

CARLYNTON

School District News



Carlynton School District

- 42 Highly Engaged Classrooms Motivate Learning
- 44 Carlynton to Work With Crossover Youth Program
- 44 Student Life in Japan
- 45 School to Work

- 46 Alice in Wonderland
- 48 Making Headlines
- 54 Spring Musical: Pippin
- 54 Save the Date!

CARLYNTON



Highly-engaged classrooms motivate learning

Carlynton High School sees significant gain on School Performance Profile

Community, Excellence, Character. The strength of a school community is built on this premise and Carlynton Junior-Senior High School **Principal Michael Loughren** has witnessed a transformation in the Carlynton school community. "There is a common thread here, a common goal. I can walk around the building, peer into classrooms, and see students highly-engaged and focused on learning," he said.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's new accountability system, the high school is making progress. The school saw a 7.1 percent increase in its academic performance score over the prior school year.





In 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education released the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) which provides an academic performance score for all public schools in the state. For the 2014-2015 school year, Carlynton scored 78.8, ranking third among high schools in Allegheny County to see the most academic growth.

The SSP is a key aspect of the state accountability system. School districts no longer receive Adequate Yearly Progress status levels (e.g., Made AYP, Making Progress, Warning, School Improvement or Corrective Action). The scoring system is based upon a 100-point scale although schools may earn extra credit for advanced performance on state and defined national tests.

▲ COMMUNITY

In terms of academic performance, Loughren can see a difference. "Our teachers want their students to do well," he said. He has also witnessed students helping and supporting one another within the school community. Organizations such as Cougar Buddies, Best Buddies and Peer-to-Peer are just a few of the examples. Teachers are also meeting, mentoring and tutoring students before and after the school day and during prep periods.

Carlynton has also increased its collaborations with student support services, internally and community-wide, another aspect that lends to the development and success of the whole person. Two full-time school psychologists are in place to meet the emotional needs of all students as well as a diverse range of behavioral and mental health support professionals who work directly with the school. This past fall, all teachers received training in Trauma Informed Care. These combined have led to a dramatic decrease in student discipline issues and has lowered the drop-out rate.

▲ EXCELLENCE

A number of measures have been set into motion at the high school to continue student academic success. "Teachers are focusing on a structured classroom in which literacy and clearly defined learning targets are established," said Loughren, "We are striving for a highly-engaged environment."

Dr. Robert Marzano, author of "The Highly Engaged Classroom," believes engagement is necessary for the twenty-first century generation. "If students are not engaged, there is little chance they will

learn what is being addressed in class. Student engagement happens as a result of a teacher's careful planning and execution of specific strategies. In other words, student engagement is not serendipitous," he wrote.

Because the School Performance Profile is based upon many data points, teachers are striving to meet the demands. State assessment scores (PSSA and Keystone Exams), college readiness tests, industry standards-based assessments, progress in closing achievement gaps and degree of student growth over time are factored into the scoring while other identifiers of high-achieving schools are also considered: graduation, promotion and attendance rates as well as evidence of offering rigorous courses factor into the calculation.

While the School Performance Profile is an information system, it is also a source for defining school improvement strategies. Supports detailed in the SPP are linked to elements of the scoring protocol and Carlynton teachers are using this data to analyze and identify strategies for more improvement.

Curriculum and Data Coordinator **Ed Mantich** has watched teachers collaborate to build a curriculum framework they believe will give students the best chance to be successful. "Teachers are working in departmental teams to realign curriculum to the standards, anchors and content of state-required assessments while including approaches to inspire and empower," he said.

Last summer, 19 high school teachers received training through the Penn Literacy Network at the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, a unique professional development program that has demonstrated it can improve student test results. Through interactive Professional Learning Communities, the teachers are collaborating to build continuity in instruction in which strategies and techniques are being employed to engage students at a rigorous level of instruction.

The focus on higher levels of learning is building consistency. Just last year, U.S. News and World Reports ranked Carlynton Junior-Senior High School in the top eight percent of high schools in Pennsylvania. Based on enrollment, student-to-teacher ratio, proficiency scores on

Continued >

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Freshmen Rebecca Lamb and Shayna Pahl, in a Scholars Biology class, perform a double displacement reaction by slowly filtering the precipitate they have produced. The precipitate was placed in an oven overnight to dry and the girls returned the next day to amass the final product which enabled them to compare the actual amount of product produced in the lab to the mathematical theoretical quantity; For a marketing class, Mr. Ryan Gevaudan's students traveled into Pittsburgh and presented promotional ideas to chief officials of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates. Standing on a snowy Heinz Field are students Corey Lamb, Michael Mastandrea, Matthew Uzar, Bob Chapman, Luke Phillips, Hunter Crown, Ray Bordenick, Andrew Levandoski, Andrew Clark and Manny Corral-Hays who received a tour of the facilities following an engaging presentation; After reading the play *Inherit the Wind*, sophomore English Scholars students

Olivia Cindrich, Owen Kalimon, Nathan Robb and Hannah Stack, used laptops to research the non-fiction drama to determine the differences between the play and the historic "Scopes Monkey Trial" on which the text was based.

This page, clockwise from top: Seniors Dean Chubarov, Stormy Chubarov, Alexa Crown, Elise Colaizzi, Erin Connor, Summer Nicholls, Nicole Rave and Hannah Carey take part in a Socratic seminar facilitated by teacher Wendy Steiner during a British Literature class. Students formed a big circle in the classroom with desks to augment the lively discussion; Peer-to-Peer often engage with younger students in a classroom situation to assist with a project. Senior Summer Nicholls and junior Molly Kozy join teacher Frank Zebrasky to help Ryan Guzzi use technology to check the weather by way of WeatherBug.com to determine the appropriate clothing for outdoor wear.

state assessment exams and the participation and achievement rate on advanced placement tests, the school placed 54th out of 673 public, charter and magnet high schools in the Commonwealth and was named to the Top 100 High Schools in Pennsylvania.

▲ CHARACTER

In addition to a focus on academics, the formation of social and leadership opportunities has increased student engagement in the school. Student government activities, the school newspaper, a robotics club, a Forensics team, an Interact community service club and athletics are building character as individuals partner to accomplish an objective. Student work, displayed in classrooms, hallway bulletin boards and showcases throughout the school is validating a job well done and fostering a greater sense of ownership and pride. Within the school community, a sense of respect, trustworthiness, responsibility and citizenship has been engendered.

Generating high levels of attention and engagement is a central aspect of the learning process. Carlynton is creating an environment of community, excellence and character in which engagement is the norm instead of the exception.

Note: In addition to viewing the scoring aspect of the School Performance Profile site, the public can compare schools within their geographical area and across the state by visiting the site at <http://paschoolperformance.org/>.



Seventh graders Anthony Scheers and Eric Burcham share the task of painting a battery car they devised for a battery car race at Duquesne University. Students worked in teams to design the fastest car with lightweight materials.



In a technical theater class, senior Madison Crown and junior Logan Witwicki apply masking tape over a paper mache dome. The domes will be crafted into masks and the tape ensures a smooth and non-porous surface for painting and the application of fabric or feathers. The assignment is designed to associate with Greek and Roman roots when masks were used for iconic character representation. The final designs will pay homage to role models, animals, icons and other creative characters.

Carlynton to work with Crossover Youth Program

In connection with the Allegheny County Court System, Carlynton Junior-Senior High School administrators have been invited to serve in an advisory role with the county's new Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM).

The CYPM is an effort of Allegheny County judges, community leaders, juvenile probation officers, Child Youth and Family Services, religious leaders, attorneys, behavioral health professionals and advocates for youth to strengthen the connection between the juvenile system and child welfare agencies to better serve

children who are involved in both systems.

High school principal **Michael Loughren** spoke at a presentation in December to describe the practices and support systems in place at the high school level. Shay Bilchick, nationally renowned expert of CYPM, commended the district for its efforts and cited the procedures as a model for other schools.

CYPM is striving to become the national standard to meeting the challenges of the crossover youth population through a series of multi-system reform initiatives.



Katsuko Shellhammer, a native of Japan, spoke to Carlynton junior high students about the customs of her homeland.

Student Life in Japan

Seventh and eighth grade students were intrigued by an assembly about school life in Japan and the countries rich cultural celebrations. Katsuko Shellhammer and Matthew Kizier of the Japan-American Society of Pennsylvania visited the school last fall to present details of the Japanese culture.

Students were fascinated to learn that Japanese students attend school April 1 to March 31 with a sprinkling of vacation time during the school year to celebrate holidays or festivals. Students must take entrance exams to qualify for high school and they attend Japanese Cram Schools, after the regular school day, to prepare and study in hopes of gaining entrance into top-rated high schools.

Junior high students discovered that their Japanese counterparts participate in sports, namely, volleyball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, archery and sword play. On the other hand, they were surprised to learn that students in Japan serve meals to one another at lunchtime and eat lunch in the classroom with a teacher. Even more staggering was hearing that students are required to clean the school on a weekly basis, with assigned duties to scour bathrooms, scrub floors and wash windows.

The pupils learned that Japan celebrates nearly 300,000 festivals each year. Oshogatsu, celebrated January 1-15, hails the New Year and is the country's largest celebration. Other popular celebrations include the winter snow and ice festival and the spring cherry blossom festival. Japan has four seasons similar to the United States, although the winters are much colder and longer with spring usually emerging in May.

The social studies lesson was arranged by teacher **Timothy Patsko** and involved all junior high students, giving them insight into the customs and lifestyles of another country.

School -to- Work



Student gains workforce readiness

Earlier this year, **Dale Bryant** was commended for being a hard worker. A senior at Carlynton, Dale earns credit towards graduation by maintaining a productive regime. However, his work ethic isn't applied in a traditional classroom. Dale is surpassing expectations through a workforce readiness program called Transition Works! Pittsburgh.

Prior to his junior year, Dale and his mother met with a team of teachers and administrators who reviewed and reevaluated his Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Based on Dale's qualifications, the team elected a non-traditional method by which he could meet graduation requirements. Working closely with **Jerry Pepe**, Transition Coordinator, a vocational-based, school-to-work approach was set into motion for Dale.

In partnership with Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Dale began workforce readiness training through Transition Works! Completing courses such as "Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success," Dale has learned the attributes of money management, positive attitude and communication. A rotation of hands-on training has given Dale the chance to explore a variety of workplaces to better comprehend networking, professionalism, problem-solving and teamwork.

In one workplace experience, Dale had the opportunity to train at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Working with nutritionists, Dale helped to prepare bulk food in accordance with the special diets of zoo animals. It was an experience he won't soon forget. "Being able to work with animals was amazing. I love animals!" Dale said. "I got to pet a giraffe. It was a strange feeling."

At the start of this school year, Dale began training at Busy Beaver in Lawrenceville. It wasn't long into the new position when Mr. Pepe received a gratifying report. In a letter, **Bill Lane**, Director of Operations for Busy Beaver wrote, "I have received nothing but glowing praise as to Dale's progress!"

While visiting the Lawrenceville location, Mr. Pepe met with Dale's manager to ascertain his progress. "Dale has shown up on time and stays busy. Compared to many young kids these days, Dale never calls off," said Josh Walker, senior sales manager and Dale's superior. As an apprentice at Busy Beaver, Dale has learned to unload new shipments, sort boxes, stock shelves and greet and assist customers. He has also illustrated the ability to follow directions, assess a need, work with others and maintain professionalism under duress.



Carlynton Transition Coordinator Jerry Pepe meets with Dale Bryant (center) and store managers at the Lawrenceville Busy Beaver to check on Dale's progress as he nears the completion of a nine-week rotation work placement in the store.

Dale is currently completing a nine-week rotation at the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society on the North Side. His responsibilities are more of a custodial nature, cleaning and replenishing supplies. Once again, he is surpassing expectations.

While engaged in workforce training, Dale is monitored and encouraged by Mr. Pepe, who maintains records and ensures his progress is consistent with his IEP. "The skills and work experience Dale has gained through Transition Works have increased his independence, confidence and self-esteem. It has been an honor for me to see him thrive," said Mr. Pepe.

During a workforce readiness training rotation, senior Dale Bryant carries a ceramic heater to complete a shelf display in the Lawrenceville Busy Beaver store. Dale is responsible for stocking shelves, organizing the stock room and greeting and assisting customers.

Although Dale does not attend Carlynton on a daily basis, he is still able to enjoy extracurricular activities with peers. For the past four years, he has been a contributing member of the boys' varsity bowling team. As a junior and senior, Dale was a starter for the team with a 150 average.

Once Dale fulfills the requirements of the Transition Works, he will become a candidate for UPMC Project SEARCH, a one-year training and educational program immersed in the workplace. Following schooling at various UPMC worksite locations, Dale will be equipped for competitive employment with salary and benefits and will be capable of living self-sufficiently.

Dr. Hillary Mangis, Coordinator of Special Education and Student Services, agrees the workforce readiness program has been a great opportunity for Dale. "Our department is always looking for creative and appropriate ways to meet pupils' transition needs," Dr. Mangis acknowledged. However, she admitted this type of training is not for everyone. "If a student is unequivocally certain he does not want to attend college after high school, this may be a good fit," said Dr. Mangis. A decision to make a change to a student's course of study requires input and agreement from all IEP team members.

While fostering customer service in trades such as clerical, housekeeping, production and retail and with nearly two years of training under his belt, Dale has demonstrated he can defy the odds and has confirmed that a school-to-work transition opportunity, though non-traditional, can integrate learning with workforce readiness and prepare him for a future in a substantial career.

Alice in Wonderland



In a storyline completely unique to Carlynton, a talented high school cast of 23 presented the two act play, *Alice In Wonderland*, December 4-6, 2015. Directed by English and theater arts teacher **Tonilyn Longo**, the performances explored an imaginative world through a looking glass that ventured down a rabbit hole into a wonderland filled with crafty and outrageous characters.

With special permission granted by Samuel French, Inc., the play's narrative was adapted by Ms. Longo by merging two separate "Alice" plots written by Anne Coulter Martens and Brainerd Duffield. The rewritten arrangement revealed a darker side of the tale and allowed the Cheshire cat to take control of the movement of the story.

The cast and crew of *Alice* brought a new sense of awe to the Carlynton stage which was cloaked in bold scenery. The stunning costumes, extraordinary makeup and even the imaginative artwork in the lobby of the auditorium contributed to one of the more successful fall productions.

High school consumer science teacher **Suzanne Verbanick** guided the costume creations and alumni **Paige Kizina** with students **Cordelia Barton**, **Dominic Darenkamp**, **Abbey Musta** and **Savannah Vetter** transformed faces with makeup. In the lobby, a giant black and white mural created by senior **Hannah Phillips** included photographs of the cast in character embedded in Wonderland.

Behind the curtain, crew members collaborated to move sets and scenery on and off the stage in a quiet and seemingly effortless manner.

The play was brought to life by senior **Marin Exler**, as Alice, and senior **Michael Mastandrea**, the Cheshire Cat, as they interacted with the outlandish Mad Hatter



(senior **Jarod Latta**), the March Hare (freshman **Warren Basking**), the White Rabbit (sophomore **JP Cantwell**), the King and Queen of Hearts (juniors **Brandon King** and **Rachel Roach**) and the Knave of Hearts (senior **Mickenzie Richard**).

The maddening journey through Wonderland took Alice into a checkerboard forest where she met the droll yet erratic Tweedledee and Tweedledum (seniors **John** and **Sam Oliver**). While fearing the loss of her head, Alice was consoled by the elusive White Queen (junior **Makayla Rittmeyer**) and confused by the ostensibly peculiar Humpty Dumpty (junior **Tyler Smith**).

Throughout the play, Alice was led on an excursion where everything was not as it appeared. "Open your eyes, Alice," the Cheshire Cat implored in the final scene of the play, leading the young girl to discover her true destiny and the meaning of life in the ingenious domain of Wonderland.

Alice in Wonderland (originally titled Alice's Adventures in Wonderland) was written by English author Lewis Carroll in 1865. The tale plays with logic and is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre. The narrative

structures of the story, its characters and the imagery have been enormously influential in pop culture and literature. The book was later adapted into a play in 1886.



Opposite page, counterclockwise from top:

♥ A hilarious Mad Hatter's tea party had the guests changing seats at particular intervals, much to the chagrin of Alice (far left) played by senior Marin Exler. Attempting to explain the tradition of a un-birthday was the March Hare (freshman Warren Basking), the Dormouse (junior Kassi Longstreth) and the Mad Hatter (senior Jarod Latta).

♥ Alice (Marin Exler) seeks advice in the strange land from the wise and mollifying, although quite often late, White Rabbit, played by sophomore J.P. Cantwell.

♥ The audacious Queen of Hearts, performed by junior Rachel Roach, reads an edict to "off the head" of the person who has eaten her tarts. Senior Mickenzie Richard, holding the proclamation, was cast as Knave of Hearts. The conniving couple, with the King of Hearts (Brandon King) behind them, is flanked by the Two of Spades (freshman Kayla Wilson) and the Seven of Spades (sophomore Ellie Davis).

♥ Alice listens to advice from a rather stern and surly Caterpillar, played by Kalista Heidkamp, who suggests she adapt to the environment rather than clash with the unfamiliar landscapes and characters of Wonderland.

♥ The clever and elusive Cheshire cat (in black), portrayed by senior Michael Mastandrea, offers insightful guidance to Alice (Marin Exler) as she grapples with the unusual encounters in Wonderland while the vindictive Queen of Hearts (Rachel Roach) and her doting King (Brandon King) try to sway his authority.

♥ Shrewd and conspiratorial, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, played by twin brothers Sam and John Oliver (seniors), give Alice a fright when she meets the pair in the dark forest. During a outlandish marionette display, they order the young Alice to "Sit down!"

This page, clockwise from top right:

♥ Makayla Rittmeyer, cast as the White Queen, hopelessly tries to offer directions to a lost Alice (Marin Exler) but only confuses her more as she attempts to find her way through the checkerboard forest.

♥ "It's very provoking," Humpty Dumpty said after a long silence, "To be called an egg -- very!" Played by junior Tyler Smith, Humpty Dumpty was indignant of the questions directed to him by the curious Alice (Marian Exler), so much so, that he began to shake and fell off the narrow wall.

♥ "Off with her head!" screamed the Queen of Hearts (Rachel Roach), who demanded consensus from the King of Hearts (junior Brandon King), as the Executioner (senior John Oliver) stood poised to remove the head of Alice (Marin Exler).

♥ Senior Michael Mastandrea portrayed a very shrewd Cheshire cat. "Time for another adventure," he told the audience in the closing scene, warning, "Maybe this next one will be yours. You don't always get to decide when it's time to learn something new. Sometimes, the lesson finds you."

♥ Senior Hannah Phillips captured the essence of the play with a striking black and white mural that elaborately incorporated photos of the cast in character. The mural was displayed in the lobby of auditorium.



MAKING HEADLINES



With a repertoire of Civil War era and Scottish folk tunes, the Carlynton girls' and boys' ensembles, led by choral director **Rebecca Chenette**, presented an extraordinary concert in the acoustically-sound Andrew Carnegie Music Hall this past fall to celebrate the open house of the interior restoration of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library. The performance included solos by junior **Sofia Carrasco** and senior **Alex Pollak** and a whimsical barbershop quartet piece to "Lida Rose" from Broadway musical *The Music Man* featuring junior **Brandon Cantley** and seniors **John Oliver**, **Alex Pollak** and **Caleb Staker**. Carlynton alumna Natalie Hatcher ('97), in a guest appearance, joined the ensembles on the stage for several numbers. The ensembles and chorus members remained busy throughout the holiday season with performances at the Allegheny County Courthouse and Nevillewood Country Club where they entertained the Carnegie-Collier Rotarians.



Carlynton's Boys' and Girls' Ensembles, led by choral director Rebecca Chenette, performed at the Andrew Carnegie Music Hall to celebrate the open house of the interior restoration of the library. Alex Pollack, center, performed a solo to the rendition of "You Will Never Walk Alone" arranged by Derric Johnson.



Crafton Elementary students took time at recess for STEAM, with a cause. Students in grades one to six made no-sew blankets for the "Wrapped in Love" organization which presents colorful, fleece blankets to cancer patients in local hospitals. Teachers and students organized the activity in honor of Nina Kovanis, a well-loved educator who recently lost a long battle to cancer. Students also designed cards with caring messages and drew pictures to attach to the blankets. At the junior-senior high school, members of the National Honor Societies also gathered to

make no-sew blankets. "Wrapped in Love" representative Linda Sheariss attended a school board meeting later that month to express appreciation, reporting that 85 members of the National Honor and National Junior Honor Societies made 45 blankets for the non-profit organization. Over a four-year period, students made and donated over 250 blankets to ailing patients.



National Honor Society members Claire Schriver and Katherine Kozy worked together to make a no-sew blanket for "Wrapped in Love." Students gathered after school in the cafeteria to make 45 blankets for the organization.



Crafton Elementary students made no-sew blankets as a STEAM project in honor of former teacher Nina Kovanis. The students gave up recess time to make the soft fleece coverings for cancer patients. The makers were (back row) Kendric Carlson, Carolyn Paladino, Danica DeCecco, Olivia Chapman, Kayla Griffin, Maggie Winston, Gracie Winston, Emily Ward, Daniel Badger; (front) Edith Israelson, Abby Koval, Riley Connelly and Diana Thomas.



As part of an environmentally-conscious campaign to prevent litter in the Borough of Carnegie, Mayor Jack Kobistek and Carnegie sixth grade teacher **Bethany Martys** introduced an initiative to Carnegie Elementary students. "We wanted to make children aware that what they do in their own backyards has a much bigger effect on the environment and waterways, more than they realize," said Mrs. Martys. Working with



Riding on a vessel to explore the Chartiers Creek Watershed are sixth graders Jeremiah Kalimon, Amari Turner, Haley Wofford, the tour guide, Guidance Counselor and chaperone Sheree Lee, Austin Cairns, Bryce Rodriguez and Armani Johnson.

Myrna Newman, Executive Director of Allegheny CleanWays, and representatives from the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), a plan was set in place to build awareness. PRC provided curriculum and instructional lessons for students in grades three through six. As a culminating event following a series of classroom lessons, sixth graders went on a field trip to the Chartiers Creek Watershed. The outing began near McKees Rocks and included a visit to Bug Island and a boat ride that traveled near The Point and alongside a sunken house boat. Hiking and picking up trash was also part of the environmental excursion. Students discovered that Chartiers Creek is a tributary of the Ohio River and is one of the more polluted watershed areas due to acid mine drainage, agricultural and industrial runoff and sewer overflow. "The highlight of the trip was being able to see the students connect with what they learned in the classroom," Mrs. Martys remarked. The students were shocked by the amount of litter and debris washed up along the waterway and they were glad to hear about measures in place to prevent flooding, protect the habitat and clean the waterways.



Thanks to local rotaries who covered expenses, seniors **Emmanuel Burton**, **Marin Exler**, **Colin Henke**, **Jarod Latta**, **John Oliver**, **Sam Oliver** and **Erin Sheariss** and juniors **Sofia Carrasco** and **Skyler Sevacko** were fortunate to interact with other students across the Pittsburgh region at the World Affairs Council in



Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek stands with Carlynton student Haley Baker who was proclaimed Mayor for the Day. Haley asked good friend Kylee Mercher to assist with the mayoral duties. Standing with his students is teacher Frank Zebrasky.



Light Up Night in Carnegie on December 4 kicked off the holiday season in the bustling borough. The event was especially thrilling for Carlynton student **Haley Baker** who was named Mayor for the Day. Earlier in the day, Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek met with Haley at the high school, reading a proclamation to announce her reign as Mayor.

The formal declaration was witnessed by members of the Carlynton Peer-to-Peers who cheered and applauded as Haley was presented with a medal and certificate. As Mayor for the Day, one of Haley's official duties was to switch on the lights of the giant tree on West Main Street near PNC Bank.

November. Through the use of technology, participants engaged with counterparts in secondary schools in other countries to discuss foreign policy challenges. The topic of discussion at the November council, "Cuba and United States-The Start of a New Era" led to a dynamic debate about human rights, economics and diplomatic relations.



Carlynton School District students made several artistic contributions to the area this past winter by creating cards and ornaments. High school students in **Marlynn Vayanos** classes created holiday cards for the annual Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) design contest. Crafton Elementary art students, with teacher **Michelle Dzurenda**, designed and made ornaments for the holiday tree at AIU. Carnegie Elementary students, with art teacher **Diane Criste**, created over 200 ornaments for the tree display at the Pittsburgh International Airport.



Some 30 members of the Carlynton Junior High student council traveled downtown to take part in an exceptional learning experience. As part of the Open Door to Courts program in connection with the Allegheny County Courthouse, the middle schoolers participated in a mock trial, observed a presentation by the Secret Service, FBI and U.S. Marshals Service and witnessed the inner workings of the Federal Court System. The day-long

field trip included a Law Enforcement Panel Discussion with top law officials who explained their role in law enforcement and involvement in the U.S. Court system. The mock trial, presided by U.S. District Judge Cathy Bissoon, included representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Public Defenders who acted as the prosecution and defense counsel. Students served as jurors in a case of a middle school student caught with fireworks in his school locker. Days later, teacher and junior high student council sponsor **Tim Patsko** received a letter from Sarah Sewall, Deputy Clerk to the Open Doors program, thanking him for participation. "Your group of students was one of the most well-behaved and participatory groups we have had visit the Court," she wrote.



Elementary students at Carnegie and Crafton took part in an "Hour of Code" in December with a chance to demystify "code" through a variety of computer science lessons. All youngsters were given the option to become an innovator. By following simple steps, first graders learned basic coding while those in fifth and sixth grade completed more complex tasks. Younger pupils used Minecraft, Star Wars and Angry Birds to complete coding tasks, while those in fifth grade used the code.org curriculum to



learn and utilize terms such as "looping" and "conditionals." Sixth graders used Kahn Academy to draw a snowman and then wrote the code to add pigment and shading. The "Hour of Code" is a cross-country campaign to familiarize students with computer science. Teachers at Carnegie and Crafton are integrating many of the coding curriculums into the classroom as STEAM initiatives. Learning to code is the first step in a journey to discover the inner workings of technology and creating software applications, providing a foundation for virtually any career.



The Lunch and Learn career sessions at Carnegie Elementary took on a family-friendly feel when alumni ('11) Steven Bevan spoke to sixth graders. Steven, the son of sixth grade teacher **Cynthia Bevan**, is a senior at the University of Cincinnati where he is studying Urban Planning. Bevan explained that his career choice is both a technical and somewhat political process in which he can determine the use and design of land space while considering the environment and demographics of the area. Urban Planners also study and deal with the infrastructure of communities, planning the networks of transportation and communication. Steven said he has learned a great deal about design and he does most of his drawings digitally on a computer. "Have you ever played SIM City?" he asked students. "That is urban planning in its simplest form." While the youngsters ate pizza, Bevan presented an animated video to summarize the role of an urban planner, followed by a question and answer period. Currently interning with Town Center

Continued >



University of Cincinnati senior Steven Bevan led a Lunch and Learn career discussion about Urban Planning for sixth graders at Carnegie Elementary. Bevan is a 2011 graduate of Carlynton High School.



MAKING HEADLINES *continued*

Associates, Steven is working with others in the planning and developing of some 20 cities, townships and boroughs. One of them is Carnegie, where he is working with a team to further develop the area.

NEWS In an effort to teach all aspects about Spanish and French-speaking countries, Foreign Language teachers **Steven Vayanos** and **Sheila Nery** use creative approaches in the classroom. While studying these countries, students also learn about customs, history and government. As a supplementary project, pupils painted the flags of foreign countries on ceiling tiles. The task was not taken casually as individuals mathematically determined the exact proportions for the designs and meticulously sketched outlines on the peculiar canvas. Using several coats of paint, individuals worked in teams to complete the flags, some more simple than others. Once dry, the tiles were installed in the hallway ceiling outside the Foreign Language



Clockwise from top photo: Juniors Yaryna Korenovska, Rebecca Turske and Justin Stengel worked together to create the Italian flag on a ceiling tile. Yaryna and Rebecca are enrolled in French III while Justin is a fourth year student; Sisters Sage and Storm Figura take care to create a straight edge while painting the French flag. Both juniors, the girls are enrolled in Spanish III Dual Enrollment, earning college credits while in high school; The painted flags stretch down the hallway outside the Foreign Language classrooms.



classrooms. The artwork exemplifies the Spanish and French-speaking countries of the student population in the high school, representing the flags of Belgium, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, France, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Senegal and Spain.

NEWS Students enrolled in **Mrs. Suzanne Verbanick's** Consumer Science classes took time to make 20 dozen cookies for LifeSpan Services for Seniors. As part of the sixth annual "Sweet Holiday Wishes" cookie campaign, the students mixed and baked a variety of delicious homemade cookies, including Snickerdoodles, Chocolate Chip and peanut butter. The cookies were distributed to the local LifeSpan Community Center and Meals on Wheels.



Seniors Mikayla Richards and Mickenzie Richard mixed up a batch of Snickerdoodles for "Sweet Holiday Wishes" cookie campaign for LifeSpan Services.



Anthony Deloe, a sophomore, pulls freshly baked cookies from the oven. The tray was one of many cookies made for local senior citizens.

NEWS The annual Breakfast with Santa held in the high school cafeteria on December 12 generated \$2,866 for the Backpack for Kids program operated year-round by the district. The program confidentially provides a weekend backpack to disadvantaged students during the

school year. Backpacks are filled with staples such as soup, peanut butter, breakfast bars and fruit and are sent home with students on Friday. They are returned the following week and refilled. This year, the Breakfast with Santa meal of pancakes, bacon, quiche, fresh fruit and juice was prepared and served by students enrolled in the Culinary Arts course at Parkway West Career and Technology Center. In addition to a jolly Santa Clause who greeted children, high school students oversaw a variety of crafts and other activities for those attending.

NEWS High school librarian **Jamie Sonnie** is a sound advocate of the written word and she can often be found encouraging students to read a new book. This past winter, she sought a means to promote reading as a fun and healthy habit. She did so by collaborating with the Carnegie and Crafton libraries. Representatives from each library visited the school on separate occasions, spoke with interested teens and issued library cards to some 40 students. "Getting public library cards into the hands of our students is exciting for several reasons," Sonnie said. "Students will now have access to books, computers and databases outside of the school day and they will be able to use their cards to access the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh databases while researching during the school day." Ms. Sonnie has invited the local libraries to return to the high school in the spring to garner more interest in obtaining a library card.

NEWS Carlynton School District teachers and students often observe the holidays as a season to convey empathy and selflessness. This is accomplished by sponsoring food and clothing drives or fundraising for a special cause or organization. For Thanksgiving, high school students collected canned and other non-perishable goods. These items were boxed, wrapped and delivered by teachers to 24 local families along with a fresh turkey. Second graders at Carnegie Elementary invited family members to the school and presented creative writing pieces to express gratitude. Students gained confidence by presenting their work before an audience. The Carnegie Elementary Amazing Alternatives club, led by teacher **Julie Lewis**,



Freshman Maclaine Greiner, sophomore JP Cantwell and senior Caleb Staker were among several volunteers who wrapped baskets of food for Thanksgiving. The boxes, along with a fresh turkey, were delivered to families within the district.

collected 550 non-perishable foods for the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry located at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carnegie. The Crafton Amazing Alternative club did the same and also volunteered to work at the Crafton United Presbyterian Church food pantry, organizing food on shelves and readying boxes for pick up. During the



Members of the Carnegie Elementary Amazing Alternatives club gathered over 500 food items for the Carnegie-based St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. Organizers of the drive included (front row) Brianna Maust, Mareesa Garrett, Amara Garrett, Maura Weiland; (second row) Maggie Musta, Clara Keller, Sienna Schmidt, Joann Hussain, Kayla Symsek, Lilly Howell, Anna Hall; (standing) Mahavishnu Dutta, Alex Paiquetur and Emma Younger.

winter holiday season, Crafton Elementary teachers **Noreen Kelly** and **Jim Nagorski** sponsored activities to fundraise for non-profits. Links to build a paper chain raised \$655 and the sale of candy grams brought in an additional \$150 for the Make-A-Wish

Foundation. Across the district, individuals cultivated character and nurtured social skills by caring and giving.



As fall sports seasons came to a close in November, several Carlynton students were recognized as standouts. Senior tennis player **Hannah Phillips** was named Tribune Player of the Week. During a strong season, Hannah competed at in the WPIAL playoffs and advanced to the PIAA state tournament where she placed fourth. Three members of the girls volleyball team were named to the Section 2 All-Star Team. Making the list were seniors **Erin Connor** and **Amanda Martin** and junior **Ashley Wilson**. Carlynton Player of the Year was **Erin Connor**. On February 2, Erin signed a Letter of Intent to play volleyball for Laroche College. The boys soccer team was led by captains **Manny Burton** and **Tarik Isak**. Both seniors, the boys were identified as All-WPIAL and All-Section. Junior **Kylee Merscher** and freshman **Morgan Harding** of the girls soccer team received All-Section awards for the 2015 season.



A formal induction ceremony held in January welcomed 29 new members into the Carlynton Junior-Senior High School National Honor (NHS) and National Junior Honor Societies (NJHS). The ceremony began with the pinning of new officers, NHS President **Marin Exler**, Vice President **Brianna Oddi**, Secretary **Nicole Stengel** and Treasurer **Abigail Greiner**. Pinned as NJHS officers were President **Maclaine Greiner**, Vice President **Maria Smereka**, Secretary **Katie Kozy** and Treasurer **Claire Schriver**. Membership in the NHS and NJHS is based on scholarship or academic achievement, character, leadership, service and citizenship. Following the introduction of new inductees, a candlelight ritual was held, imparting members to bring light to darkness and ignite the aspirations of others by example.



Above: Sophomore Riley Post is congratulated by Principal Michael Loughren and Superintendent Gary Peiffer as he is inducted as a new member of the National Honor Society. Right: NHS officers President Marin Exler and Vice President Brianna Oddi are among the first to light a candle during the induction ceremony and share the flame with other members.



Varsity head volleyball coach Emily Tupi looks over the letter of intent signed by senior Erin Connor while Erin's parents look on with pride. Erin will attend LaRoche College in the fall and play volleyball for the Lady Redhawks.



The elementary schools offer STEAM or Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math component on a regular basis to the primary grades, and recently, teachers initiated a innovative curriculum for those in kindergarten through the third grade. Carefully planned activities are presenting challenges that are being resolved through trial and error and

Continued >



MAKING HEADLINES *continued*



Model UN participants Sofia Carrasco, Molly Maloy, Skylar Sevacko, Zachary Smith, Kelly Lesniak, Molly Kozy, Marin Exler and Lorin Welsh were empowered by the opportunity to meet with students across the area to tackle current global issues.



Carlynton seniors **Marin Exler** and **Molly Maloy** and juniors **Sofia Carrasco**, **Molly Kozy**, **Kellie Lesniak**, **Skylar Sevacko**, **Zachary Smith** and **Lorin Welsh** were among 275 students from 15 public and private schools in six counties to tackle global issues in the Model United Nations Conference held at Duquesne University. The students gathered in the Duquesne Union

Ballroom to simulate the convening of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. In teams, they were given an issue to research, address and become familiar with the goals and foreign policies of an assigned country. Students then stepped into the roles of ambassadors, making speeches, preparing draft resolutions, negotiating with allies and enemies and resolving conflicts. Chaperoned by social studies teacher **Tracy Post**, the students were presented with real-world situations in the sphere of political science.

thought-provoking endeavors. At Crafton Elementary, items recovered on an outdoor nature walk, pinecones or dried hydrangea, were transformed into paintbrushes to create imaginative paintings. A discussion about gravity, velocity, potential and kinetic energy took place as students designed and redesigned racetracks in "Speedometry" with a goal to send a Hotwheels car through a loop with the most speed and distance. At Carnegie, youngsters are working with an engineering design process using K'nex. Students start by asking questions, imagining, planning and then creating. With the use of Little Bits snap circuit kits, pupils are learning about simple circuits and then use that knowledge to design a project. Studies have found that exposing children to STEAM education at a young

age improves performance in science and math. With activities such as these and more, youngsters are developing creativity and problem-solving tactics while learning to work with others in teams.



Senior **Alex Pollak** was selected to sing the National Anthem at the WPIAL football championships at Heinz Field in November. Alex was nominated for the honor among a large pool of high school students from across the Pittsburgh region. Heading to the junior high chorus festival at Trinity Middle School in April are freshmen **David Holderbaum**, **Alawna Mallory** and **Maria Smereka**, eighth grader **Elizabeth Duffy** and seventh graders **Martial Delrosario** and **Zachary Holderbaum**.



A number of junior and senior high school students will be performing in local Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) band festivals. Senior **Colin Henke** (Baritone sax), juniors **Andrew Clark** (trumpet), **Kalista Heidkamp** (flute) and **Rebecca Turske** (tuba), and freshman **Sam Knabel** (oboe) and **Andrew Weimer** (percussion) were selected for the Western Allegheny County Honors Band Festival held in January at Cornell High School. Selection is grounded on musical talent and high academic standing. **Colin Henke** and **Kalista Heidkamp** were also chosen to perform at Senior High District One West Festival, held at South Fayette High School in late January. Qualifying for the Western Area Middle School Band Festival were eighth graders **Faith Aliano** (Bass clarinet), **Kyle Auth** (percussion), **Jaimee Cabili** (clarinet), **Anya Carrasco** (Alto sax), **Hannah Clark** (oboe), **Elizabeth Duffy** (flute), **Elana Heffner** (trumpet), **James Lukaszewicz** (tuba), **Haley Simcic** (percussion), and seventh graders **Megan Henke** (Alto sax), **Sara MacMurdo** (clarinet) and **Sofia Notaro** (flute). Junior **Tyler Smith**, trumpet player, was selected by audition to the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and junior **Kalista Heidkamp** successfully auditioned for the Slippery Rock University Honors Flute Ensemble. Rounding out the festival circuit, eighth grader **James Lukaszewicz** (tuba) and freshman **Kassidy Heidkamp** (trumpet) were named to Junior High District Band.

Participating in the Elementary PMEA Singfest West on March 4 at Baldwin High School were Crafton Elementary fifth graders **Elena Johnson**, **Sam Moose** and **Bridget Ward** and Carnegie Elementary sixth graders **Alyssa DeSimone**, **Nina Maloni** and **Kayla Mentz**. On Saturday, March 5 at Hampton Middle School, sixth graders **Mary Duffy** (French horn), **Layne Harmon** (flute), **Sarah Pallus** (flute) and fifth grader **Mary Dougherty** (trombone) joined other elementary students across the area for the PMEA District Band West festival. Musical talent abounds!



Artists from the Robinson and Mt. Lebanon-based Painting with a Twist are expending their talent in an outreach program dubbed "Painting with a Purpose." As volunteers, the artists are



Students choose the theme for the mural; a sketch offered the general outline of the overall design.



Artists from "Painting with a Twist" gave time and talent to paint a mural on the third floor staircase landing at Crafton Elementary.

reaching out to local schools and businesses to add color and design to walls. In January during an in-service day, a group of artists arrived at Crafton Elementary to paint a mural at the top of the third floor landing. Students chose the theme for the mural and selected the classic characters of Dr. Seuss to cover the walls. **Principal Marsha Burleson** plans to complement the area with comfortable chairs and a few tables to form a quiet reading or study zone for students. **Jamie Orlando**, owner of the two local Painting with a Twist stores and one of the painters said the artists have painted murals in two other elementary schools. Mrs. Burleson said the mural has been a hit with students. A segment of the mural was painted with chalkboard paint and inspirational messages or quotes from Dr. Seuss are printed on the wall every week.

NEWS Members of the Carlynton Forensics team engaged in an intense competition on January 30 at St. Louise de Marillac in Upper St. Clair Township

and several came out on top. Sixth graders **Audrey Robb** and **Azjia Gardner** snared first and second place respectively in the Impromptu category. Fifth grader **Mary Dougherty** captured third place in the Prose category. At the secondary level, eighth graders **Jaimee Cabili** and **Maggie Reigle** and seventh grader **Martial Delrosario** placed second in the Multiple Reading team category. Carlynton Forensics is a public speaking competition league supervised by teacher **Cynthia Eddy**. Students choose a category in which to compete, such as prose, drama, poetry and declamation, multiple reading and impromptu. After selecting a category, a reading selection is specified. Students practice this reading at school where it is critiqued by Mrs. Eddy and peers. The Impromptu category requires participants to invent a situation in which they act out in word and action with only 15 minutes of preparation.

NEWS The annual blood drive January 29 at the junior-senior high school yielded 57 units of blood from 64 donors. Sophomores, juniors and seniors, age 16 and older, teachers and several community members contributed to a successful campaign coordinated with the Central Blood Bank of Pittsburgh. Donors learned that the donated blood is spun in a centrifuge to separate the transfusable components – red cells, platelets and plasma. The donation is put through a rigorous testing process to establish the blood type and test for infectious diseases. The red cells can be stored in refrigerators at six degrees Celsius up to 42 days. Platelets are stored at room temperature in agitators for up to five days and plasma is frozen and stored



Junior Zachary Pifer, a first time donor, admitted he would donate again even though he preferred not to watch while blood was being drawn.

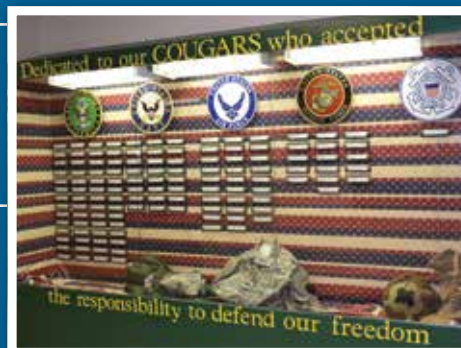


Junior Denise Griffin and health and physical education teacher Lisa Rowley make an effort to calm an anxious Jack Lacher, sophomore, while he was being prepped to donate blood.

in freezers for up to one year. Due to the success of last year's blood drive, the Central Blood Bank presented a \$1,000 scholarship to the school. The grant will be awarded at the end of the school year to a deserving college-bound senior.



A display showcase near the high school main office has been designed to pay tribute to all Carlynton alumni who have nobly served in the Armed Forces. The exhibit has been an attention-grabber for students and visitors alike. The names of servicemen will continue to be added throughout the school year as provided. Graduates of Carlynton High School who served in the military can send name, service and rank to Mrs. Rebecca Mills at rebecca.bold@carlynton.k12.pa.us.

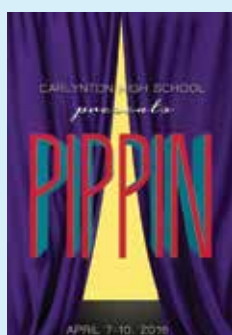


Spring Musical: Pippin

Carlynton high school students cast in the spring musical "Have Magic to Do" as they find their "Corner of the Sky." Rehearsals began in December for *Pippin*, a Tony Award-winning musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. The original Broadway production was choreographed by Bob Fosse.

Last year, through the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, members of the then-touring *Pippin* cast visited Carlynton and led students in a master theater and dance class. "It was an opportunity for the kids to stretch their wings to learn the highly stylized Fosse choreography and they had a lot of fun with it," said Natalie Hatcher, Carlynton alum and musical producer. Participants also had the chance to see the performance of *Pippin* at the Benedum Theater later that evening. "We watched the kids fall in love with the show," Hatcher admitted.

Pippin, with a 1970s pop score, will be quite a twist from last year's production of High School Musical. The show opens



Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 pm and will run through Sunday, April 10 with a 2 pm matinee performance. Tickets will go on sale to the public February 29 and can be purchased one of three

ways: by phone at 412.429.2500, ext. 2745, by email to carlyntonmusicals@comcast.net or in person on Sunday afternoons at the high school, March 6, 13 and 20, in Classroom 103, from 1 to 3 pm.

Leading this year's cast is senior **Alex Pollak** as the leading player (narrator) and senior **John Oliver** as *Pippin*. Seniors **Jarod Latta**, **Caleb Staker**, **Marin Exler** and juniors **Morgan Vonada** and **Sofia Carrasco** also have significant roles in the show. These talented individuals along with 33 other members of the cast will portray the story of *Pippin*, a young man whose world is filled with compromise and doubt as he deals with the coming of age, rites of passage and a lack of role models.

Save the date! 2016

The 2016-2017 school year calendar was approved by the school board in January and reflects an August 22, 2016 start date for students. The winter holiday break will begin Friday, December 23 with students resuming classes on Tuesday, January 3. The last day of school is set for June 5, barring no snow make-up days, with commencement scheduled June 2, 2017. The calendar can be viewed in its entirety by visiting the district website at www.carlynton.k12.pa.us and scrolling down to the Quick Links > School Year Calendar.

March

- 4 Carnegie Elementary Family Reading Night
- 9 District-wide Scheduled Two-Hour Delay
- 11 Crafton Elementary Family Reading Night
- 12 Annual "Mr. Carlynton" Pageant, HS Auditorium, 7 pm
- 16 "Motivating the Unmotivated" Parent Meeting, Carnegie, 9 am and 6:30 pm
- 17 Crafton Elementary Kindergarten Registration
- 18 Carnegie Elementary Kindergarten Registration
- 25-28 Spring Break (24th will be a snow make-up day; school in session)

April

- 7-10 Spring Musical, *Pippin*
- 8 Crafton Teachers vs. Sixth Grade Basketball Game, HS Gym
- 11-12 Secondary PSSA Testing, English and Language Arts – Grades 7 and 8
- 11-22 Elementary PSSA Testing, Reading and Math – Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6
- 20 "Social Skills Strategies" Parent Meeting, Carnegie, 9 am and 6:30 pm
- 18-22 Secondary PSSA Testing, Math – Grades 7 and 8
- 25-27 Terra Nova Testing - Grade 2
- 25-29 Secondary and Elementary PSSA Testing, Science – Grades 4 and 8
- 29 In-Service Day, no school for students

May

- 16-17 Keystone Exams, Biology – Grade 9
- 18 Elementary Spring Band Concert, HS Auditorium
- 18-19 Keystone Exams, Algebra – Grades 8, 9 and 10
- 19 HS Spring Band Concert, HS Auditorium
- 20-23 Keystone Exams, Literature – Grade 10
- 23 Elementary Spring Choral Concert, HS Auditorium
- 24 HS Spring Choral and Ensembles Concert, HS Auditorium
- 26 Kennywood School Picnic
- 27 Junior-Senior Prom
- 30 Memorial Day

Kindergarten Registration Date Set

Kindergarten registration day for the 2016-2017 school year will be held at each of the elementary schools as follows:

Crafton Elementary – Thursday, March 17, 2016

Carnegie Elementary – Friday, March 18, 2016

Registration is held throughout the day at the following times based on the first initial of the last name:

- A through G** Register between 8:30 and 10:00 am
- H through M** Register between 10:00 and 11:00 am
- N through S** Register between 12:30 and 1:30 pm
- T through Z** Register between 1:30 and 2:30 pm

Children must be five (5) years-of-age on or before September 1, 2016 to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. In other words, the child's date of birth must be on or before September 1, 2011.

A parent and the child to be enrolled must register in the school of the community in which they reside. While the parent completes registration forms, the child will be introduced to teachers and administrators and will participate in a series of placement assessments.