



October 12, 2011

Dear Pittsburgh Colfax Family,

On behalf of the Colfax Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), welcome to the new school year! Each year the PTO supports school activities through fundraising and volunteering. Our role has become more critical than ever this year as cuts in the State and District budgets have resulted in real losses for our school.

Your Colfax PTO has always been committed to helping Colfax thrive. For example, in 2008 we finished building the Bob O'Connor Community Playground. This multi-year project, coordinated by the PTO, brought together Colfax families and the wider community to raise over \$300,000 so our children could enjoy a state-of-the-art play space on Colfax grounds. This major accomplishment serves as a reminder of what is possible when parents, teachers, administrators and our community rally together on behalf of our children.

Of equal importance are the many smaller projects supported by the PTO. We have underwritten laptop computers and data projectors; Challenge 24 and chess; classroom supplies and recess equipment; field trips and dances; spelling bees and talent shows. This year, with your help, we will fund the Edible Schoolyard, trips to the Frick Environmental Center and Food Is Elementary classes. We have also committed to giving our new principal a discretionary fund of \$10,000 to replace a portion of the discretionary student activity funds that were lost this year to budget cuts.

In addition to financial support, the PTO brings our community together with family events and keeps us all informed by maintaining a website, a Facebook page, email announcements, and a newsletter.

Fundraising is critical to supporting PTO efforts. This year we are trying to streamline fundraising into a small number of major drives: Colfax Gear, Art Tiles, the Party for Play Auction and Gala, the Spring Plant Sale, bi-monthly ice cream sales, and this donation drive.

**To ensure that our children's educational experience is as rich and varied as possible, please consider supporting our Colfax community with a tax-deductible contribution to the Colfax PTO.** We will be recognizing contributions at different levels but *please know that a gift of any amount is welcomed, appreciated and will be put to good use!*

Thank you for helping to support Pittsburgh Colfax. We look forward to another successful and enriching school year!

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Colfax PTO,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: Tamara Dubowitz, Jennifer Ganger, and Adam J. Sikorski.

Tamara Dubowitz, Vice President of Fundraising, Colfax ALA PTO  
Jennifer Ganger, President, Colfax ALA PTO  
Adam Sikorski, Principal, Colfax ALA

**Colfax ALA PTO**  
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**2011-2012 Executive Board**

Jennifer Ganger  
*President*

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Mark Beck  
Abbie Campsie-Haber  
Tamara Dubowitz  
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Tax exempt ID: 20-3274732

**Pittsburgh Colfax K-8 Accelerated Learning Academy  
PTO 2011-2012 Donation Pledge Form**

The PTO will recognize contributions at the following levels in our newsletter. If you wish not to be recognized, please let us know.

- 💰 Platinum - \$1000 and over
- 💰 Gold - \$500 - \$999
- 💰 Silver - \$250 - \$499
- 💰 King Cobra - \$100 - \$249
- 💰 Cobra - \$50 - \$99
- 💰 Patron - \$25 - \$49
- 💰 Friend – up to \$24

**I would like to donate** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I prefer to remain anonymous.

*Please make checks payable to Colfax PTO and return in the envelope provided  
or go to <http://colfaxpto.org/donate.html> to contribute via credit card.*

*All donations are tax deductible.*

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Thank you!