

Campus School Parent Teacher Association

To provide social opportunities to connect parents, teachers, staff and students through school activities that promote fellowship, and to organize special events that raise funds for scholarship needs, enriching programs, and technology enhancements.



THE CAMPUS SCHOOL
of Carlow University

Children of Spirit

Winter 2009

Getting to Know the Hollerans

Seventh-grade student Peyton Holleran transferred from St. James School in Sewickley to the Campus School this year. She lives with her parents, Margo and Kevin, and brother Keegan (a Central Catholic freshman) in Ben Avon. The following is an interview with Kevin and Margo:

Q: What brought you to the Campus School?

A: We were looking for a different learning environment.

Q: How did you hear about the Campus School?

A: We had knowledge of the school (Kevin grew up in Oakland, attended St. Agnes Elementary School, and even worked in the Mercy Convent while a high school student at Central Catholic). We also knew Campus School parents Matt Stacey, our family orthodontist, and Dana and Henry Casale, who live in our neighborhood.

Q: Did you research any other schools when looking at the Campus School?

A: We reviewed Shady Side Academy and The Alpha School, but Carlow was our first choice.

Q: How was Peyton's first semester at the Campus School?

A: The experience has been nothing but positive. The educational value, the teachers and the students have been more than we could have expected. The curriculum for Peyton is exactly what she needed, as compared to our previous school. She is reading and writing more, something that was lacking at her previous school. The teachers are much more informative and truly interested in the children learning. We are quite pleased with the learning experience at Carlow.

Q: What is Peyton's favorite thing about the Campus School?

A: Peyton truly loves the curriculum, especially the Wheel program; the teachers and most importantly the students who have welcomed her and made her feel like one of the team. The teachers have made a big impact. Margo and I were told by each teacher we met during conferences, that it feels as if Peyton has been at the school much longer than two months. Margo and I regret not sending her to Carlow earlier. There is a mature atmosphere with all the girls in her class and she has been accepted in a very short period of time. Not an easy task for a seventh grader! The teachers have been great with Peyton and helping her transition into a new school, learning a new system. It's been an extremely positive experience for us and our daughter.



Q: Is Peyton involved in any extracurricular activities at the Campus School?

A: Peyton is in Forensics, Basketball and will participate in the Spring Play. She can't wait for the "Wizard of Oz!"

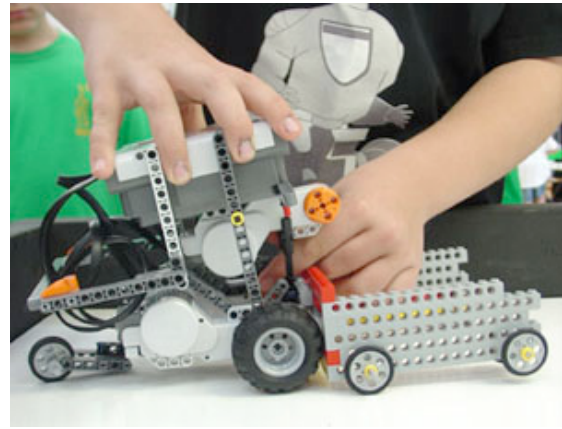
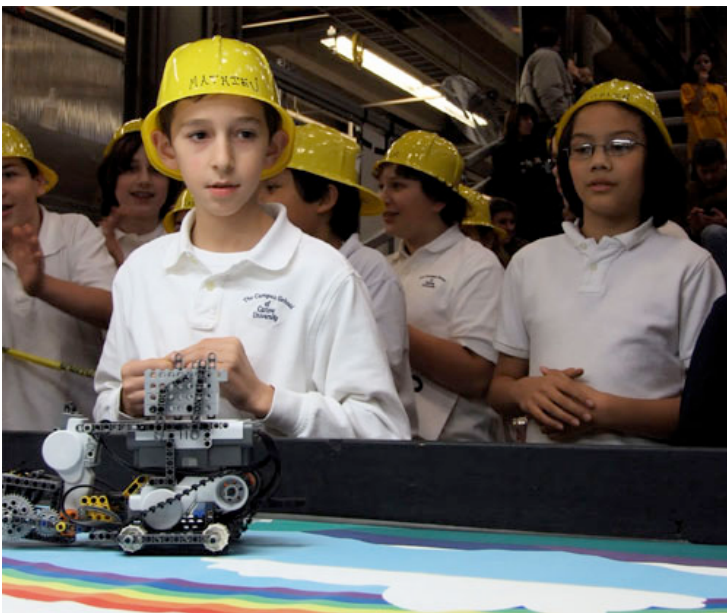
Q: Any other thoughts you'd like to share on your overall Campus School experience?

A: For a new student and new parents, we found the process to be explained very well and all of our questions were answered. With the diverse background of the many students at Carlow it has given Peyton the opportunity to know other cultures and to have a better understanding of others. We have noticed a positive change in our daughter. She couldn't be happier with the change she made and neither could we.

Q: Any areas where the Campus School could improve?

A: The only negative comments we have is the lack of an online grade monitoring system. This is an extremely useful tool for a parent. We had this at our previous school and it is also utilized at Central Catholic, and keeps parents informed on all school work; grades, homework, etc. Is there any potential for a pilot program to be tested for such a process, possibly Edline? Carlow has so many positive educational programs; this would only enhance the educational experience for both the parents and students.

(NOTE: The Campus School is in its third year of using PCR Educator, an administrative software for independent schools. This system does include a parent portal where parents can privately view their child's on-line homework assignments and grades, and also contains the Campus School on-line directory. For additional information on PCR, please refer to www.pcreducator.com; or contact Computer Instructor Theresa Hassett at hassett.tm@carlow.edu.)



Campus School's Robotics Team Wins Trophy

by DeAnna Kwiecinski, Intermediate Science Teacher

"Climate Connections" was the theme of the 2008 LEGO League Challenge sponsored by the organization FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). This year, The Campus School of Carlow University took two Upper School teams to Carnegie Mellon University's National Engineering Robotics Consortium on Saturday December 6, 2008. They were two teams out of thousands who participated in 40 countries. The teams not only came home with a wonderful learning experience, but a trophy as well. They placed fifth overall out of 79 teams from Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, and Virginia.

There were two parts of the challenge: 1. Game Challenge - the teams were given missions for their robot, such as burying carbon dioxide or extracting an ice core sample; and 2. The project itself. The Upper School students researched how climate affects their own community, identified a local climate problem, analyzed climate data, and discovered what their community is doing. Then they found another community somewhere in the world with the same issue, identified any solutions, and finally created a new community solution.

The founder of FIRST, inventor Dean Kamen, holds more than 440 patents, many of them for medical devices, such as the first insulin pump for diabetics. He is also the inventor of the self-balancing, electric-powered Segway. In 1989 he founded FIRST to motivate children to learn about science and technology.

For more information and to view pictures from the December FIRST Lego League Competition, go to http://www.education.rec.ri.cmu.edu/content/lego/competitions/fll/fll_2008/index.htm.

Check out our students in the yellow construction hats!



Calling All Artists! Heinz Ketchup Contest



Campus School students in Grades One through Eight have the opportunity to compete in the 2009 “Heinz Ketchup Creativity Contest.” The contest encourages students to combine their love of ketchup and art by creating a design that will appear on 19.5 million Heinz Ketchup packets. All submissions will be judged by Heinz employees, and this year’s special judge is renowned pop artist and Pittsburgh native, Burton Morris. The PTA will work with faculty in gathering student submissions from each classroom and submit them as a group by February 28th.

All eligible entries will be judged on creativity, originality, and clarity of artwork. Ten submissions will be selected from each grade, and from the 120 finalists, Mr. Morris will select the top three entries in each grade. The grand prize winners of the Contest (one per grade) will be selected from the pool of 36 finalists by public vote via website. The 12 grand prizes will include \$1,000 worth of Heinz Ketchup and \$1,000 toward the purchase of art supplies for each winner’s school, a \$1,000 cash prize for each of the winning students, and one poster of the winner’s artwork for each winner’s student.

For a complete list of eligibility requirements and detailed information on the contest, go to www.KetchupCreativity.com.

Thanks to parent Greg Gerlach for bringing the contest to the attention of the PTA. There will be an envelope marked “KETCHUP CREATIVE CONTEST” placed in each homeroom by January 26th. Please encourage your budding artist to start creating!

Drawing inspiration from pop artists of the 1960s and ’70s, such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Tom Wesselmann and Red Grooms, Burton Morris creates high-energy, fun pieces that go beyond the traditional canvas and include pop culture phenomena such as the iconic Heinz Ketchup bottle. A proponent of art education in schools, Morris, who entered and won numerous contests in his youth, credits his teachers and his parents for encouraging him to pursue his passion and career as an artist. The Pittsburgh native has created signature artwork for corporations such as H.J. Heinz Company, AT&T, Perrier, Microsoft and Sony. Morris also has supported the work of numerous charities through his art. Morris will select the finalists of the Heinz Ketchup Creativity™ Contest. To learn more about the artist, visit www.BurtonMorris.com.





Director Patricia Cooper Delivers “State of the School” Address

Patricia Cooper, newly appointed Director, delivered her first “State of the School” address to parents at the January PTA meeting. “I want to assure you that with my acceptance of the Directorship of The Campus School, this now being a permanent change in Administration, you will find the educational excellence that you have come to know will continue,” she said. “The administration and faculty are dedicated in our continued effort to provide a nurturing, values-driven, holistic educational environment for our students with a strong curriculum that challenges students to reach their fullest potential.”

Mrs. Cooper cited the current enrollment at 256 students, and added that 12% of our students are able to receive some scholarship assistance, thanks in large part to the Founders Legacy Endowment (http://campusschool.carlow.edu/news/event_foundersleg07.htm). She also noted that the Endowment monies enabled several faculty members to attend conferences and workshops last semester and in the upcoming weeks.

For Patty Cooper’s full remarks from the January meeting, please refer to the “Minutes” section of the PTA website at www.campusschoolpta.com. Thanks to all those parents who attended this informative meeting.

The Few ... The Proud ... The Mighty ... PTA Board Members WANTED!

One of the many wonderful things about the Campus School is its small size. We truly have a nurturing environment here, with roughly 255 students and an average class size of 13 students per classroom. It’s an environment where you really have the opportunity to get to know other families, and one where your help really matters. A great way to become involved is to join the PTA Board, where an infusion of new ideas and creativity is always welcome – and needed. The time commitment is entirely up to you. Term limits are either two years (President and Treasurer) or one year (Vice President and Secretary). For a description of each Board position, please refer to the PTA website, www.campusschoolpta.com under “About the PTA.” If you are interested in assuming any of these positions, please contact Dana Casale at 412-732-9422; or danacasale@comcast.net before the end of February. We would like to have a smooth transition with the new Board well before the end of the School Year. Thank you!

Record Collection for 2008 Teachers’ Gift Program

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the 2008 PTA gift giving program for teachers and ancillary teachers. Your generous contributions amounted to over \$12,000 – a record for this program! The gifts were distributed to each teacher and ancillary prior to the Christmas break in either the form of a gift card, check, or gift (this was handled by homeroom parents). This was a 69% contribution from the Campus School families!

Special appreciation must be expressed for Lorraine Buck, who has undertaken this program for the past several years, and turned it into an extremely efficient, organized process. Lorraine makes the hectic Christmas season a little less hectic for all parents; more importantly, she makes the holiday more memorable for those who work so hard to educate our children.

Calendar of Events

Fri., 1/23	2 nd Semester Liturgy, Kresge 1:30 pm
1/26 - 30	Catholic Schools Week
Tues., 1/27	Upper School Science Fair A.J. Palumbo Hall, 6 to 8 pm
Wed., 2/11	Skating Party, Schenley Park 7 to 9 pm**
Thurs., 2/12	Parent Conferences Pre-K, K, Grades 1 & 2 No School for those students
Fri., 2/13 - 16	President’s Day Holiday No School
Wed., 2/25	Ash Wednesday/ Meager Meal Drive Begins
February	Black History Month (individual classroom events to be announced)

***Please note that the date for the Skating Party on Wed., Feb. 18 had to be changed to Feb. 11. The location is still Schenley Park Skating Rink. There will be no PTA meeting in February.*

The Campus School of Carlow University, a Catholic coeducational program rooted in the values-based tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, offers a creative learning environment and provides a holistic liberal educational for the young.

PTA Officers:

Dana Casale, President (danacasale@comcast.net)
Mary Kiernan, Vice President (mary@actualsizecreative.com)
Anne Ward, Treasurer (ward05@comcast.net)
Susan Lee, Secretary (mail@susanlee.org)