff .....	Reece Smith
Essie Carmichael.....	Camryn Kwiatkoski
Ed Carmichael.....	Kyle Auth
Paul Sycamore.....	Hayley Kerns
Mr. DePinna.....	Zack Holderbaum
Alice Sycamore .....	Lizzy Duffy
Tony Kirby .....	David Holderbaum
Mr. Anthony Kirby .....	Evan Walker
Mrs. Miriam Kirby .....	Rachel Welsh
Rheba .....	Jaimee Cabilli
Wilbur Henderson .....	Hannah Clark
Boris Kolenkhov .....	Patrick Byers
Gay Wellington.....	Kayla Wilson
Grand Duchess Olga Katrina.....	Natalie Latta
Donald .....	Dakota Mayfield
Head FBI Agent .....	Rose Talmonti
FBI Detective Margaret.....	Maggie Morvay
FBI Detective Eleanor .....	Elana Heffner
Gay Wellington's Actors .....	Savannah Caruso, Catalina Gleason, Sophie McKinney, Marco Moorby, Zach Spragg
Family Pets .....	Virginia Woof, Mertle & Goldie

they are sold in the neighborhood. Alice Sycamore, Paul and Penny's other daughter, appears to be the only "normal" family member. She has an office job with a large company and is often embarrassed by the eccentricities of her family. In addition, the Vanderhof-Sycamore-Carmichael clan employs a maid, Rheba, who is dating Donald, a handyman who performs odd jobs for the Sycamores.

Amid a score of unusual situations and a host of other characters introduced to the storyline, daughter Alice comes home from work one day to announce she has fallen in love with Tony Kirby. Tony is the son of Anthony Kirby, the company executive. When Tony's parents make an unexpected visit to the home of the Vanderhof-Sycamore-Carmichaels, nothing short of chaos ensues for the engaged couple.

In a pivotal scene, Grandpa attempts to soothe things over by imploring the austere Mr. Kirby to enjoy life and riches while young, pointing out, "you can't take it with you." His words eventually hit a mark with the businessman, who decides to rekindle his fondness for playing the saxophone. Tony and Alice are married and the curtain closes as combined family members happily gather for a meal in the family home.

With surprises at every turn, the curtain call did not disappoint as Paul Sycamore set off a fireworks display with a bang. The special effects were made possible by Atlanta Special FX who provided cold spark fountains.

You Can't Take It With You was directed by veteran **Tonilyn Jackson**, high school English, creative writing, and theater teacher. Mrs. Jackson's imagination and direction has left audiences spellbound as she weaves magic into every production.



**15.** Against the wishes of his father, Tony proclaims his love for Alice and his plans to marry her.

**16.** Bizarre anti-government messages written by Ed and found packaged in the candy made by Essie, calls for an investigation by the FBI.

**17.** In the midst of the ongoing chaos, Mr. DePinna sits back to watch events unfold.

**18.** Grandpa offers sage advice to Alice, much to the chagrin of Mr. Kirby.

**19.** In another twist of events, the Grand Duchess Olga Katrina is brought to the family home where she offers to prepare a special meal.

**20.** Mr. Kirby is finally swayed by Grandpa and decides to enjoy life. His wife Miriam is surprised and delighted as he begins to play a saxophone.

**21.** The curtain call brought the show to an end with a bang as Paul ignites a series of fireworks to set the stage aglow in cascading sparkles.



# An Instrumental Role

The value of incorporating music into a child's education cannot be understated. Undisputable research has shown that an education rich in music plays an instrumental role in students' cognitive function and academic performance.

In the Carlynton School District, students are introduced to music education at a young age. Elementary pupils partake in choral or instrumental music classes and begin receiving more formal instruction in the fourth grade.

At the junior-senior high school, all seventh and eighth graders take chorus as an elective and have the option to join the band. Upperclassmen can enroll in a number of music-related elective courses, including band, orchestra, chorus, and ensembles, to name a few.

Participating in music electives requires a commitment. In addition to attending classes, there are practices before or after school for concerts held both in and out of school. Students can also be selected to perform in local and regional festivals designed for enrichment and growth and to showcase talent by performing with peers from area school districts.

This school year alone, a copious number of students will represent Carlynton with their selection to elite festivals. Proudly, the district recognizes and salutes:

Junior **Rodrigo Corral** and senior **Sam Knabel** who performed in January at the Senior High District Band Festival held at Cornell; Sam has advanced to the regional level of competition, to be held in March at New Castle High School.

Freshman **Eric Burcham**, **Hannah Clark**, and **Sara MacMurdo**, sophomores **Faith Aliano**, **Kassidy Heidkamp**, **James Lukaszewicz**, and **Brooke Martineck**, juniors **Jaimee Cabili**, **Hayley Kerns**, **Sophia Notaro**, and **Evan Walker**, and seniors **Kyle Auth**, **Rodrigo Corral**, **Elena Heffner**, and **Sam Knabel** participated in WACA (Western Allegheny County Association) Honors Band at South Fayette in January. Selection to this festival is based on academic achievement and talent.

Eighth graders **Georgie Gamble**, **Elena Johnson**, and **Victoria McIntyre**, and seventh graders **Gabriel DiPietro**, **Sean Hart**, and **Chikamso Orji** performed at WAMS (Western Allegheny Middle School Honors Bands) at Chartiers Valley in February. This music festival also



High school band members selected for WACA Honors Band included Faith Aliano, Sophia Notaro, Kassidy Heidkamp, Hannah Clark, Eric Burcham, Kyle Auth, Sam Knabel, Sara MacMurdo, Hayley Kerns, Jaimee Cabili, and Elena Heffner. Missing are Rodrigo Corral, James Lukaszewicz, Brooke Martineck, and Evan Walker.



Crafton Elementary music teacher Mark Priore uses xylophones to teach students to read music and hear chords to differentiate high and low pitches. The exercises also develop fine motor skills and improve concentration and focus.



Following participation in District Band, senior clarinetist Sam Knabel advanced to the regional level.

requires participants to excel in talent and academics.

Eighth graders **Sean Hart** and **Elena Johnson** will perform in March at the Junior High District Band Fest to be held at Carrick High School.

At the elementary level, the district band festival will be held at Chartiers Valley Intermediate School in May. Students selected to participate include Carnegie Elementary students **Annalyn Bell**, **Carter Litterini**, **Kaycee Litterini**, and **Eva Milliner**, and Crafton Elementary students **Mateo Carasco**, **Uzochi Orji**, and **Olivia Thompson**.

The elementary choral festival, Singfest West, will be held in March at Quaker Valley Middle School. Selected to participate are **Grace Prepelka**

and **Olivia Thompson**, representing Crafton Elementary School, and **Bryan Holderbaum** and **Dakota Stanton** representing Carnegie Elementary.

These accomplishments are mingled with preparations for winter and spring concerts held in the high school auditorium. The girls' and boys' ensembles also perform in the community for various groups and organizations.

Music educators **Rebecca Chenette**, **Mary Ferro**, **Todd Obidowski**, **Russ Pedersen**, and **Mark Priore** invite all residents of the community to attend the spring concerts (see "Save the Date" for concert dates and times) for an evening of enjoyable entertainment. Choral and band concerts held at the junior-senior high school are open to the public at no charge.



# Carlynton Shines in STEAM and Innovative Partnerships

## District-supported programs capture attention of PA Secretary of Education

*Submitted by Wendy Steiner, Carlynton High School English Teacher*

**O**n a recent in-service day, a group of Carlynton educators from grades K-12 participated in a training session with BirdBrain Technologies. Instructor **Matt Chilbert** led teachers through several activities, affording the opportunity to program Finch Robots and design original robots using Hummingbird Classroom Kits. The result was a robot petting zoo featuring a shark that opened and closed its mouth while repeating the famous line from the movie *Jaws*, "We're going to need a bigger boat." Additional designs included an elephant who twirled its trunk, a caterpillar made from bottle caps, and a beaver with a moving tail and chomping teeth.

BirdBrain was founded in the CREATE Lab at Carnegie Mellon University in 2010 and encourages educators at all levels to bring robotics into their classroom.

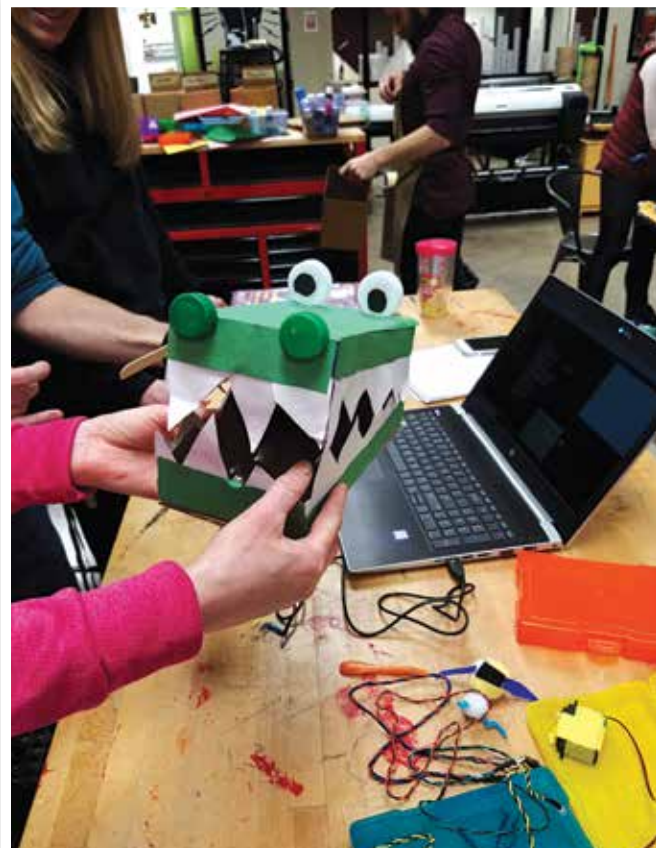
This professional development opportunity was possible thanks to a \$35,000 PA Smart Grant. High School teachers **Lisa Rowley** and **Wendy Steiner** submitted the grant on behalf of the district and are directing the funds to increase access to STEAM programming for students in grades K-12.

The impact on students has been immediate. A high school STEAM class has learned to program the Finch to complete a series of movements, change colors, and move in different directions. Senior **Alex Kalimon** created a program that commands the Finch to return to him when it strays too far from the computer. Students have moved on to Hummingbird Kits with a programmable circuit board by Arduino.

Access to Arduino technology has already paid off for junior **Jaimee Cabili**, who recently won first place at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition with her translation glove, a device that translates sign language and allows those with hearing loss or deafness to be understood by others. Jaimee's invention will take her to Penn State University in the spring where she will compete at the state level. For her efforts, she has been recognized by the Society of Women Engineers.

Increasing access to STEAM programming for girls is another area of focus at the junior-senior high school. Teachers **Pam Stone** and **Brittany Nocera** are leading a Girls STEAM Club which meets twice a week after school in The Shop. The club was formed with the intention of creating a safe place for girls to learn and explore STEAM skills, converse with women in STEAM careers, and have hands-on opportunities to interact with some of the technology purchased with the grant money. Teachers are hopeful the club will impact female enrollment in advanced math and science classes at the high school.

Access to technology has been made easier with the addition of the STEAM Mobile Lab. Through the support of the Carlynton



High school science teacher Kimberly Glasspool demonstrates the programming of a petting zoo animal she created during an in-service day training.

Education Foundation, other grants, and district funds, a mobile lending lab has been established and is available to educators across the district. Teachers can request a variety of equipment such as GoPro cameras, Makey Makey boards, and OSMO Genius Kits, in addition to Bee Bot, Finch, and Hummingbird robots. These tech tools have been used in a variety of classrooms from Life Skills and English classes to kindergarten and English as a Second Language. Additional technology will be purchased with funds from the PA Smart Grant.

For younger pupils, the district is now providing an after school robotics program at Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools. Teachers meet with students for one hour to introduce coding, programming, and opportunities to have a play date with robots. Students in grades 4-6 are invited to participate. Parents who would like their child to take part in the free program should contact the school to add his/her name to the list.

The innovations at Carlynton have caught the attention of PA Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera. The Secretary will visit the junior-senior high school March 15 as guest of honor at the annual S.T.A.R.S. (Students Together with Athletes Reaching Success) St. Patrick's Day celebration in the high school gym.



Senior Christian Ray and sophomores Morgan Floyd and Ben Takac program Finch Robots to change colors and directions based on information from a sensor.

**Principal Michael Loughren** extended the invitation to Secretary Rivera, to highlight Carlynton's efforts to establish regional partnerships and the positive impact these associations have created for students throughout the region. As a result, ten area school districts will send their "S.T.A.R.S." to enjoy a bagpipes performance, play games, light refreshments, and dancing to music played by a DJ.

S.T.A.R.S. coordinates interscholastic opportunities where all students can compete, participate, and build friendships through athletic and social events. Through a collaborative, peer-driven leadership structure, individuals come together to enrich the lives of all students in our collective high school communities. The partnership provides meaningful activities for students with and without physical and intellectual disabilities to collaborate, create, and participate in activities that enrich the school curriculum.

Prior to departure, Secretary Rivera will accompany S.T.A.R.S. students to The Shop to roll up his sleeves and work alongside students as they design and create at one of the many creation stations. These activities will be led by high school social studies teacher **Laura Begg**, who was instrumental in the formation of The Shop.

In addition to these activities, The Shop at the junior-senior high school will host two events during Remake Learning Days in May. English teachers **Wendy Steiner** and **Kristen Fischer** will use their experience as members of The Fluency Project at Carnegie Mellon University to direct activities for educators, students, and families.

The first event will take place Tuesday, May 14, 5:30-7:00 pm, and invites educators in grades K-12 to a "Teacher Tune Up." Steiner and Fischer will explain the process of designing instruction around inquiry,

case-making, and advocacy. Educators are encouraged to bring a lesson plan or unit that needs a tune up for a chance to collaborate on methods to successfully integrate technology across grade levels. Teachers will also move through stations that will offer a technology play date with robots. This session is appropriate for all disciplines and grade levels.

The second event, a "Robot Rendezvous," will take place Wednesday, May 15, from 5:30-7:00 PM. Children, teens, and adults will work together as a team to program robots to complete a task. No experience is necessary and the activities can be enjoyed by students as young as five. Additional challenges will be set up at the Lego station and maker

station. This evening of free family fun centered around STEAM skills is open to students in grades K-12 whether they live in the district or not.

Interested persons should register using the links below.  
<https://remakelearningdays.org/event/teacher-tune-up-at-the-shop/>  
<https://remakelearningdays.org/event/robot-rendezvous-at-the-shop-at-carlynton-high-school/>

"Community, Character, Excellence" are the core values of the Carlynton School District. If you are a passionate individual with time and talent, join this dynamic movement and lead the way in educational initiatives that provide opportunities for kids. Interested businesses or individuals should contact Principal Michael Loughren to discuss mentorship opportunities.



Students in Tracy Alex's kindergarten class at Crafton Elementary School work together to build words using the OSMO Genius Kit from the district's STEAM Mobile Lab.



# Full day kindergarten program designed to engage



Registration for the 2019-2020 school year

**C**hildren who will become the age of five on or before August 15, 2019 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year.

For those residing in the Carlynton School District, spring registration days will be held Wednesday, March 20 at Carnegie Elementary School, and Thursday, March 21 at Crafton Elementary. Children must be registered by a parent or guardian at the school within the community in which they reside. Residents of Rosslyn Farms should register at Crafton Elementary School.

A child's birth certificate and two proofs of residency are required when registering a youngster for kindergarten, as well as the following immunizations:

<b>DTap</b>	Four (4) doses, the last on or after the fourth birthday
<b>Polio</b>	Four (4) doses, the last on or after the fourth birthday
<b>MMR</b>	Two (2) doses
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Three (3) doses
<b>Varicella</b>	(Chicken Pox vaccine), Two (2) doses
A copy of the child's lead blood level	



The immunization requirements are a condition of attendance at any public, private, or parochial school in Pennsylvania. Parents will be expected to produce evidence of the immunizations for their child. If a child does not have all the doses listed above, and the next dose is medically appropriate, the child must receive that dose within the first five (5) days of school or risk exclusion. Information regarding any medical or religious exemption to the law must be submitted to the school nurse before admission.

Children who will be enrolled in kindergarten need not be present on registration day. Kindergarten students will begin the new school year on an assigned staggered-start basis, allowing teachers the time to assess student development and screen for strengths or shortfalls.

The Carlynton School District offers a full day kindergarten program. Children entering kindergarten should be emotionally ready to participate in all academic and social areas in order to learn by exploring, discovering, manipulating, observing, expressing, and implementing.

The full day kindergarten program will engage students in reading, writing, and math activities, as well as opportunities for creative play and social interaction. The schedule will offer a balance of academic, creative, and active time throughout the day. Kindergartners will also participate in art, library, music, and gym time.

Prior to entering kindergarten, children should have already acquired several skills. They should have knowledge of colors, shapes, numbers, and alphabet letters. Children should be able to give their full name, address, and telephone number. Additionally, youngsters should be able to:

- Put on and remove coats and boots
- Button, zipper, snap, and tie all outer garments
- Open and close their book bags
- Know proper toilet habits
- Walk down steps using alternate feet
- Carry out simple two or three step directions
- Pay attention to a short story and answer simple questions

Parents can help their children be more successful in school by reading stories on a daily basis to develop listening skills and increase knowledge and understanding of words.

Kindergarten student Noah Jefferson is at ease with technology, used in the classroom to enhance reading, listening, and learning skills. With the Lexia Core5 Reading program, children receive a personalized lesson. Kindergarten classes use a variety of websites and apps on multiple devices to actively engage students and increase performance.





# MAKING HEADLINES



Academic success was celebrated in the fall at the junior-senior high school with a ceremony featuring new inductees into the National Junior and National Honor Societies. More than just an honor roll, NJHS and NHS serves to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. NHS officers **Elizabeth Duffy, Arabella Hunt, Abigail Lherbier, Dakota Mayfield, and Maria Smereka** introduced new members, including junior **Maria Charron** and sophomores **Desmond Corrado, Martial Delrosario, Andrew Engleka, Megan Henke, Zachary Holderbaum, Jonah Hunt, Natali Lutsiv, Sara MacMurdo, Brooke Martineck, Abigail McClain, Amanda McClain, Sofia Notaro, Reece Smith, Emmaline Stevens, Evan Walker, and Jaime Williams.** NJHS officers **Alyse**



National Honor Society members **Samuel Bigham** and **Audrey Robb** light candles to represent the core values of membership during an honor society induction ceremony.

**Crown, Alexis Jones, Gwen Kalimon, Audrey Robb, and Ava Thompson** joined in recognizing members of the seventh and eighth grade honor society. The ceremony concluded as members lit candles, passing the flame from one to another to symbolize the kindling of knowledge. The honor societies are led by teachers **Marisa Rusinko** and **Jamie Sonnie.**



Congratulations are in order for junior **Julianne Brooks** who was named the Student of the Month at Parkway West Career and Technical Center in the fall. Julianne attends Parkway in the morning, studying culinary arts. She is a participant in "The Future is Mine" leadership program and has competed successfully in Skills USA, a career-building competition that tests proficiency and prepares students for the workplace. Just recently, Carlynton sophomore **Evan Yaros** placed third in a District Skills USA contest held at Steele Center Career and Technical Center. Evan is enrolled in the Information Technology program at Parkway and will now advance to the state tournament in Hershey in April where he will test his knowledge in computer diagnostics.

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## GRANTS PROVIDE DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES



Elementary teachers **Scott Donnelly** and **Tracy Alex** were recently awarded grants to fund exciting learning opportunities for students. Donnelly, a fifth grade science teacher at Carnegie Elementary received a \$850 Toshiba America Foundation Grant and a \$500 Make Activities Count grant (in partnership with McDonald's restaurants). He has used the funding for a STEM unit on space exploration. By purchasing Spheros and Ozobot robot devices, students are integrating content learned in space lessons to create Mars and lunar rover vehicles and explore simulated surfaces of the red planet and the moon. The robotics lessons include challenges



Ozobots purchased with grant monies were used for a cooperative learning class between first and fifth graders at Carnegie Elementary. Serving as a mentor, fifth grader **Harita Venkatesh** led first graders **Cavin Mulkerrin** and **Hillary Stephens** through some coding exercises to command the miniature robot to travel through a maze.



Carnegie Elementary first graders **Daniel Liashko** and **Zackary Marshall** listen carefully to fifth grader **Madison Klayko** as she provides step-by-step instructions to code an Ozobot robot.

in coding and programming, allowing pupils to work alone or in teams. "With the recent NASA InSight Lander on Mars and the U.S. government announcing plans to travel back to the moon, the real-world timing of this project is perfect," said Donnelly.

Crafton Elementary kindergarten teacher **Tracy Alex** received a \$700 Target Field Trip Grant. The funding will support transportation and admission to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium in the spring for Crafton Elementary kindergarten students. Youngsters will participate in an interactive program featuring gentle encounters with live animals. The field trip will enhance or extend the science curriculum as youngsters discover nature, observe animal interaction, and learn bio-facts to reveal how animals respond to their surroundings.



Teens enrolled in organic chemistry and human anatomy classes had the occasion to gain an inside perspective of the Body Farm Research Facility located in Tennessee courtesy of alumnus **Sarah Lukaszewicz**. A forensics science senior at Point Park University, Sarah spent last July on the facility to investigate and study the four stages of human decomposition. Sarah provided a slide show to illustrate the decomposition of bodies in various stages and how they react to diverse weather conditions. She explained the processes taken by a forensic scientist to identify the race, gender, and age of a decomposed body, as well as determining a biological profile, DNA testing, or trauma analysis. The research facility is operated by the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and is one of the top four facilities in the country for forensic anthropologists to recover and examine human skeletal remains for the medical-legal community. Sarah will be interning at CORE in the spring and plans to work in forensic investigation upon graduating.



Sarah Lukaszewicz, a 2015 graduate and senior at Point Park University, spoke to students about a four-week experience last summer at the Body Farm Research Facility in Tennessee. Pictured with Miss Lukaszewicz are organic chemistry students Airys Gould, Ainsley Pierce, Maria Smereka, Alexis Dixon, and Rory Dougherty.



Gifted Education students have the opportunity to learn, travel, and contend in a number of educational lectures, tournaments, and challenges during the school year. The events, such as literature festivals, history or math challenges, battery car races, science bowls, and more, invoke creative- and critical-thinking skills as students brainstorm and collaborate to design a project or complete a unique challenge. In December, a number of elementary and middle schoolers participated in a

## GINGERBREAD CONTEST WINNERS



Freshman **Audrey Robb** and **Gwen Kalimon** tied for first place in the annual PPG Place gingerbread house competition in the 14-17 age category. Their charming design was placed on display in the Wintergarden Plaza throughout the winter holiday season with other winning houses.

Forensics tournament sponsored by St. Bernard's School in Mt. Lebanon. A team comprised of fifth grader Lucy Vetter and sixth graders Fatoumata Bah, Annalyn Bell, Eva Milliner, and Dakota Stanton placed first in the multiple reading team challenge. Following close behind in second place was a team consisting of fifth grader Kellyn Palmer, sixth graders Charlie Burcham, Mateo Carrasco, and Lana Mihelcic, and seventh grader Uzochi Orji. Seventh graders Sean Hart and Bailey Vetter finished in second place in the extemporaneous category with seventh grader Chikamso Orji placing third. And seventh graders Gabe DiPietro and Ella Snyder placed second in the declamation and poetry divisions, respectively. The district belongs to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Forensic League. These students advanced to the finals round held at South Fayette Middle School on February 23. Additionally, Sean Hart, Chikamso Orji, and Bailey Vetter placed among the top three teams in the Battle of the Books Literature Festival hosted by the Baldwin School District.



Crafton Elementary third graders with guidance from teacher **Jessica Bigler** hosted a pajama drive in

December, collecting 152 pairs of new pajamas for underprivileged children. The drive was held in conjunction with *The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive* sponsored by Scholastic Books. For every pair of pajamas donated, Scholastic matches the donation with a book and then distributes the new books and pajamas to children in need. Second graders in **Mary Campbell's** classroom at Carnegie Elementary also collected pajamas, donating 11 pairs in their first attempt of sponsoring a drive. Mrs. Campbell's students also organized a collection of toiletries by partnering with Operation Troop Appreciation. The youngsters collected and boxed nearly a dozen boxes of shampoo, deodorant, soap, Kleenex, socks, and more for military.



Third graders of Crafton Elementary collected 152 pairs of pajamas for "The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive" sponsored by Scholastic Books.



Second graders at Carnegie collected toiletries and other supplies for military troops.



Following the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill last fall, Crafton Elementary students wanted to do something to make a difference. The fifth graders, with the help of teachers **Noreen Kelly, Amanda Meyers, Jordon Roussos, Heather Tipton, and Robin Wenrich**, set out to





Fifth graders painted stones with inspirational messages to encourage those affected by the mass shooting in Squirrel Hill last fall.

paint over 50 smooth river stones with messages of hope and inspiration.

"The goal was to bring a smile to the face of someone who may be mourning," said Miss Meyers, who spearheaded the project. As students carefully painted the stones, teachers explained the symbolism. According to Judaism beliefs, stones represent permanence of memory and legacy because they will not perish. For this reason, stones are often placed on the graves of a loved one. When the project was completed, teachers delivered the stones to the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, placing them along sidewalks and shrubbery.



Messages on the stones were intended to inspire and bring hope.



Students of Crafton Elementary School spend a day in November learning about community development, innovation, e-commerce, and leadership through a partnership with Junior



Led by a student from RMU, Crafton Elementary students take part in an interactive lesson.

## SIGHT-SEEING WITH VR



This winter, students in **Chris Colonna's** World History classes traveled to the site of Machu Picchu – without leaving the classroom. With the use of virtual reality technology, the ruins of the ancient settlement came to life by way of a viewfinder that provided a 360-degree landscape of the Native American civilization. To complete an assignment, students determined the type of stone used to construct Machu Picchu and explored an area of the Inca Trail. They identified a nearby river and its tributaries, the closest mountain range, and calculated sea level.

By downloading an app to a mobile phone and encasing the phone inside a cardboard viewfinder or headgear, students are empowered to become explorers of a land they made never have the opportunity to see in real time. The VR technology allows students to sight-see and discover national parks, cities across the world, and historical places in time, simply by peering into the lens of a virtual world.



Eighth grader Jada Adams peers into a cardboard viewfinder to explore the ancient sites of Machu Picchu.



The virtual reality experience is immersive; one can almost feel as if they are on site. While looking through the viewfinder, Juliansi Valdez waves to people he sees touring the site of Machu Picchu while Nathan Best waits for a chance to explore the ruins.

Achievement of Western PA. Facilitated by business and education students from Robert Morris University, the day included age-level resources with interactive lessons. Younger students designed communities on paper, mapping out a city center with police and fire stations, stores, banks, gas stations, parks and playgrounds, all necessary for a productive and safe neighborhood. Some classes discussed conservation and preservation of natural resources, and others learned about financial literacy, while older classes discussed entrepreneurship and essential skill sets for careers in various fields. Junior Achievement is guided by a series of core values with a commitment to the principals of market-based economics and a conviction to educate and motivate students of all ages and backgrounds.



A Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program for middle school students is seeing continued success as teachers maintain a

framework to recognize and reward positive behavior of students. Recently, a plan for positive rewarding was set in motion to give students the privilege of going to the gym during homeroom time, Monday through Thursdays. Opportunities for student rewards can be earned by showing kindness, completing assignments, or improving grades, to name a few. Students receive a shout out and certain privileges when recognized for good behavior. In a similar vein, a middle school mentoring program aims to support the transition of sixth graders as they enter seventh grade. At the beginning of the school year, seventh graders are paired with a high school junior or senior. The couples meet once a week on a formal basis, affording the younger students the opportunity to lean on someone older who "knows the ropes" and the chance to ask questions or share concerns. The arrangement also offers support as partners pass in the hall, often

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A mentoring program at the junior-senior high school pairs young students with juniors or seniors, offering a comforting support system for incoming middle schoolers.

stopping to say hello or offering encouragement on an assignment or test. The mentoring program, facilitated by physical education teacher **Pete Banazak** and counselor **Stefanie Barnes**, is in its fifth year of offering guidance to seventh graders. Several of the juniors who are now mentoring seventh graders know firsthand the benefits of the program; they once experienced the same reinforcement with an upperclassman by their side.

Several Carnegie Elementary students were successful in showcasing their skill in basketball at the annual Elks-sponsored Hoop Shoot Contest held in January in the junior-senior high school gym. In the 12-13 girls age group, **Jocelyn Griffin** placed second. **Rayden Werner** took first place in the 11-12 boys age group and advanced to the next level of competition held at Westminster College. **Lucy Vetter** placed second in the 10-11

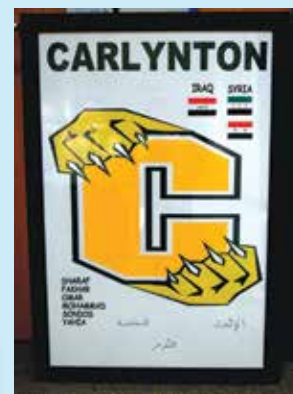
girls age group and **Alexa Adamski** finished in third in the 8-9 girls age group. The Hoop Shoot included participants from Carnegie Elementary and other local elementary schools.

The junior-senior high school will host a spring career fair for students to explore a variety of career opportunities as they develop a post-secondary plan. The event will be held May 22 in the gymnasium and will partner with employers and agencies to provide exhibits in sixteen career clusters such as agriculture, business management and finance, health services, human services, manufacturing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, marketing, and more. As in the past, the district values the input and commitment of parents and community members who would like to represent a chosen vocation by participating in the fair. Those interested should contact **Dr. Rachel Andler** by email: [rachel.andler@carlynton.k12.pa.us](mailto:rachel.andler@carlynton.k12.pa.us) or by phone: 412-429-2500, ext. 3309.

For the third consecutive year, **Jaimee Cabili** has captured first place in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in February. A high

## Multilingual Signage

In an effort to make the high school more friendly and welcoming for all students and parents, Carlynton hallways and specific locations in the school are now identified with multilingual signage. The signs represent the native languages of students enrolled in the school: English, Spanish, Kiswahili, Arabic, and Uzbek. In addition, large, framed images displaying the school's logo were printed in The Shop and now hang on walls in various areas of the school, promoting "community, excellence, and character." Students **Sharaf Mohammad**, **Omar Alhamdan**, **Mohammad Yahia Attal**, **Mohammad Alhariri**, and **Sondos Alhariri** (pictured below) led the poster project as an extension of Cultural Club, a school organization that salutes diversity and educates members in regards to customs and cultures around the world.





school junior, Jaimee designed, created, and entered a sign language translation glove into the competition. The glove allows individuals who are deaf or with hearing loss to be understood by others within range of the glove's speaker box with the help of a translation system. Earlier this year, Jamie enrolled in a class at Carnegie Mellon University to learn more about Arduino, a computer platform introduced in STEAM. Arduino uses single-board microcontrollers to build digital devices and interactive objects that can sense and control, both physically and digitally. Jamie created and coded a board that is encased in the glove. She hopes the invention can break down communication barriers for those who struggle to hear. Jaimee will travel with her invention to Penn State University in the spring to compete at the state level.



Jaimee Cabili

**NEWS** Don't miss the annual Taste of Carlynton to be held at Chartiers Country Club April 29. This event, starting at 6 pm to 8:30 pm, is sponsored by the Carlynton Education Foundation and has become a well-attended affair for individuals to sample appetizers, entrees, desserts, and beverages from restaurants and wineries within and near the Carlynton communities. Among the restaurants showcased at last year's Taste were Serafina's and Ladyfingers Catering of Crafton, Union Standard, a popular Pittsburgh restaurant whose owner/chef resides in Crafton, Bakn, Carnegie Coffee Company, and Cefalos of Carnegie, and the nearby My Favorite Sweet Shoppe, and Mediterra Bakehouse, to name a few. Tickets are only \$35 and can be purchased by visiting [www.carlynton.org/taste-of-carlynton](http://www.carlynton.org/taste-of-carlynton). All proceeds benefit academic endeavors for Carlynton School District students. Save the date for this wonderful event. The samplings are plentiful and delicious and the chance to improve the education of a student is invaluable.

## COMPETING FOR SPEED



Raye Bah, Lucy Vetter, and Eva Milliner landed first place medals at the annual battery car challenge held at Duquesne University.

**NEWS** In an arena where speed defines a winner, the annual battery car races held at Duquesne University require a clever design and a steady hand. Students from area school districts prepare for the race by designing battery-operated cars using lightweight balsa wood, rubber wheels on an axle, and a 12-ounce empty plastic bottle. Producing just enough tension and friction causes the car to move fast, and it takes some luck to keep the miniature vehicle on a straight and narrow path as its sets off to race across a hardwood floor alongside some 12 to 15 other carefully crafted cars.

In January, the team of Carnegie Elementary fifth and sixth graders **Raye Bah, Eva Milliner, and Lucy Vetter** captured the top prize for fastest car in the competition. Crafton Elementary students **Mateo Carrasco** and **Connor Hart** also fared well, placing fourth overall. The challenge encourages students to work collaboratively while applying critical-thinking skills to develop a worthy design.

# SAVE THE DATE

## March

- 20** Carnegie Elementary Kindergarten Registration, 8:30-2 pm
- 21** Crafton Elementary Kindergarten Registration, 8:30-2 pm
- 25** American Red Cross Blood Drive, JSHS, 8 am-1:30 pm
- 28-31** Spring Musical *Mama Mia*

## April

- 5** Annual Mr. Carlynton Contest, JSHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 12** Crafton Elementary Talent Show, JSHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 13** Crafton Elementary PTA Community Yard Sale, Parking Lots
- 18** Polar Vortex Make-Up Day; School in session
- 19-21** Holiday Break
- 22** Snow Make-Up Day; School in session
- 24** JSHS Spring Choral Concert, JSHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 26** In-Service Day, No School for Students  
Gifted Invention Convention, JSHS Cafeteria 8-11 am
- 29** Taste of Carlynton, Chartiers Country Club, 6-8:30 pm

## May

- 2** JSHS Spring Band Concert, JSHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 3** Crafton Elementary 6th Grade vs. Teachers Basketball Game, JSHS Gym, 6 pm
- 8** Carnegie/Crafton Elementary Spring Band Concert, JSHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 11** Spring Fling, Grades 7-9, JSHS Cafeteria, 6-8:30 pm
- 14** Carnegie/Crafton Elementary Spring Choral Concert, JSHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 22** Career Fair, JSHS Gymnasium, 8 am-noon
- 23** School Picnic at Kennywood Park, No School
- 24** No School, Junior-Senior Prom; Promenade-JSHS Auditorium
- 27** Memorial Day, No School
- 31** Last Day of School / Commencement Services, Honus Wagner Field, 7 pm