

CARLYNTON

School District News



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CARLYNTON

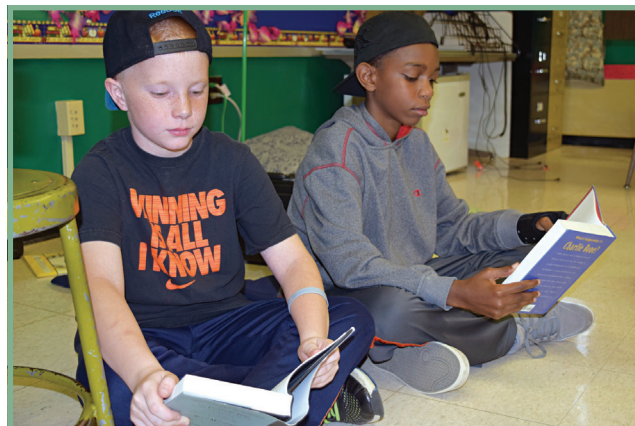


A DAY IN

The 2015-2016 school year is in full swing, with students across the district fully immersed in studies, homework, athletics and extracurricular activities. Inside classrooms, students are actively engaged in learning under the direction of educators who employ strategies to meet the needs of every child. The chance to socialize



Clockwise from top right: Kindergarten students at Crafton Elementary Skype with same-aged students from Jacksonville, NC. The students shared facts about their hometown, the weather and the state capitals; Sixth graders Juliet Grabowski and Dominic Carlson, under the direction of Crafton Elementary music teacher Mark Priore, used xylophones to harmonize with peers in a percussion exercise; Students know and understand when it's time to get serious. Freshman Sam Knabel and classmates get down to business while taking a Pre-AP History exam; Eighth grader Kyle Auth and sophomore Kameron Passatore adjust the carriage on a remote-controlled Vex Protobot fabricated in the high school Robotics Club; Following rigorous activity in gym class, Crafton Elementary fourth graders Nikolas Ferris, Lucas Beltz, Cameron Jakubczak and Wilson Choate stop for a drink at the water fountain before heading to class; After lunch, Carnegie Elementary second graders wait for the recess period to begin. During recess, students can go outside to play, take part in online math or reading challenges in the computer lab or participate in exploratory STEAM activities in designated classrooms.



THE LIFE

comes at recess or the end of the day, when some stay for tutoring or head to the gym or field for practices or games.

A small sampling of a day in the life of a Carlynton student is encapsulated in this photo collage. From the classroom to a playing field, youngsters of all ages are making progress as they strive to succeed.



Clockwise from top left: Abigail Fox, a sixth grader at Carnegie Elementary, ambitiously works on a social studies assignment during the recess period. Teachers often open their classrooms during recess for students to work on homework or receive tutoring; C-H-S! Cheerleaders Kaleigh Ciabattoni, Amanda Griffin, Brianna Oddi, Megan Howells and Taylor Huddart are the ambassadors of school spirit, leading the charge both in school and on the field; Crafton Elementary fifth graders Robert Bertosh and Jaiden McClure (wearing hats for "Hat Day"), made themselves comfortable while reading. After finishing the book, the boys will prepare oral book reports as part of a "Book Talks" assignment in Mrs. Noreen Kelly's classroom; Ninth grader Erica McGuire sniffs the root of a Queen Anne's lace plant to discover it smells like carrots. As part of a biology lab, students in Mr. Bill Palonis' class went outdoors for a botany excursion on school grounds; Ethan Lee, a Carnegie Elementary kindergarten student, chooses an apple to go along with his lunch. Aramark, the district's food service provider, is offering a wider variety of fresh fruits and vegetables for students in all schools; Making science real, fourth graders Mason Glover and Zoie Rolly of Crafton Elementary make a habitat for a fiddler crab in Mrs. Adrienne Monaghan's class; In the Carnegie Elementary computer lab, second grader Memphis Mittenway used an iPad and third grader Bailey Yeckel worked on a computer to engage in math enrichment drills; Carnegie Elementary kindergarten students Cassidy Yeager, Kylie Clappteron, Brooklyne Tomassi, Alexa Adamski and Nattaya Cameron have learned to be respectful of others by walking quietly in the hallway.

Carlynton named to Super Bowl High School Honor Roll

Bill Cowher returns to Alma mater

"On behalf of the NFL, I would like to congratulate Carlynton Junior-Senior High School and welcome you to the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll community celebrating schools that have contributed to Super Bowl history." That was the opening line of a letter sent to **Principal Michael Loughren** from Alex Gerson, Director of Marketing of the National Football League.

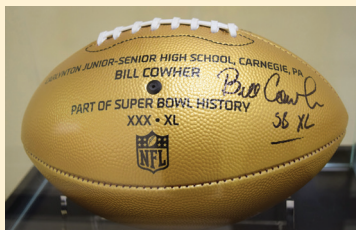
The letter went on to explain that alumni Bill Cowher, CBS football analyst and Super Bowl XL champion coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, would be visiting the school to present a Wilson Golden Football to the Cougar football team and coaches. Over the summer, the Wilson Golden Football was offered to some 2000 high

schools in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Super Bowl. The presentations were part of a nationwide campaign to commemorate high schools from which players and coaches graduated. In Pennsylvania alone, 123 high schools received a football.

Visiting in June and prompting a flurry of activity, Cowher and officials from the NFL spent a full morning at the school. During the visit, Cowher made time to speak to the football team about overcoming challenges and creating a culture of change in the midst of the team's recent losses.

Cowher's return to Carlynton was captured on camera by the NFL and aired on *CBS This Morning* on October 1 and again during coverage of the evening football game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens. The televised story was one of only 17 high school sojourns to be featured nationally on CBS. The video captured the spirit of goodwill that embodies the close-knit communities and families of the district.

On the day before the Steelers-Ravens game, Cowher, who was in town for the game, made another stop at Carlynton to encourage the football team. Before departing, teammates gave him a polo jersey with the school's logo. "I've been following your games and I will wear this jersey on a pre-game show when you win," Cowher promised.



The Wilson Golden Football, signed by alumni Bill Cowher, was presented to the football team and coaches, and is now displayed in the gymnasium lobby.



Cowher made a second stop at Carlynton while in town for the Steelers-Ravens game to meet with the football team. Senior Isiah Canton and sophomore Xavier Teagle presented Cowher with a Carlynton jersey and a team-autographed football



During his visit to the junior-senior high school this past summer, Cowher took time to talk with students and autographed a Terrible Towel for junior Logan Witwicki.

Special Education department hosts informational sessions

The Carlynton School District Special Education Department will host a series of free informational workshops for parents throughout the school year. Meetings are presented once a month in the Carnegie Elementary school auditorium. Two times are offered for convenience; sessions will be held at 9:30 am and again at 6:30 p.m. In October, the topic was devoted to assistive technology and how it can enhance the learning process.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- November 18, 2015** –Autism Spectrum Disorders and Sensory Strategies
- December 9, 2015** – Writing Strategies and Fine Motor Skills
- January 27, 2016** – The Connection Between Nutrition and Learning
- February 9, 2016** – Early Intervention Transition to Kindergarten – DART
- March 16, 2016** – Motivating the Unmotivated Student
- April 20, 2016** – Social Skills Strategies
- May 18, 2016** – Math Strategies

All workshops are free and open to the public.



Cause for the Paws

Empowering excellence and cultivating character is the mission of the Carlynton Education Foundation. The non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation was established to enhance the educational opportunities for all school district children by providing support to academics, projects and activities beyond the scope of standard school funding. Through fundraising and community, corporate and alumni giving, an ongoing endowment campaign will help to send students on educational field trips, provide scholarships and mini-grants for classroom projects and boost technology innovation in all schools.

This past September, a "Cause of the Paws" golf outing was held at Hickory Heights Golf Club in Bridgeville to raise funds for the foundation. The well-attended event brought in over \$8,600 through golf participants, donations, program advertisements, raffles and a silent auction. The Carlynton girls and guys ensembles kicked off the event with the singing of the National Anthem and the Carlynton Alma mater. A sunny day and a group of lively, supportive golfers contributed to a great event that raised capital for a very worthy cause.

If interested in making a year-end tax deductible gift to the Carlynton Education Foundation, contact **Mrs. Lisa Rowley** at lisa.rowley@carlynton.k12.pa or call 412.429.2500, ext. 2912.

Clockwise from top left: Golf outing participants Greg Gazella and Mark Cantley assess the best angle for a putt; Members of the girls and guys ensemble made the trip to Hickory Heights, thanks to their parents, to begin the golf outing on a high note by singing the National Anthem and Alma mater; Getting ready to tee off, golfer Mike Knight takes aim as Eric Figan and Jason Post, part of the foursome with Anthony Martrano (not pictured) provide silent reassurance; Superintendent Gary Peiffer and School Board President Jim Schriver follow a long line of golfers and golf carts to the fairway at the onset of the outing.

Save the date! 2015-16

November

November 13 High School Match Game
November 17 Parent Financial Aid Planning Night, JSHS
November 20 Shop 'Til You Drop Night, Carnegie Elementary
November 26-30 Thanksgiving Holiday Break

December

December 4-6 Fall Play, Alice in Wonderland
December 7-11 Carnegie Santa Holiday Shop
December 8 Elementary Winter Chorus Concert
December 9 High School Winter Chorus Concert

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

December 10-11 Crafton Elementary Jingle Bell Junction
December 12 Breakfast with Santa, JSHS
December 16 Elementary Winter Band Concert
December 17 High School Winter Band Concert
December 23 JSHS Holiday Variety Show
December 24-
January 1 Winter Holiday Break

January 2016

January 11 Crafton and Carnegie PTA Meetings
January 18 In-Service Day, No school for students
January 29 Crafton Elementary Talent Show

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS HONORARY CO-CAPTAINS

Carlynton High School students can choose an array of extracurricular activities from which to participate, ranging from athletics to clubs and organizations. Through membership, the value of leadership and commitment is formed. Students learn to take responsibility for their actions with a focused commitment for something they believe in.

The Carlynton Best Buddies organization is geared to creating one-to-one friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. At the start of this year, Best Buddy members dared to cross the invisible line that often separates these two groups by inviting "special" students to participate as honorary co-captains of the football team.

At each home football game, the honorary co-captains were given personalized jerseys and met with the captains of the team on the field. Walking hand-in-hand, they strolled to the center of the field, shook hands with the opposing teams' captains, and participated in the coin toss led by game officials.

Senior football co-captain **Isiah Canton** says he has no problem sharing the field with Best Buddies. "These kids are part of our school and it's great to have them join us," he said.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of Best Buddies has applauded this effort and has recognized Carlynton in their statewide magazine, extolling the act of kindness as unprecedented. The Carlynton chapter is student-led, with senior **Nicole Stengel** serving as this year's president. She coordinates activities with officers **Brianna Oddi**, **Hannah Carey**, **Megan Howells**, **Monika Karpa**, **Jennifer Stevens** and **Patrick Carlson**.



From top: Honorary co-captains for the September 25th football game were Elliot Wilpula and Zachariah Spragg, flanked by Best Buddies officers Hannah Carey and Nicole Stengel; Teacher Frank Zebrasky stands with honorary co-captains Sam Steiner (left) and Lucas Gartley (far right) and football captains Parker Buzzza, Shafique Patterson and

Isiah Canton as they prepare to take the field for the coin toss; Best Buddies honorary co-captains Kylee Gillis (far left) and Hailey Baker (second from right) walk to the center of the field for the coin toss with Cougar football captains.

Fire Safety and Prevention



Crafton Elementary third graders busily checked out the Crafton VFD ladder truck parked in front of the school during fire prevention week.

Thanks to the efforts of the Crafton Volunteer Fire Department, students at Crafton Elementary learned about fire prevention, family escape plans and the importance of using smoke alarms in the home. Volunteer fire fighters **Rich Weaver** and **Dave Kratt**, arriving in a bright yellow ladder truck, visited the school during Fire Prevention Week to offer lessons in fire safety.

Celebrated nationally in early October, Fire

Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This year's theme, "Hear the Beep When You Sleep," promoted the importance of smoke alarms in bedrooms, the kitchen, basement and attic. Students at Crafton Elementary were reminded to ask parents to replace smoke alarm batteries every year.

The youngsters also learned the importance of getting outside, rather than hiding, if fire strikes, and crafting two escape plans from the home.



Assistant Fire Chief Dave Kratt explained and demonstrated a self-containing breathing apparatus used by firefighters when entering a house filled with smoke.

Wearing a hat for a worthy cause



Fifth graders **Kalee Shipley** and **Max Samangy** wore hats on Hat Day to benefit cancer patients at Children's Hospital. Crafton Elementary students and teachers raised over \$400 during the hat day campaign to benefit the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Participants donated \$2 to wear a hat in school while learning about philanthropy and compassion for others.

Cougar Buddies

Building a welcoming, safe and stress-reduced environment while promoting academic excellence is the goal of the Carlynton Cougar Buddies program. At the beginning of each school year, incoming seventh graders are paired with older students or Big Buddies who offer encouragement and maintain contact with a younger partner for the first semester of school.

Cougar Buddies partake in informal "check-ins" during the week by meeting for breakfast in the cafeteria or stopping in the library to chat quietly or offer help with homework. More formal activities are planned as well, usually organized through the guidance office and a Cougar Buddy student leadership group.

"Cougar Buddies creates a supportive environment for seventh graders entering the junior-senior high school," said guidance counselor **Stefanie Barnes**. Teacher **Tracy Post** helps to facilitate the program and expressed similar sentiments, "The program establishes an investment for the older students who take on a mentoring role. Our hope is to create relationships in a positive and comforting manner for both the students and their parents."



Seventh grader Malique Smith talks with Big Buddy Monika Karpa, a sophomore. Monika is keeping tabs on Malique for the first half of the school year in an effort to help him adjust to the new surroundings of the junior-senior high school.



Freshman Clair Schriver and seventh graders Sofia Notaro, Jonah Hunt and Rodrigo Corral take part in an ice-breaking game at the beginning of the school year to kick off the Cougar Buddy program.

Rotary Delivers Dictionaries

For the fifth consecutive year, third graders at Carnegie Elementary were given personal Scholastic dictionaries thanks to the generosity of the Carnegie-Collier Rotary. The hard-bound books are filled with vocabulary words, colorful maps and historic facts and will be helpful to students in the years to come. Members of the rotary visited the school to distribute the tomes to excited pupils who met the benefactors in the auditorium.

Third grade students at Crafton Elementary also receive dictionaries thanks to the Crafton Rotary. Each year, the dictionary donation prompts a third grade spring spelling bee at the elementary schools with students squaring off to disclose the top spellers in the class.



Carnegie Elementary third graders Eva Milliner and Mason Mulligan browse through the new dictionaries.



Standing with fellow Rotarians, Carnegie-Collier Rotarian President Diane Parker-Moore displays the dictionary students received for use in school and at home.



Carlynton High School 2015 Homecoming Court.

Homecoming: WEEK OF FESTIVITIES OCTOBER 12-17, 2015

BONFIRE



From top: Friends Amanda Griffen, Brianna Oddi, Megan Howells, Kaliegh Ciabattoni and Madison Crown gathered at the bonfire held on the high school softball field; Keeping warm by the roaring fire were Holly Rodriguez, Jordan Lange, Barry Lewellyn, Ian Kobistek and Abby Greiner.

PEP RALLY



Clockwise from top left: A handsome pair, Dean Chubarov and Maddie Crown entered the gym during a pep rally that honored members of the court; Smiling court members Sam Oliver and Nicole Rave were formally introduced to their peers at the pep rally held the Thursday before game; During the pep rally, several challenges were organized to engage court members. Working in teams, junior high cheerleader Brenna Ault and seventh grade football player Joshua Grondziowski garb senior Manny Burton in supplies found in a box.



THE COURT:
Emmanuel Burton
Dean Chubarov
Stormy Chubarov
Adam Corner
Madison Crown
Abigail Greiner
Johnathon Oliver
Samuel Oliver
Nicole Rave
Holly Rodriguez

JUNIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:
Hannah Bogats
Ray Bordenick
SOPHOMORE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:
David Creely
Arieona Smith-Purdue

Queen: Stormy Chubarov
King: Adam Corner



This page, clockwise from top left: Seniors Emmanuel Burton and Abigail Greiner made for a dashing couple as they crossed the football field and were presented before peers, family and football fans; A familiar Carlynton couple, Johnathon Oliver and Stormy Chubarov walked through the arch on the field as they were presented to a cheering audience in the bleachers; Junior class representatives Ray Bordenick and Hannah Bogats were introduced to the crowd at Honus Wagner Field during the Homecoming half-time ceremonies; The royal couple, Homecoming King and Queen Adam Corner and Stormy Chubarov.

PARADE

Clockwise from top right: The parade floats were creative and reflected the Homecoming theme, Travel the World, by showcasing countries and famous landmarks from around the world; The homecoming parade, held Friday evening before the football game, featured members of the court riding in convertibles. As senior members of the Homecoming Court, Holly Rodriguez and King Adam Corner added beauty and brawn to the parade, which traveled from Carnegie Park to Cooks Lane and ended on Franklin Avenue near Carnegie Elementary; The rain stayed away as sophomore representatives Arieona Smith-Purdue and David Creely waved to bystanders along the parade route.



TRAVEL THE WORLD, THE DANCE

Clockwise from top right: Sophomores Sydney Franchick and Brianna Koval patiently pressed the wrinkles out of tablecloths in preparation of the semi-formal homecoming dance later that evening; Drawing a large a compass on paper, senior Abby Greiner, juniors Sage and Storm Figura and sophomore Blair Finlay worked tirelessly to create a focal point on the dance floor in the gym; Juniors Collin Fox, Jennifer Lautenschlager and Shania Turner bopped and sang along with others in a line dance that brought everyone to their feet. Over 180 students attended the homecoming dance.



Making a Difference

Carnegie Elementary teacher **Scott Donnelly** was selected among thousands of applications to participate in the Mickelson ExxonMobile Teachers Academy (MENTA) this past summer in New Jersey. The all-expense paid professional development STEM camp allowed him to work alongside 100 teachers from all over the United States. During the five day camp, he discovered new methods to engage, explore, explain and evaluate math and science content.

The academy encouraged a change from

teacher-centered classrooms to teacher-structured classrooms where instructors talk less and listen more. Donnelly gained a deeper understanding of mathematics and science in the areas of data and statistics, measurement, force and motion. He gained expertise in facilitating student learning through problem-solving and inquiry-based self-discovery.

"MENTA, simply put, was the best professional development I've ever experienced," Donnelly said, "Equal to the knowledge gained from our



▲ As a MENTA participant, Carnegie teacher **Scott Donnelly** gained hands-on experience by problem-solving and conducting experiments with others in his team. The academy taught new approaches to infusing innovated learning into the classroom.

team leaders was the knowledge and ideas exchanged through collaboration with my team members."

An avid golfer, Donnelly admitted the chance to meet Phil Mickelson, academy supporter, was also exciting. Mickelson spoke at the closing ceremony, sharing his passion for science by illustrating real world experiences as a professional golfer. Additionally, the academy featured NASA astronaut Leland Melvin and the chance to work with engineers from ExxonMobil.



▲ Anxious for students to learn from his experiences at the STEM academy, Mr. Donnelly used a fifth grade science module to teach Newton's Laws of Motion and acceleration in the classroom. Using a stop watch, Nathaniel Vogel captured the speed of two cars propelled by Chase Jones and Paige Gordon, while Taylor Zaletski recorded the data.

Crafton Elementary health and physical education teacher **Josh Ficorilli** had an epic idea. Putting pen to paper, he applied for a grant through the "Creating a Healthy School Environment" with the Highmark Foundation and was awarded \$5,000 to implement an EPIC plan: an Exercise Park In the Community. The EPIC fitness program will be constructed near the front of the school and will include circuit-style, all-weather, exercise equipment. A rowing machine, a bench for sit-ups and an elliptical machine are a few of the pieces to be installed for use by residents of the community. An additional \$2,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation (through Rev.



Crafton physical education teacher Josh Ficorilli stands on school grounds near the installation area of an EPIC Fitness program.

Edward Bowen) will be used for more equipment and a gift from the school's PTA will enable Ficorilli to purchase fitness software to track fitness activity and progress.

The fitness park will be incorporated into the elementary physical education curriculum for use by students as well. As funding allows, Ficorilli hopes to install a software system that will link instructional videos to the exercise equipment.

Installation of the EPIC park will begin in the spring as some equipment is backordered.



Dr. Hillary Mangis

Dr. Hillary Mangis, District Coordinator of Special Education and Student Services, recently received commendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, for completing a year-long fellowship program for Special Education leaders. As a result, Dr. Mangis is equipped to develop and implement quality programs to improve the achievement of students with disabilities as well as ensuring success for all students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).