

# CARLYNTON

## School District News



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CARLYNTON

# ★ MAXIMIZING ★ P★O★T★E★N★T★I★A★L

## MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL THROUGH COHESIVE INITIATIVES

**A**fter-school programs, flexible grouping, positive support plans and community partnerships are just a few of the initiatives employed by teachers and staff at Carnegie Elementary. Statistically, these platforms are working. The building's school performance profile saw significant growth over the previous year, with a gain of nearly 10 points, and marked the greatest increase among the three district buildings.

Principal **Carla Hudson** gives credit to her staff. "We teach in a structured environment and our teachers have stepped up their game," she said. "They are the driving force behind the success we've had."

*Leader in Me* is one initiative introduced this year. Each month, a habit is introduced to students to embody key principals necessary to build a culture of leadership by maximizing student potential. As students are found to be implementing these habits in the classroom, they are recognized and celebrated. The habit for January was "Put First Things First." Students were asked to complete important things first, or more simply, focus on work before play. In March, "Seek First to Understand, than to Be Understood," asked students to "listen with your eyes and heart and not just your ears. Understand the other person's point of view before sharing your own." A bulletin board in the main hallway of the school identifies and praises those who have exemplified these good habits.

The 21st Century After-School Learning Community and the Beverly Jewel Wall Lovelace (BJWL) have provided an ideal setting for students after the school day ends. Some 60-70 students in grades first through eighth grade attend these programs on a daily basis, Monday through Thursday. They receive homework support, a hot dinner and opportunities for physical activity in a controlled atmosphere. Additionally, they can participate in learning and social enrichment activities. On the average, 750 meals are served monthly in this after-school setting. The programming runs to 6 p.m. each day.



"We love school!" exclaimed students Emily Supinsky and Emma Jafarace.

The grant monies for the 21st Century program will end this year. Fortunately, Family Behavioral Resources and BJWL will host a broader program next year to fill the void and will admit young learners in grades three through six.

Mrs. Hudson attributes student success to other initiatives made in the last few years. The Response to Intervention Instruction (RTII) was revamped to implement flexible grouping for students in grades two to six. Based on a pre-assessment, students are grouped homogeneously by achievement and receive remediation, on-level or enrichment instruction 40 minutes daily.

Reading Recovery was applied to identify struggling readers and provide a system of support grounded on assessed needs of individuals in first grade. Lessons focus on understanding messages in reading and constructing messages in writing. Using pre- and post-assessments, students are moved from group to group and are continually provided both remediation and enrichment. The school's daily schedule is designed around this time for each grade.

The Title I, RTII and special education teachers **Joy Bhuta, Brian Harewicz, Lisa Ramandames** and **Lori Zimmerman** have been operative in executing these methods. All teachers use a Well-Check form to refer an individual for assessment. This aids in the development of a fundamental plan to meet the whole need of the child.







This page, clockwise from top left:

- Ian McGee, Ladaya Wiskeman and Tyler Seaton work independently on math work sheets in a differentiated classroom.
- Amani Smith and Madison Auen are watching the animated movie they created with stop-motion animation. Students are using recess time to participate in this and other STEAM activities.
- Julia Zayats, Dylan Warga, Seth Kerr and Ella Snyder use laptops to access Study Island, a web-based program that supports the learning process with engaging, interactive lessons and activities.

The implementation of new programming in the autistic support and life skills classrooms has made a significant difference in the way students are learning. Using the TEACCH strategy (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication), teachers **Allison Fekety** and **Andrea Harrity** maintain a structural organization of the classroom with engaging visual supports to promote meaning and independence. Verbal behavior is also addressed and assessed using the VBMAPP (Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement program). The individual needs of each child are confronted with verbal communication and functional academics. The Autistic Support classroom and Life Skills classroom uniquely work together to meet the needs of the students, rather than students merely receiving a certain type of support founded upon their diagnosis.

Through a reverse inclusion process, students succeed with differentiated instruction in a standards-based environment that focuses on literacy and oral fluency, peer tutoring and enrichment. *Soon to Be Best Buddies* is incorporated and offers sixth graders the opportunity to participate and serve as peer buddies to students in the life skills classroom. "Soon to be" is a play on the actual Best Buddies program at the junior-senior high school level. The interaction between the peers helps in the development of social skills as students participate in board games, crafts and fun group challenges.

**Dr. Patricia Serdy**, a full time psychologist, was hired last fall to work with the staff and students of Carnegie Elementary. The building has also benefited from the services of a full-time guidance counselor, **Ms. Sheree Lee**. This additional framework has provided counseling for students and has contributed to the supervision of



Continued >

assessments while assisting teachers in the development of individualized plans to meet the diverse needs of pupils.

Another effort that is making a difference is the departmentalization of classrooms for fifth and sixth graders. Students are “changing classes” for Language Arts, math, science and social studies. This process is helping to provide a smoother transition from sixth to seventh grade. Teachers are able to apply a greater focus on PA Core lessons while teaching to their strengths. In addition, this structuring allows for a stronger emphasis on reading. Students are receiving two reading lessons a day in across-content, non-fiction texts.

Plans are being made to include fourth graders in this learning environment next year.

Fourth through sixth graders are also empowered to participate in exploratory and STEAM activities during recess time. The options include art enrichment, working on projects in the computer lab, iPad exploration with apps and movie-making or group activities in the gym. Likewise, there is an option for fifth graders to meet

and encourage their kindergarten buddies in the kindergarten classrooms. And sixth graders can choose to participate in *Soon to be Best Buddies*, mentioned earlier. These recess activities have contributed to a significant decrease in discipline referrals.

Grades K-3 can also participate in STEAM activities through enrichment

activities that revolve on a monthly basis.

Just this year, Carnegie Elementary was deemed an “on the cusp” school by PennCan, the Pennsylvania Campaign for Achievement Now. The award identifies schools in Allegheny County who are illustrating academic achievement and are succeeding in changing the trajectories of their students’ lives.

“We endeavor to meet the needs of the whole child. It’s a team effort,” Hudson said.

A school-wide positive support plan has effectively altered the environment in the elementary school. PAWS or Positive Attitude+Work=Success, *Leader in Me*, GRIT and Hudson’s Heroes are giving students the incentive to work hard and maintain a good attitude. Those who rise to the occasion are frequently recognized and applauded during weekly Thursday morning assemblies and by way of bulletin boards that adorn hallways to visually exclaim, “You’re doing a great job!” The GRIT incentive encourages youngsters to build brain muscles by **G**iving your all, **R**edoing if necessary, **I**gnore giving up and **T**ake time to do it right. Students chosen for displaying all aspects of these qualities are deemed Hudson’s Heroes and enjoy lunch with a teacher, Mrs. Hudson and Carnegie Police Chief Jeff Kennedy.

The partnership Carnegie Elementary enjoys with community organizations and businesses has also stimulated the growth and development of students. Mayor Jack Kobistek, the PTA and the Carnegie Police Department connect with the school on a daily basis. The Carnegie-Collier Rotary, the Carnegie Library and Music Hall and the Carnegie Boys and Girls Club offer valuable support and enrichment for students. With the help of Mayor Kobistek, students are learning about agriculture and gardening through Pittsburgh Grow while planting, cultivating, harvesting and eating the fruits



Using stop-motion animation, Rodrigo Corral created an animated movie on an iPad using iMotion Pro. Animation takes place by slowly moving an object across a surface and capturing the image at each interval of movement.

and vegetables they have nurtured. In collaboration with Junior Achievement, financial advisors of Hefren Tillotson visit the school each year to share lessons about developing strong communities, trade and embargo regulations and entrepreneurship.

In addition, the entire school celebrates the diversity of cultures in the Carnegie community, acclaiming the customs, art, dance and folklore. Members of the community participate by sharing stories and traditions of their homeland. Students also conduct their fair share of research, create artwork and practice mutual phrases in the Ukrainian, Italian or Slovakian languages. Teaching students to appreciate, respect and understand differences is the goal of this cultural event. Teachers **Susan Cantwell**, **Diane Criste** and **Lori Zimmerman** have been instrumental in organizing this annual event.

The teachers of Carnegie Elementary are inspiring students to perform at their highest potential by applying dedicated practices to reach each and every student. Mrs. Hudson agrees. “From academic programs that continue through the summer to after-school programs, teacher initiatives are fueling a desire to learn.”

Building an environment of tolerance, respect and a willingness to learn has developed the connective tissue that is making Carnegie Elementary a stronger and more cohesive school. The school performance profile and the smiling faces of students who attend the school are proof that the initiatives set in place are working. The education and the welfare of students attending Carnegie Elementary have been sustained by a relational trust between administration and teachers and the cooperative endeavors established through the community.



A *Leader in Me* bulletin board features photos of students who are practicing good work habits.



# HOUR OF *Genius*

Carlynton Elementary fifth grade students in **Mrs. Anna Kostrick's** classroom devoted one hour a week over a 12-week period to research a topic of choice and design a project to shed light on a particular theme. The youngsters based their projects upon something they admired, treasured or felt passionate about.

During the 12-week period, students refined their work and often changed course, steering toward a more sophisticated approach to an original idea. Those who decided to focus on dance altered objectives to concentrate on a specific type of dance. A passion for baseball gave way to the design of a baseball stadium. Or the appeal of the France led to an analysis of the Eiffel Tower.

The students visited the library and honed research skills with the help of **Mrs. Jill Rishell**, librarian. They gathered facts, learned the history of the subject and uncovered valuable resources. During planning sessions, they determined the best means to craft a visual presentation. And they labored to construct a logical display that would effectively exhibit their project.

In late March, students were prepared and anxious to showcase their work before parents and grandparents during an exhibition dubbed "Hour of Genius." Projects ranged from a football tryout demonstration, a display of ancient rock paintings and a stage with a runway designed for modeling the latest fashions. There was even a large prototype of the Allegheny County Courthouse with an account of the architect.

Many of the self-directed projects undoubtedly and deliberately reflected a theme to expose a personal infatuation.

**Aiden Forrest** created a clever cartoon-like animation using a laptop that spelled out the terms and stunts used in professional wrestling. A three-dimensional model of PNC Park and a poster outlining the distinct design of the ball field clearly illustrated **Dominick Beglinger's** passion for baseball. Three separate displays revealed affection for dance; **Ava Thompson** exposed the story of famous ballerina Anna Pavlova,



**Katie Fox** showcased the design of the pointe ballet shoe, and **Madison Gorney** with **Kennedi Paolino** demonstrated hip hop dancing by performing a self-choreographed hip hop routine.

Hour of Genius has been associated with Google, where employees are able to dedicate time each day to working on projects that most interest them. Google believes employees will be happier, more creative and more productive, when motivated by curiosity and passion, which can then benefit the company during "off-Genius" hours.

Mrs. Kostrick witnessed an increase in productivity as students worked on these self-directed, passion-driven projects. She found the students to be innovative in their thinking and they stayed on task. "Hour of Genius" provided these fifth graders with an unguided experience to apply research skills while thinking creatively and independently.



Clockwise from top left:

■ With a passion for baseball, **Dominick Beglinger** explored the construction process and design of the Pirates' home field, PNC Park, and then created a model.

■ **Katie Fox** focused her Genius Hour project on her passion for ballet. Through research, she discovered the history behind the fabrication of the ballet pointe shoe.

■ **Brooklynne Prepelka** researched the culture and landmarks of France and investigated the history of the Eiffel Tower, delineating the height, building materials and numerous other facts.

■ **Mya Miller** received some help from **Paige Stupar** in developing a stage and runway fit for a model. Mya's projects also provided the names and history of famous models.

■ With a fondness for professional wrestling, **Aiden Forrest** shows visiting parents **Tara Fox** and **Beth Beglinger** an animated dialogue that explains the terminology of the sport.



# MAKING HEADLINES



Artwork created by freshmen **Erin Christman** and **Irina Lutsiv** was selected for display at the annual board convention sponsored by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The pieces of art were chosen for design, creativity and originality by art teacher **Marlynn Vayanos**.



The Crafton Elementary Ambassador program has been a big hit with six graders as they prepare for the transition to seventh grade. Once a month, junior high students from Carlynton visit Crafton Elementary to sit on a question and answer panel and discuss procedures at the junior-senior high school. Topics include scheduling classes, the lunch period and buying meals in the cafeteria and balancing school work with extracurricular activities. The older students serve as role models and help to alleviate concerns often associated with the progression to junior-senior high.



Carnegie Elementary teacher **Brian Harewicz** sought to pump up his students for the annual administration of the PSSAs in mid-April with a new "do." The statewide assessment measures student achievement in English-Language Arts, math and science and is often a stressful time for students. Mr. Harewicz's hair cut was a great hit with the youngsters and helped to validate the significance of the testing period.

Mr. Brian Harewicz gets pumped for PSSAs.



Members of the National Honor Society made 50 no-sew blankets for distribution to cancer patients in our local area. Students stayed after school to craft the soft fleece coverlets, attaching cheery get well messages to each blanket. May 12 will mark the induction ceremony for new members to the National and Junior Honor Societies.



A group of juniors and seniors took part in a video conference series to discuss ways to "make a difference in the world we live." Joined by peers from Montour High School and Sterling High School in New Jersey, the discussion focused on genocide in



Discussing world problems and brainstorming solutions was the focus of a videoconference that included Tyler May, Erin Connor, Jess Olkosky and Mackenzie Albright.



today's world. The topic included the use of social media and the threats it can pose, tolerance for others, understanding and accepting diversity. Held in the high school library with Ms. **Jamie Sonnie**, library and media specialist, the Skype sessions were guided and led by the students with deliberations that presented some thought-provoking and perceptive solutions. Those participating from Carlynton were **MacKenzie Albright, Erin Connor, Bill Gardner, Monika Karpa, Paige Lherbier, Amanda Martin, Tyler May, Samuel Oliver, Johnathon Oliver and Jessica Olkosky**.



High school teachers **Kirsten Fischer** and **Jennifer Harger** were selected as winners of the Local Task Force STEPP (Student, Teacher and Exemplary Practice or Partnering) Award for excellence in programming. The teachers were nominated by a peer monitor from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for their model of co-teaching in the classroom. The Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF3) is proud to sponsor the Scott E. Folmer Memorial STEPP Awards which recognizes the outstanding support of children receiving special education services.



**Ben Carothers, Arabella Hunt, Alexander Mance and Claire Schriver** were members of a junior high team to grab first place at the 2015 Science Bowl held at the Science Center. The team participated in a series of four hands-on challenges. Taking third place was the



First place science bowl team Arabella Hunt, Ben Carothers, Alex Mance and Claire Schriver.

seventh grade team of **Jaimee Cabili, Maggie Reigle, Haley Simcic and Mathias Spragg**.



The Carlynton World Language program was awarded the 2015 Bronze Globe PEP Award. The Pennsylvania Exemplary Program (PEP) recognizes foreign language programs across the state that have met rigorous criteria established by the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association.





As part of a STEM-based competition that integrates engineering, physics and math, eighth graders **Maclaine Greiner**, **Gabriel Prepelka** and **Claire Schriver** won first place trophies for best design and the faster car in the 23rd Annual Battery Car Race at Duquesne University. Students designed and built a battery powered model car using an empty water bottle and foam board. Kits were provided with a motor, AA battery holder and a switch. The 20 meter race track is structured on a hardwood floor. The races are held in heats, with the 16 fastest cars moving on to a double elimination round until four cars remain. The four final cars race head-to-head in a double elimination process to determine the fastest car. The Carlynton



The first place team at the Annual Battery Car Race, Maclaine Greiner, Gabe Prepelka and Claire Schriver.

team set a record for the fastest race time with 7.29 second finish. High school physics teacher **David Cosnek** worked with students before the competition to offer some lessons in gear-drive ratio, a feature that buoyed the speed of the winning car. Seniors **Jordan Melko** and **Bradley Moehring** acted as timers at the event, accompanied by Gifted Education teacher **Cynthia Eddy**.



A non-fiction reading challenge held at Carnegie Elementary challenged students to read 20 minutes of non-fiction text every day for 28 consecutive days. Participants submitted short essays with interesting facts about the text they read and this information was read every morning during the announcements. Readers who maintained 100 percent participation during the challenge, 47 students in all, received a book mark and book and they were recognized for their efforts in an assembly.



The 10th annual Mr. Carlynton contest in March featured 16 male contestants in a friendly battle of talent, skill, wit and school spirit. Contestants squared off in a trivia contest of SAT questions, a trendy fashion show in tuxedos and a blindfolded Easter egg hunt. Contestant **Johnathon Oliver** walked away with the People's Choice award, **Dan Doyle** was dubbed Mr. Congeniality and **Logan Schuler** was crowned Mr. Carlynton 2015.



The Cougar Marching Band will travel to Washington, D. C. this spring to visit and tour Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Holocaust Museum and other popular sites. The trip will include a stop in Fredericksburg to perform in Music in the Parks and an afternoon at Kings Dominion Theme Park.



The Civil War event held at the Carnegie Free Library and Music

Hall on April 11 featured research papers written by Carlynton sophomores **William Ford** and **Storm Figura**. Will and Storm conducted research on the Espy Post and local Civil War veterans last year for their Scholars American Cultures class. In addition, freshman **Nathan Robb**, as part of a GATE enrichment project, met with a Civil War weapons expert earlier this year and was able to examine artifacts from the Espy Room. An exhibit of his experience and photographs was also displayed in the Civil War room.



Crafton Elementary RTII teacher **Tracy Alex** was nominated as a Pennsylvania Keystone Technology Innovator. Alex's use of technology in classroom has transformed the way in which she teaches and has made a difference in how her students learn. As a Keystone Innovator, Mrs. Alex will be able to participate in a week-long STAR Summit this summer at Shippensburg University.



In cooperation with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Carlynton junior high students had the rare opportunity to study under professional actors **Tyler Scherer** and **Joseph Fierberg**, cast members of the national Broadway Tour of *Beauty and the Beast*. After some warm-up exercises and stretches, students were taught the choreography to the popular number, "Be Our Guest." The dancing was followed by a question and answer session with the actors. Over 30 students took part in the theater workshop.



Top photo: Several grader Camryn Kwiatkoski takes part in some stretching exercises during a theater workshop sponsored by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Bottom photo: Actor Tyler Scherer leads students through the choreography of "Be Our Guest" from *Beauty and the Beast*. Scherer is an ensemble member of the touring cast and is the understudy for Gustav and "the beast."

# Peer to Peer is leveling the playing field *with bocce*

The Carlynton high school peer to peer program hosted a dual meet bocce scrimmage February 27 in the high school gym with students from Baldwin High School. The event was coordinated with Special Olympics as groundwork for its inaugural Unified Indoor Bocce Invitational Tournament.

The peer to peer program engages students with and without intellectual disabilities in a mentoring liaison or partnership. The program tenders a support system between teens and crafts life-long friendships. The bocce tourney is a fragment of the overall experience. Training together and playing together as athletes, officials and scorekeepers promotes social inclusion, tolerance and builds self-esteem.



Traveling to Hershey for the inaugural Unified Indoor Bocce Tournament were peer to peer members Kaytlin Stevens, Kylie Gilles, Ziaire Teagle, Joscelyn Cura, Tyler Smith and Alexa Crown. They were joined by teachers Jerry Pepe, Lisa Rowley and husband Bob Sehn, Athletic Director Nate Milson and Principal Michael Loughren.

The peer to peer team also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a social time and party in the high school gym. Students from Baldwin, Elizabeth Forward and South Allegheny high schools attended the event, enjoying refreshments, dancing and crafts in a haze of green.

Unified Sports, under the umbrella of Special Olympics, provides an interscholastic sports program for students who are intellectually or physically disabled. Along with Carlynton, the school districts of Baldwin, Elizabeth Forward and South Allegheny have made this program a part of the peer to peer curriculum.

In late March, a statewide Special Olympics Unified Indoor Bocce Invitational tournament was held in Hershey at The Giant Center. This tournament was recognized as part of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and held in conjunction with the boys' and girls' state basketball championships.

Carlynton sent a team of six students to compete in the contest. Sophomores **Alexa Crown** and **Tyler Smith** and senior **Joscelyn Cura** partnered with athletes **Kylie Gilles**, **Kaytlin Stevens** and **Ziaire Teagle** to compete in bocce games on the main



During the Unified Indoor Bocce Tournament at The Giant Center in Hershey, team members Joscelyn Cura and Kaytlin Stevens took a serious approach to the game as a judge watched on.



At a Baldwin High School bocce tournament, division winners Max Mangum, Kassi Longstreth, Erin Connor, Katie Magnelli were happy to show off their gold medals.

basketball court of the Giant Center. The Carlynton team captured a bronze medal in the tournament, losing a close game to Elizabeth Forward, who went on to win the gold. Upper Darpy High School in Delaware County took the silver.

The Carlynton bocce team was coached by physical education teacher **Lisa Rowley** and transition coordinator **Jerry Pepe**. High school principal **Michael Loughren** traveled with the group as chaperone.

Mrs. Rowley said, "Our peer to peer physical education class has seen so much success in the past 10 years. Unified Bocce has helped to level the playing field."

Following the tournament, all participants were ushered to reserved seats to watch the AA girls' basketball game between Seton LaSalle and Neumann Goretti. At half time, the Unified Indoor Bocce teams were introduced and presented with awards at a closing ceremony.

Peer to peer programs have been designed to empower teens to be agents for change among their peers. Life lessons are acquired as individuals foster empathy and the willingness to accept differences.





**"We're All in This Together"** in the final scene of *Disney High School Musical* captured the spirit of the 2015 spring musical performance. The 50-member cast brought the musical to life through fast-paced, high-energy performances that entertained audiences over a five-day run.

Set in a modern day school setting, the scenes and musical numbers of *High School Musical* take place at East High, home to the Wildcats. The story line captures all that is common to high school teens – a first love, cliques, peer pressure and

## Disney HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Hits the Stage

balancing extracurricular activities with academics. In the end, the musical advocated that teens can do anything when effort is applied and made way for a show stopping finale that brought audiences to their feet.

This year's musical was produced, directed and choreographed by a cast of familiar faces. **Rebecca (Smith) Chenette, Natalie Hatcher, Cara Walkowiak, Cynthia (Wilson) Dougherty** and **Michael Davidson** held their fair share of lead roles in past Carlynton musicals. As alumni, they have stepped into this new role with a commitment to carry on the rich history and tradition of Carlynton musicals.



**1.** Senior Dan Doyle was the "daddio" of the East High airwaves, providing announcements for all school activities.

**2.** The full cast of *Disney High School Musical*

**3.** J.P. Cantwell, standing, played the role of skateboarder Ripper, and reveals to his pals that he also plays the cello.

**4.** The president of the drama club, Sharpay Evans (center) was portrayed by senior Cassandra Clark. She brought drama to the stage with her twin brother Ryan (in pink shirt), played by junior Caleb Staker, as they pursued, with deception, to win the lead in the East High musical.

**5.** *High School Musical* featured star basketball player Troy Bolton, played by junior Alex Pollak, and "brainiac" Gabriella Montez, played by senior Maria Pawlos. Their attempt to win the lead in the East High musical, *Juliet and Romeo*, brought the student body together for an exciting and happy ending.

**6.** East High thespians showed their flare for the stage while auditioning for a part in the school's musical, *Juliet and Romeo*.

**7.** Singing "We're All in This Together" ended the musical performance on a high note. Pictured are basketball jocks Dean Chubarov as Zeke Baylor, Johnny Oliver as Chad Danforth and Alex Pollak as Troy Bolton; thespians Cassandra Clark as Sharpay Evans and Caleb Staker as Ryan Evans; and "brainiacs" Maria Pawlos as Gabriella Montez and Tara Wade as Taylor McKessie.

**8.** Spreading pride through East High were the Wildcat cheerleaders, Megan Howells, Paige Lherbier, Angela Witt, Mackensie Ellis, Amanda Griffin, Brianna Oddi, Stormy Chuberov and Ellie Davis.

## Education Foundation to create economic opportunities for students and teachers

An organizational meeting was held March 24 to establish a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation to generate economic opportunities for students and teachers of the Carlynton School District through scholarships and curriculum-enhancing grants.

The articles of incorporation for the Carlynton Education Foundation were filed January 8, 2015 with the state of Pennsylvania.

At the meeting, high school teacher **Lisa Rowley** was named president of the foundation board. **David Robb** of Rosslyn Farms was elected vice president, elementary teacher **Julie Lewis** named secretary and high school teacher **Laura Begg** appointed treasurer. Additional members of the nine-member board include **Palma Darenkamp**, **Lu Ryan** and **April Weitzel** of Crafton, **Isabel Ford** of Rosslyn Farms and **Patricia Serdy**, school district psychologist. **Dr. Gary Peiffer**, superintendent, will serve as an ex officio, non-voting member.

Also in attendance at the organizational meeting, and willing to promote and assist with the development of the foundation, were Carnegie Mayor **Jack Kobistek**, retired educator/Carnegie resident **Rebecca Petronsky**, Carnegie Elementary principal **Carla Hudson** and Crafton resident **Emily Tipping**.

The purpose and vision of the Carlynton Education Foundation will be to enhance the educational opportunities of all Carlynton School District students beyond the regular educational programming. The corporation hopes to achieve this purpose by focusing on technology, literacy, professional and non-professional staff development and other activities deemed as delivering educational opportunities for students. The Foundation will also provide scholarships to students bound for higher educational institutions and will supplement projects and programs designed to assist teachers in providing educational gateways in the classroom beyond the regular curriculum.

## Save the date!

May

2015

- 18 Elementary Spring Choral Concert (HS auditorium)
- 19 High School Spring Choral Concert
- 21 School in morning, followed by School Picnic at Kennywood Park\*
- 22 Promenade (6:30 pm) followed by junior-senior prom
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday, no school
- 27 Elementary Spring Band Concert (HS auditorium)
- 28 High School Spring Band Concert

June

- 03 Senior Class Banquet & Recognition Ceremony
- 09 Graduate Baccalaureate Service
- 12 Senior Commencement
- 16 Last day of school for students

\* The Carlynton Board of Education voted to move the May 24th snow make-up day to Thursday, May 23. Students should arrive to school at the normal time. High school students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. and the elementary students will be dismissed at noon. Buses will be available at the schools for those who plan to ride the bus to Kennywood Park.

## Dr. Maslyk, Principal and Writer

On the heels of President Obama claiming that Pittsburgh is poised to be the nation's leading "maker city," Crafton Elementary principal **Dr. Jacie Maslyk** is also attaining a new title. In addition to "wife," "mom," "principal" and "doctor," she can soon add, "author."

Last summer, Dr. Maslyk submitted a proposal for a book that elaborated on subject of Makers in connection with the growing creativity movement. With the success of the STEAM room and maker workshops in her own building, Maslyk believes the timing is right for a book that would address innovative thinking and the process of bringing it into the classroom. Her proposal captured the interest of Corwin Press, an affiliate of Sage Publishing.

"With our region focused on technology and the urgency for research, I feel that education is cycling. We will see more engagement in the classroom to prepare students for careers in design, advanced manufacturing and entrepreneurship," Dr. Maslyk said.



Dr. Jacie Maslyk

The suggested book title, *Innovation and Creativity:*

*Bringing STEAM and Making into the Classroom* has been revised by the publisher to *STEAM MAKERS in the Elementary Classroom: Using Creativity and Innovation to Teach and Learn*. Dr. Maslyk will submit a full manuscript this summer with an expected fall, yet to be disclosed, release date.

As a side note, Dr. Maslyk has been selected to present at the Evolving Educators Conference in Philadelphia in June. She will present "Bringing the concepts, ideas and technology integration needed for tomorrow's classrooms into our schools TODAY." The presentation will showcase student learning at Crafton Elementary through the use of creativity and technology.

**THE MAKER EDUCATION INITIATIVE** (<http://makered.org/>) has a mission to build confidence, foster creativity and spark interest in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts while creating opportunities in making. As a part of their mission, the Maker Education Initiative develops programs that inspire young people to learn through making and builds community networks of families, leaders, educators, mentors and organizations. Making embraces the same philosophy of generating new ideas, engaging in hands-on/minds-on work, collaborating and the integration of different fields.



# WINTER SEASON ROUND UP

The varsity girls' basketball team advanced to the third round of the WPIAL playoffs and qualified for the PIAA playoffs as a third seed. Their run ended in the second PIAA game against Chartiers-Houston who made a comeback in the fourth period to defeat the Lady Cougars and close the season.



Medalist Madison Crown, gymnast

Standout players **Conor Richardson** and **Jordan Melko** received a number of honors for their season play. Conor was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Feb 5, All-State and All-Section. Jordan was named All-Section for the third

year in a row. The teammates were also named to the Roundball Classic and the Chartiers Valley All-Star teams. Jordan was named team MVP at the CV All-Star game.

Junior **Madison Crown** is a gymnast who trains independently but contends as a Carlynton athlete. In February, she competed and finished first in floor exercises at the WPIAL gymnastics championships and second overall in the Intermediate I Division. Madison also competed on the bars, beam and vault, finishing second on the bars. She advanced to the Pennsylvania Class PIAA state finals, finishing second overall in the Gold Division.

The varsity swim team sent nine swimmers to WPIALS at Trees Hall on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. Junior **Nicole Stengel** headed into the competition after breaking the school's 200 freestyle record, originally set in 2007. At WPIALS, she swam a 24.75 in the 50 free to take fifth place and break another school record set in 1980. She finished sixth in the 100 butterfly, breaking her own record set last year. Nicole qualified for the PIAA state swim meet at Bucknell University, seeded 11th in the state in the 50 free and 24th in the 100 fly.



WPIAL swimmers at Trees Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus: Nicole Stengel, Zoey Petrocelli, Juliette Lopez and Natalie Quinn, pictured with coach Camden Coppelli.

The girls relay team of **Giona Darenkamp, Juliette Lopez, Zoey Petrocelli** and **Natalie Quinn** finished 17th in the WPIAL. Juliette Lopez placed 15th in the backstroke and **Luke Ulizzi** placed 16th in the 100 free.

Relay teams included swimmers **Katlyn Clayton, Giona Darenkamp, Alex Hilawzewski, Juliette Lopez, Zoey Petrocelli, Natalie Quinn, Nicole Stengel** and **Jessica Vogliano**.

The wrestling team made the WPIAL playoffs for the first time in years. Several key wrestlers, **Adam Corner, Michael Griffin, Ian Kobistek, Caleb Staker, Nate Wilcox** and **Logan Witwicki** advanced to the WPIAL tournament at South Fayette High School. Logan qualified for the Southwest Regionals after taking 5th place in WPIALS.

In March, **Dean Chubarov, Stormy Chubarov** and **Olivia Kalimon**, members of



Tennis champion Luke Phillips with Coach Jared Aitken.

the bowling team, competed successfully at WPIALS and advanced to the regional tournament. Dean finished first in the section with a 214 average. The team is coached by alumni **Joshua Ray**.

Just recently, **Luke Phillips** claimed the WPIAL tennis singles championship. This is Luke's second year on the tennis team.

# Read Across AMERICA

*"You have brains in  
your head. You have  
feet in your shoes. You  
can steer yourself any  
direction you choose.  
You're on your own.  
And you know what  
you know. And YOU are  
the one who'll decide  
where to go..."*

*— Dr. Seuss, Oh, The  
Places You'll Go!*

Reading can take you to adventures in foreign lands and build brain power. Developing a fondness for reading in students has been an undertaking of teachers from Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools. Every year, a week-long reading event is held in early March to honor the birthday of the late Dr. Seuss. Read Across America, as it is known, is a nationwide celebration of reading. The week is filled with a variety of activities. From guest readers and reading challenges to door decorating contests and Wacky Wednesday, the weeklong schedule is aimed at promoting the importance of literacy.

Reading increases communication skills and logical thinking and it can heighten concentration and self-discipline. Reading aloud to children is the single most important intervention for developing their literacy skills, according to a study conducted by the National Commission on Reading.

Today's educational system is based on a child's ability to understand, interpret and analyze written text. Learning to be comfortable with books builds confident readers who can absorb and make sense of a



huge amount of information. This enables them to become better learners and better students.

Read Across America week at Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools ended with a family reading night on Friday. The evening provided an opportunity for families to celebrate the benefits of reading and to gain a stronger understanding of the enrichment books can provide. Reading, as Dr. Seuss puts it, can take you anywhere you want to go: "You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!"



Clockwise from top right:

★ Brandy the dog enjoyed listening to her owner, Ms. Barber, while she read a story to students at Crafton Elementary during Reading with Rover day, offered during the week-long reading celebration.

★ A Battle of the Books held at Carnegie Elementary tested book knowledge over a three-round quiz competition. Those coming out on top were Jaila Haygood-Calhoun, Arionna Lemon, Kaitlyn Duray, Aniyah Carson, Timmy Smith and Bryce Rodriguez.

★ During a reading activity, third graders from Crafton Elementary learned how to properly care for a pet. Ed Kuhn and his Boykin Spaniel, Sarah Wigglebutt, also coached the students on precautionary measures when approaching a strange dog.

★ Mrs. Jolynne Dougherty, children's coordinator for the Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie, served as a guest reader at Carnegie Elementary during Read Across America week and captured the attention of young listeners with the silly book *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin.