

Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association
Issue 2, October 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There are moments when we need to sit back and reflect on what life is all about, and this is certainly one of those moments. I had a different *Courier* message for this edition but changed it Sunday night after the death of a colleague and fellow music lover, Susan Weitzer.

Susan passed away on October 2, 2009 from injuries sustained in a tragic accident. She was crossing the street with her beloved daughter and never made it to the other side. Ironically, I just survived a similar accident and am devastated at Susan's twist of fate.

Susan was the band teacher for the fifth grade students in Clinton, Jefferson, Seth Boyden, Tuscan, and South Mountain schools. Although we had our philosophical differences about education, one thing we shared and deeply believed in was the belief that every child has the ability to succeed and it was our job to help them. We also shared a love of music which was evident in her work with our students.

The temperature of the auditorium was not always to her liking, but she stoically continued to broaden the musical abilities of our students knowing that I would continue to give her periodic "heating updates." She would conduct the band in her most professional manner, allow the students to shine, and afterward tell me the room was too hot!

I consider myself a very spiritual person, but I have never met anyone as devoutly religious as Susan. In her religion, she found comfort, peace, and solace. My only hope is that she is now truly at peace and her family is comforted knowing how deeply religious she was.

As we move forward, in Susan's honor, let's continue to work together to ensure the success of every student whether that success takes its form academically, creatively, or athletically. Let's continue to instill the love of music and fight to continue arts education in every school. I believe she would want us most to continue our work with all special needs students so they have every opportunity to live their lives to the fullest.

The music never ends...

Patty

OCTOBER-AT-A-GLANCE

14TH PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:15 PM

15 & 16TH 4-HOUR DAY, TEACHER CONFERENCES

17TH PUMPKIN PATCH, 11 AM – 2 PM

19 & 20TH 4-HOUR DAY, TEACHER CONFERENCES

23RD SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

26TH SCHOOL CLOSED, STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

30TH HALLOWEEN PARADE, 1:45 PM

COMING IN NOVEMBER

3RD ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

5TH CLINTON GOES TO THE MOVIES,
SOPAC, 9:30 AM

5 & 6TH SCHOOL CLOSED, NJEA CONVENTION



JOEL HABER, "THE BULLY COACH," TO SPEAK AT CLINTON SCHOOL

The Parenting Center and the Elementary School PTAs will present **Joel Haber, Ph.D., the author of *Bullyproof Your Child for Life*, to speak about elementary school bullying on Wednesday, October 21, from 7:30 to 9 pm in the Clinton School Auditorium.** A clinical psychologist, Dr. Haber has devoted more than 20 years to the identification, prevention, and reduction of abusive (emotional and physical) behaviors—from childhood through adulthood and in many settings including schools, camps, home, and the workplace. This presentation is for parents, however 4th and 5th graders are also welcome to attend with their parents.

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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe the first month of school has passed already. September has been great, filled with lots of smiling faces and children eager to come to school each day. Thank you to the PTA executive board and all the parent volunteers for helping to make the first days and weeks of school so successful.

Our first PTA sponsored events were also successful. Thank you to **Liz Salituri** and our dedicated teachers for our well attended Ice Cream Social. Without all of you, it would not have been such an amazing night filled with messy and sticky faces. Our book fair co- chairs, **Jen Latimer** and **Amy Rubel**, worked tirelessly setting up and selling so many books to so many students and parents. Thank you both.

Our PTA has worked hard to create a special community here at Clinton school, a community reinforcing the commitment and pride our students have in their school and education. We can only continue this support with your help. You can begin by joining the PTA. Our membership goal this year is 225 members. Right now we are close to 150, so please help us in achieving our goal. If you sign up by October 15th you are eligible for a raffle featuring gift certificates generously donated by five local merchants.

We also ask that you volunteer. Our events and activities need you for their continued success. We know how busy each of you are, and respect your work and personal time, but we try to offer opportunities that fit a variety of schedules. Please contact Jung Lee Masters for volunteer opportunities and to sign up.

Lastly, we need your continued financial support. Thank you to all who have participated in our No Frills Fundraiser. Throughout the year, the amount of fundraisers may seem overwhelming. Know that we don't expect you to participate in each one, but hope you can find ones that fit your family and capability. Every bit counts and makes a big difference throughout the year.

Thank you and see you at the Pumpkin Patch!

Karen Bethell

THE CLINTON SCHOOL THEATRE NEEDS YOU!

Last year's production of *Around the World in 80 Minutes* was such a success, we've decided to do another one! Once again, we're going to need lots of help to carry it off. Everyone who was part of last year's production had a great time. It was a lot of work, but it was very rewarding. We'll be sending out a flyer with more information and sign-up forms at the end of this month, so keep an eye out and please sign up. A big event like this can only happen with a lot of volunteer support. We are looking forward to a great production this year and hope you are, too! —*Suzanne Roghanchi*

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Once again the Clinton PTA is running two concurrent fundraisers, **Sally Foster** and **GreenRaising**. Packets went home in the students' backpacks at the beginning of the month and are due back by **October 15th**. Both catalogs feature wrapping paper and gifts, perfect for holiday shopping. GreenRaising offers earth- friendly products, many of which should appeal to our environmentally-friendly Clinton community. You can order from one company or both, but please keep the order forms and payments separate. More detailed instructions are contained in the letters inserted in each envelope. Thanks for your support! If you have questions, please contact Rosanna McCrear at Rosanna@mccrear.com.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Classroom News will begin in the November issue of the *Courier*. Please send information about classroom activities to: **bobhugel@gmail.com** or drop a note with your contact information in the PTA mailbox folder labeled: "Classroom News." —*Bob Hugel*

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH THANKS

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Hispanic Heritage Display including the Selzer, Banks, Rocha, and Munoz families and our new Spanish teacher, Senora Perez (welcome!). Hispanic Heritage month continues until October 15th, so there's still time to enter the red box raffle; winners of the raffle will be announced on October 16th. **Native American Heritage Month** begins **November 1**; please contact Tricia Bloom at rubybloom@earthlink.net if you would like to be involved.

CLINTON HALLOWEEN PARADE

Parents are invited to come to the annual Halloween parade on **Friday, Oct. 30th**, starting at **1:45 p.m.** It's so much fun to see the students marching around the school in their Halloween costumes. For the past few years music has been a part of the festivities. Those parents and teachers who happen to be musical are invited to bring an instrument (some will also be available to borrow) and show up a little early; for more information contact Susan Dillon (susandillon@mindspring.com) or Tricia Bloom (rubybloom@earthlink.net).

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

On **Tuesday, November 3**, Clinton School will host its annual Election Day Bake Sale. We're grateful for whatever savory or sweet dish you can provide, whether it's soup, bread, dinners-to-go, or delicious baked treats. The Bake Sale will start at **8 am and run until 2:30 pm or until we run out of food**, so please help us stay open as long as possible by donating lots of dishes. Please contact Rita Dadaian (973-763-9143 or rita@cakescouture.com) if you'd like to donate food or volunteer.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

It is hard to believe that we are in our second month of the new school year. The nurse's office has been busy as usual. We have had a healthy September. Our students are doing a great job with hand washing and covering up those coughs and sneezes. Please continue to enforce these good habits. We are working closely with the Maplewood Health Department and the CDC to stay informed and act accordingly regarding H1N1 and seasonal flu. Please continue to follow the guidelines that were in the letter the school district sent home in September, which can be found on the school website. For updates on H1N1 and seasonal flu, visit the CDC website (www.cdc.gov).

Please remember that medications may not be given in school; this applies to over-the-counter medications as well. If your child needs medication during the school day, please call me and I will give you the necessary forms to be completed by you and your child's physician. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me or stop in my office. I look forward to a great year.

—*Joann Harrigan*

PUMPKIN PATCH TIME!

Join us on **Saturday, October 17th, from 11 am to 2 pm**, when we turn the Clinton School front lawn into our very own pumpkin patch. For \$4 you can purchase and decorate a pumpkin and enjoy a freshly picked apple and a cup of cider (or you can buy three pumpkins for \$10). We'll also help kids make instruments out of recycled materials for them to use at the Halloween Parade. We'll have savory and sweet treats for sale too. If it rains, we'll be in the cafeteria. If you can help or make something for our bake sale, contact Leah Gomberg (973-275-0927 or ldgomberg@verizon.net) or Lindy Romaine (973-762-4703 or nyeromaine@gmail.com).

STUDENT ELECTION RESULTS

On Monday, October 5th, Clinton students voted to elect their student government representatives. Thank you to all the impressive candidates who ran for office, and congratulations to Clinton's 2009-2010 student government:

Jack Kelly, President

Joshua Watson-Lewis, Vice President

E.J. Bankole, Treasurer

Jamie Bethel, Secretary

A MORNING AT THE MOVIES

Looking for something fun to do on **Thursday, November 5th** (when the kids have no school)? Come to **SOPAC Clearview Cinema in South Orange** for a **private screening of *Freaky Friday***, the original 1976 comedy starring Jodie Foster as a girl who discovers one morning that she and her mother have swapped bodies. The movie is rated G and runs 98 minutes. Doors open at 9:30 am and the movie begins at 10 am. The entrance fee is \$10 and includes a drink and popcorn. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Entrance fee is for adults and children (age 4 and up).

If you would like to attend, please fill out the order form below and return it with cash or a check made out to Clinton PTA (please include your phone number on the check) in an envelope marked "Movie/Leah Gomberg." Check-in will be at the movie theater; tickets will not be distributed. For more information contact Leah Gomberg at ldgomberg@verizon.net or 973-275-0927.

MOVIE ORDER FORM

Child's name: _____

Child's teacher: _____

Number of attendees: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Spotlight on: 3rd Grade Teacher Joe Ferriero

Known as Mr. F. around Clinton, Joe Ferriero works in Miss Kent's 3rd grade class as an inclusion specialist. The New Jersey native grew up in Kearny and received a B.A. from Montclair State University and an M. Ed. from Seton Hall University. Now living in Bloomfield, Mr. Ferriero, who's been at Clinton since January, is a man of many talents—besides teaching, he is also adept at web design, acting, coaching boys' baseball and girls' softball, and cooking. We asked him a few questions, and he answered them all with enthusiasm!

What exactly does an “inclusion specialist” do? I make sure that all of the different learners [students with varied academic needs and learning styles] in Miss Kent's class are getting exactly what they need.

How do you manage that? I would like to quote my good friend [Clinton special education teacher] Ms. Leibowitz: “Inclusion is going to save the world.” When she first started saying that, I thought she was joking, but now I realize that she's right! In an inclusive class, two teachers get to enhance the learning of all of the students. Let's say you have a student who's struggling with one topic—that class's inclusion teacher can give him or her personal attention and re-teach the topic. This is the true definition of “no child left behind.”

Do these classes primarily benefit children with special needs?

Inclusion classes benefit *all* students. Having two teachers is a major strength for struggling students, but it is also a great thing for more advanced students. Now there are two teachers who can push them to learn bigger things.

Have you taught anywhere else? Yes, I taught 4th grade in Kearny, high school biology and genetics in Wayne, and middle school science in Manalapan. This is my eighth year of teaching.

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher? When I was very young. Teachers have always inspired me. There is so much more to teaching than meets the eye. There are some days when you go home with the biggest smile on your face and other days when you feel your heart breaking. Luckily the smile days outweigh the others!

If you couldn't be a teacher, what would you be doing instead? I would be an actor on Broadway. (Well, hopefully!)

How do you get motivated? How do you get the students motivated? I have a lot of energy. Both Miss Kent and I keep the class entertained 99 percent of the day. We like to break out into song or a new dance move. This shows the students how excited we are about learning and, in turn, it excites them!



You're involved in the pilot program that uses iPod Touches and MacBooks for 3rd graders. How did the program come about? Over the summer, [3rd grade teacher] Mrs. Pomares and I were talking about different ways to get our students to learn, when she read a great article on podcasting. When I taught high school, I used to podcast all of the time, and the students learned so much from it. So, along with the rest of the third grade team, we sat down and came up with a plan. We met with the district and PTA and were able to get new MacBooks, iPod Touches, and other equipment. Other than podcasting, the iPods have the ability to enhance learning through apps, maps, flashcards, and so much more! I'll be demonstrating how it works at the general PTA meeting in November.

What's the biggest challenge you face as a teacher?

Making sure every student is successful. There are many days when I wonder if every one of my students is learning everything that they can.

Why is your personality suited to teaching young kids?

Honestly, I think I am a big kid myself. I love to play video games!

What do you do in your free time? I have my own web design firm, and I like to watch *American Idol*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Fringe*, and *Glee*. I also run a middle-school theater program in Kearny and dabble a little in community theater.

Who has had the biggest influence on your life?

Without a doubt, my mom. She is the nicest person I have ever met and has always supported me in whatever I do. She is also very proud of me, and it's great to know someone is proud of you. I think that is something I will always take with me. I make sure that my students know how proud I am of them, too.

—Nancy Mattia Henegan

THE CLINTON GREEN

Remember that famous line from *The Graduate*? “I want to say one word to you, just one word. . . . plastics.” It’s one small word, but one very big deal. We are surrounded by plastics. Not only are we generating *tons* of plastic every single day for every industry under the sun, but we are using toxic chemicals to make those plastics durable, transparent, and cheap.

To create plastics, petroleum and other products are heated under controlled conditions to produce plastic resins with different characteristics such as strength, transparency, or molding capability. These chemicals migrate, or *leach*, from the plastics into foods, drinks, mouths, and lungs. Three plastic compounds are of particular health concern.

Polyvinyl chloride (#3 PVC) is used in food packaging and plastic wrap and pacifiers, and yet many authorities advise against using it at all. It releases *dioxins*, hazardous chemical compounds that are on the EPA’s most-wanted list.

Phthalates are chemicals used to soften or “plasticize” plastics for an infinite number of products; children’s toys and medical supplies are but two. Phthalates are known *endocrine disruptors*, meaning they affect your body’s endocrine glands. When they break down, they release dioxins that negatively affect reproductive and immune systems.

Polycarbonate, with Bisphenol A (#7) is used most commonly in water bottles and other food containers, and over time, through microwave and dishwasher use, it begins to leach a chemical, bisphenol A (BPA), into the liquid or food.

Remember that the buying decisions you make send clear messages to manufacturers. Try to use “green” plastics, those that do not include the above chemicals, or try to use products packaged in glass or aluminum.

—Clare Payton

BOOK FAIR THANKS

This year’s fall book fair was a huge success. As first time co-chairs, we wondered if we could pull it off as we started planning last spring. Now that the fair has concluded, we can safely say that it was very successful. With profits of approximately \$2500, we exceeded last fall’s totals and made many children smile. With over 40 parent volunteers, this year’s event was truly a group effort. We hope that whether this was your first time volunteering or your tenth, that you had fun and come back again in the spring for our next book fair. Thank you teachers for bringing the children to see the displays during class and thank you families for supporting this fundraiser and making the children’s wishes come true.

Lastly, we wanted to send a special thank you to the four Kindergarten classes this year. It is always special to see their excited faces as they “shop” for books and it was extra special to receive handmade thank you cards from the children.

— Jennifer Latimer and Amy Rubel

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Clinton school’s annual **Tricky Tray/Silent and Live Auction** will be held this year on **Saturday, March 13th** at the Maplewood Woman’s Club. Not only is this one of our most successful fundraisers—we raised over \$23,000 last year—it also happens to be one of the most fun. So mark your calendars and book your babysitters now.

We are already starting to collect merchandise for the auction and could use some assistance in our efforts. If you or someone you know works for a company that would be willing to donate merchandise or a gift certificate, please let us know. Perhaps your favorite nail salon would be willing to donate a free manicure or a family member works for a big corporation that would be willing to donate an expensive electronics item. No gift is too big or too small. We have an official letter we can provide with all the details, so if you’d like a copy just let us know. Companies are usually quite generous about these kinds of donations if they are given enough notice, so don’t be shy about asking. Please contact Cecelia Cancellaro (ccancellaro@verizon.net) or Karen Bethel (kbethel@verizon.net) if you have a donation or if you would like to be part of the Tricky Tray Committee.

The Adult School presents **Organizational Skills for Elementary School Students on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. at South Orange Middle School. Fee: \$20. For more information, see www.somadultschool.org or (973) 378-7620.**

JOIN THE CLINTON PTA

Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTA this year. We are now over 150 members strong and still hoping to reach our goal of 225 members.

Join by **October 16th** and earn a chance to win one of several gift certificates donated by the following generous local businesses: **HLS Juice Bar & Grill, No. 165 Boutique, Perch Home, Round Table Kids Enrichment Plus, Tic Tac Toes Children’s Shoes.**

To join or renew your membership to the Clinton PTA, 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:

MAPLEWOOD GREEN DAY

On **Saturday, October 10th from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm**, Maplewood will present its third annual Green Fair in Memorial Park. There will be workshops exploring environmental themes including backyard composting and how to create a more energy-efficient home. There will also be lots of fun activities for kids such as face painting and recycled paper crafts. For more information, visit www.MaplewoodGreenDay.org.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Picture Day is coming on **Friday, October 23rd**. The retake day is scheduled for Friday, December 4th. If you would like to volunteer to help on picture day or if you have any questions, please contact Patty O'Connell at poconnell@e-p-s.com.

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CLINTON 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 or 973-763-1730).

If you are on a restricted diet WE CAN FREE YOU

from the time consuming search for food you will enjoy!



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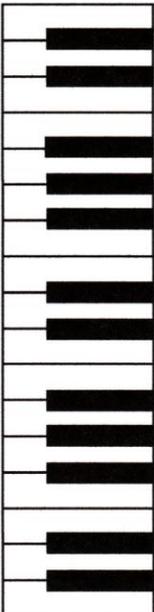
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