

# Family Newsletter

June 2019

Charles W. Henry School  
Carpenter Lane & Greene  
Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Dr. William Hite,  
Superintendent

Kim Newman,  
Assistant Superintendent

Kate Davis, Principal,  
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[www.philasd.org/schools/henry](http://www.philasd.org/schools/henry)  
<https://henry.philasd.org>

## Dates to Remember

### August 2019

8/26-8/29: Kindergarten  
parent/student meetings

### September 2019

9/2: Labor Day- Schools and  
Offices Closed

9/3: First Day of school!

9/27: School closed (professional  
development for staff)

9/30: Rosh Hashanah, school  
closed

## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Happy June! The end of the year came more quickly than any of us expected. We had a jam-packed month of May! Students in the choir, band, and orchestra serenaded our community during the Spring Concert. Our first annual school-wide Career Day was a HUGE success thanks to our counselor Mr. Brogan and more than 30 parent and family volunteers. We cannot wait to grow this event next year. The talent of our K-8 students was showcased during our two daytime talent shows. Students danced, played instruments, told jokes, and sang.

Spirit Week brought an incredible amount of fun to CW Henry. The rain held out and we played a variety of organized games from 10am - 2pm on Field Day. A huge thank you to our gym teacher, Mr. Munter, as well as all of our classroom teachers, for their support on this day.

As announced earlier, our school building is undergoing exciting work this summer. We held two informational meetings for families on May 7th and May 16th to share information about the upcoming Capital projects. Beginning on June 10th, teams of contractors will begin working on the K-2 Classroom Modernization

project as well as the Paint and Plaster Stabilization Project. All building work is scheduled to finish up by August 9th. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to many fresh coats of paint and completely re-modernized rooms in our K, 1st, and 2nd grade classes.

Looking ahead to next year, we are very exciting to announce three new developments at C.W. Henry. With the support of the School District of Philadelphia, we are launching a restorative Youth Court with our rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. With the guidance of CW Henry teachers, our Youth Court will be run by upper school students to address climate and culture concerns. We will also enter into a new partnership with the Office of Climate and Safety as we've been accepted to become a PBIS (Positive Behavior Support) school. Our staff will receive training, coaching, and resources as we develop our school-wide approach to positive behavior support. Last but not least, we will partner with Playworks to develop a sustainable recess program for all students. School Climate staff will receive coaching and support from a Playworks Site Coordinator. Stay tuned for more information!

We are wishing a very sad goodbye to the following staff members: Mrs. Greenhall, our School based Teacher Leader. Mr. Wright, our 6th and 7th grade

math teacher, Ms. Tannen, our 3rd-5th grade autistic support teacher, and Ms. Fisher, our 4th grade teacher. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors and hope they return regularly to visit us.

Thank you all for your support as we closed out this school year together. If you need anything over the summer, please reach out to me via email at [kdavis4@philasd.org](mailto:kdavis4@philasd.org).

Sincerely,  
Ms. Davis

list will be updated on Henry's main website and will be listed by grade by **June 7th, 2019**. These are your students' reading assignments for the summer so please be sure to check out the website. Thanks!



award, which celebrates excellence in teaching. Congrats, Mrs Trisdorfer!

**Career Day:**

A big thank you to Mr. Brogan, our school counselor, for organizing and hosting our first annual school-wide career day. Thanks also to the 30+ parents who volunteered their time by visiting the classrooms and letting students know about their exciting careers.

**Dancing Classrooms:**

A great big congratulations to all of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in our annual ballroom dancing program. After 22 learning sessions, the students showed off their new found skills at an assembly for parents and students on May 10th. A select group of dancers made their way to the semi-finals on May 15th, where they competed against other schools in partners and Henry placed 3<sup>rd</sup>! Way to go 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

**Attention all Henry caregivers!  
Back to School in September...**

Did you know that the first day of school for ALL Henry students for the 2019/2020 school year is **Tuesday, September 3rd**? Please make a note of this when planning summer camps and family vacations. Thanks!

**Back to School Supply List and Summer Reading List:**

The school supply list for your child's teachers (classroom and specialists), and the summer book

**Schoolwide Updates**

**Art Show:**

The school-wide art show on May 9th was a beautiful affair thanks to Mrs. Johnson and the hardworking staff, students, and parents who helped hang the work.

**School Concert:**

The school concert on May 17<sup>th</sup> was fantastic, with students in grades K-8<sup>th</sup> showing their vocal and instrumental skills. Congrats to Ms. Trisdorfer, Mrs. Scamby, and Mr. Graef and all the students on your talent and hard work!

**Henry teacher receives Lindback Award!**

Mrs. Nicole Trisdorfer, music teacher extrodinare, was one of 60 Philadelphia public school teachers chosen for the annual

**Philly Friends Chess Tournament**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, eight Henry female students attended a city-wide chess touney at Drexel University with Mr. Brogan (Chess Team Coach). Way to go, Henry students!

**Spring Fun in the Lower School!**

So much fun was had this spring throughout the Lower School. Here's just some of the things that went on:

-Baby chicks were incubated and hatched in the first grade classroom. The students loved watching the growth process and meeting the newborn chicks.

-The 4<sup>th</sup> grade attended the annual Weather Education Day and a Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park on May 16<sup>th</sup> in partnership with The Phillies, Citizens Bank, NBC10/Telemundo62 and the Franklin Institute.

-The 3-5<sup>th</sup> grades attended a showing of *Treasure Island* at the Arden Theater in May as a finale to the year long in-school partnership with the Arden's language arts through storytelling program.

-The 4<sup>th</sup> grade finished up their year long *History Hunters* program by visiting the Wyck House.

-The 1<sup>st</sup> grade visited the Franklin Institute on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Garden:**

Another year of learning in the Henry organic garden with Farmer Dave is wrapping up. Please ask your students about the garden lessons. Thank you to 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade parent, Meredith Jacoby (aka Farmer Meredith) for co-teaching and assisting with the classroom garden sessions.

### **Garden Club:**

A big thank you to Ms. Sheard (1<sup>st</sup> grade) for creating and hosting the afterschool garden club for our younger grade students!

### **Plant Sale:**

On May 4<sup>th</sup> Henry School Garden coordinators and volunteers hosted a wonderful plant sale event. Food trucks, music, kids activities in the garden, and a weaving project accompanied the plant sale.

### **Hello and Good-bye**

**Good-bye:** It is with great sadness that we are saying good-bye to the following staff members:

#### **Mrs. Greenhall (School based Teacher Leader)**

Mrs. Greenhall will be leaving us to become an assistant principal at John Webster Elementary!

**Mr. Wright (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math teacher)-** After 6 years at Henry, Mr. Wright will be leaving to teach 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade math at E.M Stanton in order to cut down on his long commute.

#### **Ms. Tannen (Autistic Support) –**

Ms. Tannen will be leaving Henry after 7 years to teach 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade Autistic Support at A.S McCall, a school that is a short trip from her home.

#### **Hello!**

We are excited to welcome the following teachers to the CW Henry community: Ms. Samantha Morris, Mr. Jared Jacobs, and Ms.

Christina Johnson. Our new staff will begin on August 26, 2019. We look forward to introducing them to you all in more detail as we begin the upcoming school year.

### **Upper School Update:**

#### **Spring Sports**

#### **Dragonboating:**

Congrats to the Henry Dragonboating team and Mrs. Heberley (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) for competing in the Independence Regatta on June 1st! The Henry team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall-which was no easy feat as some of the competing teams were adult teams!

#### **Softball:**

The Henry softball team competed in 6 games this year against other Philadelphia school district middle schools, with a final record of 3-3. 12 out of 15 players were brand new this year! A big thank you to Ms. Cantarini (Social Studies) for coaching the team again this year! A shout out to Henry parents Mr. Watts and Mr. Blackwell for helping coach the team! The team also participated in the Youth Softball Celebration with the Phillies for our end of the season celebration.

#### **Track:**

The Henry Track & Field Team had a remarkable season with several achievements and records. We had a record

number of students rostered this year at 22! Our girls 4x100 team qualified for the Penn Relays for the third straight year. We finished 2nd at Roxborough Sectionals and qualified for the Philadelphia School League Championships for the first time. Some individual highlights include Ananda Grisson finishing in 1st place for the long jump at 14'5" and tied for 1st place in the 100-meter sprint at 12.9 seconds; Aeryka Laureano finishing in 3rd place for the 800 meter at 3:08 minutes; and our girls 4x100 team finishing tied for 3rd at 54.1 seconds, members included Makiyah Perry, Aniyah Lewis, Alaya Crawford and Ananda Grisson. Overall, the girls finished 7th and the boys finished 12th at the championships at Gratz Field. We'd like to thank and recognize our three year track members, Jeremiah Kensey and Makiyah Perry for a phenomenal middle school career at CW Henry. Thank you to all our student athletes for a memorable season!

## Clubs

### **Yearbook Club:**

Thanks to all of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Mrs. Smith for your hard work and dedication in creating this year's fantastic yearbook!

### **Debate Team:**

The Debate Team had 15 participants and competed in 2 city-wide debate competitions this year. All of our participants

were brand new to debate and did extremely well. Each competing team won at least one round!

### **Songwriting Club:**

Thank you to Mr. Brobson and the many students who participated and lent their energy, intelligence and talent to this club. Good luck with the songs and jingles you created!

## Upper School Spring Classroom Highlights

### ***In Science class with Ms. Harley...***

-Collaboration with art class- Students grew seedlings of marigold, Japanese indigo, and safflower (among others) in the classroom and then transferred them into a special school garden bed. These flowers will grow into plants that will be used in the fall to dye fabric for textile art with Mrs. Johnson, Henry art teacher. This was a project supported by Dr. Britton, school psychologist, and Mrs. Johnson.

-Also in science class- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders worked with LEGO robotics this year. They got experience with coding to get our robots to move in different directions and had fun racing them down the hall. This project will continue next year.

### ***In English Language Arts (ELA) with Mrs. Wirshup (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>) or Ms. Raup (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>)...***

-Our middle school students participated in the Writer's Matters program this year through both ELA and History with Ms. Cantarini. *Writers Matter* is a program through LaSalle University where students learn critical writing skills through the use of journal writing as a vehicle for self-expression. Through writing about their lives, the students find an effective emotional outlet at a time in their lives when personal expression and having their voices heard is so important.

Students kept writer's notebooks and created pieces about themselves, their challenges, and their families. At the end of the year students wrote pieces titled "Reflections - What Do I See In the Mirror?" C.W. Henry had six students win prizes for their writing pieces!

-Students also participated in the city-wide African American Oratorical Contest. We chose to focus on African American Heros and Sheros. Students wrote about important African Americans and their impact. Two students were chosen to compete in the city-wide performance-a Henry student won honorable mention!

-The 6<sup>th</sup> grade participated in a year long intensive program with the Philadelphia Museum of Art. All students visited the Museum 6 times for lessons with education staff that fosters critical thinking and deep looking. Museum staff also visited the students at Henry for additional lessons.

## ***In Social Studies class with Ms. Cantarini...***

-Students also participated in the Writer's Matter program (see above in the ELA section for more info on the program)

- Students participated in *Do the Write Thing*, a school district sponsored city-wide writing contest, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade student Olivia Williams won an honorable mention award for her written submission about ending violence in Philadelphia. Way to go, Olivia!

## **Field Trips**

-The 6<sup>th</sup> grade had fun on their annual trip to NYC on May ! Students visited the Museum of Natural History and Madam Tussad's Wax Museum. It was such a fun time! Thanks to Mr. Wright and Ms. Wirshup for organizing the trip, and to all of the parents who chaperoned.

-The 8<sup>th</sup> grade had their annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, DC. Thank you to Ms. Raup and Ms. Canterini for organizing the trip, and to all of the parents who chaperoned.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation**

Congrats to all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be moving up and moving on to various high schools around the city. We will miss you!

Some child- friendly podcasts your family might enjoy during the summer break!

### ***For Younger Kids:***

- Wow in the World*
- Story Pirates*
- But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids*
- *Peace Out*
- The Past and the Curious*
- Storytime*
- Tumble*
- Short and Curly*
- Brains On!*

### ***For Tweens/Young Teens:***

- This American Life*
- The Unexplainable*
- Dissapearance of Mars Patel*
- All Songs Considered*
- The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd*

## **Students Caught Being Good for May!**



The following students have been selected for *Caught Being Good* for the month of May:

### **Upper School Students (6-8th)**

- Nicole Gordon:** Room 209
- Fairuza Hyman:** Room 210

- Micah Kerney-Lester:** Room 204
- Jeremiah Kensey:** Room 208
- Siniah Davis:** Room 202
- Ateef Mikah Hicks:** Room 207
- Jahmere Freeman:** Room 201

### **Lower School Students (K-5<sup>th</sup>)**

- Avery Waller:** Room 110
- Henry Clinton:** Room 108
- Indigo Dixon:** Room 104
- Nina Woestehoff:** Room 101
- Ronald Smith:** Room 102
- Ava LeClerc:** Room 215
- Ethan Oree:** Room 109
- Lillian Wear:** Room 112
- Zachary Twyman:** Room 113
- Jannah Myers:** Room 103
- Shane Broadwater:** Room 216
- Alliyah Hoke:** Room 106
- Qeni Corinaldi** Room 105
- Ryan Moore:** Room 217
- Khalil Abdul-Jabbar:** Room 218

## **PTA and SAC Updates**

### **SAC Updates:**

Thank you so much to all who gave their input, attended the monthly meetings, and supported the SAC. We hope to see you at our monthly meetings beginning next fall!

### **PTA Updates:**

The May PTA meeting resulted in some exciting news: attending members voted to bring the **Playworks TeamUp** program to Henry for 2019-2020! We will share the (not insignificant)

expense between the school budget and the PTA budget, making this a full-community project.

The goal of the TeamUp program is to make recess a fun, inclusive time for every student in our community. Playworks is a national nonprofit that uses play to transform schools. A Playworks recess creates a place for every kid on the playground [to feel included, be active, and build valuable social and emotional skills](#). You can learn more at [www.playworks.org](http://www.playworks.org).

A Playworks site coordinator will spend one week out of every month at our school, working with staff, students, and parent volunteers to train, build, and sustain a high-functioning recess.

Our recess team staff, along with volunteers and junior coaches, will implement these strategies to help all students at our school experience safe and healthy play every day.

Learn more at [www.playworks.com/services/welcome/teamup](http://www.playworks.com/services/welcome/teamup)

Thank you for your support as we work to raise funds for this program. We look forward to building and sustaining a community of safe and healthy play!

Officers elected during the May meeting are:

**-President** - Leah Corsover

**-Vice Presidents-** Mira Solomon and Jess Stanforth (with VP-in-training Baiyina DePaolo Brown stepping in as soon as she's eligible)

**-Treasurer-** Mark Graham

**-Recording Secretary-** Rebecca Smith

**-Corresponding Secretary-** Patty Skuster

**Other board members:**

**Lower School Reps:** Orien Smith-Warren and Jonathan Barnes, Ms. Sheard

**Upper School Reps:** Ms. Smith, parent rep TBD

**Fundraising Chair:** Natasha Broadwater

**Projects and Events**

**Chair:** Meghan Medlock

**Communications chair:** Jenny Byiers

**Membership chair:** Bridget Morak

**Playground chair:** Kristin Roth

**Garden chair:** Meredith Jacoby

**Family Fun Nights Chair:** TBD

The first PTA meeting of the 2019-2020 school year will take place on the evening of **Tuesday, August 27th**, tentatively to be held in the school garden (next to the K playground) at 6:00pm. Meetings will typically occur on the third Tuesday evening of each month. We may need to call for a special meeting over the summer to approve plans for some playground improvements... make sure you are following the PTA Facebook page and are signed up for the e-newsletter to get announcements!

Happy summer to all!

