

Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association
Issue 6, February 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, it still offers many events we look forward to. We are reminded throughout the month of the great accomplishments of many Americans. We also enjoy expressing our love, in a number of ways, to those who are most important in our lives.

We are constantly inspired by and benefit from the many political, social, artistic, and scientific achievements of African Americans as we celebrate Black History Month. At the same time we recognize the contributions of Presidents Washington and Lincoln. The work of all these inspiring Americans plays such an important role in shaping our work as we educate and help our students become great American achievers.

Celebrating love and friendship helps warm up this very cold month. There could not be a better time to thank those who expressed so much love and support for the members of our community who have recently experienced great tragedy. The outpouring of support for our Haitian families ranges from money collected from our students, staff members, and families to trays and trays of food from the Trattoria Restaurant and many district families. They donated the food for our district-wide dinner held at Clinton. It was hosted by the Parenting Center along with many Clinton and district social workers, teachers, administrators, staff, and family members. This dinner (there is another planned for later in the month), brought together our Haitian students and their families for an evening of shared concerns, support, and activities for the children.

The love and support of the Clinton community knows no bounds as our students, staff, and families came together once again, to help one of our families whose house recently burned down. Fortunately no one was injured, but the family was left with nothing. Immediately clothes were collected along with money and gift card donations, ranging from pennies collected from the childrens' classmates to a \$1000 gift card from the Kerns family through their HK Community Fund.

During this short month, our students, staff, and families have inspired one another and have achieved wonderful things for those in need. On behalf of all our families whose lives were tragically altered, I thank you for your love and dedication.

Happy Valentine's Day,
Patty

FEBRUARY-AT-A-GLANCE

- 1ST OPEN REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN BEGINS, MON.-THURS., 9 AM – 12:45 PM, 525 ACADEMY ST., MAPLEWOOD
- 1-28TH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
- 8TH READATHON BEGINS (ENDS MARCH 2ND)
COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER BEGINS (ENDS FEB. 22)
- 10TH CANDYGRAM ORDERS DUE
- 11TH INFORMATIONAL MEETING ABOUT LICE, CLINTON SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 6:30-8 PM
- 14TH HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
- 15TH SCHOOL CLOSED, PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 17TH PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:15 PM
- 18TH NO MORE MELTDOWNS, A PRESENTATION BY PSYCHOLOGIST AND AUTHOR JED BAKER, TUSCAN SCHOOL, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- 25TH HAITIAN COMMUNITY GATHERING, CLINTON SCHOOL
- 26TH AUTHOR VISIT, SUZY KLINE

COMING IN MARCH

- 1-31ST WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- 5TH SCHOOL PRIDE DAY
- 10TH PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- 13TH TRICKY TRAY/SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION, 6 PM
- 17TH HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



PTA BOARD 2009-10

President

Karen Bethel
973-762-3474 kbethel@verizon.net

First Vice President

Jung A. Lee Masters
973-275-3936 jungleemasters@gmail.com

Vice Presidents

Fundraising

Rosanna McCrear
973-763-9588 rosanna@mccrear.com

Assistant, Alanna Muñoz

973-762-1797 alannamunoz@metaplan.com

Cultural Arts

Jackie Lahey
973-313-9757 jaclahey@aol.com

Public Relations

Cecelia Cancellaro
973-763-1730 ccancellaro@verizon.net

Membership

Erica Dussman
973-763-1717 solutionstosavor@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Kim Kushmerick

Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Aaron

Corresponding Secretary

Keli Anthony-Tianga

Clinton Courier

Editor, Liz Herring
973-378-3099 echerring@verizon.net

Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator

Tricia Bloom

ESL Liaison

Sandra Tomlinson

SPED-PTO Liaison

Jenny Lindstrom
973-378-8199 jenlindstrom@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

Leah Gomberg
Patty O'Connell
Liz Salituri

President Emeritus

Cecelia Cancellaro

Teacher Representatives

Marlene Cutrufello (mcutrufe@somds.k12.nj.us)
Joe Ferriero (jferrier@somds.k12.nj.us)
Susan Froelich (sfroelic@somds.k12.nj.us)
Janine Poutre (jpoutre@somds.k12.nj.us)

Principal

Patricia O'Neill
973-378-7686/ponell@somds.k12.nj.us

Assistant to the Principal

Ann Bodnar
973-378-7686/abodnar@somds.k12.nj.us

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Hello Clinton Families,

On the evening of Tuesday, January 12th, an earthquake in Haiti caused complete devastation and took the lives of thousands. This event has hit close to home as many of our students have close family in Haiti. We are thankful that many of our students have heard from their families, but we're devastated that so many people are suffering from losing loved ones or having their homes destroyed.

On January 21st, parents, children, staff, and community members joined together to offer support to our Haitian community. Clinton School hosted an evening to reach out to those in our school district who have been affected by this tragedy. Sponsored by the Parenting Center, the gathering drew almost 200 people. Dinner was donated by a local restaurant, the Village Trattoria, and by the district PTAs, and was served to all in attendance. Adults were then given the opportunity to talk to social workers as younger children talked to middle and high school students while making friendship bracelets. As we move forward as a school community, and as a PTA, we should remain committed to doing what we can to ease the pain that has been caused by this earthquake. On **February 25th**, Clinton School will host another similar event, also sponsored by the Parenting Center.

Clinton school students have also begun to raise funds for Haiti relief. The 5th grade class began collecting change for UNICEF. Each 5th grader has brought home UNICEF boxes to collect change. They have placed posters and boxes in each classroom throughout the school. All students have the opportunity to bring in change to be used in the Haiti relief effort.

Every year the Student Government sells Candy Grams for Valentine's Day. This year, proceeds are being donated to a Haiti relief fund. Please support our student government in this worthy endeavor.

Clinton School prides itself on being a strong community that works together to nurture our children. During this difficult time, when many in our community are suffering, please do what you can to support them and the Haiti relief effort.

Best,

Karen Bethel

ALL-SCHOOL REVIEW UPDATE

It's hip, it's happening, and it's far out! **It's What's Happening!**, this year's Clinton Student theater production. Are you in the Orange group? Lavender? Silver? This year we color coded the groups to make it easier for kids to know when they rehearse and where they meet. And so far it has worked quite well. We have a great team of directors, and everyone is hard at work on their groovy performances.

This month look for notices about purchasing ad space in our programs. We will be soliciting ads from businesses, but we also welcome anyone who would like to take out an ad to congratulate or appreciate their own special stars! Like last year's program, this will be a quality keepsake, something to put in your scrapbook.

In the beginning of March, we will be sending out reservation information. Now, don't think that all the work is for the kids and directors; we expect a lot from our audiences, too. We invite all who come to dress for the occasion. Dig out your bell bottoms, peasant blouses, poet shirts, sandals, and whatever other sixties gear you can lay your hands on, because we're gonna be groovin' man!—*Suzanne Roghanchi*

CLASSROOM NEWS

Classroom News provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the Clinton community to learn about all the different activities that engage students during the school day. Please send information about classroom activities to bobhugel@gmail.com.—*Bob Hugel*

Kindergarten Mrs. Shelffo's class has exciting plans for the month of February. Students will take a field trip to the Paper Mill Playhouse to see a performance of *Max and Ruby*. This month they also will be celebrating Valentine's Day, and they will be making collections of 100 to celebrate the 100th day of school. In addition, as part of the science curriculum, students have been having fun experimenting with magnets in the classroom.

First Grade Students in Mrs. Moskowitz's and Ms. Zalinski's class greeted 2010 by learning about nutrition and the five food groups. They created a poem about healthy eating with poet Judith Natelli McLaughlin, who visited the class to read from her poetry collection, *Poems on Fruits and Odes to Veggies*. Students have also been learning about penguins and other creatures of Antarctica and are also mastering addition and subtraction.

Mrs. Cutrufello's class joined other first graders in starting a nightly writing activity called "Night Write." This writing activity seeks to develop writing fluency and strengthen the children's writing stamina through regular writing practice. The children are enjoying writing about their favorite topics twice a week. Parents are encouraged to "coach" their children in a positive way by asking children to read their stories aloud and share what they liked about the topic.

The class is also beginning to write a series of nonfiction books. The first books will be about mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. The books are primarily researched and written in school during writing workshop time. Students are also enjoying having their parents come into the class to read books for "Favorite Book Fridays."

The class welcomed a new student teacher, Rachel Henderson. Ms. Henderson is a student at Kean University where she's seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Second Grade Second graders have been busy writing! They have been writing nonfiction pieces, including "How-to-Books" and "All-About Books," in which they teach others about a subject. In social studies, students are learning about how to improve their communities. Students will learn even more about writing nonfiction through an exciting project; they will research and write about famous African Americans. After the individual projects have been completed they will be put together to make a quilt, which will be proudly displayed in the hallways. Look for the quilt in February!

CANDYGRAMS FOR HAITIAN RELIEF

The Clinton Student Government is once again selling Candygrams for Valentine's Day, but this year they are raising money to help with the Haitian Relief Effort. Please help by purchasing Candygrams for your classmates and friends and help the people of Haiti. Candygrams are \$1 each or \$.75 if you are buying for the whole class. Orders will be taken until February 10. Fifth graders are also collecting money for UNICEF.



Left to right: Justin J., Riley A., Reyniyah C., author Judith Natelli McLaughlin, Lucia G., and Sylvie S.

FIRST GRADERS LEARN HEALTHY EATING HABITS

Millburn author and poet Judith Natelli McLaughlin visited Mrs. Moskowitz's and Ms. Zalinski's first grade class. She read poems from her latest book *Poems on Fruits and Odes to Veggies* with the students and helped the students brainstorm and create their own class poem. The students were inspired to write their own fruit and vegetable poems during their nutrition unit in school.

The Parenting Center and Elementary School PTAs present *No More Meltdowns: Positive Strategies for Managing and Preventing Out-of-Control Behavior*, a talk by author and psychologist Jed Baker, on **February 18, 7:30-9 pm at Tuscan School**. Admission is free.

READ, READ, READATHON

The Clinton PTA is organizing another Readathon to support the much loved Clinton School library. All proceeds will be used to purchase books for our library. Thanks to your support, we were able to add \$2500 worth of new books to our school library after last year's Readathon. Each of those books carries a book plate thanking the Clinton PTA.

This year's Readathon will begin on Monday, February 8th and end on Tuesday, March 2nd. Students will pledge to read (or be read to) a certain number of minutes during the Readathon period and they will obtain sponsors to pay them for meeting these goals. If every Clinton student collected \$15 in pledges, we would raise close to \$7,000, and that would buy many, many new books for our library. So please collect those pledges and read, read, read!

Materials were sent home in early February and can also be found on our website, www.clintonelementary.org, in the Flyers and Forms section. For more information contact Liz Salituri at salituri@verizon.net.

WE NEED TRICKY TRAY PRIZES!

Our Tricky Tray/Auction is right around the corner (**Saturday, March 13th**). Please help us make this one our most successful ever!

RESERVATIONS

Reservation forms were sent home last week. If you're interested in coming, please return them ASAP before we run out of seating.

MORE PRIZES/CASH DONATIONS

First, thanks to all of you who have so generously donated prizes or asked your employer or local businesses to do so. We have lots of great loot, but can still use more. You can also give us a cash donation to help purchase prizes (make check payable to Clinton PTA and send to school in envelope marked "Tricky Tray" as soon as possible). Another alternative is to chip in with another family and purchase a prize. Electronics are always hot, as are collector's items like American Girl dolls. We are trying to get as many prizes in by February 15th as possible. Our hard-working committee has lots of organizing, wrapping, gathering, and cataloging to do, so the earlier, the better.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

We have many awesome prizes already so here's a little sneak peek:

- * \$2000 voucher for Camp Horizons at Newark Academy (if you have three children, you'll get \$2000 off each of their tuitions).
- * Four Disney Park Hopper Passes
- * Amazon Kindle
- * Flip Video Camera
- * Pig Roast for 30 People
- * Tory Burch Tote Bag
- * Tickets to the Paper Mill Theater, State Theater of NJ, Alvin Ailey Dance, Rachael Ray Show, Top of the Rock Observation Deck, and more
- * Membership to Newark Museum, Museum of the American Indian
- * Labor of a master carpenter for one day
- * Music lessons for new students at Mark Murphy Music

GENERAL INFO

This event is open to the entire Clinton school community (adults only). Feel free to bring your (non-Clinton) friends and family. All are welcome! Each ticket costs \$20 and entitles you to beer, wine, soda, water, and dessert and 20 raffle tickets. We encourage you to coordinate with your friends, and bring your own dinner.

For more information, or if you have a prize to donate, contact Cecelia Cancellaro (973-763-1730; ccancellaro@verizon.net) or Karen Bethel (973-762-3474; kbethel@verizon.net). Tricky Tray reservation forms are available on the school website:

<http://www.clintonelementary.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/tricky-tray.pdf>.

The Parenting Center is hosting a Lice Information Night on Thursday, February 11, 6:30-8 pm at the Clinton School Cafeteria. Doctors from Maplewood Family Medicine and local lice professionals will provide information about these nasty little critters. For more information, contact Julie Porter at 973-762-6009 or email julianneporter@aol.com.

THE CLINTON GREEN

How do you say "fill 'er up" with an electric car? One company, Better Place (based in Israel/Denmark) says we'll go to stations and ask for a battery switcheroo instead of a tankful. This system is a lot like changing horses at the old stagecoach taverns, something that worked for centuries.

Another company, BYD (based in China) says we'll go to stations and ask to be recharged in about an hour. This system is akin to filling up at the gas station while stopping for lunch (where our hand-held devices will allow us to stay connected).

American automakers say we should buy their *new* cars designed with a huge increase in fuel economy. This is an idea that makes Americans zing. We love our "tinkers" and our "Zoo-Zivver-Car-Zay," as Dr. Seuss noted.

The fact is, we've had electric vehicle (EV) capability since the 19th century—1835 to be exact. Wow. This makes one wonder why we commute to Manhattan in an EV train but then hop in a car with an internal combustible engine (ICE) to go home. Politics, free enterprise, and business savvy all contributed to the predominance of gas-powered engines, even though Thomas Edison himself was a key promoter of the EV.

If you want to learn more about the history of electric vehicles, watch the film *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, a fascinating and infuriating look at the life-altering decisions made about EVs in the recent past.

Today, U.S. automakers are investing fully and speedily in EVs and hybrids (dual gas and electric motors). At the North American International Auto Show in Detroit this month, carmakers preened their latest designs to full effect. They are gorgeous! To name a few: Audi's E-Tron, Toyota's FT-CH, BMW's Mini E, the Th!nk City (already seen buzzing around Manhattan). See for yourself on the internet.

Top-of-the-line models are the Fisker Karma (you'll feel 20 years younger!) and the Tesla Model S (long a favorite of the rich and eco-conscious). The practical, affordable all-American Ford Focus smells like success, but the favorite to win is the Chevy Volt, coming out at the end of this year. Zipping out of the gate at 40 miles on a single charge, Detroit may stand tall in the saddle in 2010.

By the way, the old "Drive 55" campaign originated by Jimmy Carter still holds true today. Driving 55 mph saves gas, roads, and lives.

Hit the road, Jack!

—Clare Payton

ASSEMBLY BRINGS THE RENAISSANCE TO LIFE

On January 29th Clinton students were treated to a special interactive assembly about the Renaissance. The assembly took place in the cafeteria, a more intimate environment in which to make the acquaintance of Lady Celia Beaumont, a lady in waiting to Queen Elizabeth I. The students were mesmerized by the festively costumed lady as she brought to life Elizabethan history, manners, and customs. Using audience members—students *and* teachers—to demonstrate court dancing and knighthood rituals, Lady Beaumont captivated the kids. They seemed especially enthralled by stories about King Henry VIII and his six wives!

This assembly was performed by Kit's Interactive Theatre. Many thanks to the PTA for sponsoring another great learning opportunity for the kids.

STORYTELLING NIGHT THANKS

Storytelling Night was a big success! Thanks to our fabulous MC **Zach Chmiel**, our evening ran smoothly and our children were kept alert and on their toes. A big thank you goes to our readers: **Jeremy Moss, Victoria Lorino, Gillian Aldrich, Alanna Kaplan Munoz, Amy Rubel, Derek Romanau, and Principal O'Neill.**

HORRIBLE HARRY AUTHOR SUZY KLINE TO VISIT CLINTON

There's a special treat in store for Clinton students on **Friday, February 26th** when popular children's book author Suzy Kline will pay a visit to Clinton School and entertain the students with readings from a selection of her many wonderful books. A former elementary school teacher, Ms. Kline is perhaps best known for her *Horrible Harry* series, which has been entertaining kids since 1988. She has also written many other children's books including the *Herbie Jones*, *Song Lee*, *Orp*, and *Mary Marony* series, among other titles.

Students in 3rd-5th grades are invited to enter a trivia contest to win the chance to have lunch with the author. In addition to the contest questionnaire, order forms were sent home at the beginning of the month to enable students to order Suzy Kline books for her to autograph. Clinton Elementary will receive 20 percent of all sales from the books, which are being provided by Sparkhouse Kids/SOME Book Nook. You can also order them online

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Our Cookie Dough fundraiser begins on **February 8th** and runs through **February 22nd**. This year there is a new brochure offering lots of tasty new items in addition to cheesecake and cookie dough.—*Rosanna McCrear*

2010 SOMEF GRANTS

SOMEF (The South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation) recently announced their teacher grants for 2010 and educators from all 9 South Orange/Maplewood schools received 52 Teacher Grants totaling \$41,173 for their spring projects. Several Clinton teachers were recipients and as always, we are very grateful to SOMEF for the essential support they provide.

Our kindergarten teachers (Ann Cosmas, Rebecca Antunes, Mary Shelffo, Cris Swan, and Diana Dadaian) received funds to create a Poetry Center for our kindergarten students. This center will support the NJ Reading Standards and our district's Language Arts Curriculum by creating a visually enticing Poetry Center in each of our four kindergarten classrooms.

Third grade teacher Joseph Ferriero received a grant that will fund Mimio boards and media projectors which will replace, among other things, overhead projectors.

Principal O'Neill received a translation grant from SOMEF once again, to allow us to reach our non-English speaking families by translating flyers, notices, a bi-monthly newsletter, and other written materials into Spanish and Haitian Creole. As the elementary school which houses our district's English Language Learning population, this kind of outreach is crucial to our student's success and to our effort to make all families welcome.

School social worker Lindy Rollo received funds to support Increase the Peace, her newly formed anti-bullying club. The group will discourage bullying by creating and training a student group in anti-bullying practices. This group will then bring the strategies to their peers through skits, mediation, and discussion.

Lastly, Clinton was also the recipient of grants that are shared with other elementary schools in our district. These support our K-3 Reading Buddies program, our Invention Convention workshops, our evening program for K and 1st grade students and parents, a program that celebrates diversity through literature, and the purchase of active seating equipment for students with attention and/or postural challenges.

Thanks to our teachers for creating these worthwhile initiatives and to SOMEF for providing the funds for their implementation.—*Cecelia Cancellaro*

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

The PTA is busy planning our **spring After School Enrichment** program. We are starting a bit later than usual since we don't want to conflict with rehearsals for *The 60s: It's What's Happening* (our all school musical revue). The session will, once again, take place on Thursdays from 2:35-3:45 pm and the dates are: **March 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 13, 20.** Look for registration materials in backpack and via email in early March.

If you are on a restricted diet WE CAN FREE YOU

from the time consuming search for food you will enjoy!



Pre-packaged allergen free convenience food delivered to you door

- ✓ Peanut/tree nut free
 - ✓ dairy free
 - ✓ gluten free
 - ✓ wheat free
- contact us for a complete list of products and prices
* special requests welcomed *

973-763-1717

solutionstosavor@earthlink.net

www.solutionstosavor.com

PICKUP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE

2009-2010 PAC COMMITTEE

Kindergarten: Mauri Solages (mmsolages@verizon.net) and Jonelle Delk (jonelledelk@hotmail.com)

First Grade: John Von Brachel (john_vonbrachel@ml.com) and Christine Oliver (christine_lc@msn.com)

Second Grade: Geraldine Caparruva (gacaparruva@gmail.com) and Amy Janay (amyjanay@gmail.com)

Third Grade: Shauna McFadecan (shaunamc@gmail.com)

Fourth Grade: Mary Barber (marybarber8@verizon.net) and the Rev. Herrys Angerville (herrysangerville@yahoo.com)

Fifth Grade: Francine Anderson Campbell (Francineandersoncampbell@gmail.com)

Special Ed.: Lisa Dickerson (Lisa_erson@msn.com)

Member at Large: Victoria Khazan Pigault (Victoria.Khazan@handsonchange.com)

PTA President: Karen Bethel (kbethel@verizon.net)

PTA Vice President: Jung Lee Masters (rcm2jlm@msn.com)



10 % OFF ON YOUR NEXT ELECTRICAL JOB

Clean Energy Electric & Solar LLC –
Electrical Contractor

468 Irvington Ave., South Orange, NJ 07079
973-763-5509 (O) 973-763-5281 (F)

Mention this discount when
you call for an appointment

SOMS ENCHANTED EVENING

As many of you know, Clinton Elementary School is one of the feeder schools for South Orange Middle School (SOMS). Clinton students and family members have a wonderful opportunity to be introduced to SOMS by attending its upcoming All-School Musical Fundraiser, “A Night at the Palace” on Friday, February 19, from 6 to 9 pm. It will be a fun evening for everyone with food, music, dancing, pie throwing, card readings, among other lively activities. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students/seniors and will cover admission and dinner (dinner served until 7:30 pm only). For advance tickets, call 973-378-2772, or purchase your tickets at the door. We hope you’ll join us for this “enchanted” evening.

Creativity Copy

alphagraphics®

DESIGN ■ COPY ■ PRINT ■ COMMUNICATE

1111 Route 22 East
Mountainside, NJ 07092
Phone: 908.233.5553
Fax: 908.233.5583
alphagraphics.com/us644
us644@alphagraphics.com

(973) 762-4145
or visit
www.smountainymca.org

14 Summer Camps (2½ years - Grade 10)
All 9 weeks of summer - 7:15 - 6:30 care available

Vacation Camp (Grades K - 5)
For those days the district is closed - 7:00am - 7:00pm

Before/After School Child Care (Grades K - 5)
Before school as early as 7:15am &
After School as late as 7:00pm

Year Round Sports and Enrichment Programs