

Gatsby Inspired Homecoming Elicits Glitz and Glam

Homecoming 2018 festivities made for an elaborate week of fun for the green and gold. Beginning September 24, the event ushered in traditions both new and old featuring a Great Gatsby theme with a spirit week, football game, and coronations.

At the pinnacle of the celebration was the selection of a court. Honored to be chosen by peers were **Jasmine Caldwell**, **Airys Gould**, **Nina Munoz**, **Julia Roussos**, **Maria Smereka**, **Nathan Latta**, **Cameron Heiser**, **Matthew Harris**, and **Gabriel Prepelka**.

Capping off a spirit-filled week, a pep rally was held at the end of the school day September 28. The rally included the formal introduction of the court, a hysterical Charleston dance off, and a frenzied scavenger hunt. **Gabe Prepelka** was named Homecoming King, attracting a rowdy endorsement as a crown was placed upon his head.

The extravagant glitz and glam of homecoming was emulated by a parade with floats parodying the Roaring 20's. Cardboard-fashioned Model T's, glamorous flappers, and of course, the court and marching band, made for a captivating procession to all those who gathered along Washington Avenue in Carnegie. The parade ended at Honus Wagner Stadium, just in time for the kick off of a football game between the Riverside Panthers and the Cougars.

The highly anticipated announcement of homecoming queen came at half time of the football game as the band performed songs of the "Night" followed by the introduction of the court. Standing under the lights before



Gabe Prepelka escorts Maria Smereka as they are introduced at a pep rally held in the high school auditorium.

family, peers, and fans, **Jasmine Caldwell** appeared stunned as her name was announced as the 2018 homecoming queen. **Arieona Smith-Purdue**, last year's queen, offered a hug and a glittering crown before **Jasmine** was surrounded by members of the court who offered heartfelt cheers.

Nearly 200 students attended a semi-formal dance the following evening. The high school gym was veiled in a golden glow with lighted crystal chandeliers that hung from the ceiling. A sprawling buffet and tables adorned in black linens with feathered centerpieces were set apart from a dance floor which was occupied most of the night as students danced to music provided by a deejay.

Though homecoming promotes the custom of welcoming the return of alumni, the once-a-year tradition also boosts school spirit and embraces the extracurricular endeavors of high school students. Activities such as this build



Members of the court demonstrated the Charleston before a dance off contest between grades.



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and bridge social relationships and cultivate a reservoir of memories made with peers.

The tailor-made celebration was hosted by sophomore class sponsor and teacher **Wendy Steiner** with a student committee in tow and the support of teacher **Laura Begg**. The teachers also chaperoned the dance, along with colleague **Doris Parson** and principals **Michael Loughren** and **Rachel Gattuso**.

1. Senior Patrick Carlson crowns **Gabe Prepelka** as the 2018 homecoming king.

2. Male members of the court included **Matthew Harris**, **Cameron Heiser**, **King Gabriel Prepelka**, and **Nathan Latta**.

3. Floats designed by the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes were featured in the homecoming parade. Sophomores **Reece Smith**, **Nathan Henry**, **Jonah Hunt**, and **Dillon Kunzwiler** are towed in a float designed to replicate a Model T.

4. The Carlynton Cougar Marching Band performed in the parade to the pleasure of spectators who lined the parade route.

5. The Gatsby theme was pulled off by court member **Nina Munoz** and senior **Alawna Mallory**. **Alawna** was among those who rode on a 1920's era float designed by seniors.

6. Although the Cougars were defeated by the Panthers of Riverside, the team gave it all as shown by running back **Dallas Paolino** who strong-armed a defender to gain considerable yardage.

7. The 2018 Homecoming Queen is... **Jasmine Caldwell**, escorted by **Nathan Latta**, was surprised and delighted as her name was announced.

8. Jasmine Caldwell accepts a crown from the 2017 queen, **Arieona Smith-Purdue**.

9. The 2018 homecoming queen **Jasmine Caldwell** and king **Gabriel Prepelka**.

10. The 2018 homecoming court: **Airys Gould**, **Julia Roussos**, **Nathan Latta**, **Jasmine Caldwell**, **Gabe Prepelka**, **Maria Smereka**, and **Nina Munoz** who was escorted by **Mason Small**. As members of the football team, **Matthew Harris** and **Cameron Heiser** were missing from halftime ceremony and photo.

11. The high school gym was transformed with lighting, tables and linens, setting the mood for a Gatsby-themed semi-formal extravaganza.



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Opportunities to Learn

Vietnamese students quickly befriended Carnegie elementary teacher Scott Donnelly as he spent two weeks in Vietnam for a American STEM Vietnam program.



Learning Has No Borders

This past year, an engineering-related collaboration between Carnegie Elementary fifth grade teacher **Scott Donnelly** and Vietnamese educator **Tien Luong** caught the attention of American STEM-Hanoi founder and CEO, **Dr. Hung Le**. After observing the cultural education exchange between the two classes, dubbed STEM United, Dr. Le invited Donnelly to Vietnam to experience the culture and share STEM-related educational experiences.

Spreading the STEM approach to learning is a passion of Dr. Le and American STEM Vietnam. The program has branches in Hanoi in the north and Ho Chi Minh City in the south.

Over a two-week period, Donnelly soon realized that the teachers and support staff carried the same vision for STEM education

as Dr. Le. In one learning opportunity, he saw students engaged while participating in a boat challenge. Students in mixed age groups were given a large cardboard box, a sheet of plastic, scissors, packing tape, and some bamboo. With minimal directions and marginal adult interference, they were required to build a sturdy floating vessel to carry a human passenger. "The kids loved it! There was collaboration, communication, testing, failing, re-testing, engagement, and laughing," Donnelly said, observing that learning has no borders. "Kids are the same no matter where they live in this world, with the same natural curiosity and willingness to keep trying despite failure," he added.

Donnelly also worked closely with the staff of American STEM whose summer camps hosted students in grades K-9.

Working with a translator, he led two training sessions with teachers and shared many of the resources he uses to teach STEM and Social Studies in the classroom.

The experience offered some down time for Donnelly as well. Dr. Le made sure there was time to discover the culture and proud history of Vietnam. With accommodations in the heart of Trung Hoa, a district just outside downtown Hanoi, Donnelly explored the narrow streets, the food, and the customs. Walking the streets was a learning experience in itself. "There are no traffic rules, from what I gather. Thousands of motorbikes and taxis co-exist in a controlled chaos that I have never seen before," remarked Donnelly. "Amongst the horns beeping, random cut-offs and u-turns, there were no traffic lanes and even sidewalk driving for the impatient. As a pedestrian, I became a part of the chaos. The drivers would swerve to avoid me," said Donnelly.

Other highlights included tours of the Ho Chi Minh compound, the Hoa La Prison, the Old Quarter District, and an overnight cruise around Ha Long Bay which included kayaking and cave exploration.

With the help of a translator, Donnelly led two workshops about STEM education before Vietnamese educators.



Leading The Way

Partnering with Project Lead the Way, high school technology education teacher **Brittney Nocera** attended a two-week training workshop at Bucknell University in the summer. The STEM-related program provided guidelines and the know-how to teach a new elective course, Intro to Engineering Design, available to students in grades 9-12. The course curriculum will lead the way for relevant 21st century skills that encourage collaboration, problem solving, accountability, precision, and technology.

The training included an understanding of technical sketching and drawing within a design process, measurement and statistic skills, the geometry of a design, reverse engineering, advanced computer modeling, and documentation. "Basically, I switched roles with students and learned or completed the entire

curriculum from their perspective," Nocera said.

Students enrolled in the year-long course will collaborate in design teams to complete tasks with the help of Autobox Inventor software, a three-dimensional printer, and laser cutters by employing an activity, project- or problem-based learning approach to investigate and define a solution to a challenge. The course is designed to empower students to step into the role of an engineer, work collaboratively, persevere through challenges, and find unique solutions by leading their own learning path.

Project Lead the Way connects will local businesses, colleges, and universities to develop and continually review its program. The curriculum is standards-aligned to focus on student outcomes by way of transformative learning experiences.



Technology Education teacher Brittney Nocera created an Automata Box, similar to a Jack-in-the-Box, for a design challenge while attending an engineering workshop at Bucknell University in the summer.

A Continuing Impact



High school social studies teacher Timothy Patsko stands before a "killing chamber" at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

With the introduction of a Holocaust Studies course last year at the junior-senior high school, teacher **Timothy Patsko** traveled to Washington, D.C. in July to learn first-hand the continuing impact of

the Holocaust. Patsko attended a three-day seminar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to gain a better understanding of the path to Nazi genocide, propaganda, and its impact today. Discussions on Human Rights and the worldwide focus of efforts by governments and intergovernmental bodies influenced the lessons debated in workshops, as well as topics related to antisemitism and the various cases of genocide occurring today in countries around the world.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum alone offered a vast amount of resources to share as learning modules. A special exhibit titled "Americans and the Holocaust" offered a portrait of the American society and illustrated how the Great Depression, isolationism, racism, and antisemitism shaped the responses of Americans in the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibit reveals how much information was available to Americans at the time and shares stories of those who took the risk to rescue Jews.

Patsko said the seminar unfolded a series of lessons he can impart in the

classroom as well as providing an up-close look of the historical narrative of the Holocaust, its perception in today's culture, and the traumatic disruption in Jewish history caused by anti-semitism.



While attending the Holocaust workshop, Mr. Patsko toured a special exhibit, dubbed "Americans and the Holocaust."



MAKING HEADLINES



DOIN' IT BIG



With plans to be "Doin' It Big" in 2019, seniors started the school year with a tailgate party on high school grounds. The kick off to the new school year has become an annual tradition. Dressed in senior tee shirts, classmates gathered for a breakfast buffet and a few rounds of corn hole. Several teachers and principals stood along the outskirts as informal chaperones, watching as peers huddled in groups for selfies to commemorate the last first day of school. A class meeting was held before all students entered the school to begin their final year as the Class of 2019.



This year, initiatives at the elementary schools have introduced behavior support programs to promote a positive school-wide environment. At Carnegie Elementary, the slogan "It's cool to be kind" can be found around the building or on tee shirts worn by all staff members one day each week. Crafton Elementary is reminding students to #bethenicekid and teachers are also reinforcing the conduct by sporting bright, green tees with the hashtag and phrase. An assembly at Crafton Elementary with the Gab Squad kicked off the "bethenicekid" theme, encouraging students to be accepting of others. The program echoed a banner that hangs on a wall of the school: "Some kids are smarter, some are better at sports, or

wear cooler clothes. It doesn't matter, you have your thing. Be the kid who can get along, who is happy for others, who does the right thing...Be the nice kid." The Carnegie Elementary positive behavior program offers guidelines for its Carnegie Cougars to follow, using the acronym PAWS: Practice respect, Act responsibly, Work together, and Stay Safe. At both schools, rewards such as Cougar paws or green buttons are being awarded to those who are kind, respectful, responsible, friendly, and helpful. The behavior program is helping to curb bullying, encouraging students to think before reacting, and promoting an atmosphere of tolerance.

Tee shirts for Carnegie Elementary staff are emboldened with graphics to reinforce positive behavior.



Crafton teachers Jessica Bigler, Dan Kuhn, Brenda Dzurko, and counselor Stephen Hope sport #bethenicekid tees.



Gabby from the Gab Squad reinforced a spirit of acceptance at a Crafton Elementary assembly as she got up close to address questions from students.



Students joined Gabby in the front of the auditorium, dancing as she sang a song about the importance of being kind to everyone.





Crafton Elementary School joins 10 area elementary schools in the region as a Digital Promise Partner by leveraging connections and engagement in maker learning. The program convenes educators and administrators who are committed to maker learning and aims to amplify its impact on student learning, achievement, and school climate by promoting sustainability and equity. The partnership provides engaging professional development for teachers to leverage the use of technology and STEM-related skills in the classroom.



An engineering design challenge for fifth graders of Carnegie Elementary prompted collaboration and problem-solving as students worked in teams to create a tower using index cards and tape. Guidelines required the tower to be a minimum of 24 inches tall with the use of 100 or less cards and two feet of tape. The assignment necessitated a stable structure design to withstand the weight of "Scaredy Cat," a five-inch stuffed animal, for at least 10 seconds. The activity motivated the construction of several durable towers, adequately supporting the cat for 20-30 seconds. The challenge is among the many experiments employed by teacher **Scott Donnelly** to inspire students to think creatively.



Carnegie Elementary fifth grade engineers with teacher Scott Donnelly watch with apprehension as a stuffed animal is placed at the top of a tower made from index cards. The objective was to build a durable tower to withstand the weight of a plush toy for 10 seconds or longer.



Seventh and eighth grade students were given the opportunity to create music as part of a special day-long event late September. A team from CREATE: Music visited the school to provide four interactive, educational labs to allow students to understand the relationship between STEM and music. In a Design Lab, the middle schoolers explored how design constraints affect and form music. From song and scale structure, to instrument timbre and volume, students explored the shapes of music and created individual musical instruments which were fabricated on site using a three-dimensional printer. In an Engineer Lab, students used snap magnetic modules to discover scales, waves, and mathematic modeling techniques to create electronic synthesizers. A Music Code Lab offered the chance to explore musical concepts such as song structures, scales, and chords while learning to code in a visual programming language. The engaging workshop with its many interactive techniques was provided in partnership with the PEERS Foundation.



A facilitator for CREATE: Music offered assistance to eighth graders Austin Milliner and Jada Adams as they explored design constraints and its effect on music.



The CREATE: Music lab offered the chance for seventh grader Caiden Heiser and other middle school students to explore coding as they examined song structures and chords.



Using snap bit magnetic models, seventh graders Sean Hart and Colin Crow created electronic synthesizers by manipulating scales and air waves.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 5	Carnegie Elementary Volleyball Game, Teachers vs. Carnegie Police
NOVEMBER 6	In Service Day, No school for students
NOVEMBER 12	Veteran's Day, No school
NOVEMBER 20	School Board Meeting, 7 pm, JSHS cafeteria
NOVEMBER 22-26	Thanksgiving Holiday Break
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 2	Fall Play Performances of You Can't Take It With You, 7 pm, JSHS Auditorium
DECEMBER 4	School Board Meeting, 7 pm, JSHS cafeteria
DECEMBER 5	JSHS Winter Choral Concert, 7 pm, JSHS Auditorium
DECEMBER 8	Breakfast with Santa, 8-noon, JSHS cafeteria
DECEMBER 12	JSHS Winter Band Concert, 7 pm, JSHS Auditorium
DECEMBER 17	Elementary Winter Choral Concert, 7 pm, JSHS Auditorium
DECEMBER 20	Elementary Winter Band Concert, 7 pm, JSHS Auditorium
DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 1	Winter Holiday Break
JANUARY 11	First Semester Ends
JANUARY 21	In Service Day, No school for students
JANUARY 22	Distribution of Report Cards
JANUARY 28	100th Day of School



MAKING HEADLINES *continued*

CREATION STATION



The STEAM room at Crafton Elementary was relaunched at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year and is bringing about more innovative and engaging activities for students, promoting collaboration and creative-thinking. Rebranded as the Creation Station, teachers received professional development and will focus on enriching activities to support curriculum taught in the classroom. Every grade or class has scheduled time in the Creation Station each week. As part of the creative process, a poster contest was held to design a display board with the name of the maker space. The art work will be exhibited outside the room to arouse the imagination of everyone who enters the creative space.



Third graders Rook Pitcher and John Jameson teamed up to build a towering police station using Duplo blocks, a vital component for any town.



Given the assignment to create a community using blocks, legos, or recycled materials, third graders Ava Lewis, Bella D'Antonia, and Olivia Wagner worked collaboratively to design buildings using tape, egg crates and small boxes.



Children's author **Meg Medina** visited Carnegie Elementary in October. The live discussion with second graders focused on her book, *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*, and was video-conferenced with students from four area elementary schools, Beechwood, Lincoln, Mt. Vernon and Divine Mercy Academy. Coordinated by teacher Mary Campbell, the one-hour session allowed students to ask questions about the storyline. Mrs. Medina, who lives in Queens, NY, shared stories of her personal life that are reflected in the book through characters and events.



Fourth grader Justice Ogar proudly shows off a copy of the novel written by visiting author Meg Medina.



Third graders enjoy a chance to be photographers with author Meg Medina who visited the school in October.



One of the academic opportunities available for high school students is the chance to attend Parkway West Career and Technology Center. This daily, half day program offers hands-on instruction in 14 career majors ranging from auto body repair, health care, HVAC, digital multimedia, and veterinarian technician training. Last year, Carlynton students who attended Parkway earned 72 portable industry credentials or industry-recognized qualifications. These credentials indicate they have the knowledge, skills and

aptitude required within specific sectors and industries to get them a job after high school in a career path that could lead to considerable earnings, without the expense of college. Students in grades 10 through 12 can receive career education by attending Parkway in the morning and returning to Carlynton just before lunch to partake in academic classes in the afternoon. Students interested in the opportunity Parkway has to offer should visit a guidance counselor.



Crafton Elementary School PTA recently received the prestigious PTA School of Excellence Award. The recognition promotes and celebrates partnerships between the PTA and the school which are designed to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. On a regular basis, the PTA supports activities for students; funding field trips, overseeing and supplying treats for holiday parties, sponsoring a Secret Santa shop, subsidizing educational assemblies, preparing and presenting appreciation gifts for teachers, and coordinating a plethora of fundraisers are just a few.

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT NAMED



At its school board meeting in September, **Dr. Joseph Dimperio** was named Acting Superintendent of the Carlynton School District, a role he will hold while a search is conducted for a successor to **Dr. Gary Peiffer**.



Dr. Joseph C. Dimperio

Dimperio holds a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh and a law degree from Duquesne University. He has served as interim for the Carlynton School District on two separate occasions in the past. He recently sat as interim superintendent at South Side Beaver and at Ambridge from 1987 to 1992 before retiring as superintendent of West Mifflin School District, a position he held from 1992 to 2001. With over 40 years in education, Dr. Dimperio has served as an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon, Gannon, and Duquesne universities. A devoted father to three married daughters, Dr. Dimperio has six grandchildren. He and his wife reside in Mt. Lebanon.

STEM IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of the junior-senior high school robotics club and technology education classes represented the school at STEMfest 2018 held in the Mall at Robinson in late September. With tables located on the second level of the mall, students and teachers **Brittney Nocera** and **Matt Stagl** showcased a number of STEM-related activities including a programmable FINCH robot, Vex Robots, and creative-thinking challenges for visitors to partake. Carlynton was among 12 other school districts represented at STEMfest.



Junior Mathias Spragg and teacher Matt Stagl watch as a visitor attempts to complete a STEM challenge using paper and a series of blocks to construct a long, elevated bridge without it sagging on the table.



Junior Nick Cindrich coaches a young boy as he maneuvers a VEX robot.



Several fourth grade students of Crafton Elementary have taken the initiative to form a new club at the school. Dubbed ARC for Animal Rights Club, the group hopes to inform others about the importance of adopting a pet and will provide facts for why animals make humans happier and healthier. The enterprising youngsters are making posters to encourage fairness to all animals, planning a supply drive, and utilizing the STEAM room to design and make toys for cats or dogs housed at Animal Friends. "I saw students killing insects on the playground for no good reason and they shouldn't because we need insects and animals to keep our planet healthy," said club founder Nzinzi Tembo. Teacher Susan Kosko said stories from a reading series about animals also prompted students to form an organization to promote compassion for animals.



ARC Club supporters Allie Glass and Diana Thomas, with club founder Nzinzi Tembo (standing), show off posters they carefully crafted to begin an animal rights awareness campaign in the school.



Thanks to the efforts of health and physical education teacher Susan Zbur, Carnegie Elementary students took part in the International Walk to School Day on October 10 to promote school safety and healthy exercise habits. Volunteers from FedEx, UPMC and the Carnegie police department stood at highly-used crosswalks to ensure the safe arrival of students to school. Once in the building, students assembled in the auditorium for a brief presentation about pedestrian safety and awareness when walking to and from school.

On the morning of the International Walk to School Day, Carnegie Elementary safety patrols Bryan Holderbaum, Lakhi Turner, Tyler Seaton, Ryan Hines, Mason Mulligan, Justin Terhune, and Michael Benham helped to control traffic as students entered the school with assistance from Detective Dennis Lawrence and Carnegie Chief of Police Jeff Kennedy.



Volunteers from FedEx arrived bright and early to stand guard at cross walks to ensure the safety of Carnegie Elementary students.



INSURANCE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

The district is offering a student accident insurance for students at competitive pricing designed by Bollinger Specialty Group. The plan rate for students in grades K-12 is \$96 during school time or \$166 for 24-hour coverage. The plan features a maximum benefit of \$25,000 for a one-year period with a \$0 deductible.

The insurance covers students who participate in all interscholastic sports except football. The plan is provided as accidental bodily injury insurance, covering accidental bodily injury occurring while the coverage is in force. Illnesses such as measles, sore throats, etc., are not covered.

The student accident insurance does offer benefits to families who do not have health insurance or those who have high deductibles or co-pays with a family health insurance plan.

Enrollment information and forms are available at www.bollingerschools.com/carlynton or by visiting the district website at www.carlynton.k12.pa.us.