

# CARLYNTON

## School District News



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CARLYNTON



## A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE SCENES

from

# The Sound of Music



The remarkable spring musical, *The Sound of Music*, was presented March 30-April 2 and featured the gifted cast of:

**Sofia Carrasco** as Maria and **Ian Kobistek** as Captain Von Trapp

**Alawna Mallory** as the Mother Abbess and **Eliana Davis, Skylar Sevacko** and **Rebecca Turske** as Sisters of the Abbey

**Nathan Latta** as Franz, the butler, **Tara Wade** as the housekeeper



This page: **1** Maria takes leave of the abbey. **2** As governess to seven children, Maria shares her love of music. **3** "Sixteen going on seventeen," Liesl and Rolf meet secretly outside the villa. **4** The children and Maria are reprimanded by Captain Von Trapp after he finds them outdoors in play clothes made from draperies. **5** Captain Von Trapp is moved when hearing

his children singing "The Sound of Music" and joins in chorus. **6** Max Detweiler and the Baroness Schraeder try to convince the Captain to tolerate the impending political uprising. **7** Maria and the Captain dance.





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**Aniya Carson, Mateo Carrasco, Sarah Duffy, David Holderbaum, Camryn Kwiatkoski, Gianna Medici and Maria Smereka as the Von Trapp children**

**Morgan Vonada as the Baroness Schraeder and John Cantwell as Max Detweiler**

**Brandan Cantley as Rolf, Adam Follmer as Admiral Von Schreiber and Riley Post as Herr Zeller**

Nearly 30 ensemble members rounded out the cast and complemented the time-honored story of family, music, love and devotion for country.



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**8** Guests of the dinner party have differing political viewpoints; the Captain interrupts the quarrel. **9** As the Von Trapp children say goodnight to the dinner guests, they perform "So Long, Farewell." **10** Mother Abyss closes the first act of the performance with "Climb Every Mountain." **11** Maria returns to the Von Trapp villa and admits her love for Captain Von Trapp. **12** The marriage and wedding celebration at the Abbey. **13** Members of the Third Reich pay a visit in an attempt to intimidate Captain Von Trapp in his home. **14** The Von Trapp Family Singers perform in a competition in the city's grand concert hall, singing "Edelweiss," bless my homeland forever. **15** As the Von Trapp family escape into the mountains of Austria, the Sisters of the Abbey offer prayers for their safety.



# EIC Design Challenge: Create Sustainable Energy

Charged with the task of creating sustainable energy by utilizing wind power, high school juniors **Shane Baroni-Meyers, Tashe-Ann Earle, Kaylee Goolsby, Saman Majed, Sean Steding** and seniors **Angela Inwood, Wisdom Johnson, Matthew Popichak** and **Rachel Roach** dug in their heels to design and create a viable solution.

In February, students traveled to the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh and were presented a design challenge: to devise a vertical wind turbine for use on the EIC grounds. Discussion focused on the company Windstax, a new EIC stakeholder. Company CEO Ron Gdovic and EIC President and CEO Robert Meeder, who spoke with the teens, founded the challenge on green, alternative energy.

Students from West Allegheny High School and Parkway West Career and Technology Center (enrolled in the Electrical Systems program) were also invited to participate in the design challenge. Four teams were formed: education, power, design and budget. Participating on a team was not school-specific; groups were formed with those expressing the most interest in a specific area. After an initial meeting at EIC, the four teams collaborated via the internet, email and a shared Google drive. Students also met at Parkway on two occasions to brainstorm and hear from sustainable energy experts.

While in the classroom, design team member Sean Steding accessed Google Earth to determine the location of the EIC



Energy Innovation Center President and CEO Robert Meeder led students on a tour through the building.

building and surrounding topography. Working with classmates and utilizing 3-D software, Sketch Up, they began drafting a 3-D model of a vertical, non-directional wind turbine on a computer. By applying the plans determined by the entire design team, the drawing was recreated in sections using the school's 3-D printer. Sean, Shane Baroni-Meyers, Saman Majed and Rachel Roach assembled the sections and designed

a base on which the turbine would be positioned.

The 3-D wind stack model was constructed of multiple cup-like sections or moving rotors. As wind moved through the rotors, they rotated to create energy or turbine power. The students' incorporated a floodlight at the top of the stack that changed colors based on the intensity of the speed or power generated by the turbine.



Students met off-site on several occasions to brainstorm with peers from West Allegheny and Parkway West Career and Technical Center. Mr. Bill Harris, engineering design teacher, led a round table discussion during one of the group sessions.



Sean Steding, by consulting with other design team members, created a 3-dimensional drawing of the Energy Innovation Center to depict the location of a wind stack. The design challenge charged students with the task of creating a wind turbine to create sustainable energy for the building.

The design for the vertical, non-directional wind turbine was recreated in sections with a 3-D printer and assembled in the classroom by the design team.



During a culminating presentation, company CEOs and energy solution experts were amazed and delighted as students presented the final design with proposals to utilize generated power for lighted signage or to sustain lighting for a café located inside the EIC building. The design included a waterproof charging base for outdoor seating. The additional teams, education, budget and power, shared research to corroborate the project proposed by the design team.

Carlynton students tackling the challenge are enrolled in an Intro to Engineering class taught by **Mr. William Harris**. "This project made us aware of the skills necessary in the workplace," Sean Steding said. "We learned to work in teams and to network from different locations."



Design Challenge participants included Kaylee Goolsby, Rachel Roach, teacher Bill Harris, Sean Steding, Angela Inwood, Saman Majed, Shane Baroni-Meyers, Wisdom Johnson and Tashe-Ann Earle. Senior Matt Popichak, not pictured, participated on the Power Team. He is a Parkway student enrolled in the Electrical Systems Technology program.

The Energy Innovation Center is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to engage corporate and community leaders, align workforce development and education and develop technology to support clean and sustainable energy markets. Located in Pittsburgh's Lower Hill District, the 200,000 square foot building functions as a workspace for industry-informed education and training programs and a center for diverse tenants, including energy sector corporations, national energy research laboratories, political and community leaders, economic development organizations and leading academic institutions.



Spanish IV Dual Enrollment juniors John Cantwell, David Creely and Sydney Franchick build fluency by Skyping with students from Brazil. The Skypes occur as a mystery as neither classroom knows the location of the other school until a dialogue begins and clues are provided.

## Language Programs Earn Golden Globe

The Carlynton World Language Program is the recipient of the 2017 Golden Globe Award. The award places the school's foreign language program among the top in the Commonwealth.

The Golden Globe Award is presented by the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA), recognizing the junior-senior high school as one in an elite group of exemplary foreign language programs.

PSMLA validates and showcases high quality Pennsylvania high school language programs. It also provides school districts with materials to spur improvements that will have measurable effect on the learning outcomes of students. The ultimate aim of PSMLA is to promote and propagate best practices in language programs across the state.

The Carlynton Foreign Language Department was recognized for a number of indicator achievements, including the Dual Enrollment programs in both Spanish and French. Through a partnership with local universities who have approved the curriculum, students can earn college credits while in high school, saving hundreds of dollars.

The seventh and eighth grade World Language Exploratory programs also received commendations as well as the department's administration of the SOPI (Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview) which assesses fluency.

Teacher engagement was another factor that received recognition. All Foreign Language teachers attend local, state or national world language professional development activities. Engaging opportunities are also provided to students, including Mystery Skypes with students in other countries and travel options to the Yucatan Peninsula. Again this summer, 22 students will travel to Mexico for a life-changing experience.





# MAKING HEADLINES

**NEWS** In January, high school English teacher **Wendy Steiner** accepted the position of Fluency Project Instructional Coach. This position was created through a Ready to Learn Grant and aims to strengthen and propel learning in the classroom. Steiner and Language Arts teacher **Kristen Fischer** have been working with the Carnegie Mellon University Create Lab to explore resourceful methods to inspire students. As Fluency Project Coach, Steiner is leading students in self-discovery projects by enabling youngsters and teens to learn by doing. Currently, ninth grade students have teamed up with the Andrew Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie to develop an audio-vista of the Capt. Thomas Espy Room. An audio-vista is a sequence of 360 degree images accompanied by narration or other recorded audio. Students will capture historical images within the room, write a dialogue and narrate their work. At the elementary schools, kindergarten students are using Genius Kits from OSMO to key in on spelling, math, geography and trivia. The educational gaming platform is accessed with iPads and allows students to work collaboratively in teams. The Genius Kits bring the iPads to life. Instead of tapping and swiping, players are guided to draw on paper, identify coordinating letter tiles for spelling and fit geometric shapes together to design puzzles.



Learning can be fun with Genius Kits, as evidenced by kindergarten students Kaycie Chapman, Brooklyn Harvey and Maddy Soloway.



The birthday of late author Dr. Suess is celebrated nationally as Read Across America, and every year, children, teachers and parents of Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools participate with an emphasis on reading. The event was observed with special guest readers, story tellers, riddle challenges and furry friends. Youngsters laughed out loud at the antics of story teller Kim Adley, a.k.a, the Queen of Hearts, who used volunteers to share a tale about living in a castle. Carnegie Chief of Police Jeff Kennedy visited Carnegie Elementary kindergartens to read "Officer Buckle and Gloria," a tale about honesty. Therapy dogs from Reading with Rover sat quietly at Crafton Elementary while books were read in classrooms. Local author



Crafton Police Officer Brian Tully read "A Bike Like Sergio's" to third graders at Crafton Elementary.

Howard Shapiro visited the school, too, to discuss books he has written about his favorite sport, hockey. The Read Across America celebrations were capped with well-attended family reading nights at both schools, featuring arts and crafts, book fairs and enjoyable reading activities.



The Queen of Hearts, otherwise known as Kim Adley, brought smiles to faces of Carnegie Elementary students as she involved youngsters in her make-believe world.



Guest speaker Howard Shapiro drew questions from a student audience who asked about the books he has written. Crafton second grader Riley Mauro wanted to know why the author wrote about hockey.



Sophomores **Patrick Carlson** and **Zachariah Spragg** represented Carlynton High School at the 2017 State Unified Youth Committee Conference in Hershey, Pa in March. The duo spoke before state-wide superintendents, principals and teachers to share social inclusion outcomes as a result of their participation in Unified Sports. As members of the Carlynton interscholastic Unified Bocce team, Patrick and Zach serve as mentors and roles models to teammates with physical and intellectual disabilities. The high school's Unified bocce team boasted a winning season this past fall and hosted a regional match in the high school gymnasium in February.

The team competes against peers from the Avonworth, Baldwin, Elizabeth-Forward, Moon Area and Mt. Lebanon school districts. The high school has been deemed a Champion School for its



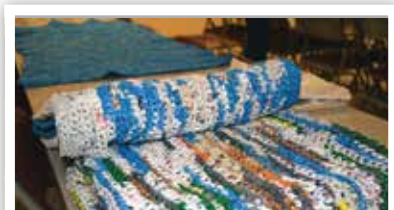
A regional Unified bocce tournament against Baldwin High School was hosted in the high school gym.

participation in the Special Olympics Unified Sports program. Unified Sports promotes inclusion, acceptance and respect and is recognized by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA).

**NEWS** In late February, participants of the high school Interact Club joined The Ladies of Charity auxiliary from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Carnegie to learn to crochet plastic, weather-resistant mats for the homeless. In the weeks beforehand, a plastic grocery bag drive was held in the school. Over 3000 bags were collected, sorted, folded and cut into one inch strips with the assistance of National Honor Society members. With the plastic in tow, seniors **Kellie Lesniak, Kassi Longstreth, Andrea Rivera** and eighth grader **Amanda McClain** traveled to the parish on a Saturday morning to learn the mat-making process by recycling bags. Interact Club sponsor and teacher **Chelsie Fris** joined the girls. Lucy Mensor and others from Ladies of Charity demonstrated the process of looping pre-cut strips from the plastic bags to make balls of plarn or plastic yarn. The girls then learned to crochet the plarn into a 36 inch chain. By turning the chain and single crocheting to the opposite end, the girls spent several hours repeating the method again and again. Mrs. Mensor said 100 hours of labor and 350 bags are necessary to complete a 36



Interact Club advisor Chelsie Fris and club members Kassi Longstreth, Amanda McClain, Kellie Lesniak and Andrea Rivera stand behind a table of grocery bags in the three stages necessary for crocheting mats: folded, cut into strips and rolled into balls of plarn.



Completed mats are water-resistant and colorful. Nearly 100 hours of labor is expended to complete a 36 by 72 inch mat.



Kassi Longstreth and Andrea Rivera learn to crochet plastic bags with the guidance of SEAS parishioners Lucy Mensor and Dorothy Gardner.

by 72 inch plastic mat. The Ladies of Charity have made dozens of the soft and durable mats, donating them to Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh.

**NEWS** Freshman **Jamie Cabili** secured first place in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in February. With guidance from biology teacher **William Palonis**, Jamie committed over four weeks to growing plants and conducting experiments to determine if various environmental factors affect the transport of nutrients through the tissues of plants. She presented her findings before a panel of judges and was awarded the opportunity to compete at the state level in May at Penn State University in St. College.

**NEWS** The Carlynton High School boys and girls swim team finished an unprecedented season with both teams winning the section title and sending over a dozen swimmers to the WPIAL championships at the University of Pittsburgh. A cooperative agreement with Bishop Canevin accounts for a full roster and has contributed to the teams' motivation, along with the capable coaching of **Michael Scheidnerlochner** and **Emily Brill**. In the 200 free, senior **Luke Ulizzi** set a new school record and



Standing before the pool's record board are swimmers Avery Brehm, Kevin MacMurdo, Connor Gaitens and Luke Ulizzi who set a new record in the 400 freestyle. Connor attends Bishop Canevin; a co-op between the two schools strengthens numbers for the boys' team.

qualified for the PIAA state tournament. The girls 200 free relay comprised of seniors **Eva Zenk** and sophomores **Isabel Irwin, Katie Kozy** and **Juliette Lopez** finished seventh in WPIALS and the boys 400 relay team with seniors **Connor Gaitens** and **Luke Ulizzi**, junior **Kevin MacMurdo** and sophomore **Avery Brehm** placed sixth and set a new school record. Overall, the final WPIAL team standings ranked the boys and girls teams in 13th place out of 54 teams in the section. Competing in the PIAA state meet at Bucknell University, Luke Ulizzi placed 20th in the 200 free and 16th in the 500 free, qualifying for All-State Honorable Mention.

**NEWS** In March, nearly 200 elementary and middle school students were invited to an Atlantic 10 Basketball Championship School Day held in the PPG Paints Arena. The event was designed with the Atlantic 10 to support the Pittsburgh Penguin Foundation's mission of promoting physical fitness, encouraging teamwork and emphasizing education. Students listened to special guest speaker, Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman, who spoke about the importance of focusing on academics, citizenship, sportsmanship and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Lieberman is a former professional women's basketball player and coach and played on the USA Olympic women's basketball team. A highlight of the day was the chance for students to watch the second round games of the Atlantic 10 men's basketball championships. For many of the young spectators, it was their first visit to PPG Paints Arena and a lone opportunity to witness a basketball tournament at the collegiate level.

**NEWS** Seventh graders **Azjia Gardner, Pierce Greiner, Audrey Robb** and eighth grader Martial Delrosario captured a first place victory at the annual Fluid Power Challenge sponsored by Wojanis Hydraulic Supply Company. Working in teams of four, the middle school students were given supplies and challenged to design and build a mechanism using balsa wood and rubber tubing. The device was built and pretested prior to the competition, taken apart and reconstructed on site during a timed challenge. Once reassembled, students used a large syringe, filled with

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# MAKING HEADLINES *continued*



**First place Fluid Power Challenge winners Audrey Robb, Martial Delrosario, Pierce Greiner and Azjia Gardner.**

water, to force fluid through tubing and cause the device to move. The fluid power caused an arm or extension of the mechanism to pick up and move a block of wood from one location to another. The STEM competition is designed to provoke creative thinking combined with hands on activity. Prizes are awarded by engineers who serve as judges. Accolades are

presented for the best portfolio of documented work, teamwork, design and functionality.



A K-12 district-wide Music and Arts Extravaganza was held in a lower level studio inside the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall on March 24-25. 90 pieces of student artwork



**Crafton Elementary first grader Cale Heinrichs stands before a cheerful self-portrait.**

was exhibited, covering the four walls and a number of tables and free-standing displays. The event also showcased student musicians who performed eloquently in sets during the two-day



**Musical ensembles performed at intervals during the two-day extravaganza, showcasing some of the finest musicians in grades four to 12.**

gala. A concert was held in the grand music hall at the conclusion of the two day event, featuring a combined ensemble of musicians in grades four through 12. The Music and Arts Extravaganza is an outgrowth of Tied to the Arts. The showcase in the historic building provided the perfect backdrop and was warmly supported by ACFL&MH Executive Director Maggie Forbes. Artwork displays remained open to the public through April 2. Well-deserved praise was conveyed to music teachers



Elementary and middle school students enrolled in gifted education programs have enjoyed a successful year. At the annual

Battery Car Challenge hosted by Duquesne University, Carlynton had teams place at both the elementary and middle school levels. Fifth graders Wilson Choate, Sean Hart and Chikamso Orji brought home a first place trophy by dwarfing opponents at the racing event. A few days later, seventh graders Michael Kozy, Lukas Prepelka and Owen Schriver duplicated the victory with a first place win. The battery car race is a STEM activity that encourages participants to engineer a battery-powered vehicle. Students begin with a kit comprised of plastic wheels, a piece of foam board, metal axle, drinking straw, battery pack, motor and two AA batteries. A design with an aerodynamic framework does not always guarantee a victory; wheels flying off or a bad motor can cause grief. Careful strategies and trial and error often correspond to the speed and distance the car will travel a



**First place battery car winners at the elementary level included fifth graders Sean Hart, Chikamso Orji and Wilson Choate.**

distance of 20 meters. Races are held in heats with the fastest cars pitted against one another in a final round. The gifted program is facilitated by Cynthia Eddy who organizes and guides students through a litany of monthly activities



**Michael Kozy, Owen Schriver and Lukas Prepelka brought home a first place trophy at the middle school level.**

and job shadowing opportunities. Math, science and history competitions, literature festivals, creative conventions, career fairs and educational boot camps are just a few of the many activities available to interested learners.





High school art students used sneakers to create art. Representing the City of Pittsburgh, its symphony and famed artist Andy Warhol, the shoes were one of several popular displays at the art exhibit.

**Russ Pedersen, Mark Priore and Todd Obidowski** and art teachers **Diane Criste, Michelle Dzurenda and Marlynn Vayanos** who collaborated to create the gallery of student work and devoted weeks to plan and prepare for the event.

**NEWS** Nearly two dozen Carlynton students in grades 9-12 are involved in the Stand Together Service Learning Project offered by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and the Office of Behavioral Health. The teens receive regular training and are working to develop creative service learning projects to build mental health awareness campaigns. The Stand Together program engages youths through anti-stigma experiences in an effort to reduce negative attitudes toward mental illness, including depression, social isolation, suicidal thoughts and self-harm. The program provides enlightenment and support by uniting teens with and without behavioral health issues. The training also educates students by providing instruction for marketing techniques, budgeting skills and developing positive social media messaging by way of blogs or other web platforms.

**NEWS** The Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club and Junior Achievement hosted an annual Rotary Leadership and Ethics Institute at La Roche College in March. Interact Club members **Kellie Lesniak, Andrea Rivera and Janise Williams** attended the day-long conference, experiencing workshops that defined the topics of motivation, leadership, negotiating unexpected life experiences, organizational skills and financing college. During breakout sessions, the girls contributed to panel discussions regarding social media, fake news, politics, ethical leadership and career choices. Returning to the high school, the girls

were able to share and discuss the issues that stood out above others with peers during an Interact Club meeting.

**NEWS** Senior **Lorin Welsh** represented the district at the 2017 SHASDA Student Forum held March 16 at Upper St. Clair High School. SHASDA is an acronym for South Hills Area School Districts Association. The association consists of superintendents from school districts located in the south and western regions of the Pittsburgh area. Meetings are held monthly to discuss topics related to public education. Annually in March, SHASDA sponsors a student forum, bringing high school upperclassmen together to discuss relevant issues. College and career choices was the topic of the March 16 forum and students discussed this theme with peers and superintendents.



Superintendent Dr. Gary Peiffer with senior Lorin Welsh.

**NEWS** Music in Our Schools was showcased at Crafton Elementary in late March with concert performances by the third and fourth grades in the school's auditorium. "Music is the cornerstone of our culture and holds a profound expression of our history," explained music teacher **Mark Priore**. By celebrating Music in Our Schools, students highlighted the rich history of music education in America by singing tunes written by Stephen Foster, Francis Scott Key, John Denver, Henry Mancini and the Beatles. The performance also included songs sang in French and Spanish and melodies from Les Miserable, Mary Poppins and other popular Broadway musicals.

**NEWS** The Carlynton Education Foundation hosted "A Taste of Carlynton" at Chartiers Country Club in April. The well-attended evening featured an array of delicious culinary bites from 13 local caterers, restaurants, bakeries and confectionaries. The event also highlighted a "Fund It Now Campaign" providing the opportunity for individuals to financially support classroom projects. The Best Bite of the Night was awarded by popular vote to Crafton-based gourmet caterer Lady Fingers. Overall, the event raised \$9,750, all of which will benefit the

students and teachers of the district. In the past two years, the Foundation has funded over \$10,000 in mini grants to subsidize innumerable purposes such as educational field trips, solar calculators, iPads, African drums, alternative seating for classrooms and a sensory room.

**NEWS** The Rosslyn Farms Community Garden committee graciously extended an invitation to the teachers of the junior-senior high school to utilize a plot in a fenced off community garden located on Rosslyn Road. Last fall, biology teacher **William Palonis** and a number of students decided to use the 8 x 22 foot plot to grow tulip and daffodil bulbs. In October a group of AP Biology and National Honor Society students planted 300 bulbs on a Saturday morning. Just before spring break, the vibrant blooms with bulbs were harvested by teens in AP Bio classes and preserved in individual plastic pots. The flowers were then distributed to teachers and staff in the junior-senior high school, brightening faces with the unexpected gesture. Some of the daffodil bulbs remaining in the garden were relocated to school grounds and transplanted around the cougar near the auditorium entrance. In addition to the garden in Rosslyn Farms, a peer to peer environmental science class taught by **Mrs. Elizabeth Jones** planted and nurtured vegetable seedlings in the school's greenhouse. The growing plants, targeted for the Crafton Community Garden and the sixth grade garden at Carnegie Elementary, were distributed late April and sowed in their designated beds.



Piper Stevens, Janise Williams, Will Ford, Skyler Sevakco and Sophia Carrasco transplant blooming tulips and daffodils into pots with soil.

**NEWS** The Crafton-Ingram Rotary sponsored the Rotary's annual spelling bee on April 5 in the Crafton Community Center. Third graders from

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# MAKING HEADLINES *continued*



The top Crafton spellers, Connor Boyer, champion Thomas Gargis and runner-up Gabriella Adams.

Crafton Elementary, St. Philip School in Crafton and Burkett Elementary in the Montour School District were invited to participate in the word challenge. Some 30 students took part in the bee. Crafton Elementary children **Thomas Gargis**, **Gabriella Adams** and **Connor Boyer**, who correctly spelled words presented to them, placed first, second and third in the competition, respectively. Thomas and Gabriella, the last two youngsters standing, battled for the win by spelling the word "actively." Thomas prevailed and became the spelling champion by correctly spelling "discover." The three finalists received a certificate of achievement and monetary gifts. Thomas will advance to a District Rotary Spell-off at Seven Springs Resort in June. (After this issue went to press, third graders from Carnegie Elementary competed in a spelling bee sponsored by the Carnegie-Collier Rotary. Results from the bee will be published in the next InCarlynton).



Hats off to the food service department for receiving a Four Diamond Award for zero violations during a Kitchen Health Inspection conducted by the Allegheny County Health Department. The high school cafeteria staff coordinates all breakfast and lunch preparations and satellites meals to the elementary schools. The random testing occurred during a week of PSSA testing when schedules are rearranged and breakfast and lunch demands are higher. Nevertheless, the tireless staff triumphed and passed the inspection with commendations.



The Carnegie Elementary Amazing Alternative Club sold t-shirts to raise funds for a Buddy Bench to

be placed near the school's playground. A Buddy Bench is a special seating area identified for students who feel lonely or sad. When other students notice a child sitting on the bench, they can offer a kind word and invite them to join in a group activity during recess. **Julie Lewis**, teacher and sponsor of the club said the bench will be used to promote compassion. "Sometimes it's hard to ask to be included so the bench will eliminate the need to ask," she said. The Amazing Alternatives Club focuses on making the school and community a better place. This year alone,

members completed a number of service projects such as hosting a Random Act of Kindness week, collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, making decorations for the high school Best Buddies Dance and more.



Carnegie Elementary science teacher **Scott Donnelly** has been selected to attend a space academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. All costs associated with travel, tuition, room and board were awarded by Honeywell Hometown Solutions as a

The high school marching band traveled to Nashville, Tennessee in April for a three day excursion and performance before the historic Grand Ole Opry. Band members and chaperones experienced tours of the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Ryman Auditorium and the Louisville Slugger Factory and Museum. At the popular Wildhorse Saloon, teens enjoyed lunch and a lesson in line dancing. Watching a live performance at the Grand Ole Opry was



The band received a warm welcome as they performed on the grounds on the Grand Ole Opry.



one of the last occurrences of the event-filled trip before a long bus ride home. Band director **Todd Obidowski** said a highlight of the trip involved a visit to an RCA studio where the band accomplished live recordings of several songs including the school's alma mater.



During a tour of the Louisville Slugger Museum, miniature bats with names engraved were given to all band members, serving as a perfect memorial of the trip.



A band trip to Nashville included tours and entertainment in many popular sites including the chance to see a performance at the Grand Old Opry House.



corporate citizenship initiative made possible by contributions from Honeywell employees. During the week-long academy in June, Mr. Donnelly will participate in a professional development program with other educators to learn innovative techniques to edify and inspire students about STEM education and careers in math and science. Some of the planned lessons include engineering and thermal design challenges, living and working in space and the history of the space program. "I expect learning in the classroom to be heightened by engaging, real-world lessons that hone team work and problem-solving skills across all subjects, not just science," Donnelly said. The Honeywell Educators Space Academy will convey lessons, materials and strategies to further invigorate teaching approaches in class. Donnelly said he hopes to build upon the tools he has brought back from other academies he has attended in the past, most recently, the Phil Michelson ExxonMobile Teachers Academy. Donnelly also received word last month that he is the recipient of a 2017 Engineering is Elementary scholarship. This fully-funded professional development opportunity will take place at the end of June in the Museum of Science in Boston.

**NEWS** Nominated for the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizens award, Carlynton seniors **Stephanie Bonifield**, **Sofia Carrasco** and **Will Ford** were named to the Elite Top 100. The Elite Top 100 were hand-picked from a pool of 630 nominations representing 97 schools in the region. Stephanie, Sofia and Will, with parents, were honored this spring at a banquet held in the North Hills. The students were selected for excelling in the classroom, involvement in extra-



Elite 100 Outstanding Young Citizens Will Ford, Sofia Carrasco and Stephanie Bonifield.



Carnegie Elementary third graders celebrated Earth Day by collecting and properly disposing litter in Carnegie Park.



In celebration of Earth Day, third graders walked from Carnegie Elementary to Carnegie Park to collect and properly dispose of litter along the roadside and in the park. Science teacher Heidi Aitken led the excursion, along with teachers Deborah Bombich and Lysie Merglowski. The stroll to the park included lessons about the environment as students did their part in preserving the earth and beautifying the community.

curricular activities and for demonstrating exemplary character, leadership and citizenship.



Stuart Dougherty carries a bucket of mulch as he makes his way along the nature trail.



Senior **Stuart Daugherty** decided to make upgrades to the nature trail located on the high school campus in an effort to earn Eagle Scout rank. Stuart, along with volunteers from his family and troop, spend three Saturdays in April clearing fallen timber, mulching and manicuring the trails, affixing identification signs to trees, installing bird houses and painting layers of protective stain on picnic tables at the base of the footpath. Fencing was also installed around the picnic area. The

nature trail is used as an outdoor learning classroom and weaves alongside a dry basin on the edge of school property. The trail was originally created in 2006 by the son of biology teacher **Bill Palonis**, who was also working toward Eagle Scout rank.



The 11th annual Crafton Elementary basketball game at the end of April featured **Principal Marsha Burleson**, psychologist **Rebecca Braithwaite** and teachers **Robin Banyai**, **Michelle Dzurenda**, **Josh Ficorilli**, **Dan Kuhn**, **Katelyn Neal** and **Bridget Ward** in a series of games against three teams of sixth grade students. The fun-filled night, held in the high school gym, included concessions and auction baskets and also featured a game of teachers versus parents and a final contest of students versus parents. The Carlynton Cougar mascot (senior **Adam Follmer**) added entertainment to the evening, sometimes snatching the basketball or bantering with the referees. The annual event is sponsored by the PTA and proceeds benefit field trips and classroom parties.

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Friendly competition made for a fun evening when sixth grade teams faced off with teachers in the annual basketball match-up.



# MAKING HEADLINES *continued*



Junior **John (J.P.) Cantwell**

was declared 2017 Mr.

Carlynton in a pageant held April 22. The annual event drew surprise and laughter as contestants rivaled to capture a gold medal in a competition skewed on an Olympic theme.

Participants put on game faces to flaunt a talent or skill, guess the answers to trivia questions about past Olympians and display a flair for fashion. Seniors **Brandon Cantley, Stuart Dougherty, Adam Follmer, Will Ford, Collin Fox, Ian Kobistek, Jordan Lange, Barry Lewellyn, Logan Witwicky** and juniors **John Cantwell, Ian Gallagher, Logan Niehoff** and **Kolyn Schneider** were introduced during a parade of nations, waving flags of various countries. During a formalwear competition, the boys, with escorts, swaggered across the stage sporting tuxedos, graciously donated for the evening by Men's Wearhouse. In the closing ceremony, judges (teachers **Michelle Dzurenda, Anthony**

**Istik, Michael Kozy, Lindsey Smith and Matt Stagl**) tallied scores to declare J.P. as the gold medal winner. Stuart Dougherty was dubbed Mr. Congeniality, nominated by the contestants, and Collin Fox won People's Choice Award by popular vote. Proceeds from the event benefitted the junior and senior classes. **Mrs. Tracy Post**, teacher and senior class sponsor, organized the event with the help of class officers and volunteers.



Mr. Carlynton pageant opened with a hilarious choreographed dance that was anything but graceful.



The 2017 Mr. Carlynton contestants with gold medal winner J.P. Cantwell, who thanked the judges, his parents and friends for their vote of confidence.

## 2017-2018 School Year Calendar

<b>August 18</b>	First Day of School	<b>February 19</b>	President's Day Observance
<b>September 4</b>	Labor Day Holiday, No school	<b>March 28</b>	Third Report Card Distribution
<b>September 14</b>	Junior-Senior High School Open House	<b>March 29-April 2</b>	Spring Holiday Break
<b>September 15</b>	In Service Day, No school for students	<b>April 9-13</b>	PSSA Testing, English/Language Arts
<b>October 12</b>	Elementary Schools' Open House	<b>April 16-20</b>	PSSA Testing, Math
<b>October 13</b>	In Service Day, No school for students	<b>April 23-26</b>	PSSA Testing, Science
<b>November 3</b>	First Report Card Distribution	<b>April 27</b>	In Service Day, No school for students
<b>November 7</b>	In Service Day, No school for students	<b>May 14-25</b>	Spring Keystone Exams at JSHS
<b>November 10</b>	Veteran's Day Holiday, No school	<b>May 18-23</b>	Senior Final Exams
<b>November 23-27</b>	Thanksgiving Holiday Break	<b>May 22- June 1</b>	Underclassmen Final Exams
<b>December 4-15</b>	Winter Keystone Exams at JSHS	<b>May 24</b>	School Picnic Day at Kennywood Park, No school
<b>December 25 - January 1</b>	Winter Holiday Break	<b>May 25</b>	Junior-Senior Prom, No school
<b>January 3-11</b>	Senior/Underclassmen Mid-Term Exams	<b>May 28</b>	Memorial Day, No school
<b>January 8-22</b>	Winter Keystone Exams at JSHS	<b>June 1</b>	Senior Commencement and Last Day of School
<b>January 11</b>	End of First Semester		Fourth Report Card Period Distribution
<b>January 15</b>	Martin L. King, Jr. Observance Day		Summer Keystone Exams at JSHS
<b>January 22</b>	Second Report Card Distribution		
<b>January 26</b>	The 100th Day of School		
<b>February 16</b>	In Service Day, No school for students		
		<b>July 30-August 3</b>	

**School Cancellation Make-up Days: February 19, March 29, April 2 and June 4.**



# Academic All-Stars

## 58 inducted into honor societies

A ceremony for those who excel academically was held April 20 in the high school auditorium. 58 students in grades seven to 12 were inducted into the National and Junior Honor Societies.

**Principal Michael Loughren** welcomed parents and described the students before him as all-stars. "Tonight we honor the best of the best," he said.

NHS president **Sofia Carassco** provided an overview of the community service accomplishments the organization has enjoyed in the past year. Planting flowers for the Western Pa Conservancy in May along I-376 near the Fort Pitt Tunnels will wrap up a lengthy list of gratuitous projects. Other officers of the high school honor society, **Olivia Cindrich, Sage Figura, Storm Figura, Skyler Sevacko and junior high officers Faith Aliano, Benjamin Carothers, Elizabeth Duffy and Savannah Sevacko** came forward to light a candle on a table to represent the qualities of a honor society member: character, scholarship, leadership, service and citizenship. The formal ceremony concluded with the induction of the societies newest members.



Junior high officer Elizabeth Duffy lights a candle during the formal ceremony. The lighting of each candle represented specific characteristics of an honor society member.



Freshman Haley Williams signs her name in a book of registry following induction into the National Honor Society.

Recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments, the following students were inducted into the honor societies and sealed membership by writing their name in a book of registry:

- ★ Senior **Kellie Lesniak**
- ★ Sophomores **Phoebe Appel, Molly Badger, Kayla Glumac, Kira Gossard, Maclaine Greiner, Morgan Harding, David Holderbaum, Arabella Hunt, Isabel Irwin, Katherine Kozy, Natalie Latta, Gabriel Prepelka, Claire Schriver, Daniel Schultz, Mason Small, Maria Smereka, Elias Ward, Andrew Weimer, Rachel Welsh and Kayla Wilson**
- ★ Freshmen **Ashlea Haigh, Yuriy Korenovskyi, Madison McMonagle, Evan Staker and Haley Williams**
- ★ Eighth graders **Desmond Corrado, Martial Delrosario, Andrew Engleka, Megan Henke, Zachary Holderbaum, Jonah Hunt, Hunter Kietz, Natali Lutsiv, Brooke Martineck, Sara MacMurdo, Sofia Notaro, Reece Smith, Emmaline Stevens and Jaime Williams**
- ★ Seventh graders **Savannah Caruso, Mary Duffy, Eleanora Exler, Abigail Fox, Kathryn Fox, Azjia Gardner, Layne Harman, Alexis Jones, Gwen Kalimon, Michael Kozy, Ethan O'Brien, Sarah Pallus, Brooklynne Prepelka, Lukas Prepelka, Audrey Robb, Alyssa Schepis, Owen Schriver and Ava Thompson.**

Miss Jamie Sonnie is the advisor of the National Honor Society and Mrs. Marisa Rusinko serves as advisor for the National Junior Honor Society. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the cafeteria for honored students and guests.

Earlier in the month, a National Vocational Technical Honor Society ceremony was held to pay tribute to the brightest students from Parkway West Career and Technical Center. Carlynton junior **Dominic Darenkamp** and sophomore **Brandon Griffin** were inducted into this choice society. Vocational students spend the morning at Parkway and return to Carlynton for lunch and afternoon academic classes. Dominic is enrolled in the Cosmetology program at the career-technical center while Brandon is receiving training in sports, medicine and rehabilitation therapy.

# Meet Dr. Rachel Andler, Director of Special Education



**Dr. Rachel Andler**

"Kids first" is the mantra of new Director of Special Education, **Dr. Rachel Andler**. This perky and approachable addition to the Pupil Services Department comes with a wealth of experience and qualifications.

Formerly from the Brownsville Area School District, Dr. Andler most recently held the title of Curriculum Coordinator and Director of Special Education, a position she retained for five years. Prior to that, she was Dean of Students and a secondary math teacher for six years.

A native to the Brownsville area and a graduate of Brownsville Area High School, Dr. Andler's career in education was rooted in the school district. A desire to grow was realized when she was hired for special education chief in the Carlynton School District. Dr. Andler succeeds former special education coordinator **Dr. Hillary Mangis** who departed in March to become a special education consultant for PATTAN Pittsburgh.

"Dr. Andler's composure, administrative background and comprehensive knowledge of special education caused her to stand out above others during an extensive interview process," said **Superintendent Dr. Gary Peiffer**.

With year of experience, Dr. Andler has fostered strong principles and developed an appreciation for the value of special education and the support system it offers to students. In her short time at Carlynton, she is already advocating the wealth of resources available to students, including the convenience of a school-based mental health program. "I am impressed by the collaboration of the administrative team and the genuine concern shown to students by school psychologists and counselors," she remarked. Among a list of items to undertake, Dr. Andler will strive to build rapport with students and parents and plans to build upon the interventions already in place for pupils.

Dr. Andler completed undergraduate work at California University of Pennsylvania and later earned a Master's degree and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She also holds certifications in school leadership for various supervisory roles.

Making her home in nearby Canonsburg, Dr. Andler finds to time spoil a Golden Doodle named Tucker and a Dachshund dubbed The Duke. She is excited to plant her feet in the Carlynton community and cultivate a broad range of opportunities for students.

Also new to the Pupil Services Department is Secretary **Rachel Whoolery**, a former aide from Crafton Elementary. Rachel attended Edinboro University of PA and replaces **Rozanne Donovan** who retired from the position in March.