



Our Town shares a poignant message

In early December, high school students presented *Our Town*, a riveting, three-act play that shined the light on the circle of life by sharing the story of the residents of a small town, young love, marriage and mortality.

The play opened in the community of Grover's Corners and was narrated by a stage manager (**Camryn Kwiatkoski**), who fed the storyline as she introduced characters as they appeared in their role on stage. Act I opened to reveal a budding relationship between neighbors George Gibbs and Emily Webb (**Kyle Auth** and **Jaimee Cabili**), and in Act II, the couple weds in a charming ceremony before family, friends and neighbors. Life is simple and happy as the couple builds a future together and George takes over his uncle's farm.

In Act III, the curtain rises to reveal a sobering scene, nine years later, in a cemetery outside of town. A funeral is being held, that of Emily Gibbs. The young wife died giving birth to her and George's second child. Emotions run high as George and family members struggle with her loss, and as Emily struggles with her own death.

Once the funeral ends, Emily receives a rare chance to return to her family to relive a single day. Unable to interact with loved ones, she can only watch with heartache while realizing her family seldom took time to enjoy the simple joys of life. Saddened, Emily



returns to her grave wishing she and others would have treasured life, even the smallest moments. The stage manager conveys her concern, closing the show with the poignant question — *does anyone truly understand the value of life while they live it?*

The gifted cast of *Our Town* and producer **Tonilyn Jackson** will be recognized by the 2020 Drama Awards sponsored by Prime Stage Theater. In its inaugural year, the program will acknowledge the dramatic arts performances of Carlynton, and the school districts of Avonworth, North Allegheny, Pine Richland and Shadyside Academy at a ceremony to be held March 28 at the New Hazlett Theater.

Our Town was nominated as Best Overall Production and Best Overall Stage Crew and the following students received nominations for:

- **Best Actor: Kyle Auth** (in the role of George Gibbs)
- **Best Actress: Jaimee Cabili** (Emily Webb-Gibbs)
- **Best Supporting Actor: Reece Smith** (Dr. Frank Gibbs)
- **Best Supporting Actress: Camryn Kwiatkoski** (Stage Manager)
- **Best Student Stage Manager: Maggie Reigle**
- **Best Student Hair and Makeup: Mary Dougherty**
- **Best Student Projections and Lighting: Haley Simcic and Leah Zielinski**



1. Camryn Kwiatkoski, as the Stage Manager, introduced characters and shared their stories as the narrator of *Our Town*.

2. The Gibbs teenagers, George and Rebecca (Kyle Auth and Hayley Kerns), enjoyed breakfast at home before school, prepared by their mother Julia Gibbs (Jane Grabowski).

3. In Act 1, Professor Williard (Zavier Helbig) gave the audience a historical overview about the small town of Grover's Corners.

4. Charles Webb (Zachary Holderbaum), head of the Webb household and editor of the Grover's Corners Sentinel, shared the news about town.

5. Myrtle Webb (Elizabeth Duffy) sat with daughter Emily (Jaimee Cabili) to answer the teen's questions about love and sense of worth.

6. George Gibbs (Kyle Auth) received stern counsel from his father, Dr. Frank Gibbs (Reece Smith), about avoiding chores and responsibilities.

7. In a flashback scene, George Gibbs (Kyle Auth) and Emily Webb (Jaimee Cabili) meet after school in the soda shop as a romantic relationship begins to take hold.

8. Before marrying Emily, George Gibbs had some misgivings while being swooned away by his former baseball teammates. Emily, too, had some reservations, but their love for one another triumphed over doubt.

9. The marriage of Emily and George is held before family, friends and neighbors who gathered to celebrate the union.

10. During the wedding ceremony, Louella Soames (Hannah Clark) shared some juicy gossip about the interrelated lives of the citizens of Grover's Corners.

11. Act III opened to the funeral of Emily Webb as family and friends mourned her unexpected passing.

12. As cemetery caretaker Joe Stoddard (Greyson August) stood over the grave of Emily, she stands and begs to return to the living.

District Welcomes New Superintendent

The Carlynton School District is pleased to announce and welcome **Dr. John W. Kreider** as the newly appointed Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Kreider was named superintendent by unanimous vote by the Board of Education at its meeting December 3, 2019. He stepped into the role February 3, 2020.

With over 27 years of experience in education, Dr. Kreider comes to Carlynton from the North Allegheny School District where he held the position of high school principal for the past four years. Prior to that, he gained leadership experience as a junior high school assistant principal, junior high school principal and as senior high school principal of North Hills High School.

Dr. Kreider was one of 24 who applied for the position of superintendent. While at North Allegheny, he supervised and managed facility operations including budgeting, curriculum development, scheduling, professional development and student assessment.

Among his most satisfying accomplishments at NA was the expansion and development of the College in High School program and the launching of Professional Learning Communities. These programs have given students broader academic opportunities and engaging lessons immersed with technology.

"I've discovered the Carlynton School District is comprised of three supportive communities that embrace strong values. That sense of pride sustains the tradition of excellence and those are the characteristics I find attractive and inviting when serving in the capacity as superintendent," Dr. Kreider said.

Growing up in the Lancaster area, Dr. Kreider began his teaching career in the Lancaster School District before moving to North Hills in 2000. He taught math at the secondary level and coached baseball and wrestling. His work in education is proudly supported by his wife Rosina and their three children, Marisa, Nicholas and Isabella.

Dr. Kreider earned a Doctorate in Education and a Superintendent Letter of Eligibility from the University of Pittsburgh. A Master's degree in education and principal certification was also attained at Pitt. He completed his undergraduate studies in mathematics at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The new superintendent received a four-year contract with an annual salary of \$150,000.



Dr. John Kreider,
Superintendent of Schools

SAVE THE DATE

March 26-29 Spring Musical, Cinderella
March 26 Kennywood In-School Ticket Sale
April 7 Elementary Spring Band and Choral Concert
April 9-13 Spring Break (pending no more snow days)
April 21 JSBS Spring Choral Concert
April 20 Taste of Carlynton sponsored by the Carlynton Education Foundation

April 28 JSBS Spring Band Concert
April 20-May 8 PSSA Testing Window
May 11 Keystone Exams Testing Window
May 20 JSBS Career Fair
May 21 Kennywood School Picnic
June 5 Last Day of School and Senior Commencement

The 2020-2021 school year calendar was approved in January and the first day of school for students is set for Monday, August 24, 2020. The full 2020-2021 calendar can be found on the district website at www.carlynton.k12.pa.us.

ATHLETIC ACCOLADES

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, READ MORE
ATHLETIC ACCOLADES IN SWIMMING,
WRESTLING AND BOWLING!



Varsity soccer player **Carnel Kerr** was named the WPIAL Player of the Year in Class A. The 6'1" senior striker led his team to the WPIAL Section Championship and a stake in the playoffs. Sporting the lucky number 7, Carnel was a lead scorer in the WPIAL last season and again this year, finishing a stellar year with 45 goals and surpassing the school record in single goals set in a season.

It was a banner year for the Cougars. Joining Kerr on the All-WPIAL team were junior center **Ryon Fagon** and junior midfielder **Demetrius Howe**. The trio played well in the WPIAL All-Star game held at Fox Chapel High School in November. Additionally, third-year head coach **Nicholas Showman** was named WPIAL Coach of the Year.



Named to the All-WPIAL team were juniors Demetrius Howe and Ryon Fagon and senior Carnel Kerr.

Lady Cougar **Jada Lee** recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball next fall at Division I Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The 5'5" senior point guard averages 18 points a game and has been a part of the Lady Cougars uptick in victories the last three



Senior star Jada Lee signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Mount Saint Mary's University in Maryland.

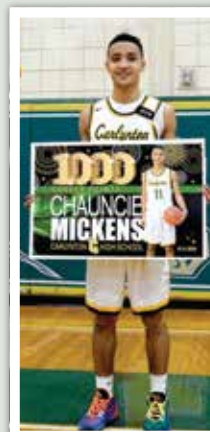
seasons. She hit 1,000 career points in the first home game of 2019-2020 season.

Joined by starters **Jaelyn Melko**, **Angelica Diallo**, **Kendall Kline** and **Hayley Williams**, Lee and the Lady Cougars were named a "Trib-Live Team of Week" and finished the season as WPIAL Class 3A Section winners. The team was led by second year **Coach Darian Robins**, returning assistant and alum **Jazmyn Meredith**, and new assistant coach and elementary teacher **Kathy Helfrick**.



After scoring 1,000 career points, Jada Lee is congratulated by teammates Haley Williams (kneeling), Chloe Williams, Angelica "Jelly" Diallo, Jaelyn Melko and Kendall Klein.

Senior **Chauncie Mickens** became the seventh player in Carlynton boys' basketball history to score 1,000 career points. Chauncie, a guard who averages 21 points per game, reached the scoring milestone in front of a home crowd during the first half of a match up against North Catholic in February. The Cougars, led by seniors **Morgan Ault**, **Dequay Canton**, **Mark Phillips**, **Christian Ray** and **Mickens**, earned a WPIAL Class 3A Section 2 playoff spot. The team is led by head coach **Michael Kozy** and assistant coaches **Scott Kemmler**, **Greg Petronsky** and **Tyler Valentine**.



Senior guard Chauncie Mickens celebrates the achievement of marking 1,000 career points during a home basketball game in February.

The family of late teacher and coach **Richard Sonson** was honored during the pre-game of a varsity boys' basketball game in January. Sonson, who taught science and coached basketball, baseball and golf for the Cougars, passed away in November following a short but courageous battle with cancer. As a tribute, Sonson's wife Margaret, and sons Craig and Rich, were joined by family and friends in the high school gym as the district posthumously recognized him for his many accomplishments as a coach. Among the most notable, Sonson led the 1992 boys' basketball team to the state championships in Hershey, bringing home the title. Some 30 former athletes returned to Carlynton to salute Sonson's legacy.



Students in Frank Zebrasky's classroom wrapped the sleeves of the Cougars basketball jerseys with a band embroidered with the initials of former coach Rich Sonson (RTS). Players wore the badges on their jerseys for the remainder of the season.



Former athletes of Coach Rich Sonson attended a ceremony in the high school gym in January to honor the late coach.

Cougar Connection

PROMOTING COMMUNITY, EXCELLENCE, AND CHARACTER

▲ Crafton Elementary second graders welcomed children's author and illustrator Grace Lin into their classroom in the late fall by way of video conference. Joining students from four other elementary schools, pupils were able to interact with Lin to ask how she became an author and learn how she is inspired when writing stories. The American-born author said she gains many of her ideas for her books from real life experiences in her parent's hometown of Taiwan. She began writing in the fifth grade and her first work was published in 1999. Lin encouraged students to read as much as possible and to begin jotting down thoughts on paper. "Every time you write, and review what you write, you will become a better writer," she said. Teachers **Jim Bassano** and **Nick DeRoss** felt the experience for students was productive and enlightening. Following the discussion Miss Lin mailed 25 copies of her most recent book, *A Big Bed for Little Snow*, to the school for reading in the classroom.



Second grade students from Crafton Elementary enjoyed the opportunity to meet children's author and illustrator Grace Lin by way of video conference.



Teacher Jim Bassano and students interacted with the author by posing questions about her books and illustrations.

▲ Student members of the Early Act Club of Carnegie Elementary have had a busy fall and winter. The community service organization, led by teacher **Mary Campbell**, held a food drive in November, collecting boxes and bags of non-perishable foods and delivering the goods to the Salvation Army food pantry. In December, students decorated and packed 125 treat bags for residents of Honus Wagner Plaza. Thanks to generous donations from The Fresh Market and the Heidelberg Shop N Save, the bags contained fresh fruit, nuts, candy and a



Third graders Patrick Lucci, Lexi Wiater, Sameer Abu Alheden, Fera Alezzo and Shaurya Chauhan packed goody bags for residents of Honus Wagner Plaza.

very special homemade card. In addition, teacher **Julie Lewis** and members of the Carnegie Elementary Amazing Alternatives in grades four to six visited Honus Wagner Plaza in December to sing holiday carols to residents, traveling from floor to floor to spread good cheer. The students were also asked to vote for their favorite decorated door, part of building-wide holiday contest, and



Early Act Club members E'lija Gibbs, Umarbek Isombedriyev, Mariah Gray, Maxwell Novak and Blakely Fisher decorated gift bags filled with fresh fruit, nuts and candy.

were then treated to hot chocolate and cookies. Participation in the two student community service groups teaches respect, empathy, responsibility, tolerance, citizenship and leadership.

▲ ACTS OF COMPASSION

When reading teacher **Zeffie Carroll** assigned the book *Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick to her seventh grade classes, the students were intrigued by the book's title and the cover. Little did they know, the novel would reveal the tale of Steven Alper, a 13-year-old boy whose life is turned upside down when his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia. Before his



Stephanie Scoletti, founder and director of Young Adult Cancer Support in Pittsburgh, spoke to seventh graders about living with cancer. She was recently recognized by Pittsburgh Magazine as one of "40 people under 40" who have made an impact in the city.



The cover of the novel, *Drums Girls and Dangerous Pies*, does not divulge a hint of the profound message of the story. The book was authored by an English teacher who was inspired by the real-life story of one of her own students.

brother's diagnosis, Steven was a wisecracking adolescent and gifted drummer. As his brother goes through grueling treatment, Steven eventually learns to put others first, especially the needs of his brother and family. In the final chapters, Steven and friends organize an act of compassion - a concert to raise funds to ease the costs of his brother's treatment.

In correlation with the assignment, Stephanie Scoletti, founder and Director of Young Adult Cancer Support for the Pittsburgh-based Cancer Caring Center, visited classes to discuss the trials of living with cancer. At the age of 19, Scoletti was diagnosed with leukemia. During her treatment, she felt isolated as her life was put on hold. Now cancer-free for 14 years, Scoletti works to support 18-to 39-year-old cancer patients and survivors. She spoke to students about her experience with cancer, encouraging them to reach out and make an impact by showing compassion and being kind.

As a final project in the classroom, Mrs. Carroll asked students to parallel the life of two main characters in the novel as a basis for researching a type of childhood cancer. Students were then asked to explore several acts of compassion that might be implemented to aid a cancer victim. Classes then completed a writing assignment to substantiate their research and acts of compassion. Students agreed the assignment was eye opening. Most admitted it is difficult to know what people are really going through when they have cancer and they learned that even little gestures can make a big difference.

▲ Led by teacher **Cynthia Eddy**, some 18 students in grades five through eight are developing their public speaking skills by competing in forensic tournaments in the Pittsburgh area. Competing in the categories of drama, poetry, prose, declamation, extemporaneous, multiple reading and impromptu, students have contended with middle schoolers from 15 area public and private schools in three

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▲ LEARNING TO CODE

In December, students of Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools received programming advice from teachers and some local experts. During an Hour of Code celebration, individuals learned to code using computers and tablets to make characters dance on the screen or design virtual games.

In 2014, Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science in schools across the Nation. It was designed to demystify "coding" by illustrating that anyone can learn the basics and to expand participation in the field of computer science. Hour of Code is now recognized in schools worldwide, and the event often leads to day- or even week-long activities.

Carnegie Elementary fourth grade teacher **Julie Lewis** has involved her students in Hour of Code for the past five years. At Crafton Elementary, **Principal Marsha Burleson** invited special guests from Amazon, South Side PIT 10, to inspire students in grades one to six and lead them through coding exercises.

Using basic tutorials or languages such as Scratch and Dance Party, pupils soon learned that it took some attention to detail and several clicks of the keyboard to manipulate or code an object on the screen. The upper grades advanced to higher levels, connecting to more difficult and challenging coding exercises.

The extrinsic outcome of the coding activities was motivational as students saw the rewards of their work appear on the computer screen. Coding improves thinking skills while instilling discipline, patience and the ability to predict an outcome. More important, pupils had the opportunity to learn that computer science is fun and they can be a creator and innovator at any age.



Kavion Harris, a Crafton Elementary fourth grader, learns to code with the help of a representative from Amazon.



The focus was real as fourth graders of Carnegie Elementary held a coding dance party on their computers.



Justin Marks, a technical cloud-based manager for Amazon, led students through simple exercises using language that allowed them to code.



Sixth grader Jeff DeSure completes coding of a dancing bear and shows off his work to teacher Maria Wisser.



Fourth graders from Carnegie Elementary enjoyed the coding exercises so much, they've asked to code during their free time.

Cougar Connection

PROMOTING COMMUNITY, EXCELLENCE, AND CHARACTER

continued

tournaments with individual rounds. Amid many top place finishers, the following middle school students have successfully advanced to the finals round, held in February at South Fayette Middle School: **Sean Hart**-Extemporaneous, **Bailey Vetter**-Declamation, **Lucy Vetter**-Drama, **Harita Venkatesh**-Drama, **Uzochi Orji**-Prose, **Angelika Pyvovar**-Poetry, **Peyton Delrosario**-Poetry and **Mateo Carrasco**, **Carolyn Choate**, **Kellyn Palmer**, **Emery Delrosario** and **Akachi Orji**-Multiple Reading.

▲ In December, the Carnegie Autistic and Life Skills Support classes traveled to the Carnegie Museum of Art for a "Holidays in Harmony" activity, allowing them to explore the atrium filled with decorated trees, sing holiday carols with others and enjoy lunch. The socialization activity is a stimulus for growth and interaction within a safe environment, helping students to build connections and gain confidence. A new sensory hallway in the primary wing of Carnegie Elementary School is a bonus area for students with special needs to learn to count, practice jumping on one foot, and more, all while having fun and getting exercise. The sensory path has also been popular among the youngsters in kindergarten, first and second grade. Some "time out" during the busy school day is giving students the chance to burn off some energy by walking, jumping, and bouncing along the pathway. The sensory activity helps little ones develop motor skills, including balance, hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness.



The new sensory pathway at Carnegie Elementary is giving youngsters a chance to burn off some energy.

▲ Carnegie Elementary second graders have been learning about gardening and composting. Last September, the students worked in the school garden by weeding and planting fall bulbs. Thanks to a mini-grant acquired through the Carlynton Education Foundation, a composting kit was purchased and students are learning to make fertilizer for the garden by composting weeds and other organic materials. **Mrs. Mary Campbell** introduced the composting activity in her classes to teach students about the natural process of decomposition, recycling, resource management and concerns over growing garbage landfills.



Carnegie Elementary fifth grader **Jackson Keeney** assists second graders **Shaurya Chauhan**, **Reilly White** and **Umarbek Isombdriyev** as they learn the value of composting to create fertilizer for the school garden.

▲ Members of the National Honor and National Junior Honor Societies will host its second blood drive of the year on April 17, 2020. Qualified representatives from Vitalant, formerly the Central Blood Bank, will be at the school bright and early to set up for the drive. From surgery to fighting cancer or a tragic car accident, blood donations are used to save some 12,000 lives a day. For every blood drive held at Carlynton, students and teachers have donated an average of 28 units of blood; one unit can save three lives. Parents, family and members of the community are welcome to participate in this worthwhile cause. To



For the first time, senior **Andrew Blain** donated blood at a school blood drive held in the fall.

get on the schedule to donate blood, or for questions, email **Ms. Jamie Sonnie** at jamie.sonniesonnie@carlynton.k12.pa.us.

▲ Carnegie and Crafton Elementary Principals **Lauren Baughman** and **Marsha Burleson** were named recipients of the Junior Achievement Educational Leadership Award, an honor that recognizes the schools' efforts for hosting Junior Achievement activities in their buildings every year. In the fall, Crafton Elementary students enjoyed a day with business students from Robert Morris University who led classrooms on a venture to discover the principles of market-based economics and entrepreneurship. In the spring, the Pittsburgh-based finance group Hefren-Tillotson will again visit Carnegie Elementary to impart the same principles. Using age-appropriate resources designed by Junior Achievement, students learn by way of interactive classroom activities with models for career exploration, community development and money management.

▲ MIXING IT UP

After eighth graders finished reading the novel *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, the students discussed the fact that social barriers and cliques do exist among classmates. *The Outsiders* is about a 14-year-old boy who struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes he doesn't fit in. As students brainstormed ideas to break down barriers in school, teachers **Maggie Wilson** and **Tonilyn Jackson** informed them of a nationwide initiative dubbed "Mix It Up Day." Designed to teach tolerance among peers, Mix It Up Day is a campaign that encourages students to identify, question and cross social boundaries.

Eighth graders put forth much effort and ingenuity as they planned a Mix It Up Day in the school, making informative and persuasive posters, banners and public service announcements to persuade peers and seventh graders to take part in the activity. Their efforts were rewarded when 160 students pledged to move out of their comfort zones and participate in a Mix It Up Day during lunch on December 13th in the cafeteria.

Willing participants were randomly assigned to tables by the teachers. Table tents with ice breakers were placed on tabletops to provide a starting point for conversation. Though a little uncomfortable in the beginning, most students admitted it was fun to get to know someone new, and the conversation flowed easily after a few minutes.

The students who organized the Mix It Up Day identified the cafeteria as a place in school where divisions are clearly drawn. When students interacted across social boundaries, biases and misperceptions fell away, promoting a healthy and welcoming school environment.



Caden Crow, Bailey Vetter, Seth Kerr, Colin Crow and Mahavishnu Dutta creatively designed and produced pledge cards, banners, posters and public service announcements to persuade peers to participate in Mix It Up Day.



Mix It Up Day encouraged students to sit with someone they didn't know in an effort to break down cliques and social barriers.

▲ Congratulations are in order for senior **Jack Jones** who was selected by head coach **Chris Searkowski** of the PIHL hockey league to participate in an all-star tournament January 26, held at the Robert Morris University Ice Arena on Neville Island. Jack plays for Carrick, a team comprised of players from Carlynton, Brentwood, West Mifflin and Pittsburgh city schools.



Senior Jack Jones, second from right, was selected to the PIHL all-star team. An avid hockey fan, he has played hockey for the last 10 years.

▲ KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration day for the 2020-2021 school year will be held March 24th at Carnegie Elementary and March 25th at Crafton Elementary. Children need not attend registration day although they must be registered by a parent at the school within the community in which they reside. Rosslyn Farms residents should register at Crafton Elementary School. Kindergarten students will be screened during the first week of school, during a staggered start process. Children must be five (5) years of age on or before August 15, 2020 to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment for the



Kindergarten students in Susan Cantwell's classroom at Carnegie Elementary eagerly huddle on the floor to watch a video to learn how snow is formed.

2020-2021 school year. Consequently, the child's date of birth must be on or before August 15, 2015.

▲ A select group of junior-senior high school students are participating in Student Powered Solutions (SPS), a program of the Consortium for Public Education (CPE). Partnering with the global, and locally headquartered corporation Covestro, students have chosen to focus on poor waste management—specifically, a lack of strong recycling initiatives in the junior-senior high school. Splitting into two groups: P3 (the Paper Preservation Project) and PASUP (Pledge Away Single Use Plastics), students conducted a survey among staff to develop recycling goals for the building. By dividing their energy and resources, the teens are tackling two major recycling initiatives while cooperating to reach a common goal. The students, **Alyse Crown, Mary Dougherty, Georgie Gamble, Sean Hart, Owen Schriver, Ella Synder and Elaine Zhang**, are guided by **Chris Colonna** and **Rachel Foltz**, faculty members recently trained by the Consortium in Project-Based Learning (PBL) strategies. Their work has been recognized by Remake Learning, a network designed to engage young people in practices that support social and technological change.

▲ HELP US CELEBRATE!

Did you know the Carlynton School District will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during the 2020-2021 school year? That's right! Planning is in its very early stages, but we are seeking volunteers, alumni, party planners and idea generators to help us plan and celebrate this milestone. If interested in becoming involved, please email Michale Herrmann at michale.herrmann@carlynton.k12.pa.us or call **412.429.2500, ext. 1113**. Please provide your name, address, phone number, email address, and let us how you are associated with the school district. We look forward to hearing from you!

