

# *Congratulations to the*

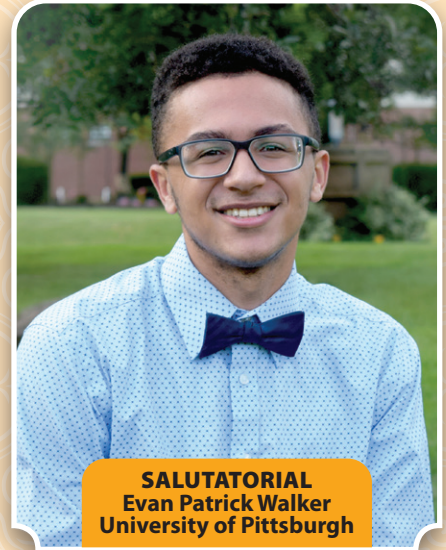
## **CLASS OF 2021**



## **THE TOP 10**



**VALEDICTORIAN**  
Reece William Smith  
Allegheny College



**SALUTATORIAL**  
Evan Patrick Walker  
University of Pittsburgh



Emmaline Marie Stevens  
Penn State University



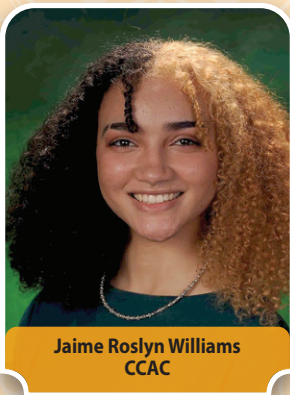
Desmond Michael Corrado  
Allegheny College



Abigail Elizabeth Zijin McClain  
Mercyhurst University



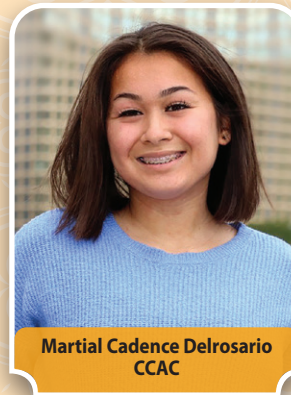
Andrew Kenneth Engleka  
Penn State University



Jaime Roslyn Williams  
CCAC



Amanda Carol Zijin McClain  
Mercyhurst University



Martial Cadence Delrosario  
CCAC



Jonah Freeborn Hunt  
Ohio University



## MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021

Mohammed Khir Mahmoud Alhariri  
Zeyad Alhosryah  
Katelyn Brianne Artascos  
Brenna Katherine Ault  
Levi Stephen Blystone  
Logan Riley Bracken  
Leigha May Brooks  
Eric Alexander Mendoza Burcham  
Alaiyah Michelle Burks  
Abbygale Ethel Charnik  
Cade Nicholas Chauvet  
Evan Michael Chuchiak  
Madison Elizabeth Ciabattoni  
Collin Joseph Connor  
Michael Richard Constantine  
\*Desmond Michael Corrado  
Rodrigo Travis Corral  
Derek Alan Creely  
Ian Scott Creely  
\*Martial Cadence Delrosario  
Hayley Marie DeSimone  
Heather Lynn DeSimone  
Chloe Xana Diethorn  
Michael Thomas Donohue  
Haley Elizabeth Duffy  
\*Andrew Kenneth Engleka  
Ryon Jamie Egan

Richard Dennis Ferris Jr.  
Morgan Ashley Floyd  
Robert John Good  
Jaleesa Nichole Griffin  
Joshua Louis Grondziowski  
Ryan Joseph Guzzi  
Adam Tyler Haas  
Hamid Heidari  
\*Megan Jennifer Henke  
Nathan Orion Henry  
\*Zachary Thomas Holderbaum  
\*Jonah Freeborn Hunt  
Madison Richelle Jameson  
Nicholas Lazor Levenson  
Marco Enrico Lopez  
\*Natali Lutsiv  
\*Sara Ann MacMurdo  
Brooke Marie Martinek  
Amanda Michele Masdea  
Brooke Marielle Maxwell  
\*Abigail Elizabeth Zijin McClain  
Amanda Carol Ziyin McClain  
Darius Elijah McClendon  
Sophia Marie McKinney  
Oleg Melnyk  
Margret Mary Morvay  
Christopher Joseph Mozurak

Riley Connor Neil  
\*Sofia Gianna Notaro  
Kathleen Elizabeth Perino  
Page Elizabeth Pierre  
Andrew David Pinchot  
Anthony Lee Scheers  
Nicholas Robert Simcic  
Ashley Ivy Smith  
^\*Reece William Smith  
Luke Philip Steiner  
Emmaline Marie Stevens  
John Edward Stewart IV  
Benjamin Julien Takac  
Rose Kathleen Talmonti  
Tia Miranda Thomas  
Mylia Anne Turner  
Javone William Ubnoski  
\*Gina Marie Ulizzi  
~\*Evan Patrick Walker  
Emma Elizabeth Weiland  
Kaylin McKenzie Welsh  
\*Jamie Roslyn Williams  
Michael Angelo Wilson  
Evan Alan Yaros  
Kevin Zhang  
^Denotes Valedictorian; ~Salutatorian;  
\*National Honor Society Member

### STEP UP AND DO WHAT MUST BE DONE

We all now stand on a crux in our lives, with lofty decisions before us. Just as we buckled down and did what must be done to graduate, I believe we can all buckle down and **BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE.** We have the dedication, we have the skills, we have the heart to improve our lives and the lives of those around us. I implore all of you, the next time you see something in the community that must be done, tell yourself, **'SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT, IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ME,'** because we can't expect others to step up and do what must be done if we can't step up ourselves.

— Valedictorian Reece Smith, in his speech to classmates during the 2021 commencement ceremony



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Congressional Leadership Award – **Reece Smith**

U.S. Military Recognition – **Ian Creely**–US Army, **Nick Levenson**–US Air Force, **Oleg Melnyk**–Air National Guard and **Kevin Zhang**–US Air Force

The Pride of Carlynton Award – **Ryon Fagan** and **Sophia McKinney**

Scholastic Excellence Award – **Amanda McClain**

Semper Fidelis Awards for Musical Excellence – **Sara MacMurdo**

Distinguished Athlete Award – **Natali Lutsiv** and **Ryon Fagan**

The Maggie Scholarship – **Desmond Corrado**, **Ryon Fagan**, **Natali Lutsiv** and **Luke Steiner**

Peer Mentor Recognition – **Desmond Corrado**

Gay–Straight Alliance Leadership Recognition – **Kathleen Perino**, **Maggie Morvay** and **Natalee Windhorst**

Eagle Scout Award – **Reece Smith**

Carlynton Federation of Teachers AFT/AFL–Cio Textbook Grant – **Natali Lutsiv**

High School Consortium Awards – **Chloe Diethorn**, **Jonah Hunt**, **Abigail McClain** and **Sophie McKinney**

Excellence in Advance Placement Testing Awards – **Desmond Corrado**, **Martial Delrosario**, **Andrew Engleka**, **Jonah Hunt**, **Abigail McClain**, **Kathleen Perino**, **Reece Smith**, **Emmaline Stevens**, **Evan Walker** and **Jaime Williams**

SAT 700 Club (scored 700 or above on the SAT) – **Martial Delrosario**, **Jonah Hunt**, **Abigail McClain**, **Kathleen Perino**, **Reece Smith** and **Evan Walker**

Student Government Officers Recognition – President **Martial Delrosario** and Vice President **Evan Walker**

Senior Representatives in Student Government – **Desmond Corrado**, **Rodrigo Corral**, **Emmaline Stevens** and **Jaime Williams**

Senior Class Officers Award – President **Natali Lutsiv**, Vice President **Rodrigo Corral** and Secretary **Gina Ulizzi**

Senior Yearbook Awards – **Maggie Morvay**, **Kathleen Perino** and **Evan Walker**

Cougar Times Award – **Abigail McClain**, **Maggie Morvay** and **Kathleen Perino**

Art Appreciation Awards: “Outstanding Art Student in Graphic Design” – **Kathleen Perino**; “Outstanding Art Student in Crafts” – **Page Pierre**; and “Outstanding Art Student in Ceramics and

Sculpture” – **Abbygale Charnik** and **Kevin Zhang**

Foreign Language Exemplary Awards: Le Jules Verne French Award – **Eric Burcham**

Spanish Dual Enrollment Awards – **Desmond Corrado** and **Ryon Fagan**

Achievement in English Learning Award – **Mohammad Khir Alhariri**

Exemplary Achievement in English/Language Arts: “The Shel Silverstein Silver–Tongue Award” – **Emmaline Stevens**; “The Emily Dickinson Award” – **Evan Walker**

Exemplary Achievement in Social Studies: “We The People Award” – **Evan Walker**; “America Starts Here Award” – **Evan Yaros**

Exemplary Achievement in Math: **Reece Smith** and **Evan Walker**

Exemplary Achievement in Science: “Hardest Working Student in AP Bio” – **Sofia Notaro**; “Most Enthusiastic Student in AP Bio” – **Reece Smith**

National Honor Society Recognition: Pillar Society Award – **Reece Smith**; National Honor Society Officers – **Reece Smith**, president, **Desmond Corrado**, vice president and **Gina Ulizzi**, secretary

Female and Male Athlete of the Year – **Sara MacMurdo** and **Oleg Melnyk**

Female and Male Scholar Athlete of the Year – **Emmaline Stevens** and **Desmond Corrado**

Excellence in Broadcast Media Award: **Zachary Holderbaum**, **Jonah Hunt**, **Maggie Morvay**, **Gina Ulizzi** and **Evan Walker**

Carlynton Drama Awards: Lifetime Achievement in Performing Arts – **Zachary Holderbaum**, **Maggie Morvay** and **Rose Talmonti**; Performing Arts Rising Stars – **Robert Good**, **Sophia McKinney** and **Kathleen Perino**; Outstanding Actor Award – **Evan Walker**; Debut Star Performer – **Gina Ulizzi**

Arion Music Award – **Zachary Holderbaum**

Linda Beck Memorial Scholarship – **Megan Henke**

The John Philip Sousa Award – **Sofia Notaro**

The Director’s Award for Band – **Evan Walker**

Parkway Achievement Awards: Tallo Scholarship – **Hayley DeSimone**, Healthcare Occupations Technology; Outstanding Senior and High Honors – **Amanda McClain**, Graphic Arts and Production Technology; Honors – **Leigha Brooks**, Veterinary Assistant Technology,

**Michael Constantine**, Graphic Arts and Production Technology, **Hayley DeSimone**, Healthcare Occupations Technology, **Jaleesa Griffin**, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Therapy Technology and **Evan Yaros**, Cyber Security and Network Technology.

Parkway Challenge Program Senior Awards: STEM – **Amanda McClain**, Graphic Arts and Production Technology; Community Service – **Hayley DeSimone**, Healthcare Occupations Technology

Parkway National Technical Honor Society: **Michael Constantine**, Graphic Arts and Production Technology, **Hayley DeSimone**, Healthcare Occupations Technology, **Jaleesa Griffin**, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Therapy Technology, **Amanda McClain**, Graphic Arts and Production Technology, **Christopher Mozurak**, Public Safety Technology and **Evan Yaros**, Cyber Security and Network Technology

Parkway Skills USA District Award Winners: **Kira Hill** for photography – first place; **Amanda McClain** for design – third place



**1.** Recipients of the Maggie Scholarship, a one-time gift of \$5,000, was presented to Desmond Corrado, Ryon Fagan, Natali Lutsiv and Luke Steiner at the senior awards night ceremony.

**2.** The senior awards night presented the opportunity to recognize those in the Class of 2021 who will enter the military. Science teacher David Cosnek presented certificates of honor to Oleg Melnyk, Kevin Zhang and Ian Creely (missing from photo: Nick Levenson) Mr. Cosnek is a Lieutenant Colonel of the Pa Air National Guard, a KC-135 pilot and Operations Officer for the 146th Air Refueling Squadron.





**3.** Graduates Maggie Morvay and Jonah Hunt applauded the comments made by senior class president Natali Lutsiv, who offered the opening remarks of the 2021 commencement ceremony.

**4.** Class of 2021 Salutatorian Evan Walker delivered a speech before his peers, dramatically debating the universal question, "what do you want to be when you grow up?"



**5.** Proud graduate Ryan Guzzi looked to his parents in the stadium stands and gave them a thumbs up.

**6.** Number one in his class, Reece Smith made the walk from his seat to the podium to accept his well-earned diploma.

**7.** Katelyn Artsacos cheerfully and proudly accepted her diploma from Principal Michael Loughren.

**8.** Graduate Eric Burcham accepted his diploma and a kiss from his proud mom and school board member, Dr. Marissa Mendoza.

**9.** Adam Haas received a hug and a diploma from his friend and principal. Throughout the school years, Adam willingly visited Mr. Loughren's office almost daily to share about his day.

**10.** Senior class secretary Gina Ulizzi shaded her eyes from the sun to find her family in the stands.

**11.** Sisters Abigail and Amanda McClain gave one another an exultant high five as they crossed paths after Amanda received her diploma and Abigail makes her way to the podium.



**12.** Graduates moved the tassel on their caps from the right to the left to symbolize an important right of passage.

**13.** Excitement and shouts of glee rang out while caps were tossed into the air by graduates as the commencement ceremony concluded.

**14.** Friends and family gathered following commencement proceedings for photos to capture the special occasion. In this photo, graduate Nicholas Levenson was embraced by family while a photo was taken to commemorate the special occasion.



# SENSATIONAL SIXTH GRADERS RISE ABOVE

Despite an unusual and unprecedented school year that was filled with many challenges, the sixth grade students of Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools demonstrated sensational aptitude by rising above the trials, working incredibly hard and persistently finding a way to make the best of difficult circumstances! When the school year ended, students were rewarded for their diligence with some fun events to close out sixth grade, with the promise of heading to the junior-senior high school in the fall.

In late May, students enjoyed competing in the "Sixth Grade Olympics," a friendly test-of-skill and agility conceived by health and physical education teacher **Joshua Ficorilli**. Events included a 40-yard dash, a free throw shot challenge, a soccer ball goal kick (for accuracy) and a long jump competition. While the event was mostly a fun, open-play atmosphere, some noteworthy competition occurred among homerooms and even against the teachers, with plenty of cheering and excitement!

Those capturing the top awards from Carnegie included long jump leaders **Grayson Jodon** (6'11") and **Karma Smith** (6'4"), and the fastest 40-yard dashers were **Ian McGinnis**, **Dominic Mancini** and **Denyliz Rodriguez-Soto**, who collected the gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively.

At Crafton Elementary, gold medals were awarded to **Riley Mauro** and **Dimitri Valcheff** for athletic prowess. **Sophia O'Brien** and **Winston McCarthy** took home the silver while **Gianni Medici** and **Emery Delrosario** claimed the bronze medal.

Carnegie Elementary sixth grade teachers **Bethany Martys**, **Brooke Muraco** and **Jordon Roussos** reasoned that an untraditional school year called for an unconventional close to the students' last days as sixth graders. Instead of holding an awards assembly in the school, classmates and teachers walked to Carnegie Park on June 3rd for a picnic lunch and some social time. After lunch, students were presented with t-shirts and hoodies from the Carnegie Elementary PTA, a token in commemoration of their years at Carnegie Elementary and to symbolize unity as they make the move to seventh grade.

Before heading back to school, the teachers announced the winner of the prestigious Citizenship Award, **Jackson Kenney**! The award is presented to a student who exemplifies the qualities of a "good citizen" by displaying kindness, generosity, helpfulness and a willingness to be a friend to all. Jackson has exemplified these qualities throughout elementary school. He received a personalized plaque and his name will be added to the large plaque of past Citizenship Award winners that hangs in the lobby of the school.

Crafton Elementary sixth grade teachers **Bridget Ward** and **Maria Wisser** opted to hold a condensed awards ceremony for students. The esteemed Citizenship Award was presented to **Alexandrea Glass** and **Austin Gamble**, selected from a number of worthy candidates within the class who set themselves above the pack by always being prepared for class, exhibiting a willingness to help others, showing respect to peers and adults, and portraying an outstanding work ethic and sound character. The good citizens received a plaque, and as with Carnegie Elementary, their names will be added to a large plaque near the school's entrance. Due to

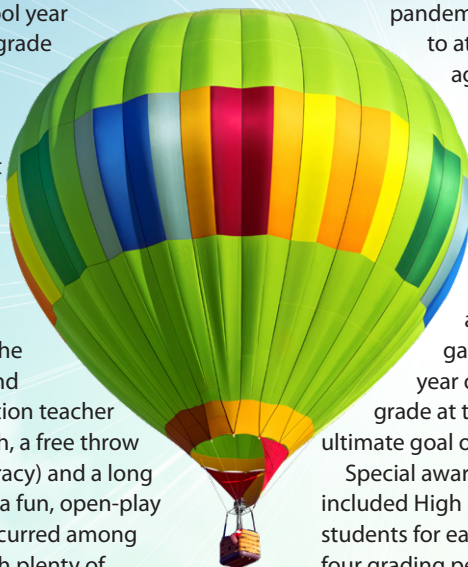
pandemic restrictions, parents were not permitted to attend the awards ceremony, but students again made the best of a not-so-normal situation while receiving special awards and a variety of classroom certificates for art achievement, service as a patrol sponsor, and more.

A walk to Oakmont Park followed the awards ceremony, where students participated in team-building activities and minute-win-it games. The afternoon gave students a chance to end the school year on a fun note before entering seventh grade at the big school on the hill and beginning the ultimate goal of becoming the Class of 2027!

Special awards presented to Crafton sixth graders included High Honor Roll Plaques, given to the following students for earning high honor roll at least three of the four grading periods: **Austin Gamble, Gianna Medici, Sophia O'Brien, Diana Thomas, Alexandria Glass, Riley Johnston, Aiden Perry, Dimitri Valcheff** and **Theos Valcheff**.

End-of-year honor roll certificates, for earning honor roll three out of four grading periods, were presented to **Augustine Hanover, Aiden Perry** and **Riley Mauro**.

Recipients of \$100 savings bonds as the "Hardest Working Students" went to **Sophia O'Brien** and **Onyx Walker**. The award is sponsored by the Crafton-Ingram Rotary, a committed community partner of Crafton Elementary.



Carnegie Elementary students Austin Gonze and Alexander Devlin test their skills by competing in a long jump exercise as part of the sixth grade Olympic days.



Carnegie Elementary Citizenship Award winner Jackson Kenney is surrounded by teachers Brooke Muraco, Jordon Roussos and Bethany Martys.



# FOURTH QUARTER SIXTH GRADE HONOR ROLL RECOGNITION

## CARNEGIE ELEMENTARY

### HIGH HONOR ROLL

Sai Anantharamakrishnan  
Emma Arnold  
Viva Brown  
Cyany Chihuahua-Carranza  
Zoey Harrist  
Mariyah Keen  
Jackson Keeney  
Ian McGinnis  
Mia Michalski  
Ethan Moldovan  
Ashley Mulligan  
Hannalee Nordeen  
Karma Smith

### HONOR ROLL

Isabella Cairns  
Mackenzie Gent  
Austin Gonze  
Braedy Hill  
Grayson Jodon  
Max Klein  
Dominic Mancini  
Christopher McGough

## CRAFTON ELEMENTARY

### HIGH HONOR ROLL

Austin Gamble  
Riley Mauro  
Gianna Medici  
Sophia O'Brien  
Diana Thomas  
Alexandrea Glass  
Augustine Hanover  
Riley Johnston  
Dimitri Valcheff  
Theos Valcheff

### HONOR ROLL

Kavion Harris  
Aiden Perry  
Ari Rullo  
Kody Shryock  
Landon Robinson  
Emery Delrosario  
Onyx Walker



Alexandrea Glass and Austin Gamble, the Crafton Elementary Citizenship Award winners, stand proudly with their plaques following a recognition ceremony.



Deemed the Hardworking Students of the Crafton Elementary sixth grade, Onyx Walker and Sophia O'Brien show off their certificates.



# COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS

In September of 1970, the newly constructed Carlynton High School open its doors to students. At the time, the state-of-the-art building welcomed individuals in grades 9-12, melding students from Carnegie and Crafton high schools for the first time. Previously rival high schools, Phyllis Timbario entered the school as a senior, and expected the worst. "It wasn't long before we became friends, realizing we shared a common bond with similar goals," she said.

On a sunny May 14th afternoon, Carlynton hosted a 50th anniversary party with a student-led celebration. Guided by senior class president **Natali Lutsiv**, Vice President **Rodrigo Corral** and Secretary **Gina Ulizzi**, the district welcomed a gathering of friendly faces to a ceremony designed to share the past through the eyes of today's students. The highlight of the event was the opening of a time capsule, sealed behind a cornerstone of the school in 1969.

The Carlynton School District was formed under the mandate of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in the mid-1960's. The name "Carlynton" was derived from the jointure of the three communities it comprised: CARnegie, RossLYN Farms and CraftON. Mary Penelope Thompson, a student of Crafton High School, came up with the unique moniker when a contest was held in 1967 to give the district its name.

Phyllis Timbario and classmate Daniel Chamberlin were members of Carlynton's first graduating class in 1971. They both spoke at the ceremony, sharing favorite memories. Dan Chamberlin elicited pride while recalling that the football team went undefeated that year, winning the Black Hills Conference.

Midway through the ceremony, Superintendent **John Kreider** revealed that the time capsule was dislodged from its hiding place in the days preceding the event. "As the capsule was pulled from the panel inside the wall, we detected the movement of liquid inside. Still sealed, we opened the capsule to find eight inches of water," he shared. The water, which officials believe was caused by condensation, destroyed the contents of the capsule.

The disappointing revelation didn't stop Timbario and Chamberlin, who were notified in advance, from sharing items they believed may have been in the capsule. They supplied a slide rule, an old flash camera, a rotary dial phone and 45 RPM vinyl records.

Individuals who attended the time capsule ceremony in 1969 recalled that yearbooks from Carnegie and Crafton high schools, money and a letter to future generations were placed in the capsule.

In exchange, class officers assembled a number of items to enclose in the capsule before it was resealed (in an airtight vacuum-sealed container): A Chromebook, an Apple iPhone, menus from local restaurants, face masks, a car key, a graphing calculator, a varsity letterman's letter, two InCarlynton magazines and a photo of the current school board.

The ceremony also included thoughts and memories shared by the Honorable Jack Kobistek, Board President Jim Schriver,

Principal Michael Loughren and the senior class officers. Natali Lutsiv praised biology teacher Bill Palonis for urging the students to celebrate the past with a ceremony underscored by the opening of the time capsule. "Whether you're a student, alumni, staff or a part of the community, I hope this event brings you feelings of nostalgia, appreciation and Carlynton pride," she said while addressing the crowd.

Tours of the school were offered to guests following the ceremony, along with refreshments. Visitors also had a chance to examine a large display containing old photos that showcased the construction of the school, snapshots of former students and administration and a plethora of memorabilia.



(Above) A time capsule was sealed in 1969 behind the cornerstone of Carlynton High School. (Below) The capsule was opened 51 years later only to discover that water had destroyed its contents.



A memory from the past; some fifty years ago, Carlynton's first administrators and members of the school board prepared to seal a time capsule within the cornerstone of the newly constructed Carlynton High School.







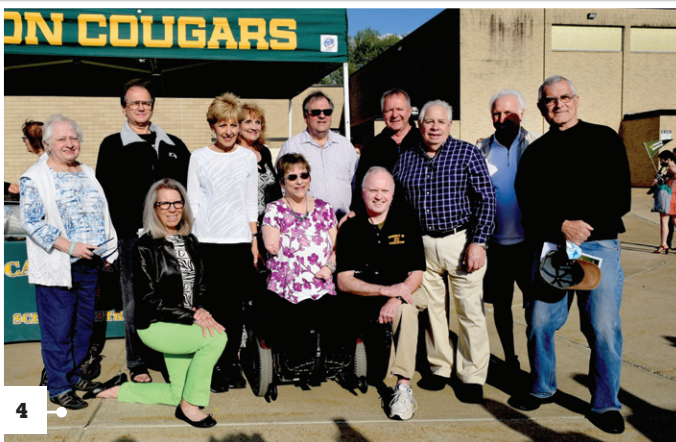
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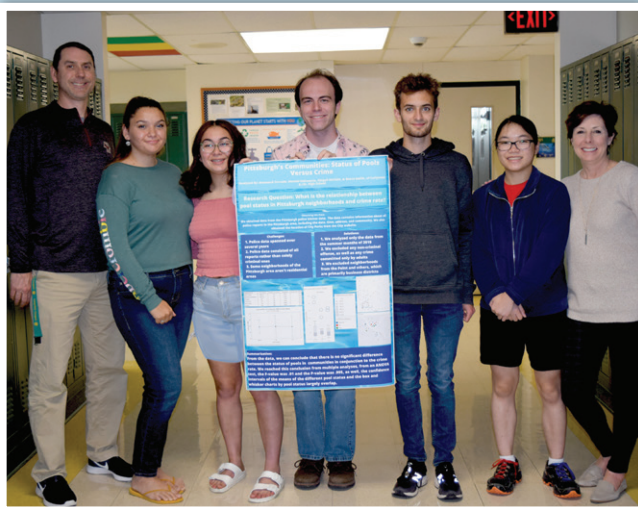
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- 1.** Senior class officers Natali Lutsiv, Rodrigo Corral and Gina Ulizzi divulged stories of the history of Carlynton while conveying a sense of pride. Rodrigo held up a plastic bag revealing all that was left of the contents of the time capsule after it was waterlogged and set out to dry.
- 2.** Dan Chamberlin and Phyllis Timbario, members of Carlynton's first graduating class, provided samples of popular items from their high school days, including a slide rule, a flash camera and 45 RPM records.
- 3.** Confetti cannons added a festive flair to the celebration and were set off among the crowd of guests after the alma mater was sung, led by senior Zachary Holderbaum.
- 4.** Some members of Carlynton's first graduating class, the Class of 1971, gathered for a photo following the ceremony.
- 5.** During the anniversary celebration, a historical collection of photos and memorabilia was on display in the school's courtyard for guests to view.
- 6.** Owen Schriver, Gwen Kalimon and Audrey Robb, members of the National Honor Society, led alumni and other visitors on guided tours of the school. Many lauded the changes and upgrades made to the building in the past 50 years, and reminisced of former classes and favorite teachers.



# Cougar Connection

PROMOTING COMMUNITY, EXCELLENCE AND CHARACTER



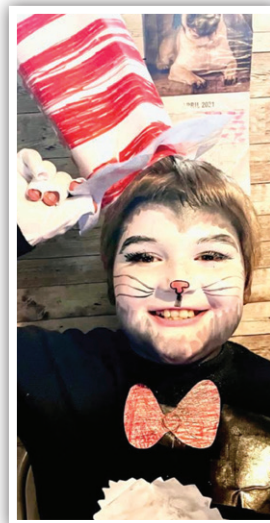
## DATA JAMMERS

▲ Recent seniors **Maggie Morvay**, **Martial Delrosario**, **Reece Smith**, **Desmond Corrado** and **Abigial McClain**, pictured with math teacher **Michael Kozy** and Gifted Education facilitator **Cynthia Eddy**, participated in a Data Jam tournament in May. The event was sponsored by Pittsburgh Data Works, a non-profit organization formed by software scientists from IBM, Oracle, Teradata, and Iqvia, as well as faculty from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University and the joint Pitt-CMU Supercomputer Center.

The Pittsburgh Data Jam is an academic competition for high school students in the Pittsburgh region, with a focus on educating teens about the use of big data to answer a research question. The Carlynton team conducted a statistical analysis and research to learn if crime is greater or less in communities that have a swimming pool, playgrounds or parks. With insight from statistics teacher Michael Kozy, the teens spent weeks researching and analyzing public police blotters of neighborhoods across the county to discover, much to their amazement, that a pool and/or playground did not make a difference in the crime rate within a community.

The Data Jam team presented their findings to a panel of judges, using the scientific data, a visual slide presentation and poster displays.

▲ Carnegie Elementary fourth graders held their second annual living wax museum in May, but due to the pandemic restrictions, the event was held virtually. Teacher **Julie Lewis** created a digital museum allowing viewers to enter a virtual lobby to locate a gallery of wax museum characters. Students, who chose a famous person to emulate, created personal videos while wearing a costume to imitate the persona of a legendary character and then provided factual information about the individual. This year's wax museum featured several political figures including John F. Kennedy, portrayed by **Chase O'Brien** and Michelle Obama, who was impersonated by **Mariah Freeman**. **Domenica Tuapante**, after some research and interest in the field, pretended to be English primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall. Others selected notable athletes, musician, authors and artists. **Annabelle Walnoha** portrayed Andy Warhol, and even visited the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh with her family to learn more about his life and artwork before getting into character. "The students were excited to learn and share about famous people," said Miss Lewis. "I enjoyed watching them support and encourage one another while working on the project."



For the Carnegie Elementary digital wax museum, Devlan Grijalva-Feeney emulated the character of Dr. Seuss.



Domenica Tuapante, who is interested in anthropology, did a great job of imitating Jane Goodall for the virtual wax museum.

▲ Crafton Elementary School partnered with UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to invite the Injury Prevention and Home Safety Mobile Van to the school, making it and its staff available to students and families of the borough. The van parked on site and opened its doors to offer safety and prevention tips and provide safety products and bicycle helmets to children who needed one. Parents were coached about the proper sizing of helmets for children as well. The Injury Prevention and Home Safety Van is a replica of the hospital safety center and is used to provide home safety education and resources to neighborhoods in Allegheny County.

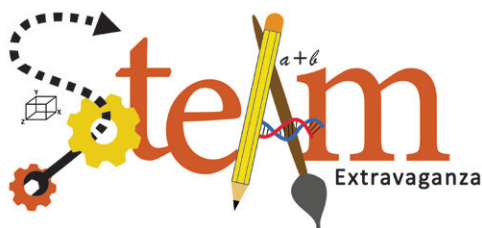


## A CHANCE FOR NORMALCY

Rising junior **Georgie Gamble** receives the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine, offered to students. Thanks to the efforts of Giant Eagle and Rite Aid, the district was able to provide two vaccine clinics for students near the end of the school year. Over 70 individuals, ages 12 and older, received the first and second vaccine during clinics safely held in the high school auditorium. Most students admitted they were getting the vaccine for a chance to return to normalcy.



▲ High school students enrolled in a Sports Management and Marketing course met virtually with the marketing team of the Pittsburgh Steelers to discuss the development of a e-Sports platform designed to attract Gen-Z'ers to football games. The discussion centered on ideas or attractions to persuade or build interest in the NFL among teens, an age group that seems to lack a desire to attend games or watch them on television, alleged the four members of Steelers marketing team. Further conversation centered on social media and how influencers are able to market or sell an item. Students were tasked with the objective to design and launch a platform by integrating influencers, streaming and gaming tools and to create a list of popular artists or speakers who would motivate teens to attend games. Teacher **Ryan Gevaudan** said the assignment inspired creative thinking, brainstorming and teamwork, which are among the skills necessary for a career in a marketing-related field.



▲ With a focus on science, technology, math and the arts, elementary art teacher **Michelle Dzurenda** and library/STEAM educator **Amanda Sirianni** hosted the district's first SteAm Extravaganza in the spring, a virtual event filled with week-long activities, experiments, challenges, reading endeavors and more for students and families to partake in the comfort of their homes. Each day of the week, individuals could choose from a stream of interesting exercises to stimulate brainpower or express creativity. Activities included learn-to-draw tutorials, investigative science ventures and challenges, including the task of building a Rube Goldberg chain reaction machine. Many activities were promoted by a teacher, principal and even the superintendent, who incorporated video to provide the details or procedures of an activity. The online site also offered a gallery for students to upload and share their work. By the end of the week, the site was bursting with imaginative student artwork and videos of innovative science experiments. Several local businesses in the boroughs of Carnegie and Crafton lent their support to the extravaganza by offering

special discounts to students during the week. A very special thank you to Carnegie Coffee Company, Scoops Ice Cream and Nailed It! DIY Studio of Carnegie and Big Daddy's Donuts in Crafton, as well as local artist Joyce Perry, who added a layer of incentive and excitement for students who could enjoy a special treat.



Students engage in a virtual discussion with Chana Brody, who shared the story of her parents' survival during the Holocaust.

▲ **Mrs. Tonilyn Jackson** recalls some insightful discussions with eighth grade Scholars English classes while studying a Holocaust unit. Following the reading of the play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, students viewed the movie, *Fanny's Journey*. A French story with English subtitles, the film invited students to appraise the story of a young teenage girl who was forced into the role of caregiver to her younger siblings while traveling to safety in fear of being found and forced into concentration camps. The Holocaust series also included the chance to meet virtually with Pittsburgh-native Chana Brody, whose parents met after enduring years of torment in separate concentration camps. Mrs. Brody shared the story of her parents' survival during World War II and their decision to move to the United States, where she was later born and raised. Students concluded the unit by examining how individuals gain power over others, pondering the root cause of discrimination and understanding the obligation for social responsibility.

▲ Teaching instrumental music to elementary students is not an easy task when school is held remotely. The late in-person start to the school year had elementary music teacher **Mark Priore** reaching for creative methods to sustain student interest while instructing by way of Google classroom. Once most of the students returned to school in January, instruction continued in a more traditional fashion and students were able to perform individually and collectively. To showcase the progression of student work near the end of the school year, Mr. Priore created a video concert for parents to view their children as they performed two music selections: "Canto and Caprice" by James Curnow and "Danza Africana" by Victor Lopez. The first selection provided two contrasting musical expressions using minor mode, giving the young musicians the opportunity to understand how music interprets or reflects the struggles of tranquility and aggression in nature. The second piece was composed to mirror the vivid imagery and diversity of the country of Africa. The elementary students performing in the virtual concert included **Rebecca Bernhardt** (clarinet), **Esther Frank** (trumpet), **Austin Gamble** (trumpet), **Augustine Hanover** (percussion), **Aaron Heffner** (percussion) and **Sophia O'Brien** (alto saxophone).





Participants of Carlynton's Future Readiness Lab, pictured with Principal Michael Loughren and teacher Jerry Pepe, include Abigail Fox, Ava Thompson, Michael Artascos, Austin Cairns and Amadou Diallo.

▲ In partnership with the Consortium for Public Education and with funding from The Heinz Endowments, five rising seniors participated in the Future Readiness Lab this past school year. A pilot program, the lab is taking a novel approach toward preparing students for post-secondary education and career choices while striving to encourage them to contribute to the communities in which they live. Guided by high school transition coordinator **Gerald Pepe, Michael Artascos, Amadou Diallo, Abigail Fox, Austin Cairns** and **Ava Thompson** began meeting weekly in October 2020. By participating in career self-exploration to discover their interests, skills and strengths, the students were inspired to design a plan for success after graduation. The initiative required the team to complete weekly assignments through access to a variety of virtual career learning experiences. Toward the end of the school year, they were expected to take on community projects. Mr. Pepe said he was impressed with the student's level of accountability. Even more significant, "I noticed a growing level of confidence and a vast improvement of communication skills among the students," he said. The program, which allows individuals to build a diverse network and relationship within the community and workforce, is also celebrated for its lessons in responsibility and time management. Working as team, **Michael Artascos** led the way in creating a website to share their efforts on the Future Readiness Team. Under the "Who We Are" tab of the site, the students shared that as "Guiding Cougars," they are "striving to make our school community better by assisting fifth and sixth graders with course work and Google operations." In addition to Carlynton, the school districts of Deer Lakes, Hampton, Montour, Penn Hills and Woodland Hills, as well as Pittsburgh Brashear and Clariton City, were a part of the Future Readiness Lab in its first year.

## ATHLETIC ACCOLADES



▲ The girls' varsity track team charted an undefeated season this past spring and clinched its first section championship since 1989! Following success in the WPIAL playoffs, the 4x800 relay team of **Natali Lutsiv, Erin LaQuatra, Mackenzie Huet\*** and **Lauren Kirch,\*** with alternates **Alaina Barlock\*** and **Gwen Kalimon**, traveled to Shippensburg University in early June for the 2021 PIAA state tourney for a great experience among runners across the state.

▲ The boy's tennis team also saw success this past season with **Dom Beglinger, Rodrigo Corral, Adam Engelka, Andrew Engelka, Ethan O'Brien, Lukas Prepelka** and **Owen Schriver** advancing to the WPIAL playoffs.

▲ To finish off the school year athletic season, **Rodrigo Corral** signed a letter of intent with St. Vincent College to play football.

*\*Bishop Canevin students compete alongside Carlynton athletes as part of a cooperative athletic agreement.*

▲ While attending the junior-senior high school to foster academic, social and vocational skills, senior **Sam Steiner** also collaborated with transition coordinator **Gerald Pepe** who connected him to the Goodwill Transition Works! program in Lawrenceville. In the past two years, the Transition WORKS! programming has allowed Sam to cultivate vocational and transition skill development at a Goodwill store location, in addition to a community partnership experience with the Eat 'n Park cookie factory. In March 2021, this ambitious young man was asked to join the staff of the Square Cafe located in West Liberty following a successful internship. As an employee



Sam Steiner weighs food for required portion sizes while working at the Square Café in East Liberty.



of Square Café, Sam is completing various vocational tasks within the kitchen, such as food preparation and dishwashing. "Because of Sam's strong effort and progress, and the strong support of family, he was afforded a gainful employment opportunity even before his final rotation at Square Cafe ended," Mr. Pepe said proudly. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Pepe, Sam is just one of many success stories of students who have found productive careers in a field of interest. As a transition coordinator, Mr. Pepe works closely with special education students to help prepare them for life after graduation by linking school staff, families and resource providers and ensuring students have access to available services within the school and local communities.

## ALL-STAR EDUCATOR

▲ Carnegie Elementary school psychologist and counselor **Dr. Tricia Serdy** was named one of five Pittsburgh Pirates 2021 All-Star Teachers. The award honors educators who are making a meaningful difference in the lives of students by providing an



Dr. Tricia Serdy, School Psychologist and Counselor

inclusive learning environment with engaging curriculum, encouraging lifelong learning and inspiring a passion for education beyond the classroom.

While not a teacher in the classroom, Dr. Serdy works with students and families who are struggling with mental health or family issues to enable students to be successful in the classroom. "She does absolutely anything she can to help her students learn and feel safe while at school, but her commitment

and care for her students during her own time is what truly sets her apart," said Principal Lauren Baughman.

In recognition, Dr. Serdy was honored on the field at a Pirates game in July, where she and her family were guests in a luxury suite. The award also came with a personalized Pirate jersey, a \$100 gift card and a grant for \$1,000 to be used in the school's Chill Room. Dr. Serdy received news of the award via video conference. Her young son, an avid Pirate's fan, excitedly jumped into his mother's arms and hugged her fiercely when he heard she would be recognized by the Pirates.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, Pirate Charities, PNC and The Grable Foundation sponsor the annual All-Star Teacher Award to recognize outstanding educators in the region to offer thanks and to acknowledge their contributions to children and teens in area school districts.

▲ Carlynton Best Buddies traveled to the Miracle League Field in Upper St. Clair on May 20th to participate in a variety of baseball activities. The peer-to-peer activity allowed students to build social interaction skills while taking part in physical fitness exercises related to the sport. The outdoor venture featured a home run derby, a longest throwing contest while hitting a target and base running.



Gisele Fetterman, center, visited the Chill Room at Carnegie Elementary School to discuss the positive impact it has had on students and staff. She is standing with school psychologist Tricia Serdy, AHN Behavior Health Counselor Ellie Lohman, Principal Lauren Baughman and teacher Donald Alexander.

▲ A few special guests visited Carnegie Elementary near the end of the school year to learn more about the school and its Chill Room. Local State **Representative Anita Kulik** visited the school in May and met with the Chill room staff. **First Lady Gisele Fetterman**, wife of Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, visited the school later that month to discover how the room is making a positive difference in the school by providing support and resources to teachers and students. Second grader **Londyn Jacobs** served as ambassador, greeting the visitors and answering questions. The Chill Room, staffed by professionals from Allegheny Health Network, offers a place for students to develop social and emotional skills while providing lessons in mindfulness and a calming place to "chill out." For the 2021-2022 school year, a second Chill Room will be launched at the junior-senior high school, staffed with health professionals who will provide similar services to staff and students in grades seven to 12.



Members of the National and National Junior Honor Societies worked cooperatively to plant flowers in three gardens in the West End of Pittsburgh.

▲ A popular community service project of National Honor Society members is the opportunity to plant flowers in public spaces in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. This year, students traveled to the West End section of Pittsburgh to plant petunias, marigolds and salvia at the busy intersection near the West End Bridge. Sporting orange vests and using shovels and hand trowels, the students cover three gardens with over 20 flats of flowers.



▲ District students had the unique opportunity to share their artistic flair by contributing time and talent to painting a mural on a concrete bridge over Chartiers Creek that links Carnegie Borough's East and West Main streets. Connecting with local artist **Alicia Kesneck** and husband **Nathan**, high school students **Abby Charnik, Mary Dougherty, Ellie Exler** and **Maggie Morvay** and Carnegie Elementary students



Carnegie Elementary students Ashley Mulligan and Ethan Moldovan used paint rollers to apply the first layer of mountains to a mural in Carnegie Borough.

**Emma Arnold, Akaylia Brown, Zoey Harrist, Ethan Moldovan, Ashley Mulligan** and **Hanalee Nordeen** spent several days painting and bringing the colorful mural to life. High school art teacher **Marlynn Vayanos** joined the students on occasion to assist and oversee their work while the artist was out of town. The artwork is designed to pay homage to the borough and the diversity of its people. Large, decorative flowers are interspersed among a background of mountains and represent various heritages and cultures, and blue and gold domes pay tribute to the Russian and Ukrainian churches in the neighborhood. There's even a Scottish tartan heart in tribute to Andrew Carnegie, for which the town is named. Mrs. Vayanos said the project was a great opportunity for students to contribute to the neighborhood. "The students received so many kind comments while they were working from people who walked by," she said.



Rising senior Ellie Exler paints a heart with the Carnegie tartan plaid to symbolize the Borough's Scottish heritage, while other students work to beautify the bridge wall on the opposite side of the street.



Students enrolled in a AP U.S. History stood on a rock high above a battlefield in Gettysburg to role play a battle scene during the civil war.

▲ A trip to Gettysburg to tour the sites and learn about historical battles was a culminating activity for students enrolled in **Ms. Laura Begg's** U.S History advanced placement course. Guided tours were offered of the battlefields as historians shared details of the conflicts that were deemed to be the turning point in the Civil War with the Union victory that ended General Robert E. Lee's ambitious invasion of the North. Wearing replicas of confederate hats and clutching plastic swords to replicate those used by soldiers, the students did some role play by acting out famous battle scenes in history. The day-long field trip offered an authentic extension to a segment of the curriculum that focused on the civil war era.

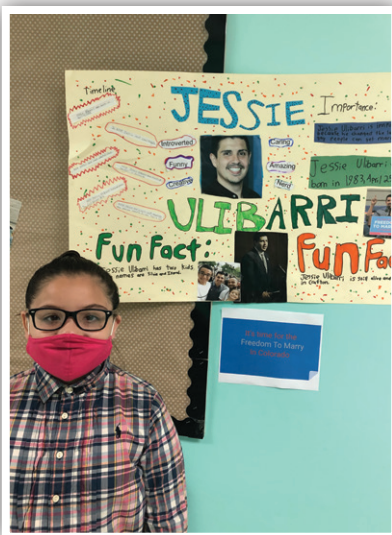


## ACT OF KINDNESS

High school students took time at the end of the school year to recognize and offer thanks to the cafeteria staff for serving daily breakfast and lunch meals, always with a friendly smile. Each cafeteria worker was given a bouquet of flowers and a heartfelt words of appreciation. Assistant Principal **Emily Skirtich** summarized the students act of kindness by stating, "We are grateful for the wonderful sense of hospitality the cafeteria staff provides for our school community and how they continue to help our students develop character outside of the classroom."



▲ Crafton Elementary teachers **Noreen Kelly** and **Robin Wenrich** introduced the idea of creating a Living Wax Museum to fifth graders this past spring and they ran with the idea. After conducting research, students selected three prominent persons in history. Teachers reviewed the choices and assigned one option to each child to ensure that everyone would have a different figure to characterize. Then, the fun began, as students learned as much as they could about their assigned personality and began preparing displays, costumes and accessories to best mimic the individual they would personify. The Living Wax Museum came to life in the hallways of the school in late May. Individuals masqueraded as Susan B. Anthony, Will Smith, Abraham Lincoln and Michael Jackson. The halls were lined with popular athletes and current political figures and modern-day artists and personalities.



For her wax museum project, Silvia Ulibarri proudly imitated her father, former Colorado Senator Jessie Ulibarri.



Asani Colbert became tennis star Venus Williams for the day during the Crafton Elementary Living Wax Museum.

Younger and older students were able to walk through the maze of celebrities, hear their stories and learn about accomplishments, as well as factual statistics about the person. At the end of day, everyone was able to discover facts about notable figures in history while the fifth graders improved upon their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

▲ **Scott Donnelly**, a fifth grade science teacher at Carnegie Elementary, was selected for the LiftOff Summer Institute program this summer, a nationally competitive program sponsored by NASA's Texas Space Grant Consortium. The workshops available through the program gave Mr. Donnelly the chance to learn from professional scientists and engineers at the cutting edge of space exploration. The program was organized around aerospace or space science, but incorporated all aspects of science, technology, engineering and math. The weeklong series included hands-on experiments, field investigations and presentations by NASA scientist and engineers working on various missions. Mr. Donnelly said he is excited to take what he learned and incorporate it into his classroom in the upcoming school year.

▲ This summer, the District joined efforts with two Pittsburgh-area organizations, Art Expressions and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, to provide enrichment opportunities for students in grades K-12. An "ARTchitecture: Building Bridges" program combined both academic enrichment, STEAM opportunities and social and emotional learning needs through the arts. The program explored ideas related to building bridges and connected participants with others in the group. One of the activities involved building a bridge using popular architectural designs, engineering concepts and simple math equations. An "ARTistic Dreamers" program focused on a specific art medium such as painting, clay, printmaking, fiber art and collage. Students were introduced to noteworthy artists, new art terms and activities that fostered self-expression and creativity. In yet another enrichment program, high school pupils had the chance to enroll in a performing arts program sponsored by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Arts. The course introduced students to many career paths in the performing arts field, while focusing on various aspects of theater, from performance, choreography, direction, scenic and costume design, playwriting and more. Participants discovered all of the theatrical fields, both on and off the stage. By the end of the program, students devised their own theatrical production, gaining a deeper understanding of how each job contributes to the final project. Two sessions were offered of each program, with transportation provided for students to and from the school.



The work on the property across the street from Crafton Elementary School will provide a sewer separation system for the Borough of Crafton and a parking lot and green space for the school.

▲ The former Glaser property, purchased by the school district in November 2014, is being converted into a parking lot for the school with an expanded green space. A grant will cover the entire cost of the project, which will also provide a sewer separation system to protect the region by removing 7.7 million gallons of excess storm water and ground water each year, thanks to a cooperative agreement between the Borough of Crafton, the ALCOSAN GROW program, Gateway Engineers and the District.

