

# Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association  
Issue 6, February 2007

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is very exciting to share with you some of the new happenings at Clinton. We are always striving to improve and expand our educational program and are proud of our accomplishments and progress.

- Recently I approached our central office administrators to propose that Clinton School join the newly formed Rutgers University Center for Literacy Development. The idea was so well received by everyone, including all of the elementary principals, that we have secured a district membership.
- The Center provides many benefits to our district and school including on-site staff development from renowned experts in literacy; previews and training in developmentally appropriate curriculum; instruction and assessment strategies; participation in literacy research projects; an on-site parent workshop; and a learning community network of literacy leaders and teachers. This initiative will surely have a meaningful impact on our literacy education.
- Our Character Education Committee, in conjunction with the Clinton School staff, has collaborated to create a new school-wide character/behavior incentive program that we hope to begin as early as February 26, 2007. Honey Pot Heroes will recognize students for choosing behaviors that demonstrate respect, responsibility, honesty, caring, and high-quality citizenship...the five character traits that drive our character education efforts. Please continue to encourage and reinforce these character traits at home.
- As a result of a discussion about parent involvement and the lunch program at our last PAC meeting, we are creating another opportunity for parents to take an active role in the school day and are asking you to join us during the lunch periods on either Wednesdays or Fridays to help us broaden our offerings and better the recess experience for all children.
- School security is unquestionably a relevant and significant concern; and in fact, I addressed our preparation in the *Courier* a few months ago. We are currently finalizing our plans for a lockdown drill and will conduct our first one some time in the coming months.

You will receive more information about all of these items soon.

Finally, we have a few staff members who have recently joined our educational community. Jennifer Cudmore is a wonderful addition to our special education department and is teaching both replacement and in-class support. Kate Fearon and Jane Dell are classroom aides in our kindergarten and first grade. Please join us in welcoming them to our school.

Sincerely,  
Rich Katz

## FEBRUARY-AT-A-GLANCE

1<sup>ST</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup>

AFRICAN AMERICAN

HERITAGE MONTH

13<sup>TH</sup>

WINTER CONCERT, 10 AM (GRADES 3-5 AND AM-K), 1:30 PM (GRADES K-2)

15<sup>TH</sup>

PTA MEETING, 7:15 PM

19<sup>TH</sup>-23<sup>RD</sup>

SCHOOL CLOSED, WINTER RECESS

28<sup>TH</sup>

COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER BEGINS

LOOKING AHEAD:

THURSDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> - THURSDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, SPRING AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT SESSION

THURSDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>, A TASTE OF CLINTON, CLINTON'S 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER

## PTA PURCHASES STUDY ISLAND LICENSE

Thanks to the Clinton School PTA, Clinton third and fourth grade students now have access to a great resource for preparing for the state standardized tests. This resource isn't only for test prep, it is a great way to reinforce math, language skills and build knowledge throughout the year. Our PTA has purchased a year-long license for a web-based program called Study Island. This program is available to students from anywhere they can access the internet.

Study Island is a fun way for students to increase their knowledge and become more comfortable and experienced with standardized tests in the process. There is no need to purchase refresher material for your kids. Use Study Island instead.

For students who do not have computer/internet access, the PTA will offer test prep books and will make arrangements for students to use the internet at Net Nomads Cafe on Springfield Avenue at no charge (contact Josie at 973-275-6220 to make arrangements). The PTA will also generously provide certificates for free coffee to parents/guardians that accompany children to Net Nomads Cafe. **STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.** In addition, students may also access the internet for free from the Maplewood and South Orange Public Libraries.

If you are interested in using Study Island and haven't registered yet, please email Josie O'Brien (dinkycostonobrien@yahoo.com) with your child's full name, class, and grade and include the words Study Island in the subject.

The PTA is excited about the potential benefits this program can bring to our students, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear Clinton Families,

February is a special month. We celebrate black history and Presidents' Day. To honor these two very special occasions, I would like to stray from the usual routine of recapping events and reference two significant historical milestones that have the power to motivate and uplift anyone.

John F. Kennedy, Jr. was sworn into office as our 35<sup>th</sup> President on January 20, 1961. His inaugural address will go down in history as one of the finest ever given.

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

His speech went on for ten minutes. He asked Americans to unite in the fight against the common enemy of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself.

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. stood at the top of the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington and gave a speech so profound that it would be quoted for many, many years to come.

"Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today my friends.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Please join me, and the rest of the Clinton family, in celebrating all the goodness within our community.

All the best, Josie O'Brien

### **PTA BOARD 2006-07**

#### **President**

Josie O'Brien  
973-275-6220 dinkycostonobrien@yahoo.com

#### **First Vice President**

Leah Gomberg  
973-275-0927 ldgomberg@comcast.net

#### **Vice Presidents**

##### **Fundraising**

Deidra McLaughlin  
973-313-1760 deidralynn@comcast.net

##### **Cultural Arts**

to be announced

##### **Public Relations**

Elizabeth King  
973-378-3718 elizabethking@mindspring.com

##### **Membership**

Kimberly Hill-Chambers  
973-763-6389 kimmy524@comcast.net

#### **Treasurer**

Derek Romanau

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Tammy Haynie

#### **Clinton Courier**

**Editor**, Cecelia A. Cancellaro  
973-763-1730 ccancellaro@comcast.net  
**Assistant Editor**, Liz Herring  
973-378-3099 echerring@verizon.net

#### **Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator**

Jacqueline Rhinehart

#### **Members-at-Large**

Paula Chmiel  
Maureen Davenport

#### **President Emeritus**

Marieka Buckham

#### **Teacher Representatives**

Marion Power  
mpower@somsd.k12.nj.us  
Marlene Cutrufello  
mcutrufe@somsd.k12.nj.us  
Meta Johnson  
mjohnson@somsd.k12.nj.us

#### **Principal**

Richard Katz  
973-378-7686 rkatz@somsd.k12.nj.us

#### **Assistant to the Principal**

Helena Nolan  
973-378-7686

#### **Clinton School Office**

973-378-7686

#### **Board of Education Parent Liaison**

Jennifer Payne-Parrish jparrish@arc4me.com

### **ANNOUNCING THE BRAND NEW CLINTON SCHOOL WEBSITE!**

We are extremely proud to unveil the brand new Clinton website. The site provides a glimpse into our wonderful school and will keep you up-to-date on school news and events. We owe a big thank you to **Joelle Mercado**, the dedicated and talented Clinton parent who spent countless hours redesigning the site into a wonderful and user-friendly format.

Now you can get familiar with the new site ([www.clintonelementary.org](http://www.clintonelementary.org)) and win gift certificates to our spring Scholastic Book Fair! We are having a little scavenger hunt. Find the answers to the following questions, write them down, and send them to school in an envelope addressed to **Website Scavenger Hunt**. We will hold a drawing and the first 3 correct entries will receive: **1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$25 gift certificate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$15 gift certificate, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$10 gift certificate**. The winners will be announced during morning announcements on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, all the answers to these questions are on the website – click around and ask your parents if you need help!

1. What is the name of the artist who painted the Impressionist windows in the school?
2. What is happening on March 29th according to the school calendar?
3. What is Clinton School's fax number?

### **DON'T MISS OUR FEBRUARY PTA MEETING**

PTA meetings are an excellent way to keep up-to-date, meet other Clinton families, and support our school! Please come to our next meeting on **Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15 pm**, where you'll have the opportunity to share concerns with, and ask questions of, our Board of Education liaison (and Clinton parent), **Jennifer Payne-Parrish**. You'll also learn more about **Study Island**, the brand new test prep material purchased by the Clinton PTA, from **Mr. Katz**.

**Babysitting will be provided and the PTA Board will be preparing some yummy winter comfort food! See you there.**

## SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY/SILENT AUCTION

Our annual **Tricky Tray/Silent Auction** will be held this year **on Saturday evening, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. This fundraiser, one of our most successful (and fun!) every year, raises thousands of dollars and has played a significant part in some of our major purchases including our wonderful climbing wall and our incredible new playground. **There are many more big-ticket items that we'd like to purchase for our school so we're asking for your help to make this year's event our most successful ever.**

If you, a friend, or a family member work for a company that would be willing to donate merchandise or a gift certificate, please let us know. Do you know someone at a nail salon that might be willing to donate a manicure, a restaurant who will donate a gift certificate, or a company that is willing to give us a pricey electronics item? We have a letter we can provide with all the details. If you'd like a copy to submit to the relevant person in the company, let us know. If you'd rather we do the contacting, give us the information and we'll follow up.

Do you, a friend, or a family member have a service you can provide as a prize? Are you an accountant who can offer a free tax preparation, a chef or caterer who could cater a meal, a photographer who can offer a free photo session? No gift is too big or too small.

We already have some great prizes lined up for this year including:

- a day of work from a master carpenter/Finishing Touches Unlimited (\$500 value)
- an iPod Nano
- Disney Park Hopper Passes (\$450 value)
- an "Emily" American Girl doll
- a \$100 gift basket from DiPasquale Spa
- weekend car rental from Enterprise Rent-a-Car
- bread for a year from Panera
- a \$150 gift certificate for Flowers of the World
- tickets to the Paper Mill Playhouse
- A case of wine from Erath Vineyards
- passes to the Popcorn Park Zoo
- passes to the Empire State Building
- Playstation 2 games
- Encarta '07 software
- tickets to a Brooklyn Cyclones game
- business cards designed by Clinton parent/graphic artist Heather Kern
- \$350 worth of scrapbooking materials

Please contact Claire Sinclair (973-763-0088 or [hifromclaire@yahoo.com](mailto:hifromclaire@yahoo.com)) if you have a prize donation or ideas for one as soon as possible, and be sure to save the date so you won't miss this fun evening out!

## INCREDIBLE SERVICES OFFERED BY MAPLEWOOD AND SOUTH ORANGE LIBRARIES

Many parents and students in the Clinton community may not realize what an invaluable resource they have in their local libraries. With this in mind, Clinton librarian Sharon Edelberg arranged for representatives of both Maplewood and South Orange libraries to give a presentation to Clinton fifth graders on January 8 and 9. Betsy Wald, Youth Librarian from Maplewood Memorial Library, and Christine Crawford, Coordinator of Children's Services at South Orange Public Library, spoke to the students about the many services offered by the two libraries and how to use them.

One highlight of the presentation was the description of the libraries' databases. "Unlike vast search engines, library database information comes from sources that are verified, authoritative, citable, and appropriate for student-level research needs," explains Wald. "The library database is also very easy to use. All you need is a library card and internet access to get on either library's homepage." The two librarians used some current fifth grade assignments to demonstrate to the students how to use the databases. "With the databases, students spend less time searching and achieve better research results," says Wald. "We are also happy to work one-on-one with students to help them use this resource." According to fifth grade teacher Ann Bodnar, every fifth grader has used the database at least once since the presentation. "The presentation given by our town librarians was incredibly valuable to our students," says Ms. Bodnar. "Not only did it benefit our students, but it has changed the activities that I assign. I know that my students can easily retrieve accurate information for a report or for my Question of the Week."

Maplewood Memorial Library also features a new instant message (IM) reference service for kids and teens called *IM a Librarian*. From Monday through Thursday, 3-8 pm, Ms. Wald and other librarians are available to help kids with homework, projects, papers, and any other current research needs through live chat. (They are also available by telephone and, of course, in person.) IM directions are available on the library's website ([www.maplewoodlibrary.org](http://www.maplewoodlibrary.org)).

*Bucket o' Books* is a service offered by both libraries. Given 24 hours notice, librarians will compile books and other materials on any subject or theme and have them ready for pick-up at the circulation desk.

"Both South Orange and Maplewood libraries offer incredible services to our students," sums up Mrs. Edelberg. "The librarians are willing to help with any subject. The students don't even need to go to the library since they can IM the librarian from home. (However, I *do* strongly suggest regular trips to the library!)"

For more information, contact (or visit) Maplewood Memorial Library, 51 Baker St., 973-762-1622, ext. 5005, [www.maplewoodlibrary.org](http://www.maplewoodlibrary.org), or South Orange Library, 65 Scotland Rd., 973-762-0230, [www.sopl.org](http://www.sopl.org). (Note that every child in the SOMSD is eligible for *both* a Maplewood and a South Orange library card.)

## FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Did you ever hear about a queen who crowned herself king? Can you name the father of the internet or the inventor of the cell phone? Check out the display case outside the main office and all your questions will be answered during African American Heritage Month. Enter a raffle and win a prize at the end of the month. (Raffle box and questionnaires are located next to the display case.) Let's celebrate our ancestors by learning our history so we, too, can make contributions to our future!

Jacqueline Rhinehart

Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator

## SAVE THE DATE/CLINTON'S AMAZING INTERNATIONAL DINNER

A Taste of Clinton, Clinton School's spectacular 6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Dinner will be held on **Thursday, March 29th**. If you are interested in being part of the International Dinner Committee, please contact Robin Davenport (973-763-9165) or Anne Klein (973-762-5699)

(Last month's Clinton *Courier* noted that the International Dinner would be held on March 15. Please note the correction in dates.)

## NEWS FROM SOMEF

### MORE FUNDING FOR CLINTON

The Clinton School community has yet another reason to thank SOMEF. In addition to the two grants SOMEF awarded to Mr. Katz (reported in the January *Courier*), we've recently learned that three individual SOMEF donors have contributed money toward the Clinton School PTA After School Enrichment Scholarship Fund. This fund will allow the PTA to ensure that *all* Clinton students can participate in the After School Enrichment Program. We will thank these donors by name in the next issue of the Clinton *Courier*.

### HONORING ACHIEVE

Save the date: On May 2, 2007, the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation (SOMEF) will host an evening at SOPAC honoring the ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program and all of its participants since 1997 (1000 tutors and 1800 students)! The event will showcase the artistry of CHS students with the premiere of a documentary on ACHIEVE and a juried photography exhibit. To help on the planning committee or for further information, call 973-762-5600, ext. 1847.

## PHENOMENAL ASSEMBLY BY MR. FISH

On January 12<sup>th</sup> Clinton students were treated to a fabulous assembly called *Mr. Fish in Phenomenal Physics*. Employing some amazing tricks involving bubbles, balloons, bull whips, eggs, and a table stacked with glasses, Mr. Fish proved that science can be super fun. The students couldn't take their eyes off the wacky scientist as he illustrated the concepts of friction, velocity, and inertia by pulling a tablecloth out from under various objects. He used flying boomerangs to explore aerodynamics, a cracking whip to illustrate a sonic boom, and juggling eggs to explain the structure of Roman arches. The kids learned how to make giant soap bubbles and how to stick a needle through a balloon without popping it. Thanks go to the PTA for sponsoring another fun-filled and educational assembly. —Liz Herring

## A FUNDRAISING UPDATE FROM DEIDRA McLAUGHLIN

**David's Cookie Dough** sale is coming at the end of the month! Stock up on this popular brand offering six cookie varieties in frozen cookie dough—ready to bake! The yummy selections include: Macadamia Nut White Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Chocolate Chunk, Peanut Butter, Candy Cookie with M&M's®, Sugar Free Chocolate Chip, and the popular David's Cookie Play Dough in 4 colors! Each flavor comes in a convenient 3-lb reseal-able tub—except for Cookie Play Dough and "Classic Flavors Collection" which comes in 4-12oz. tubs.

**The sale will also include two other brand items: Hillcrest Cheesecakes (7" 18oz.)** - These decadent cheesecakes are shipped frozen in a variety of flavors, and carrot cake will be offered as well.

**Auntie Anne's Pretzel/Cinnamon Bun Kits** - You may know this popular brand from the food court at the mall, and they are irresistible! The dry-mix kits are boxed to prepare fresh, which can be a fun activity to do with the kids.

I will be sending home sales forms upon our return from Winter Recess on **Wednesday, February 28th**. The deadline for ordering will be **Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** - to ensure delivery before Spring Recess.

### Have you heard about GoodSearch?

GoodSearch is a Yahoo!-powered search engine on a good will mission. They give 50% of their advertising revenue to non-profit schools/organizations. Our school was recently registered, so go to **www.goodsearch.com**, make sure to select Clinton School (as "Who you will GoodSearch for?") and search the internet! Clinton School will earn a penny per search, and don't worry, Clinton School will show up automatically for every search thereafter. Tell your family and friends about this wonderful way to support our school.

**As always, if you have any questions please contact me at 973-313-1760 or deidralynn@comcast.net.**

## BOX TOPS CLIPPERS

We've started the year on a good note! We've already collected \$53.70 worth of box tops for December/January. And Campbell soup labels are coming in at a good pace with this cold weather. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades are doing a super job. Let's go other grades. We know you can catch up! —Stephanie Mose

<b>Kindergarten:</b>	Cosmas: <b>Joaquin T., Akua T., Juliet A.</b> Swan: <b>Josh R.</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade:</b>	Frascella <b>Jack O., Eli G., Renee M Motz: Connor F., Patrick L., Nathaniel B.</b> Harth: <b>Daniel F., Christina R.</b> Cutrufello: <b>Amanda B.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:</b>	Poutre: <b>Scott M., Jack K., Andre P. Hall: Zamir K.</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:</b>	Drechsel: <b>Christian M., Caela B.</b> Schwarz: <b>Gabriel B.</b> Khan: <b>Scott M., Blake F., Dalila R.</b> Pomares: <b>Alexander M., Alaina B.</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade:</b>	Power: <b>Jacob R., Sam G., Jesse N.</b>

## CLASSROOM NEWS

This feature provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the Clinton community to learn about all the innovative and inspiring activities that engage students during the school day. If you would like to have your child's classroom experiences and stories included in next month's *Courier*, please send an email to Amy Higer at amyhiger@gmail.com.

### IN KINDERGARTEN

The cold temperatures of January inspired Ms. Shelffo and Ms. Cosmas' kindergarteners to conduct a study of the season. The students discussed, created, and graphed things to do with winter. In reading, the list of sight words continues to grow. And during library time, the students put on a puppet show for each other based on a favorite tale. The at-home reading program continues to bring joy to the kids; together they have read **4160 books** so far! But that's not the only counting happening. The excitement is growing daily as they are closing in on the **100<sup>th</sup> day of school** (2/12, barring snow). Also this month, the children investigated the magic of magnets with several experiments using classroom objects and recorded their findings on data sheets. All in all, a good start to the new year!

### IN THIRD GRADE

Students in Ms. Johnson's third grade class are busy working on their division skills and learning about Greek mythology. They just finished learning about Apollo and Phaeton, and have also studied Native Americans, including the Navaio, Yurok, and Maidu tribes.

## COME SEE OUR WINTER CONCERT

On Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Clinton music teacher Barbara Eames will present the Clinton Winter Concert. This year the students will sing a selection of songs about winter, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, President's Day, and African-American history month. "A lot goes on in February," says Mrs. Eames. "The Clinton School Chorus will sing, and each grade level will sing some songs." Grades three, four, five, and AM kindergarten will sing at 10 am and grades one, two, and full-day kindergarten will sing at 1:30 pm. Parents and guests are welcome to attend the concert. Seating is available on the second-floor balcony.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS

On December 19, the Board of Education's negotiating committee and the teachers union met separately with a state-appointed mediator called a "Fact Finder." This was both parties' first meeting with this newly appointed mediator. A second meeting is expected toward the end of January. Within several months, if a settlement is not reached through continued mediation, the Fact Finder will release a non-binding settlement recommendation. This report will be public.

On January 8, the Board of Education heard a review of the school district's development of a comprehensive emergency management plan. This plan contains strategies and contingency measures for up to 41 different kinds of emergencies.

On January 22, the Superintendent presented the Board with a preliminary 2007-08 budget proposal. Citizens can see a copy of his presentation on the district website: [www.southorangemaplewood.org](http://www.southorangemaplewood.org). The Board will be reviewing the budget proposal at its meetings during February; check the website for a current list of meeting dates and times.

*Board of Education News is submitted to school newsletters each month by the BOE.*

## AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

### SESSION TO BEGIN ON MARCH 1

Registration is now closed for our spring After School Enrichment session, which will begin on **Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** (and end on **Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**). Confirmation letters will be sent home in backpacks by Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we have a roster of wonderful classes and we guarantee that a lot of exciting things will be happening at Clinton on Thursday afternoons!

If your children are participating in the spring session please remind them to report to the gymnasium at 3 pm dismissal, where attendance will be taken. Their instructor will then bring them to their classroom, where you will pick them up promptly at 4:15. Please do not be late. Late pick-ups create inconvenience for our volunteer proctors and anxiety for the children who are left waiting.

If your child attends the ASP program in our cafeteria, please remind them to report to the cafeteria to check in with ASP BEFORE coming to the gym for Enrichment attendance. After their Enrichment class, they will go back to the ASP in the cafeteria.

Thanks to all of you who generously contributed money to our scholarship fund. The PTA wants to ensure that ALL Clinton students have access to the Enrichment program and your support is greatly appreciated by us, and by the students who are scholarship recipients (and their families). Your contributions are just one more expression of just how caring and tight-knit a school community we have.

If you have questions about Enrichment, please contact Cecelia Cancellaro (973-763-1730 or [ccancellaro@comcast.net](mailto:ccancellaro@comcast.net)).

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

**FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL DENTAL HEALTH MONTH.** I thought it might be helpful to share with you the recommended way to brush:

1. Put a pea-sized amount of toothpaste on your toothbrush.
2. Hold the toothbrush at an angle against the gumline. Brush back and forth with short strokes, brushing all tooth surfaces. Don't forget the chewing surfaces.
3. Gently brush your tongue; this helps freshen breath.
4. Rinse and spit; do not swallow the remaining toothpaste.
5. Brush at least twice a day, in the morning and before bed.

Dental health is a vital part of overall well being. Please share this information with your children. For those children who don't like to brush, it is helpful to make up a brushing song or game to motivate your child. A toothbrushing chart is another fun way to get your child to brush. Happy Brushing!

### COLD WEATHER REMINDER

The cold weather is finally here. Please remember to dress your child appropriately. We will go outside for recess as often as possible. It is a good idea to dress your child in layers. Classrooms are sometimes very warm and it would be beneficial to your child to be able to remove a layer to feel more comfortable.

Stay healthy,  
Your nurse, Joann Harrison

## NEWS FROM PAC

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) provides a forum for interaction between the principal and parents. The goal is to develop action plans to address concerns of the Clinton community. Each month, the *Courier* will run a summary of the PAC meeting agenda and discussion. This summary is from the Jan. 7th meeting.

**Discussion:** Lunch Line Update

**Action:** As follow-up to last month's discussion regarding students spending too much time standing in line, resulting in less time to eat lunch, a change has been made. Now the students will purchase only lunch the first time through the line and return a second time if they would like a snack. This change has resulted in a decrease in line time.

**Discussion:** Parent Involvement with Recess

**Action:** A suggestion was made to try and increase the number of parents helping at recess to be able to offer both an inside and outside alternative to the students. Currently the children go outside as long as the temperature is above 25 degrees with the wind chill. As a result, we are looking for a few volunteers to organize a schedule for parents to help at recess. You will hear more details soon about how to get involved.

**Discussion:** Student Supervision during AM Drop Off

**Action:** There has been much concern expressed over students who are being dropped off in the morning without parental supervision and not waiting at their proper entrances. Please make sure that your children understand that they should be waiting outside of the door where they enter and not at other areas around the school.

**Discussion:** Homework

**Action:** There have been questions raised as to how much time children should be spending on homework. Parents should discuss with their child's teacher the amount of time that the homework is expected to take. If your child is spending a much longer time than he/she should be spending, stop for the night and send a note to the teacher. If the problem persists the parent should set up a meeting with their child's teacher.

**Discussion:** Bullying

**Action:** The question was raised as to what a parent should do when their child comes home complaining about trouble with another student. It was suggested that the parents should talk to their children about ways in which to diffuse the situation by ignoring the behavior or using their own words to ask the other child to stop. If this is unsuccessful let your child know that they can talk to their teacher, Mr. Katz, or Mrs. Nolan, who, if necessary, will mediate and follow-up with the parents of all students involved.

**Discussion:** Character Education

**Action:** In a further discussion of the bullying conversation it was pointed out that each class is dedicating 25-30 minutes per week on character education (the five traits of which are respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship, and honesty). In addition, if an event does arise each teacher is prepared to spend additional time as a class discussing that event. Teachers also have the ability to access Project Wisdom (an educator's resource site available to help teachers approach and discuss a huge multitude of scenarios).

**This year's PAC members are:**

**Kindergarten:** Tammy Dandino, Kat Lozynsky  
**First Grade:** Mike Paris, Celynn Lennon  
**Second Grade:** Serena Sailsman, Stephanie Motachwa (We did not have 2 second grade parents, so Mrs. Motachwa, who has children in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade was chosen to fill this space.)  
**Third Grade:** Laura Whitmire, Sharon McHale  
**Fourth Grade:** Beatrice Mebude, Stephanie Williams  
**Fifth Grade:** Mary Jo Hoyt, Rita Willis  
**At-Large:** Erica Dussman

## BOARD OF EDUCATION TO HOLD BUDGET WORKSHOP

The budget for the 2007-08 school year will soon be finalized. It will be a very difficult year financially for a host of reasons, \$1701 among them. (\$1701 caps the amount of money that school budgets can increase in each year.)

The Board of Education will meet in a **Special Workshop Session on Monday, February 12, 2007, at 7:30 pm** in the **District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ** to discuss the 2007-08 budget. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about what we can and can't expect for next year.

## Melissa's Interior Finishes

Plain Interior Painting  
Faux Finishes  
Textured Walls  
Decorative Painting  
Furniture  
Stenciling  
and more...

1-201-707-7993



Melissa  
Romanaux

Call or email today  
for your free estimate.  
1-201-707-7993

MelissaRomanaux@aol.com

The Clinton PTA would like to thank Melissa Romanaux for the beautiful painting she has done in our school. There's more to come, but for now you can check out her spectacular work in the Clinton School Library and in Nurse Harrigan's office.

## Mario's Painting

- Interior/Exterior
- Floor Refinishing
- Power Washing
- Renovation

Clinton School owes a special thanks to Mario's for donating their time to paint the front entrance halls and portions of the main office during the summer. Their generosity is much appreciated.

Fully Insured

References Available

908-298-9106