

CARLYNTON

School District News



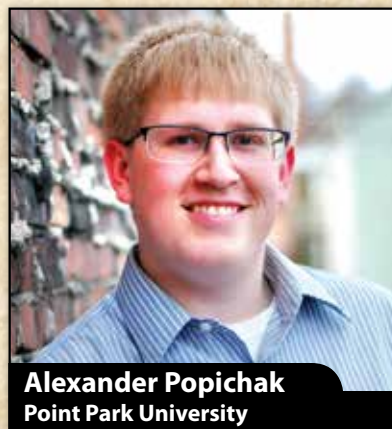
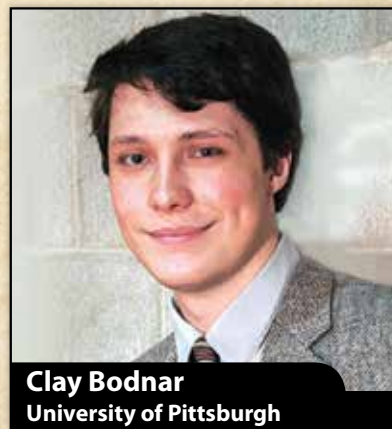
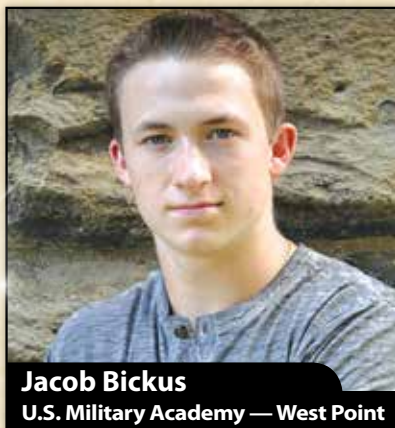
Carlynton School District

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CARLYNTON



HIGH
ACHIEVERS
**TOP
10**



Commencement 2015

A June 12, 2015 ceremony marked the 45th annual commencement of Carlynton High School and hailed the progression of 94 graduates. The threat of rain brought the ceremony indoors but did not dampen the anticipation of the evening. The graduates conveyed a sense of revelry as they marched uniformly into the auditorium and took a rightful seat on the stage.

Senior class president **Twyla Shaw** welcomed parents, family and friends to the ceremony and recapped some of the favorite occasions shared by the class in the past four years.

Valedictorian **Daniel Doyle** brought the audience and his classmates to their feet in a standing ovation following a graduation speech that was presented in song. Self-written and titled "The Carlynton Anthem," Dan, in a rich bass voice, skillfully imparted the sentiments felt by many of his peers that evening:

*She is eternal, teaching us never to stray
Every year that we spent here, has led to this day
And we shall always love her, even after we're gone
She is the constant, helping others move on.**

As the ceremony continued, salutatorian **Logan Schuler** and class vice president **Jessica Olkosky** presented poignant discourses, portraying the passing of time through daily routines in school and classes. Within the speeches, each expressed a trace of regret that high school was ending so quickly.

In keeping with tradition, members of the Class of 2015 were called forward to accept diplomas and the graduates were formally presented as graduates. Minutes later, caps were tossed into the air with shouts of elation and the Class of 2015 exited the auditorium to greet family and friends with handshakes and hugs.

**A segment of the song written and sung by valedictorian Daniel Doyle*



Clockwise from top right: Valedictorian Daniel Doyle broke tradition and presented his graduation speech in song and bringing the audience to its feet; Class vice president Jessica Olkosky looked to classmates to extend insightful sentiments in the closing speech of the ceremony; Jacob Bickus applauds while watching a friend receive a diploma; Following the graduation ceremony, long-time friends Perry Chambers and Michael Griffin pose as parents snap a photograph.

Introducing the Class of 2015:

Tyler H. Albert
Mackenzie A. Albright
Luke Ankrom
Elliot Miles Azzaretto
Joseph Anthony Baldanzi
Dustin G. Baron
Donovan Barton
Jacob E. Bickus
Clay Robert Bodnar
Benjamin D. Bonifield
Shawntel C. Boyer
Briann N. Brown
Emily C. Brozenick
Hannah Reid Butler
William M. Campbell
Perry Chambers, Jr.
Cassandra R. Clark
Joscelyn Marie Cura

Nicholas John Daley
Luke Anthony Davis
James Robert Dirling
Haley Patricia Doherty
Daniel P. Doyle
Mackensie Taylor Ellis
Alaina C. Esparza
Dezmen Lamant Feist
Francesco Fenoaltea
Edward C. Ford III
William Gardner, Jr.
John C. Grabowski III
Michael Griffin
Amber Lee Hahka
Logan Houghton
Melanie Lynn Jackson
Max J. Janocha
Andre K. Johnson

Olivia J. Kalimon
Mikaela M. Kapeluck
Ayla Kennelly
Antoinette Marie Koval
Mercedes Lin Kramer
Joseph F. Kutrufis
Zachary Adam Lange
Elizabeth A. Lewellyn
Paige Nicole Lherbier
Sarah Lynn Lukaszewicz
Ostap Lutsiv
Asia Nicole Mangan
Sara A. Mannes
Pamela M. Meighan
Jordan Taylor Melko
Justin James Mixon
Bradley Shae Moehring
Thomas Moulden

Zachary Thomas Natale
Jonas Notaro
Jessica Marie Olkosky
Maria Nicolette Pawlos
Douglas Conrad Pfeifer, Jr.
Jacquelynn Renee Pierce
Courtney Paige Pojeta
Alexander Popichak
Adrian W. Richards
Conor Reed Richardson
Erica Elyse Rodriguez
Dale Robert Rybacki
Gregory William Schock
Logan Michael Schuler
Nicholas Thomas Schultz
Erik Allen Shaffer
Twyla Aquina Shaw
Timothy Jacob Shekerko

Christopher C. Shumovich
Zachary R. Smith
Tyler John Solt
Alexander N. Spragg
Joshua Stasik
Jeffrey Stephan II
Elijah Szymkowiak
Natalie C. Thomas
Aymed K. Thornton
James Matthew Unger
Jonathan Thomas Vetter
Gretchen Elizabeth Vogel
Andrew Wyatt Vonada
Nathan Andrew Williams
Emily Wilsher
Angela Mary Witt
Lexus Lorraine Woods
Lyric Lee Woods
Ashley N. Wuenstel
Samantha N. Youngblood
Eric E. Zaharko
Vitaliy O. Zhuravskyy

Post-Secondary Declared Enrollments

Allegheny College -2
 Arizona State University -1
 Bella Capelli Academy -1
 Boston University -1
 Bowling Green State University -1
 California State University-3
 Carnegie Mellon University -1
 Chatham University -1
 Clarion University -2
 Community College of Allegheny County -11
 Duquesne University -2
 Edinboro University -1
 Geneva College -1
 George Mason University -2
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania -5
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania- Culinary School -1
 Kent State University -1
 Marshall University -1
 Ohio University -2
 Pennsylvania State University -3
 Pittsburgh Technical Institute -1
 Point Park University -4
 Robert Morris University -5
 Slippery Rock University -2
 St. Vincent College -1
 United States Army -1
 United States Marine Corp -1
 West Point United States Military Academy -1
 University of Dayton -1
 University of Pittsburgh -5
 Virginia Tech University -1
 Washington & Jefferson College -4
 West Virginia University -1
 Total Cash Value of Declared Scholarships as reported
 by students - \$5,086,251



Senior Class Officers

President - **Twyla Shaw**
 Vice President - **Jessica Olkosky**
 Secretary - **Mackenzie Ellis**
 Treasurer - **Paige Lherbier**



This page, clockwise from top: Members of the girls' and boys' ensembles sang hymns during a Baccalaureate service held June 9 in the auditorium to commemorate the Class of 2015; As the graduates marched into the auditorium, Greg Schock spied his mom and offered an enthusiastic thumbs up; Four worthy seniors received a \$5,000 Maggi Scholarship, an essay-based award established by the family of Russ Bunio, a 1965 graduate of the former Carnegie High School. Mr. Bunio, who named the scholarship after his mother, presented the endowment with a pay-it-forward message, urging students to strive for excellence and success and to pass along the benefits of that success to others. Recipients of the scholarships: MacKensie Ellis, Briann Brown, Alexander Popichak and Eric Zaharko. They are flanked by Principal Michael Loughren and physical education teacher Lisa Rowley, who coordinated the scholarship efforts with the Bunio family; Family and friends gathered on the lawn outside the school to capture memories of the special occasion. Graduates Luke Davis, Dustin Barron, James Unger and Nicholas Daley paused while family members took a photo.

Opposite page, counterclockwise from top: At the senior recognition ceremony, Scholar Athletes Pamela Meighan and Jacob Bickus and Athletes of the Year Conor Richardson and Michael Griffin were acknowledged for athletic prowess; Graduates Perry Chambers, Jordan Melko and Logan Schuler took part in a candle lighting ceremony during the Baccalaureate service; During the senior recognition ceremony the week before graduation, a representative from State Representative Tim Murphy's office presented senior Sara Mannes with the prestigious Senate Leader of Tomorrow award; Sisters Lexus and Lyric Woods celebrate their high school graduation with hugs.

Diploma in hand, these grads have their future in sight:

Cassandra Clark – Dramaturgy, Carnegie Mellon University
Daniel Doyle – Actuary Science, Robert Morris University
Ted Ford – Business, Washington and Jefferson College
Olivia Kalimon – Bio-Chemistry, Indiana University of PA
Sarah Lukaszewicz – Forensic Science, Point Park University
Sarah Mannes – Political Science, Boston University
Pamela Meighan – Architectural Engineering, University of Pittsburgh
Jordan Melko – Biology, Washington and Jefferson College
Nicholas Schultz – Finance, Robert Morris University
Jeffrey Stephan – Sports Management, Ohio University
Courtney Pojeta – Biology, George Mason University
Andrew Vonada – Political Science, Kent State University
Eric Zaharko – International Business, Indiana University of PA



Honors, Scholarships and Awards

State Senate Leader of Tomorrow Award – **Sara Mannes**
 U.S. Military Academy, WestPoint Appointment – **Jacob Bickus**
 Scholastic Excellence Awards – **Daniel Doyle** and **Pamela Meighan**
 Semper Fidelis Awards for Musical Excellence – **Joseph Baldanzi**
 Distinguished Athlete Award – **Edward Ford** and **Lexus Woods**
 Harry Quinn-Ralph Schorr Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500 – **MacKenzie Ellis**
 The Bob Williams Rotary Scholarship, \$1,000 – **MacKenzie Ellis**
 Carlynton Federation of Teachers AFT/AFL-CIO Textbook Grants, \$500 each – **Joseph Baldanzi, Olivia Kalimon, Alexander Popichak, Erika Rodriguez, Twyla Shaw** and **Eric Zaharko**
 The Maggi Scholarship, \$5,000 each – **Briann Brown, MacKenzie Ellis, Alexander Popichak** and **Eric Zaharko**
 Student Transportation of America Scholarship, \$1,000 – **MacKenzie Ellis**
 Peer to Peer Award – **Mackenzie Albright, Joscelyn Cura, Edward Ford, William Gardner, Paige Lherbier** and **Jessica Oikosky**
 Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award – **Sara Mannes**
 Excellence in Advance Placement Testing Awards (perfect scores) – **Clay Bodnar, Daniel Doyle, Jacob Bickus, Alexander Popichak** and **Logan Schuler**
 Scholastic Aptitude Test Club (700+ on SAT or 31+ on ACT) – **Hannah Butler, Jacob Bickus, Daniel Doyle, Ostap Lutsiv** and **Logan Schuler**
 Four Seasons Club Awards (4.0 GPA, grades 9-12) – **Jacob Bickus, Daniel Doyle, Pamela Meighan** and **Logan Schuler**
 Carnegie Junior Council Award- **Sara Mannes**
 The Kurt Cerny Memorial Award, \$250 – **Natalie Thomas**

Arion Award – **Daniel Doyle**
 The Linda Beck Memorial Scholarship – **Paige Lherbier**
 The John Philip Sousa Award – **Joseph Baldanzi**
 The Director's Award for Band- **Joscelyn Cura**
 The Spirit of the Ensemble Award – **Alexander Spragg**
 The Crescendo Award – **Maria Pawlos**
 Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Journalism – **Clay Bodnar, Alexander Popichak, Gregory Schock** and **Natalie Thomas**
 Carlynton Senior Students of the Month Awards - **Joseph Baldanzi, Jacob Bickus, Daniel Doyle, Melanie Jackson, Erika Rodriguez** and **Dale Rybacki**
 Female and Male Scholar Athlete of the Year – **Pamela Meighan** and **Jacob Bickus**
 Female and Male Athlete of the Year – **Conor Richardson** and **Michael Griffin**
 SHASDA Awards – **Melanie Jackson** and **Antoinette Koval**
 PWCTC National Technical Honor Society Students – **Donovan Barton** (Electrical Systems), **Melanie Jackson** (Culinary Arts) and **Thomas Moulden** (Auto Body Repair)
 PWCTC Outstanding Senior - **Jonathan Vetter** (Public Safety)
 PWCTC Student of the Month Award – **Donovan Barton**
 2105 Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Award – **Alexander Popichak**
 CHS Drama Award for Outstanding Contribution to Stage Management – **Olivia Kalimon**
 CHS Drama Award for Outstanding Debut Actor & Actress – **Jeffrey Stephan** and **Sara Mannes**
 CHS Drama Award for Rising Star – **Mikaela Kapeluck**
 CHS Drama Award for Outstanding Actor & Actress – **Alexander Popichak, Clay Bodnar** and **Natalie Thomas**
 CHS Lifetime Achievement in Dramatic Arts – **Cassandra Clark**



Marking a Milestone

It has become a tradition at Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools to honor the sixth grade classes at the end of the school year. Students are individually recognized for a variety of achievements in academics, community service and extracurricular activities.

The Citizenship Award

6 During the annual sixth grade recognition programs at Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools, one or more sixth graders are selected to receive the Citizenship Award. This accolade is presented to individuals who display all aspects of a good citizen by demonstrating kindness and respect, being prepared for class every day, volunteering and participating in service projects and offering to help peers or mentor younger students.

Carnegie Elementary named **Kevin Zhang** and **Megan Henke** as the male and female citizenship victors. **Robert Good** and **Sara MacMurdo** were the Crafton Elementary recipients of this esteemed award. Their names will be inscribed on a plaque that comprises the names of all past Citizenship Award winners.

In 2009, the Citizenship Award recipient at Carnegie Elementary was **Alexander Popichak**. **Paige Lherbier**, **Conor Richardson** and **Dale Rybacki** received the honors at Crafton Elementary. These students, who continued to embrace the traits of a good citizen, graduated with honors as members of the Class of 2015.



Carnegie Elementary Citizenship Award winners Megan Henke and Kevin Zhang stand proudly with Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek, Principal Carla Hudson and Superintendent Gary Peiffer.



Crafton Elementary Citizenship winners Robert Good and Sara MacMurdo are congratulated by sixth grade teacher Jim Nagorski.



Sixth grader Hannah Post received a certificate, high honor roll plaque, Safety Patrol of the Year award and was a DARE essay winner. Sixth grade teachers Bridget Ward and Jim Nagorski presented the awards at the recognition ceremony.



Crafton Elementary sixth grader Mariam Thompson unveiled "Return to the Moon" artwork from a t-shirt design worn during the annual trip to the Challenger Space Center at Wheeling Jesuit University. The framed art will be hung on the second floor of the school, joining artwork from past Challenger trips.

The recognition ceremonies represent an end to elementary school and mark a milestone in the lives of these young learners as they are promoted to junior high.

At the conclusion of the recognition ceremonies a slideshow presentation recapped the youngsters'

years in elementary school with glimpses of past activities and events. The ceremonies ended with refreshments in the lobby of the auditorium followed by picnics in the park.



Carnegie Elementary sixth grader Emmaline Stevens, as keynote speaker, kicked off the sixth grade recognition ceremony at the school with a captivating introduction.



High honor roll plaque winners from Carnegie Elementary included Evan Yaros, Natali Lutsiv, Emmaline Stevens, Hayley DeSimone, Brooke Martineck, Robert Heinrich, Megan Henke, Gracie Scullion, Madison Ciabattoni and Zachary Holderbaum.

President's Award for Educational Excellence



This award recognizes academic success in the classroom. To be eligible, students must meet requirements, including grade point average, school-set criteria, a score of proficient or higher on standardized state tests and teacher recommendations. Certificates are presented with the signature of President Barack Obama.

CARNEGIE ELEMENTARY

Madison Ciabattoni, Robert Heinrich, Megan Henke, Bryan Lee, Natali Lutsiv, Brooke Martineck, Gracie Scullion, Emmaline Stevens and Evan Yaros

CRAFTON ELEMENTARY

Desmond Corrado, Jonah Hunt, Hunter Kietz, Sara MacMurdo, Sofia Notaro, Hannah Post, Nicholas Simcic and Reece Smith

High Honor Roll Plaques



Recipient must maintain a GPA of 3.8 or higher over 3 or 4 grading periods to earn this award.

CARNEGIE ELEMENTARY

Madison Ciabattoni, Hayley DeSimone, Robert Heinrich, Megan Henke, Zachary Holderbaum, Natali Lutsiv, Brooke Martineck, Gracie Scullion, Emmaline Stevens and Evan Yaros

CRAFTON ELEMENTARY

Desmond Corrado, Jonah Hunt, Hunter Kietz, Sara MacMurdo, Margret Morvay, Sofia Notaro, Hannah Post, Rebecca Shook, Nicholas Simcic and Reece Smith



MAKING HEADLINES



A junior high team of **Jaimee Cabili, Benjamin Carothers, Maclaine Greiner, Claire Schriver** and **Daniel Schultz** took second place at the Fluid Power Challenge Competition in April. Twenty-eight teams from 16 area school districts took part in the competition. The task of building a device operated entirely by fluid power was designed to move wood blocks from one location to another. This is the second time in three years that a Carlynton team has received a trophy in this difficult challenge.



Dan Schultz, Maclaine Greiner, Claire Schriver and Jaimee Cabili displayed the device designed for the Fluid Power Competition and the trophy received for taking second place in the competition. Not pictured: Ben Carothers.

Seniors **Clay Bodnar, Cassandra Clark, Daniel Doyle, Ostap Lutsiv, Sara Mannes, Alexander Popichak** and **Alexander Spragg** took part in a Mock Senate sponsored by State Senator Matt Smith. The event was held at Robert Morris University with over 100 high school students. Sara Mannes spoke about the day-long event, saying she enjoyed the discourse that occurred in roundtable discussions. "There was an open, encouraging environment for students to discuss important issues," she said. Sara, who will attend Boston University in the fall with plans to become a lawyer, said she was intrigued by "observing the impact lobbyists can have when advocating a bill." By attending the Mock Senate, individuals had the opportunity to learn more about the legislative process while debating, amending and voting on 20 bills modeled after actual legislation.



A blood drive held at the junior-senior high school in April was selected as the Blood Drive of the Week by the Central Blood Bank of Pittsburgh.

The drive, held in honor of student **Hailey Baker**, collected 106 units of blood. Earlier in the year, Hailey fell ill with viral pneumonia and received dozens of transfusions as part of her treatment. Fifty-five students and staff members took part in the drive and others assisted by coordinating and helping at the event.



In May, students in **Rachel Enck's** journalism class and members of the *Cougar Times* newspaper staff had the rare opportunity to participate in an interview

with film star Stephanie Scott of *Insidious 3*. Freshman **Olivia Cindrich** wrote an account of the interview for the *Cougar Times* newspaper. Focus Features, the Hollywood production company who has produced and distributed the *Insidious* movies as well as the Academy Award winning movie, *The Theory of Everything*, received a copy of the article. The company was impressed by Olivia's editorial and regarded it as promotional tool for its website. Students **Elizabeth Behage, Alex Pollack** and **Alexis Stewart** also took part in the interview



Twenty-seven Carnegie and Crafton Elementary students became Kids of Steel in early May as they took on the final one mile leg of the Pittsburgh Kids Marathon. Beginning in February, the participants completed fitness stations to work on five components of fitness such as jump rope activities and cooperative games that involved a great deal of running.



Kids of Steel runners from Crafton (top) and Carnegie began the race near PNC Park and crossed the finish line on the Boulevard of the Allies. The program encouraged healthy nutrition habits and promoted physical activity.

The workouts were recorded and as race day approached, students had logged 25.2 miles of exercise. The one mile Kids of Steel race completed a goal of 26.2 miles, the length of a full marathon. Carnegie and Crafton health and physical education teachers **Susan Brossman** and **Josh Ficorilli** oversaw the fitness activities. Counselor **Stephen Hope** and teachers **Andrea Mackey** and **Adrienne Monaghan** ran with the students as well as a number of supportive parents.

process, gaining an inside look into the professional field of journalism and public relations.



Junior high students **Nicholas Cindrich, Eliana Davis, Elizabeth Duffy, David Holderbaum, Edward Huehn, Marco Moorby** and **Tara Wade** proudly represented the district at the Junior High District Choral Festival held at CAPA in May. The students were selected by an audition process and had the chance to perform and interact with other participants from schools across the county.



Third grader **Mahavishnu Dutta** was the winner of the fourth annual spelling bee at Carnegie Elementary. Fifteen finalists from three third grade homerooms advanced to the competition. **Caden Crow** finished in second place and **Kayla Symsek** took third.



Rotarian Patty John presented spelling bee winner Mahavishnu Dutta with a \$100 gift card to Barnes and Noble Bookstore and the funds to advance to the statewide competition at Seven Springs.

The spelling bee is held in conjunction with the Carnegie-Collier Rotary who provides dictionaries to third graders at the beginning of the school year. The rotary awarded Barnes and Noble gift cards to the top three spellers and funded a trip to Seven Springs Resort for Mahvishnu and his family where Mahvishnu competed in a statewide spelling bee sponsored by Rotary District 7300.

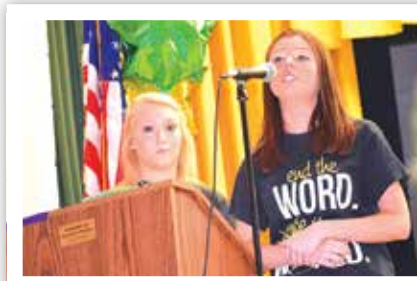


Carnegie Elementary sixth grade teacher **Scott Donnelly** was selected to attend the Phil Michelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy this summer in Jersey City, NJ. Over 1,500 teachers across the U.S. applied for the academy with 100 teachers selected.

The professional development program is geared to science and mathematics initiatives and focuses on the integration of enrichment lessons into elementary classrooms. The academy, a one-week residential program, conveyed the use of instructional resources to support student learning and encourage schools to network with other professionals in math and science education. Mr. Donnelly often employs unique learning methods in the classroom. In June, students used the complimentary "Hot Wheels Speedometry" in science classes to connect with a Motion and Design science module to determine speed and distance-traveled through various challenges using the cars and track.



A "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign at the high school carried over to assemblies at the elementary schools to encourage children of all ages to relinquish the use of the "R" word. Members of the high school Best Buddies chapter and the Youth Leadership Advocacy Council led the charge throughout the district. These groups are committed to establishing a global volunteer movement to create bonds between students and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year, the outreach efforts



Juniors Erin Connor and Alexa Crown spoke to Carnegie and Crafton elementary students, urging an end to the use of the "R" word.

were rewarded. The Carlynton Chapter of Best Buddies International was named the Chapter of the Year by the Pennsylvania League. The group also received commendations as the Best Buddies Pair of the Year and teacher **Lisa Rowley**, sponsor of the group, was named Advisor of the Year.



Honus Wagner Field took on a different scene on May 8 as teams of girls were pitted against one another in games of Powder Puff football. Not to be taken lightly, these girls strutted across the field with determination and one goal in mind: to win! There were penalties for hard hit tackles and plenty of high fives



Senior MacKensie Ellis carries the ball in the spring Powder Puff football game against the juniors at Honus Wagner Field.

as one team overtook the other. Victories were secured by the sophomore class, who defeated the freshman by a score of 25-6. The seniors, victorious in all four years of play (grades 9-12), overcame the juniors in a hard fought 20-0 game, despite earlier smack talk by the junior class. The teams were coached by members of the football team, who took their role seriously as they shouted out plays and words of encouragement.



The Carlynton National Honor society welcomed 25 new members at a spring induction ceremony held in the auditorium. On the same evening, 27 junior high students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Membership is based on academic



NHS president Logan Schuler and NJHS president Owen Kalimon lit a white candle, symbolizing the light from which knowledge flows, during a candle lighting ritual of the induction ceremony.

excellence and reflects the four pillars of scholarship, leadership, citizenship and service. The 2014-2015 officers of the NHS were **Logan Schuler**, president, **Sara Mannes**, vice president, **Cassandra Clark**, secretary, **Pamela Meighan**, treasurer, and **Jacob Bickus**, historian. NJHS officers included **Owen Kalimon**, president, **Sydney Franchick**, vice president,

Continued >



MAKING HEADLINES *continued*

Olivia Cindrich, secretary, **Nathan Bickus**, treasurer, and **Jessica Vogliano**, historian. Teachers **Cynthia Eddy** and **Michelle Dzurenda** serve as the NHS and NJHS sponsors, respectively.

Carnegie Elementary wrapped up its third annual Cultural Day on May 15 with students traveling through different countries, passports-in-hand, to discover the customs, language, and culture of Africa, India, Ireland, Italy, the Middle East, Phillipines, Poland and the Ukraine. High school Spanish students joined the event to teach the differences and similarities between Spanish and Italian, school board member **Antriece Hart** performed and led others in a traditional African dance and numerous residents of Carnegie shared stories, folklore and artwork of their homeland. In preparation for Cultural Day, students studied the countries, wrote reports, prepared multi-media presentations, created artwork and designed maps to depict the diversity and history of the nations.

Students in American Government and Economic classes became Supreme Court justices during a Mock Supreme Court trial in June. Individuals prepared and argued major landmark cases in SCOTUS-style (Supreme Court of the United States) before a panel of justices. The



Junior **Shafique Patterson** presented his argument in the case of *U.S. versus Windsor*, a suit filed in court seeking a declaration that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional.

debates took place over a four-day period with students conducting research to back up the cases. The mock trials were held as an end-unit in **Tracy Post's** classes and gave students a newfound respect for lawmakers.



High school social studies teacher **Timothy Patsko** had the exciting opportunity to travel to Greece this summer for 11 days as part of the Classrooms Without Borders program. The educational tour took Mr. Patsko to significant sites and cities throughout the country giving him a first hand perspective and appreciation for the curriculum he teaches in World History courses. Classrooms Without Borders provides professional development for teachers in environments that include history, culture, politics and current events through a learning abroad environment.



Accepting the responsibility as governing the Class of 2016 are newly elected officers and soon-to-be seniors **Marin Exler**, **Holly Rodriguez**, **Amanda Martin** and **Dean Chubarov**.



Explosions of color and light created thought-provoking lessons in science when the Carnegie Science Center visited Carnegie and Crafton elementary schools in April. During assemblies, Carnegie students learned about light, photosynthesis, lasers and the elements of the periodic chart in "Lights Fantastic." A "Solar Quest" at Crafton Elementary featured the sun and how it generates energy for our planet, followed by hands-on activities in the gym. The educational assemblies were sponsored through a grant in partnership with the PPG Foundation and the Carnegie Science Center.



Top: Crafton Elementary first graders **Isaiah Wall**, **Solomon Henderson**, **Emma Lubawski** and **Caroline Palladino** manipulate magnets to test the strength of different magnetic fields during a "Solar Quest" activity. **Bottom:** A mixture of chemicals soon becomes a mass of brightly burning gas during a "Lights Fantastic" assembly at Carnegie Elementary.



Classroom walls are being broken down this summer to make room for a Cougar Collaboration Learning Center at the junior-senior high school. A \$20,000 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) grant from the Chevron, Benedum and Grable Foundations will kick-start the learning space and provide computer stations, multimedia workstations and an independent reading area. Computers, software and enrichment materials will be added, endorsing an objective to infuse digital literacy with a platform for exploration and expansion of creative solutions through critical-thinking and problem-solving collaboration. The learning center will be located near the gymnasium wing and will include the former technology education classroom and an adjacent classroom.



Through a partnership with Hefron-Tillotson, Carnegie Elementary students connected with Junior Achievement again this past spring in a program that fostered work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills. Financial advisors from the Pittsburgh-based asset management firm worked with students in classrooms to stretch imaginations by creating small companies, developing



Vegetable plants for the Crafton Community Garden were started by peer-to-peer students Kylee Gillis, Emily Brozenick, Eric Zaharko, Alexa Crown, Cody Herlihy, Josh Stasik, Sam Steiner, Max Janocha, Lucas Gartley, Jeffrey Stephen, Nathan Williams and Jocselyn Cura.



As a community service project, students involved in the peer-to-peer program at Carlynton contributed to the creation of the Crafton Community Garden by planting and nurturing seeds to produce green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, peppers and other vegetables. The project was integrated with the science curriculum as students learned the differences and similarities between plants, the components of the ecosystem and the connections between plants, water and sunlight. The seedlings were transported to the Crafton garden and were transplanted in anticipation of a bountiful harvest. Science teachers **Elizabeth Jones** and **William Palonis** coordinated the program between the school and community.

marketing plans and learning more about the global marketplace.



A Scholar Athlete breakfast was held in May to honor and recognize 102 athletes who participated in one or more sports while maintaining a percentage grade of 87 or higher during the school year. Students were offered a "breakfast of champions" featuring eggs, french toast, sausage, fruit, danish and juice. Athletic director **Nate Milsom** and assistant athletic director **Annemarie Bunch** presented certificates of achievement and t-shirts to the deserving athletes.



The end of year sports roundup featured 14 students qualifying for the track and field WPIAL tournament and six advancing to states. Those six were **Sofia Carrasco, Sydney Franchick, Arieona Smith-Purdue, Conor Richardson, Ashleigh Wilson** and **Lexus Woods**. The junior high track team saw success at the Southwest Conference Invitational, bringing home 16 medals. Topping off the victories was **DeQuay Canton** who captured two first place medals in the 100 meter and 200 meter

dash. DeQuay broke the all-time invitational record in the 200 meter dash, quite the accomplishment for a seventh grader!



Senior **Antoinette "Toni" Koval** was named a winner of the 2015 C. Harper Chevrolet Positive Athlete Award. A cheerleader, Toni was honored at a ceremony with 25 other area high school winners. Former Steeler Hines Ward presented the awards. As a Positive Athlete, she received a \$500 scholarship and is eligible for various other corporately-sponsored scholarships.



The district has contracted with SharpSchools for a newly designed and more effective website. The site will allow for a responsive design that can be easily accessed from a smart phone, providing an efficient alert system for parents in the event of school closures or other announcements. In addition, teachers will be able to develop their own websites within the site to post assignments and other information. Look for the new site to be unveiled this fall.



Sixth graders Malique Smith, Evan Yaros and Leigha Brookes used a world map to identify countries that cooperate with the United States through trade and embargo regulations in a study about the global marketplace.



Hefron Tillotson vice president Ben Montgomery guided second graders Brian Holderbaum, Eva Milliner and Jessica Duray through the process of a production line for a mock company.

SPANISH STUDENTS EXPLORE THE YUCATAN

Twenty-two high school Spanish III and IV students embarked on a life-changing eight-day educational experience in the Yucatan of Mexico this past June. The trip, led by Spanish teachers **Marisa Rusinko** and **Steven Vayanos**, included tours of ancient temples, Mayan villages and remote jungles. The teen-aged tourists found themselves completely immersed in the culture of the land.

The excursion began in the Mayan city of Chichen Itza, one of the modern wonders of the world. They enjoyed swimming in a nearby cenote, a natural swimming hole formed by collapsed limestone. Students also toured the ancient city of Uxmal and climbed the 100 foot Great Pyramid of Uxmal, where they took in a light and sound show at the ancient ruins by night. They also visited the Mayan city of Izamal and scaled another pyramid after visiting an extraordinary colonial town with buildings painted exclusively in yellow and white.

The group toured the small town of Valladolid after hiking through an isolated jungle and stopping at a Mayan village where they ate lunch prepared by the Mayan locals. The visit, and other expeditions during the eight-day trip, prompted casual exchanges in Spanish with the native people.

In an email, Mr. Vayanos shared some of the highlights of the journey, adding, "This was a wonderful, educational trip and the conduct of our students was impeccable."

At the eco-archaeological theme park of Xcaret, the students floated and swam down underground rivers. Several swam with dolphins or sharks and all enjoyed the beautiful beach and later explored the various animals native to that part of the world, including pumas, macaws, spider monkeys, large turtles, manta rays, flamingos and tapirs. The visit to Xcaret included front row seats to a performance encompassing a comprehensive historical account of modern Mexico and the Mayan culture, practices and games.



Counterclockwise from top: Standing in front of El Caracol observatory at Chichen Itzu are the Spanish III and IV students and chaperones who traveled to the Yucatan Peninsula in June;

While touring the remote Mayan village, students were able to swim in a limestone cenote, cooling off from the hot and humid weather. Most of the swimming holes were over 100 feet deep and students could jump from a nearby ledge into the cool, clear water; Dinner in a Mayan village, with food prepared by the locals, was just one of the many experiences students enjoyed on the eight-day trip to Mexico. Students ordered meals in Spanish though most of the locals in this isolated village spoke the Mayan language.

Students also visited the cliff side ruins of Tulum, participated in a scavenger hunt around the city of Playa del Carmen and spent time shopping and swimming in the coastal resort town. Spanish III student **Morgan Vonada** was gushing with enthusiasm days after the trip. She said the scavenger hunt was similar to The Great Race. "We were given a map of the city and we had to locate specific buildings or sites. It was girls against the boys, and the girls won," she revealed.

The challenge reinforced interaction with the Spanish-speaking locals as students found their way around the city. "The experience allowed

them to work together and step out of their comfort zone to explore another culture," Mr. Vayanos said. "I am so proud of their maturity and growth."

Soon-to-be senior **Dean Chubarov** voiced a sense of gratitude when returning from Mexico. "I was able to see a different perspective of life in another culture and was able to utilize my Spanish-speaking abilities. We traveled through touristy areas and places that were very isolated; it has made me appreciate my country and I am so grateful I had this opportunity," Dean said.

Save the date!

2015

August

- 11 Crafton Kindergarten Orientation
- 17 Seventh Grade/New Student Orientation at HS
- 19 Carnegie Kindergarten Orientation
- 27 School Opens

September

- 02 High School Picture Day
- 07 Labor Day, No school
- 12 Carlynton Band Festival
- 17 High School Open House
- 18 In-Service Day, No school

October

- 14 Carnegie Elementary Picture Day
- 15 Elementary Open House
- 16 In-Service Day, No school Homecoming
- 21 District-wide Two-Hour Delay
- 28 Crafton Elementary Picture Day