

Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association
Issue 5, January 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year Clinton Community!

Although January is the first month of the new year, it's hard to believe that we are almost half-way through our 2009-2010 school year. We have returned refreshed and ready to help our Clinton kids become productive, successful learners and good citizens and prepare them for their work ahead. Before the holiday break, we created a vision statement to help guide us into the future:

“Based on the core belief that all students have the ability to learn, all members of the Clinton School community will empower each child to reach his or her fullest potential.

As lifelong learners, our students will possess core academic knowledge and 21st century skills leading them to become respectful, accepting, productive, and responsible citizens in this global society.”

—Clinton Elementary Staff – December, 2009

In sharing our vision, we look forward to continuing our partnership with our Clinton families. The success of our students is dependent upon all of us working together and the results of this partnership make us proud.

We also look forward to fostering the growth of our professional learning community. Our teachers and staff tirelessly work together to help every student achieve academic, social, and emotional success. We are very proud of this, too.

Let's move forward together keeping in mind these inspiring words of purpose...

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Happy and Healthy 2010,

Patty

JANUARY-AT-A-GLANCE

13TH PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:15 PM

BRIAN OSBORNE TO PRESENT A STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS, 7 PM, COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

14TH CURRICULUM OVERVIEW- ROSETTA WILSON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND PANEL, SETH BOYDEN SCHOOL, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

18TH SCHOOL CLOSED, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

21ST STORYTELLING NIGHT, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

COMING IN FEBRUARY

1-28TH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

1ST OPEN REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN BEGINS, MON.-THURS., 9 AM – 12:45 PM, 525 ACADEMY ST., MAPLEWOOD

5TH SCHOOL PRIDE DAY



CLINTON SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

Kicked off at last year's Tricky Tray, the Clinton School Food Drive has become an ongoing program that directly benefits families in the Clinton community. Donations of non-perishable food items such as soups, canned vegetables, pasta, rice, and beans are much appreciated. You can bring your donations to Clinton School (a collection box is in the front hallway) or send them in with your child. If you would rather give a gift card to a local supermarket or a cash donation, feel free to do so. However, these should be given directly to Ann Bodner or Lindy Rollo.

Some have been more fortunate than others during these difficult economic times, so sharing with others seems an appropriate thing to do, especially during the cold winter months. Ours is a close-knit and caring school community and that is something for which we should all feel very thankful.

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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Happy New Year Clinton School!

Thanks to all our wonderful parent volunteers, the Clinton PTA ended 2009 with a bang. Our **Winter Craft Fair** was a huge success thanks to the great efforts made by **Leah Gomberg** and the parent volunteers who contributed their time and talents to helping the kids make such beautiful crafts.

Thank you to all the bakers who sent in goodies for our annual **Holiday Cookie Distribution**. **Tammy Haynie** and **Sue Lunde** organized the event with such care and precision, overseeing a large number of volunteers as they filled and delivered over 100 bags of cookies to teachers and staff. Their efforts were much appreciated.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the **Parenting Center's Holiday Toy Drive**. Your generosity was much appreciated by many children and their families.

There's lots of great stuff in store for the rest of the school year as well. Rehearsals begin the week of January 11th for our second-annual **All School Musical Review**. Make sure to mark your calendars. This year the show will take place **March 19th and 20th** and it promises to be even better than last year's (if that's possible). It's amazing to see students, parents, and teachers working together to create something so wonderful. Thank you to **Suzanne Roghanchi**, **Colleen Broderick**, and **Jeremy Moss** for all their efforts in putting this awesome event together.

Storytelling Night will be held **Thursday January 21st at 6:30pm**. Come in your P.J.'s and listen to stories read aloud by our parent volunteers. You don't want to miss this event as free books will be raffled off throughout the evening.

I continue to be proud each and every day of our Clinton Community and am so glad to be part of such an amazing group of people.

Bundle up and stay warm!

Karen Bethel

ALL-SCHOOL REVIEW UPDATE

Our directors have some inspired ideas this year and are ready to get the rehearsals underway. This year's show is based upon the music and events of the 1960s and is guaranteed to be another wonderful experience for our budding performers. Our goal is to touch the souls of our kids in a way that only music, theater, and performing together can. Who knows? Maybe being part of this production will inspire one of our students to pursue a career in the theater!

We're still trying to come up with a pithy name for the production, so all you witty wordsmiths, please share some ideas!

Those who signed up to be part of the production before the winter break should have received a performer contract and a parent volunteer form. Please be sure to return these forms to your child's director at his/her first rehearsal. Please also remember to bring a snack-to-share. Also please note that at the end of each rehearsal, the directors will ask you to sign your child out (just as you do for the After School Enrichment Program).

Make sure to check the show blog for timely updates: <http://clinton60.wordpress.com/>. If you have questions about anything as the rehearsals progress, please contact your child's director.—*Colleen Broderick*

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 Throughout December, students in **Mrs. Shelffo's** class explored the traditions of Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa. In addition, several parents entertained the class with personal family stories of St. Lucia and Chanukah. Before the break the students enjoyed sharing gingerbread cookies as well as lots of other baked treats at their Winter Celebration Tea Party.

First Grade December began a month-long celebration of various holidays in **Mrs. Marr's** class. First, students made a salad, place mats, and a quilt in honor of Kwanzaa. Next, Ben B.'s mother and grandmother visited and read a book about Chanukah, taught children a dreidel game, and handed out dreidels and chocolate gelt for the kids to take home. As part of a homework assignment, each student had to come up with an alternative ending to the Gingerbread Man story. (He gets eaten by a fox in the original—not such a happy ending!)

The first graders in **Ms. Zalinski** and **Mrs. Moscowitz's** class had a busy December. They learned about Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa, performed the play *The Hat* by Jan Brett, and continued to perfect their writing and math skills by writing stories using the concepts of addition and subtraction. They also studied hibernation among bears. The students had fun ringing out the old year with a party on the last school day before winter vacation. They celebrated with sparkling cider in wine glasses, noisemakers, party hats, and delectable munchies.

Last month the second graders presented their family history reports to their classmates. Everyone learned about different family and cultural traditions. Additionally, quite a few parents came in to display items, share snacks, and play games that represented their family traditions. The family history project was a wonderful learning experience for the students.

In December students in **Ms. Hall** and **Ms. Ortiz's** class studied snowflakes; they created snow globes and wrote snowflake acrostic poems. Students in **Mrs. Frascella** and **Mrs. Fearon's** class were busy bringing their concept of "community" to life in their creation of a gingerbread community. In between planning and building their community, students also wrote poems about winter. Students in **Ms. Froelich's** class got excited about science as they continued their studying of weather, shadows, and the water cycle. They noted that clouds can be seen forming outside their classroom window! Students in **Mrs. Poutre** and **Mrs. Gordon's** class also wore their scientist hats as they investigated, measured, and recorded the differences in their shadows throughout a sunny day. They have also been writing winter poems and decorating the school hallways with their work.

Third Grade All three third-grade classes participated in a wonderful international dinner celebration on the last day of school before the winter break. In addition to the usual holiday cookie fare, there were latkes, perogies, baked noodles, rice and beans, macaroni and cheese, tacos, scones, and numerous other dishes reflecting the different nationalities of the students. Much fun was had by all!

RECESS FUN

Our Recess Volunteers program is off to a great start! Thank you to the parents who have signed up for this important role. The kids really appreciate having a special visitor to play indoor games with, especially during the cold winter months. There are still several open time slots. So, if you can spare 30 minutes a day for just a few weeks to play card games, board games or do something active with a small group of kids, please let us know. Don't want to come alone? Then by all means bring a fellow parent and share the fun! Please email Elizabeth Aaron (emaaron@verizon.net) or Jung Lee Masters (jungleemasters@gmail.com) to schedule your recess time.

STORYTELLING NIGHT

Clinton's Annual Storytelling Night will be held on **Thursday, January 21st**, from **6:30 to 7:30 pm**. Admission is free. So put on your P.J.s, bring along your teddy bear, and join us in the auditorium for an evening of wonderful stories read by an energetic and talented group of Clinton parents. Many great books will be shared, including one in Spanish, and free books will be raffled off throughout the evening. That night we will also be collecting books to donate to the Parenting Center. So if you plan to come please try to bring a gently used book or two. For more information, contact Karen Bethel at 973-762-3474 or kbethel@verizon.net.

CLASSROOM NEWS CONTINUED

Fifth Grade Before the winter break, fifth graders in **Mrs. Ceccacci** and **Mrs. Fox's** class gave Power Point presentations on various early Native American cultures. The students also completed projects on different European explorers, which were in a journal format and featured maps and drawings.

Three fifth-graders, Rebecca D., Olivia H., and Joshua W.-L., will be performing in the Stroller's musical production of *How to Eat Like a Child* at the Burgdorff Center in Maplewood on January 29th, February 5th and 12th at 7:30 p.m. There will also be shows at 2 p.m. on January 30th and 31st and February 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th. Admission is \$7. Please attend a show and support these talented and enthusiastic actors!

Another talented fifth grader, Ruby Z., will be appearing in Front & Center's production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* along with second grader Lila Z. and third grader Meghan H. The show will take place at the Ridge Performing Arts Center in Basking Ridge on Saturday, January 23rd at 7:30 pm and Sunday, January 24th at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact the Front & Center box office at 973-258-1123.

WE NEED TRICKY TRAY PRIZES!

With the holiday break behind us we are entering the home stretch for prize collection for our **7th Annual Tricky Tray and Auction (Saturday, March 13th at the Maplewood Woman's Club)**. You will definitely get tired of hearing us say this, but the auction is our **BIGGEST** fundraiser of the year and has made it possible for us to buy a **new playground, a climbing wall for our gym, and do a complete audio-visual renovation of our auditorium**. We need your help!

Here are some ways you can help us collect prizes:

Start With Your Employer

In recent years Clinton parents have donated items such as **EMI Music CDs, a Tiffany bracelet, and Dora the Explorer clothes and accessories**. Some companies offer their employees a sizable discount on merchandise. If this is the case, please let us know. In the past we have used a Clinton parent's employee discount at **Macy's** to purchase a slew of great prizes. Some make donations outright. Prizes in the electronics category are always a big hit, so if you have any connections in that area, please let us know. We have a letter than can be used to solicit donations. Let us know if you would like a copy.

Do You Have a Special Talent or Skill?

Turn it into a prize! Some ideas: If you're an accomplished tennis player, offer a one-hour private lesson. If you can bake, a decorated birthday cake would be a fabulous prize.

Do You Like to Entertain?

How about throwing a theme party? You pick the date, time, and theme, and we'll auction off the invitations. Have you always wanted to host a **Mystery Dinner**? Mystery guests will make it all the more fun! Do you make a mean margarita? How about putting together a **Cinco de Mayo** party? The possibilities are endless for this prize—and oh so much fun!

There's no Shame in Re-Gifting

Did your child receive two of the same Wii games for his birthday? Instead of letting one collect dust, donate it to the Tricky Tray. Did someone give you a gift card you'll never use? *Someone* can use it.

Who Do You Know?

An autographed script or backstage tour is always a popular prize. Last year Clinton parents starring in Broadway productions of *Hair*, *Wicked*, and *The Little Mermaid* offered backstage tours. A *Sopranos* script signed by all the featured actors brought in big bucks the year before.

Weekend Getaways

Do you have a time-share or vacation home that you can spare for a weekend? Is there a hotel you stay at frequently that might offer a sizable discount? Please let us know!

You can contact Cecelia Cancellaro (ccancellaro@verizon.net/973-763-1730 or Karen Bethel (kbethel@verizon.net/973-762-3474) if you have a prize to donate or if you have any questions.

HEALTHY SNACK CORNER

The winter months can be challenging. One fun way to pass the time with your kids on a cold January day is to cook something with them, preferably something healthy and delicious. The following recipe for carrot-oatmeal cookies, taken from the Scholastic Parents website, should fit the bill. It boasts lots of vitamins and is tasty, too. Just don't let on that one of the main ingredients is a vegetable!

Carrot Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients:

Non-stick vegetable spray

1/3 cup canola oil

1/3 cup brown sugar

2 egg whites

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/4 tsp. nutmeg

1/3 cup nonfat dry milk

1/4 tsp. cinnamon

1 cup grated carrots

1 /14 cups instant oatmeal

1/2 cup golden raisins (optional)

1/2 cup walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat two cookie sheets with nonstick vegetable spray and set aside. In a large bowl, beat together oil, brown sugar, molasses, and egg whites. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, dry milk, and cinnamon. Add the dry mixture to the oil mixture. Mix well with a whisk or let kids crumble together the ingredients with clean hands. Drop rounded teaspoons of the dough onto the cookie sheets. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned around the edges. Remove the cookies, cool, and serve. Makes two dozen cookies.

WINTER LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Sign up for the following Maplewood Memorial Library Programs begins on January 11th. Space is limited so sign up early. Please register in person at the location where the program is to be held.

Jan. 12, 19, 26, 4-5:15 pm: Hands-on Science @ Hilton Branch (1688 Springfield Ave.), ages 6-9

Jan. 14, 7 pm: African Pen Pals Project @ Main Library (51 Baker St.), all ages

Jan. 21, 4-4:45 pm: Bingo Bonanza @ Hilton Branch, Grades 1-5

Jan. 28, 4-5 pm: Board Games Club @ Main Library, Grades 4 and up

Jan. 30, 10:30-11: Saturday Storytime @ Main Library, ages 4-10

2010 SOMEF GRANTS

Congratulations to teachers from all nine South Orange & Maplewood Schools who received a total of 53 grants for \$43,303 from the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation (SOMEF) for full or partial funding of their spring classroom projects. Having received far more proposals than could be covered with funds allocated, SOMEF was faced with difficult funding choices in order to reach as many students as effectively as possible. A \$1,250 donation from the Maplewood Lions Club for Teacher Grants helped SOMEF to extend the total amount awarded to date.

You can help to fulfill even more grants for projects this spring by donating to **Direct Grant Funding** through January 31. Choose an approved grant proposal awaiting funding from a teacher in your child's school, or one in a subject area that is important to you. See a complete list of grants awarded plus those available for Direct Grant Funding on our website, www.somef.org. For more information, call Sandra Kurek at 973-761-0795.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT ADDRESS

The community is invited to attend a Special Public Meeting on **Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library at Columbia High School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, NJ. The Superintendent, Brian Osborne, will present the State of the District address.

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years of age on or before October 1, 2010 will be eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2010. Registration packets can be downloaded from the district website (www.southorangemaplewood.org) or picked up from the Board of Education Office located at 525 Academy St. in Maplewood.

Parents/guardians must return completed registration forms along with all required documents **in person** to the District Registrar located at 525 Academy St. Open registration for kindergarten begins on Monday, February 1. The registration hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 12:45 pm and Friday by appointment only.

K-5 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The SOMSD Parenting Center and the Elementary School PTAs present a Curriculum Overview with Rosetta Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools on January 14th from 7:30-9 pm at Seth Boyden School.

WINTER CRAFT FAIR THANKS

Special thanks to Winter Craft Fair committee members Jenny Tate, Harriet Sigerman, Beth Sasfai, and Elisabeth Antoine. Thanks, too, to all of the volunteers who helped on the day of the craft fair: Tricia Bloom, Laurie Tarkan, Carolyn Smiley, Scott Todd, April Parker, Liz Herring, Scott Lahey, Ruth Lowenkron, Karen Betheil, Cecelia Cancellaro, Jung Lee Masters, and all the other parents who lent a hand. Thank you to Heather Kern for making the beautiful flyer! Events like this are only possible with the help of so many people - thanks for helping to make it such a great event.—*Leah Gomberg*

THANK YOU, COOKIE ELVES!

I'd like to thank all those who participated in 'Holiday Cookies 2009.' Once again it was a great success. Your willingness to bake cookies and/or assist in packing and distributing them was greatly appreciated! —*Tammy Haynie*

PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

Paul Roth, chief information officer for the South Orange Maplewood School District, recently discussed proposed technology improvements for the 2010-2011 school year in a Power Point presentation that can be accessed via the district website (www.southorangemaplewood.org).

Mr. Roth explained that for further technology integration in the classroom, he proposes purchasing laptops for student use to include 25 for each elementary school, 50 for each middle school and 25 for the high school. Now that Smart boards have been installed in all fifth-grade classes, he would like to do the same in all fourth-grade classes and in the secondary schools. Other areas proposed for technology additions and improvements include the network infrastructure (Wireless, WAN and Internet); school nurses' offices (audiometers and student health information systems); math classrooms (tablets, document cameras, and LCD projectors); fine arts classrooms (laptops for teachers, Smart boards, and Smart Music software); world languages classrooms (IPODS and LCD projectors); the CHS science lab; the security system; and file server equipment. By June 2010, the network electronics will be upgraded, wireless access will be installed, and more file service storage will be added. However, because students will be expected to do more work on computers, more file storage will be needed in the future.

The total cost of the proposed 2010-2011 technology budget is \$1,935,000. That includes the cost of replacing aging equipment, purchasing new equipment, and the cost of contracts and repairs. The proposed 2009-2010 budget was \$1,872,000.

(Reprinted from the SOMSD website.)

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