

# Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association  
Issue 3, November 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we celebrate the legacies of November—Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Election Day, and football, among other things—we are reminded of the traditions and history that we all share. At the same time we are preparing for a future that is proving to be somewhat mysterious due to the speed with which we are sending and receiving information.

As a community, we relish our traditions and will continue them as we work together to prepare all our students for this mysterious future. These shared goals of incorporating the “old” and the “new” are attainable because we collectively believe that our students deserve and want to learn about “what was” and “what could be.” These are very exciting times in education, and we remain in the thick of it as we demonstrate to our students that we are life-long learners with them.

As you prepare your Thanksgiving traditions—while perhaps connecting electronically to family and friends around the globe—keep in mind, no matter what the “old” was or what the “new” will be....

*On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence.*  
—William Jennings Bryan

With gratitude and assurance that we depend on each other for the success of all our Clinton kids, I thank you and wish you all a peaceful November.

Patty

## OTHER MOTHERS ACCOUNT

The PTA has been working with Other Mothers, a consignment shop in South Orange, to maintain an ongoing account that can be used by members of the Clinton community who are in need of clothing and other necessary items for their families. **If your children are in need of winter coats or clothing**, please contact Lindy Rollo, School Social Worker, or Ms. O’Neill. They will arrange for you to receive a gift certificate that will allow you to shop at Other Mothers. **If you would like to contribute to this account**, please bring your gently used children’s clothing into Other Mothers, and they will put a percentage of the total resale value into a store credit account for Clinton. Note that a trade-in checklist must accompany your items. This can be found on the store’s website ([www.othermothersnj.com](http://www.othermothersnj.com)).

## NOVEMBER-AT-A-GLANCE

1- 30 <sup>TH</sup>	NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
5 <sup>TH</sup>	CLINTON GOES TO THE MOVIES, SOPAC, 9:30 AM
5 & 6 <sup>TH</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED, NJEA CONVENTION
7 <sup>TH</sup>	FALL PLANTING DAY, 9 AM – 3 PM
11 <sup>TH</sup>	BRIAN OSBORNE HOSTS A TOWN HALL MEETING, 7:30 PM, MARSHALL SCHOOL
12 <sup>TH</sup>	CLINTON NIGHT AT PERCH HOME, 5:30-8:30 PM
13 <sup>TH</sup>	SCHOOL PRIDE DAY
18 <sup>TH</sup>	PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:15 PM
19 <sup>TH</sup>	GENERAL PTA MEETING, 7:15 PM
25 <sup>TH</sup>	FOUR HOUR DAY
26-27 <sup>TH</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED, THANKSGIVING
<u>COMING IN DECEMBER</u>	
4 <sup>TH</sup>	SCHOOL PRIDE DAY SCHOOL PICTURE- RETAKE DAY
5 <sup>TH</sup>	WINTER CRAFT FAIR, 11 AM-2 PM



## TOWN HALL MEETING

As part of the Parenting Center and Elementary School PTAs 2009-2010 Speaker Series, Superintendent of Schools Brian Osborne will discuss his vision for South Orange and Maplewood elementary schools at a Town Hall Meeting on **Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Marshall School**. Admission is free.

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## FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

I can't believe Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and we have completed the first two months of school. As president of the PTA, I have observed lots of success in the first two months, and I am thankful for so much. In particular, I am thankful that our beloved principal is on her way to a complete recovery. I am thankful for being part of a school where our assistant to the principal, **Ms. Bodnar**, worked with the **Clinton teachers and staff** as a flawless team during Ms. O'Neill's absence, keeping the main focus on our students and their continued education each day. **Principal O'Neill, Ms. Bodnar**, and the **entire staff** at Clinton school have shown immeasurable dedication to our students, creating a successful nurturing and learning environment for every student. It is so wonderful to be in school and watch each and every student become confident and enthusiastic learners who are so respectful of one another.

I am so thankful for all of our dedicated parents who have continued to volunteer and for our new parents who have eagerly gotten involved in our Clinton community. Our volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of every child in our school as they are there in the library, at picture day, bake sales, recess, the Pumpkin Patch, ice cream social, and our after school enrichment program to name just a few. Without your dedication and time, all of our amazing events could not occur, so thank you.

Our October was busy. There was a great assembly by **Patricia Shih** where our children danced and sang together with their teachers. Our Pumpkin Patch, although held indoors, was once again a huge success. Thanks to **Leah Gomberg** and **Lindy Romaine** for all their hard work in organizing the event and to all the volunteers who came out to help sell baked goods, paint pumpkins, and make instruments for the Halloween parade. Clinton School hosted a district-wide evening event sponsored by the **Parenting Center** on bullying. **Dr. Joel Haber** spoke to many parents and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on both physical and emotional bullying. The students were wonderful and honest, and we all learned a lot from the evening. **Halloween** as always was such a huge success as we saw lots of great costumes worn by students and teachers. Thanks to all the parents who helped dress children and bring in goodies for the class parties!

As we begin to plan for the Thanksgiving holiday, our November is equally filled with lots of events. Our **Election Day Bake Sale** was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. During the NJ Teacher Convention school break, we will host our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Movie Day** event at SOPAC. The movie this year will be the original *Freaky Friday*. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, we will once again have a Clinton shopping night at **Perch Home** in Maplewood Village. It's a great opportunity to purchase gifts for the holidays while supporting our school and a local merchant and Clinton parent. Fifteen percent of the evening sales go directly to Clinton School. And finally, please join us for our second **PTA general meeting** on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:15.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Karen Bethel

## COME TO THE NOVEMBER PTA MEETING

Please join us for our second General PTA Meeting of the year on **Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm in the Clinton School Cafeteria** (enter through the parking lot). Come find out all the latest school news and hear from our guest speaker, third-grade teacher Joe Ferriero, who will be making a presentation on the pilot program involving iPod Touches and MacBooks for third graders.

And while you're at the meeting you can join the PTA (if you haven't already) or buy a Clinton T-shirt. Refreshments will be served and babysitting for children ages 4 and under will be provided. See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

## 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](mailto:bobhugel@gmail.com).—*Bob Hugel*

**Kindergarten** With some help from parents, Mrs. Shelffo's class carved pumpkins on October 28. The class also baked the seeds for an afternoon treat. Each child in Mrs. Shelffo's class has a chance to take home the class stuffed animal, Coco, for an evening. They share their experiences by writing and drawing in Coco's journal. Coco has been showered with much love and shown many diverse experiences. Mrs. Shelffo's class is looking forward to going with the other Kindergarten classes on their first field trip to the Turtle Back Zoo on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**First Grade** October was a busy month in Mrs. Cutrufello's class with children learning about the wonders of the season and Halloween. Due to rain first grade classes had to reschedule a late-October field trip to Stony Hill Farm in Chester, NJ. For Halloween parent volunteers helped students transform pumpkins into Jack o'lanterns and decorate cookies. Throughout the year parents are invited to read books to students on Fridays. "Favorite Book Friday" has been such a meaningful experience for both parents and students.

**Third Grade** Mrs. Pomares' class had an exciting October. In Writing Workshop the kids generated lists and stories for their own personal narratives. They also learned how to pick books, how to make connections in stories, and all about the elements of a story. In Science they studied the water cycle, weather, and meteorologists and the tools they use. In Social Studies the class examined all types of communities and how they are formed. On October 21<sup>st</sup> the class traveled to the Israel Crane House in Montclair and discovered how important the Crane family was to the development of Montclair and the surrounding areas. On the Friday before Halloween the kids all dressed up in their Halloween costumes for the school parade and then enjoyed snacks during their class Halloween party.

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

I am happy to report that thanks to great handwashing and covering up those coughs and sneezes, Clinton School remains healthy. We are asking for your help to have this continue. Please keep your child home if he/she wakes up not feeling well or is sick during the night. If your child has a fever during the night or in the morning, please do not administer Tylenol or Advil/ Motrin and send him/her to school. It is much better to give your child a day of rest at home than to send him/her to school sick. Not only may your child make others sick, he/she may be more susceptible to other germs in the classroom. Please note that if your child is home sick from school, he/she may not participate in after school activities such as Brownies, Boy Scouts, After School Enrichment etc. Our goal is to keep all of our students safe and healthy. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our school healthy.

On another note, I encourage you to have some fun with fall foods (washing your hands first, of course!). Have an apple tasting or try eating apples in different ways: apple wedges with peanut butter, baked apples, apple sauce. Or perhaps you can bake some delicious pumpkin bread with your child. Enjoy these healthy snacks and spending time together.

Your Nurse,  
Joann Harrigan

## CLINTON SHOPPING NIGHT AT PERCH HOME

Back by popular demand: an exclusive Clinton shopping night at Perch Home! On **Thursday, November 12th, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Perch Home** will be open to Clinton School families *only* for an evening of private shopping! Not only will you be able to browse through an amazing collection of gifts and home décor—perfect for holiday shopping, but Perch Home will donate 15% of the sales from that evening to Clinton School. You'll be supporting one of Maplewood's most inspired stores, which happens to be owned by a Clinton parent, and supporting Clinton, too! Perch Home is located at 9 Highland Place, Maplewood Village. If you can attend, please RSVP to Cecelia Cancellaro ([ccancellaro@verizon.net](mailto:ccancellaro@verizon.net) or 973-763-1730).

## FALL PLANTING DAY ON NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

Please join us on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am - 3 pm** for our annual planting and clean-up day. Bring your gardening tools, brushes, bins, and refuse bags, and we'll put you to work to beautify the Clinton School grounds. No gardening experience is necessary. We'd also love donations of plants, especially those that do well in part or full shade. Donations can be dropped off in the faculty parking lot on planting day. Please come out on November 7th and support this important ongoing effort. For more information, contact Jeremy Moss, Outdoor Beautification Chair, at [bumpywhale@hotmail.com](mailto:bumpywhale@hotmail.com) or 973-763-7111.

## PICTURE DAY THANKS

Thanks to all who helped make picture day run as smoothly as possible. Pictures will be delivered soon. Be on the lookout for information regarding retake day, which is scheduled for **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, please contact Patty O'Connell at [poconnell@e-p-s.com](mailto:poconnell@e-p-s.com).

## WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Come and get crafty at Clinton's popular Winter Craft Fair on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 2 pm in the Clinton School cafeteria**. For \$12 per family you'll be able to create all sorts of wonderful crafts that will make wonderful holiday gifts. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For more information or if you're available to help that day, contact Leah Gomberg at 973-275-0927 or [ldgomberg@verizon.net](mailto:ldgomberg@verizon.net).

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

We're off to a pretty good start this year. So far we have raised over **\$2395** through our **No Frills** fundraiser. We've earned approximately **\$1223** and **\$500** from **Sally Foster** and **GreenRaising** respectively. And **Display My Art** has brought **\$799** to the Clinton PTA coffers. Thank you to all who participated.

—*Rosanna McCrear and Alanna Muñoz*

## NJ FAMILY CARE NIGHT

You may be able to receive NJ Family Care free or low-cost health insurance for adults and children if you meet certain criteria. If you are interested in learning more, please come to the **NJ Family Care Night sponsored by the Parenting Center on Thursday, November 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Clinton School Cafeteria.** Representatives from New Jersey Family Care will be at Clinton School to help applicants fill out forms to enroll for medical insurance for their families.

Who Qualifies for NJ Family Care Health Insurance? Children up to age 18 and parents and caretakers of children up to age 18 who are living in NJ, who are citizens or qualified immigrants (including immigrants lawfully admitted for permanent residence), and who meet income requirements of the program.

What should you bring to apply for NJ Family Care Health Insurance? Please bring the following for each adult and child to be covered: a copy of birth certificate or passport, copy of social security card, proof of residence status (proof of state residency or green card), proof of address (statement or bill mailed to you), proof of income (pay stub, or W-2, or letter from employer stating annual income, if on SSI or any supplemental income, proof of that amount) If you have any questions, please call Julie Porter at 973-762-6009 or email [julianneporter@aol.com](mailto:julianneporter@aol.com).

## WE NEED RECESS VOLUNTEERS!

Like fun? Like games? Do you have a little extra time to share with Clinton School students? We are seeking volunteers who can commit to a regular day and time each week for a month at a time, for example, every Monday from 11-12:30. This will help recess run more smoothly and provide our cafeteria staff with regular and reliable assistance. Volunteers will help coordinate outdoor activities and engage small groups of students on inside days with puzzles, cards, board games, books, and drawing projects. If you can help out, please contact one of the following: Karen Bethel at 973-762-3474 or [kbetheil@verizon.net](mailto:kbetheil@verizon.net), Jung Lee Masters at 973-275-3936 or [rjm2jlm@msn.com](mailto:rjm2jlm@msn.com), or Elizabeth Aaron at 973-761-4094 or [emaaron@verizon.net](mailto:emaaron@verizon.net).

## CULTURAL HERITAGE NEWS

Congratulations to the winners of the **Hispanic Heritage Month** raffle and thanks to all the students who entered the raffle and participated in the reading fiesta. In November we celebrate **Native American Heritage Month**—dedicated to learning about the ancient and current tribal cultures of Native Americans. There will be another raffle this month. Check out the display case in the front hall and place your completed raffle form in the red box. The Native American Heritage display will be on view starting November 9<sup>th</sup> and will remain through the first week of December. —*Tricia Bloom, Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator*

## THE CLINTON GREEN

Ah, what's that beautiful smell? Is it Tahitian Vanilla, Lavender Serenity, Ocean Breeze? Smells great, right? Oh, the stories I can tell...

There is simply nothing beautiful about the fragrances in household and personal care products. Finding out the truth about fragrance is like watching a huge plate of glass shatter in a thousand pieces.

Fragrances are often made with *phthalates* (endocrine disruptors linked to reproductive abnormalities), the same phthalates to be avoided in plastics.

Fragrances also contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), compounds now being actively removed from many paints, rugs, and building materials. Three VOCs commonly used in fragrances are considered Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs): acetaldehyde, chloromethane, and 1,4-dioxane. In fact, the list of chemicals needed to make these lovely smells is astonishing. Only the level of toxicity remains open to debate.

How can this be? Product formulas are protected under the United States Economic and Protection of Proprietary Information Act of 1996, which upholds the idea that, in the name of free enterprise, companies are not required to disclose their product formulas.

Why do we continue to want fragrance? One reason is that scientists have shown that smells trigger memories. Thus, smells that trigger good memories make us feel happy. Companies, in turn, have marketed their products to convince us that if we smell "good" fragrances, then we will be happy. If only it were that easy.

There's nothing like the smell of a clean house, but what does "clean" really smell like? A house cleaned without toxic chemicals won't smell like much of anything but a sweet breeze. You can get that with just plain white vinegar and water.

If fragrance is important to you, then add a few drops of an essential oil like lemon or lavender to any of your green cleaning, laundry, or personal care products. Essential oils can be found at Whole Foods and in many other natural food stores. Look for those that are 100% essential oils or those diluted with vegetable oil (not with synthetic additives).—*Clare Payton*

## RELATED ARTS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT A BIG SUCCESS

On Wednesday evening, October 28th, close to 100 parents visited Clinton School to learn about and participate in art, music, physical education, world language, and library instruction.

As groups rotated through the schedule, parents got a taste of what our children experience on a daily basis in their specials at Clinton. We played several unique and creative games with our fabulous physical education teachers, Mr. Lehman and Ms. Freede. We created interesting pieces of art with the talented Ms. Tischio, we sang and learned about rhythm patterns with the amazing Ms. Martin, we spent time hearing about our children's weekly library visits from our great librarian and media specialist, Mrs. Edelberg, and we took a fun, lively, game-filled Spanish class with Señora Seltzer.

The hands-on activities allowed parents to experience these classes through the eyes of a student and while participating, it soon became clear that our children are consistently being stimulated, challenged, and encouraged in extremely creative, positive, and fun ways!

Many thanks to Ms. O'Neill and Ms. Bodnar for putting this night together and for hosting our first Related Arts Back to School Night! And a big thank you to Mr. Lehman, Ms. Freede, Mrs. Edelberg, Ms. Tischio, Ms. Martin, and Señora Seltzer for their skill, dedication, and creativity and for giving us an opportunity to experience school the way our children do every day. —*Cecelia Cancellaro*

## 2009-2010 PAC COMMITTEE

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) provides a forum for interaction between the principal and parents. The committee consists of two representatives from each grade, the PTA president and vice-president, and assistant principal Ann Bodner and principal Patty O'Neill. Parents can contact their grade-level representatives directly with any questions or school issues they would like to see addressed. The representatives will then consult with Principal O'Neill on a bi-weekly basis to work on resolving the issues. Please note that classroom-specific issues should be discussed with the classroom teacher before being brought to the attention of PAC. The goal of PAC is to focus on Clinton School issues, developing action plans to address and benefit the entire Clinton Community. Listed below are the 2009-10 PAC members and their contact information:

**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 McFadegan (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 (kbetheil@verizon.net)

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

## Lots of fun at the Clinton Halloween Parade!



## JOIN THE CLINTON PTA

Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTA this year. We are now 210 members strong and only 15 away from our goal of 225 members! We'd like to thank the following local businesses that generously donated gift certificates to be raffled off to those who joined before October 16<sup>th</sup>: **HLS Juice Bar & Grill, No. 165 Boutique, Perch Home, Round Table Kids Enrichment Plus, Tic Tac Toes Children's Shoes.** If you haven't yet joined, it's not too late. Just fill out the form below and return it with your dues (**\$12 per person**) in an envelope marked **PTA Membership**. Checks should be made payable to "Clinton PTA" and should include your phone number.

### Clinton PTA Membership Form

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... E-mail: .....

Names of Children/Grades/Teachers: .....

16th Annual

# Crafts

at The Baird

Wed. Dec. 2, 2009, 7-9pm: Opening reception/  
Preview night

Thurs.-Sun. Dec. 3-6, 12-8pm: Sale Days

Sat. 1-3: Demos,  
kids crafts, FREE!



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for more info

## PUMPKIN PATCH THANKS

Special thanks to all who helped at our very successful Pumpkin Patch! Thanks to **Lindy Romaine** for organizing the volunteers and to **Tricia Bloom** for organizing the instruments and their decoration. Thanks also to **Susan Sand, Anne Harding, Elizabeth and Mike Aaron, Nancy Mattia and Matthew Henegan, Leora Perlman, Jennifer Tate, David Gomberg, Barbara Cokorinos, Patty O'Connell, Mary Barber, Janine Chakir, Ruth Lowenkron, Nancy Fernandez, Tricia Bloom, Michelle Shires, Angela D'Agostino, April Parker, Karen Bethel, Eric Zinner and Cecelia Cancellaro, and Susan Rogers.**

Thanks, too, to all the people who baked and cooked and took part in the event—all of you helped make the day so great! —*Leah Gomberg*

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## Aristocrats Then & Now

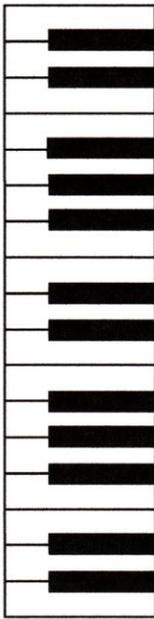
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## PRIVATE PIANO LESSONS

Expanding studio in South Orange now accepting students – six years old and up, beginner to early advanced. Twenty-six years experience. State-certified (Michigan Music Teachers Association), held several leadership positions in the local music teachers' association, including that of President. Contact: Susan Mansfield, 973-378-8430, susanmansfield@optonline.net



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