

Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association
Issue 10, June 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is so hard to believe we have come to the end of our 2009-2010 school year. We are busy completing our teaching, learning, and end-of-year activities for this year while at the same time preparing for the next one.

Our students demonstrated over and over their thirst for knowledge, their love of the related arts, and their desire to be a part of this great community. Our staff demonstrated over and over their desire to help every child succeed while also implementing new initiatives and preparing our students for their next grade. Our families demonstrated over and over their desire to support our school and to act as ambassadors to showcase all that is great about Clinton School.

We are involved in very exciting times in education and look forward to the adventures which lay ahead. Literacy for all, intellectual rigor, and artistic fervor are ongoing pursuits which each of us has a vested interest in. We plan to continue our technological pursuits so we can "keep up" with our Clinton kids and at the same time share the love and joy of reading a great story or book with them.

We bid farewell to many who have devoted their lives to helping children succeed. Mrs. Khan, Mrs. Hall, Ms. Cosmas, and Ms. Kent have touched the lives of many students. We wish them good health and great journeys.

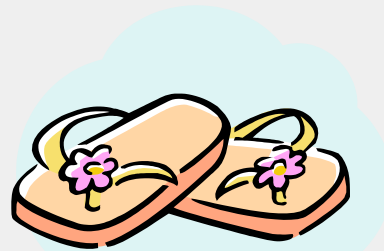
We can't thank our paraprofessionals enough for their dedication to our neediest students and hope they will work with us again soon. Last but certainly not least, a special farewell to Mrs. Allen who has kept Clinton School running like clockwork for over 20 years. She is a master of management and a role model for any person who controls the office of an elementary school. Her professionalism and unwavering commitment to the needs of the staff, students, and families of Clinton are irreplaceable. She is one of a kind and deserves all the fun and excitement her new life will bring her.

Thank you again for your continued support. Enjoy the next few months with your children. Read, read, read to them and with them. Laugh and sing with them and let them know how much you believe in them. And don't forget the suntan lotion!

Patty

JUNE-AT-A-GLANCE

1-30TH	CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH
9TH	PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:15 PM
10TH	CLINTON SCHOOL PTA PICNIC, 5:30 PM
14TH	VINCE ECTOR PERFORMANCE; 1:30 PM
15TH	FOUR-HOUR DAY THIRD GRADE INVENTION CONVENTION
16TH	FOUR-HOUR DAY FIFTH GRADE MOVING ON, 10 AM LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!



COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

Want to get an early start on scheduling for the fall? Here are some important dates to mark on your calendar in September:

Thursday, September 2, 4-7 pm – Pick up Pre-Ordered School Supply Kits

Monday, September 6 – School Closed, Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7, 8 am – First Day of School Coffee in the Cafeteria

Thursday and Friday, September 9 & 10 – School Closed, Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 15 – Ice Cream Social

Friday, September 17 – School Pride Day

Wednesday, September 22 – PTA Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, September 23 – General PTA Meeting

Monday, September 27 – Friday, October 1 – Fall Scholastic Book Fair

Wednesday and Thursday, September 29 & 30 – Back to School Nights

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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe this is my last letter for the Clinton *Courier* as PTA President. This year has been another enormously successful year at Clinton School, and it has been a pleasure and honor to serve this special community. This was truly an unbelievable experience, giving me the opportunity to get to know and work with all the wonderful teachers, administrators, parents, and of course, the ones who count the most, our students.

Clinton School is truly a special place. Not just a school, but also a true community, dedicated to reaching out and making a difference in the lives of each and every child. Our two fearless leaders, Patty O'Neill and Ann Bodnar, work seamlessly together to instill confidence and pride in each student every day. It has been a joy working with them this year, and I thank them for all of their support. I'd like to also offer a special thank you to all the teachers who show an endless commitment to our kids, every day, in every classroom. Watching our children enter school each day with an enthusiastic smile, eager to start the day, proves just how wonderful our teachers make our students feel. Each day they mold them into confident and happy learners.

The many events and activities the PTA supports throughout the year are astounding. We have come together to eat ice cream, paint pumpkins, make crafts, deliver cookies, read stories, eat dinner, dance, sing and act in a musical, throw pies, march in a variety of parades, bid on auction items, make floats, and go loco at LocoMania!—all with help of our parents!

I want to offer a special thank you to all of our families. Your collective hard work, dedication, talent, and volunteer spirit were in bountiful supply throughout the year. If it takes a village to create a community, then we have a truly successful one at Clinton.

I want to thank the PTA Executive Board as I could not have done this job without their continued support and partnership throughout the year.

Let's continue to make our school the "Little School that Does" and build on our success as we move forward to another school year. Have a great summer!

Karen Bethel

COME TO THE CLINTON PTA PICNIC

Please join the Clinton PTA as we close the school year with our wonderful annual picnic. The picnic will take place on **Thursday, June 10, from 5:30 to 8 pm** on the Clinton School front lawn. You can pack a picnic or buy food and drink on site. Resident Clinton School **DJ Jeremy Moss** will be playing some awesome tunes, and the 2009-10 PTA Executive Board will also be announced at the picnic. Please note that this is **not** a rain or shine event. If the weather looks iffy make sure to check the Clinton School web site to make sure the picnic is still on.

ENRICHMENT THANKS

Another successful Spring After School Enrichment session came to a close in May. With more children in attendance than ever before, this session was also notable as it marked the last one to be run by **Cecelia Cancellaro**. Cecelia started the program at Clinton five years ago and has been its inspiring and dedicated leader ever since. It was an enormous undertaking to initiate this program and keep it going and it has since become a student favorite. This fall Erica Dussman will take over Cecelia's administrative duties and on site the program will be overseen by proctors Jenny Tate, Lisa Howell, Kate Shamburg, and Liz Herring. Clearly it takes a lot of people to fill Cecelia's shoes!

CLASSROOM NEWS

Thank you to all those who've been sending in Classroom News reports; they are very much appreciated.—*Bob Hugel*

First Grade In May, Mrs. Cutrufello's first grade class learned about the water cycle. The class joined with other first graders in planting their own flowers. Students also enjoyed making creative crafts in celebration of Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day.

May was a busy and fun month for the first graders in Mrs. Moskowitz and Ms. Zalinski's classroom. Students created their own poems, studied and wrote books about butterflies, and had a delicious time learning about fractions by breaking up (and eating) Hershey's candy bars. They did a terrific job completing the CRT math-assessment tests and planted marigold seeds in pots of their own design for Mother's Day gifts.

Second Grade We are sad to report that Ms. Hall is retiring. To celebrate her many years of teaching at Clinton School, students in her class wrote poems to honor her. The children gave the poems to Ms. Hall during an end-of-the-year party attended by students and parents. Thank you Ms. Hall for all you've done for Clinton School!

Third Grade The entire third grade celebrated the completion of the NJ ASK tests by having a dessert picnic. Students enjoyed delicious homemade desserts provided by parents and then played in the playground while listening to tunes from "High School Musical!" Mrs. Pomares's class said goodbye to their student teacher, Miss Bradshaw. They had a party for her on her last day. Third graders are all looking forward to the final class picnic at Maplecrest Park in June.

Third graders are busy working on their Invention Convention projects, which will be on display on June 15th in the cafeteria.

Fourth Grade Ms. Khan is also retiring at the end of this school year. Her students will miss her very much. Thanks you Ms. Khan for being a wonderful teacher—we wish you the best in the future!

Fifth Grade In May the three fifth grade classes took trips to the Liberty Science Center Interpretive Center where they learned about estuaries. Each student had the opportunity to put on waders and go "skeinin" in the surf. They were able to observe lots of shells, crabs, and even a jellyfish.

June promises to be another busy fun-filled month for fifth graders. They are looking forward to their trip to Philadelphia on the 7th and the ever-popular pool party on the 10th. And let's not forget the Moving On ceremony on the 16th. Congratulations to all the fifth graders!

Moving On

A big thanks goes out to the dedicated outgoing members of the Clinton School PTA Executive Board: **Tricia Bloom**, **Kim Kushmerick**, **Alanna Muñoz**, and **Sandra Tomlinson**. Throughout their terms these board members were models of talent, poise, and commitment. We thank them wholeheartedly for their amazing work. We'd also like to thank **Nancy Mattia** for heading up the Tricky Tray, **Robin Davenport** for her hard work on the International Dinner, and **Rita Dadaian** for handling the Election Day Bake Sale. We'll see you at SOMS!

AMAZING JAZZ PERFORMANCE

All those who attended the culminating performance of this year's artist-in-residence program on Friday, May 28th were completely wowed by the performance of the talented 4th graders! In just six short weeks jazz percussionist Vince Ector managed to teach the four 4th grade classes along with Mrs. Konzelman's class complex West African-inspired percussion rhythms, which they performed flawlessly. He also worked with each class to compose their own blues songs. Mr. Ector provided the first line and the students did the rest, inspired by real-life problems such as homework and tests. In between Mr. Ector managed to educate the kids about jazz history, theory, and performance.

The residency was paid for through a grant from the Arts & Education Consortium of the NJ State Council on the Arts. The \$6,000 grant application was written by PTA Executive Board member Cecelia Cancellaro and matched by the Clinton School PTA. Ector, a West Orange resident, was one of eight jazz artists interviewed for the job. He will return to the school on June 14 to perform with his jazz ensemble.

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer is almost here and what better time to get lost in a book! Keep your children reading and learning over the summer by participating in your public library's summer reading program: **Make a Splash – Make a Difference! at the Maplewood and South Orange Public Libraries**. The program offers lots of great prize incentives for reading as well as tons of fun activities for all ages including arts & crafts, science programs, and creative dramatics. The programs are free to residents of Maplewood and South Orange. For more information, pick up a flyer or check out these websites: www.maplewoodlibrary.org and www.sopl.org.

If your child does not currently have a library card, please visit the library with them. Students may request a student sticker on their card which allows them access to both the Maplewood and South Orange libraries.

Lastly, official Clinton School library time has ended, and I am focused on getting the library ready for next year. If your child has misplaced a book this year, please take another look so that we can have an accurate inventory. And make sure to return any Clinton school library books as soon as possible. Thank you and happy reading! —*Mrs. Latimer*

The PTA would like to send congratulations to our graduating fifth graders. We are all impressed with the mature, bright, talented, and enthusiastic young adults that you have become. We wish you the best of luck at South Orange Middle School, and we know you will do Clinton School proud!

GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

One of the many ways parents contribute to Clinton is by serving on the Clinton School PTA Executive Board. This year there are quite a few new members joining the team and a couple of old members are taking on new roles. We've asked these board members to officially introduce themselves. Their brief introductions follow in alphabetical order. Welcome, new board members!

Elizabeth Aaron, First Vice President – My family has lived in Maplewood since 1997. Nicholas is in 2nd grade and Henry will start kindergarten next year. Last year I served on the PTA Executive Board as Recording Secretary. I work in history education.

Shanta Bryant Gyan, Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator – My daughter, Laura, is a first grader at Clinton School, and my son, Kobi, will be a kindergartener in 2011. This year I served as class parent and co-directed a scene in the school play. We've lived in Maplewood for five years after moving here from the Washington, DC-area. I head a boutique strategic communications consultancy that focuses on international development, humanitarian affairs, and global advocacy. I look forward to serving as the Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator to highlight the rich diversity and cultures of the students at Clinton School.

Cecelia Cancellaro, Vice President, Public Relations – I have served on the PTA Executive Board for several years, including terms as editor of the *Clinton Courier*, Vice President, and President. In addition to starting the PTA translation program for ELL families, I also started and ran the PTA's After School Enrichment Program for 5 years. In 2010-2011, I will be co-President of the school district's President's Council. An editor and writer by profession, I have two daughters, one moving on to South Orange Middle School in September, the other a soon-to-be Clinton 3rd grader.

Erica Dussman, After School Enrichment Coordinator – Next year our daughter will be in 5th grade and our son in first. We've lived in Maplewood for 16 years, and I'm so happy to be able to continue serving on the PTA Board as it gives me the opportunity to give back to the Clinton community from which we've gotten so much! I currently work from home for an optical distributor and am excited about our own business, *Solutions to Savor*, which provides pre-packaged food for food-sensitive families.

Sharon Geraghty, Member at Large – My son Jack will be entering 3rd grade this fall and my other son Liam will start kindergarten at Clinton in 2011. My husband and I have lived in Maplewood for 13 years. I currently co-chair the Scholastic Book Fair and have volunteered on various committees.

Amy Janay, Fundraising Assistant – My husband and I have lived in Maplewood for almost 12 years. Our son is currently a 2nd grader and our daughter is currently in kindergarten at Clinton School. Over the past three years I have been a class parent, a PAC representative, and an active member of the Clinton community. I look forward to taking on my new role for our wonderful school.

Jung A. Lee Masters, President – I was born in South Korea and came to the USA at the age of five. I lived in four out of the five New York City boroughs before moving to Maplewood. My husband and I have been here for 11 years and we have never loved this neighborhood more. Both of our sons will attend Clinton in the next school year: one will be in 3rd grade and one will start kindergarten. We are very proud to be part of this great community, and we are looking forward to a challenging and exciting year.

Rosanna McCrear, Vice President of Membership – I am so excited to continue as a PTA Board Member. The last few years have been a wonderful mix of working with so many caring parents and teachers and getting to know more about our talented student body. I now have two daughters at Clinton School, one going to 5th grade and the other to 2nd grade in the fall. My youngest will attend Clinton in the 2011-2012 school year. I look forward to becoming involved with all the new projects and events planned for the new school year. In addition to being a wife and mom, I work full time as an Associate Director in Finance.

Patty O'Connell, Treasurer – My husband Jay and I have lived in Maplewood for 10 years. Our son, Jack, will start his final year at Clinton in the 5th grade this fall and our daughter Molly will begin 3rd grade. This is a big year for us as our other son Declan will start kindergarten at Clinton. Finally, all three in one place! I have served on the PTA Executive Board for the past two years as Member at Large. I look forward to my new role this year and to continuing my involvement with this wonderful community.

April Umiker, Recording Secretary – My husband Bryan and I have lived in Maplewood for nine years. Our daughter, Grace, will be entering second grade and son, Owen, will be a kindergartener this fall. They like to tell all their friends that I work for Snoopy, and I do as a Brand Director. I look forward to becoming more involved in the wonderful activities at Clinton in the coming year.

Janet Trzaska, Vice President, Fundraising – My family and I moved to Maplewood in June 2003 from Staten Island. As the parent of a rising 4th grader, I have been an active member of the Clinton community for the past three years as class parent, co-director of the Clinton Theater, and co-chair of the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. In the fall my youngest will be entering 1st grade and for the first time I'll have both feet firmly planted in the school. I am eagerly looking forward to serving on the PTA Board for the first time and anticipate an exciting year ahead.

BOX TOPS CLIPPERS AWARDS

Many thanks to all those who collected and sent in box tops labels this year. Following are the top collectors for each grade. They will each be awarded a \$5 gift card from Words in Maplewood as a thank you for collecting box tops so diligently throughout the year. Remember to keep collecting box tops over the summer—you can have your child bring them in to school in September. For more information, visit www.boxtops4education.com /www.labelsforeducation.com.

Kindergarten - Lindsey L.

First Grade - Ben B.

Second Grade - Caroline L.

Third Grade - Jack K.

Fourth Grade - Amanda B.

Fifth Grade - Matthew H.

ANOTHER AMAZING FLOAT!

For the second year in a row the Clinton School Memorial Day Float was a success! It took many people to make the float possible, and I so appreciate all your creativity, generosity, and hard work. I especially want to thank **Jeremy Moss and Melissa Healey** for their inventive design and tireless commitment, **Heather Kern** for designing the banners (which now adorn our auditorium and hallways!), **Erica and Mike Dussman** for allowing us to take over their garage and driveway for two weeks, **Monica Merel and Sandi Goodman** for towing the float, **3R Living** for collecting bags for us, **Millstone Lawn and Garden** for loaning us a trailer, and **Leah Gomberg and Dermal McCrear** for their enthusiastic cheerleading.

Very special thanks to all our float-builders, painters, fringe-tiers, and poppy-makers: **Ellie, Gregg, Karen, and Jamie Bethel; Colleen Broderick; Haley and Marilyn Carolan; James Cokorinos; Joseph and Nica Davidman; Liz Deutsch; Liz Dorfman; Erica, Jared, Mike, and Shannon Dussman; Nancy Fernandez and Jose, Lucas, and Mateo Fuentes; Sandi Goodman and Sophie Goodman-Merel; David, Eli, Leah, and Sam Gomberg; Patti Gross; Tamia and Tammy Haynie; Grace, Melissa, and Mike Healey; Chris Kensler, Heather Kern, Aiden, Louise, and Olive Kern-Kensler; Jackie and Patrick Lahey; Caroline, Lindsay, and Robin Leonard; Laurie Tarkan, Jordan and Miranda Lipetz; Carolyn Smiley and Cameron Lipp; Ethan, Jung Lee, and Owen Masters; Brandon and Kendall McCombs; Dermal, Sabrina, Sierra, Simone, and Rosanna McCrear; Finn, Jeremy, and Teague Moss; Jack, Jay, Molly, and Patty O'Connell; Kambiz and Mort Roghanchi; Michael Roseman; Madeline Schecter-Gross; Cole Shires; C.J., Katie, and Janet Trzaska; April, Brian, Grace, and Owen Umiker; Sharon and Shayla Williams.**

Thank you also to everyone who marched! Once again, we were the largest contingent in the parade, and Maplewood was blown away by our school spirit! If I have inadvertently omitted your name, please forgive me, and know that your contributions are appreciated!—*Jackey Lahey*

SPRING BOOK FAIR A SUCCESS!

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success – thanks to all of you! We broke our previous sales record by selling over \$10,000 worth of books which earned Clinton School **\$2,600**, plus hundreds of “Scholastic Dollars” which can be redeemed with Scholastic to help stock our classrooms with books and materials. As if that were not enough, **Clinton students and families donated over 160 books to the classrooms and library through the Teacher Wish Lists.** We'd like to offer a **special thank you to Ms. Liz and our dedicated Clinton lunch aides who donated a book to every class.** We are overwhelmed at the generosity of the Clinton community and are very proud of the enthusiasm our students have for reading and learning.

An undertaking like this requires a lot of help and we had more than 40 parent volunteers who took on so many tasks - donating food for the Teacher's Preview Luncheon, creatively transforming the café into a cozy book store, tirelessly staffing the fair all week, and providing the elbow grease to break it all down at the end. A huge thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers – you made the Book Fair work!

Many thanks to **Principal O'Neill, Ms. Bodnar, and all of our teachers** for promoting the Book Fair, to **Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Budhu, and the office staff** for graciously dealing with our constant questions and requests, to the hard-working **custodial staff** for their much-needed help throughout the week, and to **Karen Bethel, Jung Lee Masters, the PTA, and all of our Clinton families** for supporting the Book Fair so enthusiastically. A special thanks to **Jen Latimer, Liz Herring, and especially Amy Rubel** for their guidance and advice. This was truly a team effort.

—*Kris Stringer and Sharon Geraghty*

TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH THANKS

Thank you to everyone who donated their time and such fabulous dishes for the Teacher Appreciation Lunch. It was a great success and the teachers were very grateful. We have a wonderful school community!

—*Patty O'Connell and Janet Trzaska*

SPRING FAIR & LOCOMANIA

Thank you to the Clinton School Community for making this year's **Spring Renaissance Fair** the best one yet! And thank you to the many, many volunteers without whom events like this could never happen!

The weather couldn't have been better for the Spring Fair this year and the same can be said for this year's **LocoMania**. Thank you to **Mr. Lehman** and **Ms. Freede** for teaching the kids all the dance moves, thank you to **Jeremy Moss** for inspiring the kids with great music, thank you **Elizabeth Aaron** and the **PTA** for providing each child a water bottle, and thank you to all the teachers and parent volunteers for their enthusiasm, which was contagious! —*Leah Gomberg*

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LAST CALL FOR LOST & FOUND

As the school year winds down, the Lost & Found has piled up. It's time to set up our last (boutique-style) class walk-throughs for students to browse through and reclaim their items! The walk-throughs will be held on Tuesday, June 8 and Wednesday, June 9. Also, all remaining Lost & Found items will be on display at the outdoor PTA meeting on Thursday, June 10 as another opportunity for parents/families to identify lost items. As always, all unclaimed items will be laundered and donated to the Other Mother's consignment shop in South Orange (in our Clinton School account to help families in need). If you need to ask about a specific lost item or have any questions, please contact Lost & Found Coordinator **Deidra McLaughlin** – 973-313-1760 or deidra.mclaughlin@yahoo.com. Have a great summer!



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Thank you to everyone who dropped off empty ink cartridges and old cell phones. So far our total Funding Factory points come to a cash balance to \$238.85. The funds raised will continue to help the PTA provide monetary assistance for various school events and other important needs of our teachers and students. Continue to collect over the summer to keep our school account growing as we help our planet! For more information about Funding Factory, visit their website: www.fundingfactory.com or contact our recycling coordinator: **Deidra McLaughlin** at 973-313-1760 or deidra.mclaughlin@yahoo.com.

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