

# Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association  
Issue 10, June 2007

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Clinton School is a proud place of approximately 475 students, 75 staff members, and a motivated parent population. All of the people who form this educational community contribute individually and collectively to its successes. Leadership can provide direction, but it takes voluntary and willing efforts on the part of every individual to generate movement. Our students, staff, and parents have been responsible for the positive movement we have experienced. As I prepare to leave Clinton School, I am confident that all the momentum and initiatives we created the last two years will only mature and improve with a continued partnership.

We have seen increased parent involvement and communication (cultivated from the PTA and school staff), the foundations of a professional learning community, a language arts focus connected with Rutgers University, a solid beginning for character education, and countless other initiatives put into effect. With these developments, standards have emerged for each member of the educational community. There is no doubt that these standards will continue to rise and in turn, results for students will flourish.

Several staff members have demonstrated enthusiasm and dedication in assuming new roles and settings for next year that serve the best interest of students. Mrs. Cutrufello expressed tremendous interest in teaching the integrated ESL first grade class along with Mrs. Aguirre, while Mrs. Frascella just as excitedly desired the second grade class. Ms. Kent is moving to third grade and teaming with Mrs. Banks. Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Pomares will form the other third grade team. Mr. Drechsel is moving to fifth grade to fill the role of Ms. Bodnar who is eagerly assuming the role of assistant to the principal.

As you may know, Mrs. Nolan has decided to return to a full-time Project Ahead teaching role. Her contributions as assistant to the principal began before I was at Clinton and the effects of her work will remain part of the culture of Clinton for years to come. I cannot thank her enough for all she has done to assist me through my two years, as well for her passion and dedication for supporting every student, colleague, and parent.

I am proud of our accomplishments at Clinton; none would have been possible without all of you. I thank you most sincerely for your continuous encouragement and collaboration. Clinton School will always be a special place to learn.

Sincerely,

Rich Katz

## JUNE-AT-A-GLANCE

1-30TH	CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH
7TH	FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN AND ESL TURTLE BACK ZOO TRIP PHILADELPHIA PARENT CHAPERONE MTG., 6 PM
8TH	FIRST GRADE PICNIC SECOND GRADE TOWN HALL TRIP THIRD GRADE MEDIEVAL FEAST AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SHOW, 6 PM
9TH	GIRLS ON THE RUN RACE IN MADISON, 8:15 AM
12TH	KINDERGARTEN MOVING UP, 10 AM PARENT VOLUNTEER TEA, 3:30 PM
13TH	FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY KINDERGARTEN SCREENING, 12-4 PM
14TH	KINDERGARTEN PICNIC ESL GRADES 2-5 HOLMDEL TRIP PTA PICNIC, 5:30 PM
15TH	SECOND GRADE PICNIC, 9:15-2 PM FIFTH GRADE PHILADELPHIA TRIP, 8AM-6 PM
18TH	FIFTH GRADE POOL PARTY, 11:45 AM-2:45 PM THIRD GRADE PICNIC, 9AM-1:30 PM
19TH	FOUR HOUR DAY
20TH	FOUR HOUR DAY FIFTH GRADE MOVING ON, 10 AM LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

## GOOD LUCK MR. KATZ

On behalf of the Clinton School PTA, we want to thank Mr. Katz for the wonderful work he's done at our school these past two years and wish him the best in his new position.

We also want to assure the Clinton School community that we will do everything we can to be sure that the transition ahead is as smooth as possible. With our dedicated and talented staff, our active, committed, and creative parent population, and our building full of amazing kids, we know next year is going to be full of great things!

Josie O'Brien, Outgoing PTA President  
Leah Gomberg, Incoming PTA President  
Cecelia Cancellaro, Incoming PTA Vice President

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear Clinton Families,

This is my last President's Letter and I can't believe it. In just a matter of weeks the school doors will open, children will run out joyfully, and summer vacation will begin.

I hope you have enjoyed this year as much as I have. The School Fair was once again one of the highlights for me. Despite the rain, so many of you came out and played games and enjoyed the rides. Thanks to the Buckham Family for chairing the food committee. Even Ryan Buckham, who is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at SOMS, flipped burgers. Thanks to Audrey Friday who has come from Connecticut for the last 4 years to help with the food and work the grill. Kevin Chandler and Corey Fagundez again volunteered the entire day as well. Thank you! Cecelia Cancellaro wore her rain poncho and handed out prizes all day, while Suzanne Roghanchi painted faces for the entire afternoon. Thanks to Regina and Derek Romanaux, Claire Sinclair, David Chmiel, and Maureen Davenport for never hesitating to jump right in and lend a hand. Jeremy Moss played great tunes while some of Clinton's finest teachers volunteered their time covering booths. Thanks to Simon Byrne for chairing the quick cleanup. My gratitude goes to Deb Yohannan for organizing our volunteers. One last thank you goes to Liz Herring and Sue Lunde for running our Book Fair. We had a banner day in sales!

Our annual Walkathon is at the top of the list of the students' most enjoyable events. Deidra McLaughlin did an amazing job organizing. Thanks to you and the volunteers for all of your hard work. One week later Deidra took on the Mother's and Father's Day Gift Shop. It was so much fun helping the children pick out gifts for their families.

It was unfortunate that the Bears Game was rained out. The game will be rescheduled and ticket holders will be notified accordingly.

The wonderful, esteem-building program Girls on the Run is coming to a close. Our Clinton School team of 14 young ladies have been training to run a 5K (3.1 miles) for over 8 weeks. We invite you to come watch our team cross the finish line on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Madison. For more information, log on to [www.girlsontherunnj.org](http://www.girlsontherunnj.org). I had a wonderful time working with all the girls. Thank you to Anne Klein for coaching our team and thanks to Jennifer Cudmore for assisting. Mrs. Allen also deserves kudos for lending a coaching hand.

Mark your calendars for the end-of-year school picnic. The new PTA board will be introduced that evening. It will be held on the front lawn of the school on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. I hope to see you there.

I have lost count of how many people I have thanked this year for their selfless volunteering. I am extremely proud and grateful for the hard work of the Clinton PTA Board. Sean O'Brien, you're at the top of my thank you list. There are so many more of you that have not gotten the praise you deserve. Please know that without your support, the Clinton School community would not be what it is today.

Have a wonderful summer!  
Josie O'Brien

## DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL CLINTON PICNIC

Please join the Clinton PTA as we close the school year with our wonderful annual picnic. The picnic will take place on **June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm** on the Clinton School front lawn. You can pack your own basket or purchase food and drink on site. This year **Arturo's Restaurant** will be selling some of their pasta specialties. Our resident DJ Jeremy Moss will spin some great background tunes and our outgoing PTA President, Josie O'Brien, will introduce the 2007-08 PTA Board. Come celebrate what a great year it's been at Clinton!

## NEWS FROM SOMEF

Congratulations to CHS Dean of Students, Frank Bender, the recipient of the 2007 SOMEF Summer Administrator's Grant. The \$4,000 award will be used to expand the CHS library's research collection to make it more accessible to students on the Montrose Campus. Thank you to all who participated in SOMEF's Each One, Teach One event, the memorable celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ACHIEVE Volunteer Tutor Program at SOPAC on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. More than \$25,000 was raised to support ACHIEVE in the future. Over 175 volunteers assisted students from all nine schools this school year. We are grateful to them for donating their time so generously! Registration for 2007-2008 tutors will begin in September. For further information, call Lindsay Scott at 973-762-5600, ext. 1847.

A big thanks goes out to the dedicated outgoing members of the Clinton School PTA Executive Board: **Deidra McLaughlin, Kimberly Hill-Chambers, Tammy Haynie, and Marieka Buckham**. Throughout their terms these wonderful women were models of talent, poise, and commitment. We thank them wholeheartedly for their amazing work.

## THANK YOU CLASS PARENTS!

Every year there is a special group of people at Clinton School who work hard throughout the year to ensure that classroom activities and events run as smoothly as possible. These parents assist classroom teachers and students in many ways throughout the year (classroom parties, organizing volunteers for trips and other events, creating a list of addresses and phone numbers, organizing teacher gifts) and their work is invaluable. Additionally, they help us execute the snow chain to inform parents about school closings and we appreciate the time and energy taken to wake up so early and make all those phone calls! After our class parent meeting early in the year at The Goat café, our class parents took on many responsibilities (some new, some old). As we head into the summer we wanted to be sure to thank them for everything they've done. We also want to send a special thank you to Kavita Torres who organizes volunteers for the library. To all who have volunteered, please know that your help is greatly appreciated.

—Leah Gomberg

## CLINTON GROUNDS IN BLOOM!

We're sure you've all noticed how beautiful the Clinton School grounds have looked this spring, complete with colorful flowers, and attractive plants and shrubbery. We must give another big thank you to **Jeremy Moss**, who oversees our outdoor beautification efforts, as well as to all the volunteers who came out to help him during the fall bulb planting. The efforts of our outdoor beautification volunteers is much appreciated and makes the walk into and out of school every day a much more pleasant experience. We ask that you please remind your children to take extra care near the plantings and to walk on walkways and not through garden areas.

## ANOTHER GREAT CLINTON FAIR

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this year's Clinton School Fair fun and exciting for everyone—in spite of the weather! Cold and wet, but always smiling, our parade of volunteers did a great job! Everyone had fun, and once again, the fair enjoyed another great year! Thanks again to everyone who volunteered. Without your help this event would not be as popular and successful as it is every year. And a big thanks, as always, to our great PTA for sponsoring this good time. See you next year!

—Deb Yohannan, Spring Fair Volunteer Coordinator

## JUNE IS CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

What a year this has been! We celebrated Hispanic and Native American cultures in the fall, African Americans in the winter, and women and Asians in the spring. In many ways, the celebration of Caribbean Heritage this June is a combination of all the heritage months, since the people of the Caribbean are a blend of cultures from all around the world. Check out the display cases in the front hall to learn more about Caribbean culture.

We hope you enjoyed our cultural celebrations this year. Many people must be thanked for making this all possible. Thank you to Tonya Allen, Katherine Hilaire, Robyn Frazier, Rita Willis, Kavita Torres, Emni Audet, Kathleen Morrow Reilly, Lori Mirabal, Shirley Bankole, Fiona Watson, Deidra Tyree-McLaughlin, Valerie Jackson, Karen Cole, RJ Lennon, and Claudia Cole. Thank you also to our teachers and staff including Ms. Kely, Ms. Seltzer, Ms. Hall, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Nolan. Lastly, thank you to my family for their ideas and ongoing support. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

—Jacqueline Rhinehart, Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator

## A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE SPRING BOOK FAIR

Many thanks to all who participated in this spring's Scholastic Book Fair, which raised more than **\$2,750** for the PTA and put hundreds of books in the hands of students and teachers. We'd especially like to thank **Deidra McLaughlin** for once again lending her creativity and enthusiasm. We are grateful to all those volunteers who helped make this fair so successful:

**Linda Arbus, Karen Bethel, Maria Breslin, Jacqui Byrne, Robin Davenport, Heather Etienne, Corey Fagundez, Robyn Birdsong-Frazier, Lisa Gaffin-Howell, Leah Gomberg, Jeanmarie Hargrave, Wilner Julien, Anne Klein, Kim Kushmerick, Jackie Lahey, Victoria Lorino, Ruth Lowenkron, Kat Lozynsky, Sharon McHale, Alanna Munoz, Rivka Nelson, Amy Paternite, Catherine Peyroux, Agnes Reiss, Cecilia Rosenberg, Amy Rubel, Serena Sailsman, Liz Salituri, Barbara Salz, Jenny Tate, Ben Taylor, Sandra Taylor, Tami Thetford, Kavita Torres, Laura Whitmire, Deb Yohannan, and Megan Young.** Thank you to Deidra and Cecilia Rosenberg for lending some of their own tables to the fair, which allowed us to display more books! Special thanks also go to **Deidra, Cecilia, Karen Bethel, Jacqui Byrne, Kat Lozynsky, Serena Sailsman, and Laura Whitmire** for sharing so much of their time. And thanks to **Beverly Bullock** for all her help setting up.

—Liz Herring and Sue Lunde, Co-Chairs

## GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW PTA BOARD

Clinton School has become known for its committed, talented, and active parent community. One of the many ways parents contribute to Clinton is by serving on the Clinton School PTA Executive Board. This year, several new board members are joining the team, and some old board members are taking on new roles. We've asked these board members to officially introduce themselves. Their brief introductions follow, in alphabetical order. (You can find a complete listing of the PTA Board members, as well as their contact information, in the *Courier* every month.)

### **KAREN BETHEIL, VICE PRESIDENT OF FUNDRAISING**

Our family moved to Maplewood almost six years ago, and in September my two daughters will attend Clinton School, one in third grade and one in kindergarten. I have volunteered for various PTA events for the past two years and have had wonderful experiences getting to know the teachers and fellow parents. I am a speech pathologist in a practice in Chatham three days a week. I look forward to serving on the PTA Board over the next two years and continuing to make Clinton the community we've come to love. If you are looking for a way to get involved, I look forward to meeting you soon, as our ongoing fundraising efforts could always use a hand!

### **ROBYN BIRDSOING-FRAZIER, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

I'm a full-time wife, mother, and computer analyst. My son, Andre, will be in fourth grade in September. We have lived in Maplewood for the past eight years, and I've worked as a senior computer analyst for Mellon Information Systems for seventeen years. This is my first year serving on the PTA Board, although I've volunteered for various activities. I'm looking forward to my new board position, and I am ready to accept the challenges it brings with open arms.

### **CECELIA CANCELLARO, VICE PRESIDENT**

In September both of my daughters will be Clinton School students, one in third grade and one in kindergarten. Our family has been in Maplewood for five years. For the past two years I've been a member of the Clinton PTA Executive Board and have truly enjoyed the work I've done, and the wonderfully committed and talented people I've had the chance to work with. My work has included editing the *Clinton Courier* newsletter, managing the Clinton PTA email list, and creating and running the PTA After School Enrichment Program. My professional work is in the field of publishing and I currently have my own editing/writing business.

### **ERICA DUSSMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP**

Next year our daughter will be in second grade at Clinton and our son will be entering preschool. Though we've lived in Maplewood for fourteen years we really didn't become involved until we had kids. I'm so happy to be able to serve on the PTA Board next year, (and on PAC this year) as it gives me the opportunity to give back to the Clinton community from which we've gotten so much already! I currently work from home for an optical distributor and am very excited to have recently started a business, *Solutions to Savor*, providing convenience food for food-sensitive families.

### **LEAH GOMBERG, PRESIDENT**

I am the proud mother of three great boys, two of whom are Clinton School students—one in fifth grade and one in second. My youngest is an honorary three-year-old Clinton student (honorary because he's at Clinton School almost as much as his brothers!). Our family has been in Maplewood for over ten years. For the past three years I've been a member of the Clinton PTA Executive Board and have loved the work I've done and the people I've worked with. I was the Vice President of Fundraising for two years, and the Vice President this past year. I also helped put together our Clinton School cookbook, *The Melting Pot*. I have a growing home staging business that I really enjoy, and I am also a clinical social worker.

### **LIZ HERRING, EDITOR, CLINTON COURIER**

I have two daughters at Clinton School, one entering third grade and one entering first. As Assistant Editor of the *Clinton Courier*, I have been on the PTA Board for the past two years, though I sometimes think I may be better known as the "Book Fair Lady" as I have chaired the Scholastic Book Fairs at Clinton since my oldest daughter was in kindergarten. My involvement in the school community has been a wonderful experience and I am continually impressed by the number of enthusiastic people—both parents and staff—who are committed to our wonderful school. I have worked in both book and magazine publishing and am beginning to write on a freelance basis.

### **ROSANNE MCCREAR, ASSISTANT TO VICE PRESIDENT OF FUNDRAISING**

In the fall, my oldest daughter will be going into second grade at Clinton. We have lived in Maplewood for seven years since moving here from Brooklyn, NY. This will be my first year on the PTA Board and I am excited about the prospect of becoming more involved with my daughter's school. I hope to add value to an already progressive group of parents. I have a full time career in the information technology industry as a business analyst.

### **LORI MIRABAL, VICE PRESIDENT OF CULTURAL ARTS**

As a professional opera singer I perform throughout the U.S. and abroad. I also create and present "opera shows" for young audiences in collaboration with the New Jersey State Opera's Educational Outreach Division. In order to enhance my children's opera series, I enrolled in the doctoral studies program in music education at Teachers College, Columbia University. I will complete this program next spring (Hooray!). In addition to these endeavors, I enjoy teaching voice at Teachers College and New Jersey City University. The Mirabal family has been delighted to be a part of the Clinton School community for the past five years. It's hard to believe our daughter will be a fifth grader next year. (I'm certain one box of Kleenex won't be sufficient for the Moving On Ceremony). While at Clinton I have been most impressed by the tremendous creativity, energy, and commitment of the faculty and PTA. I am especially grateful to Mrs. Eames who helped transform an idea I had into what became known as the "Fusion Opera," which celebrated the diverse cultures prevalent at Clinton. What a fitting salute for the school's 75th year! I am thrilled to serve on the PTA Board for the upcoming year.

## CLINTON'S PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY IS UP AND RUNNING

The first batch of books in Clinton School's Parent Resource Library is now ready for borrowing. The **Parent Resource Library** was put together by Principal Richard Katz in an attempt to further bolster the home-school connection and to make our school a resource to help with the challenges of parenting. Funding for the library came from a SOMEF (South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation) grant.

There are a wide range of books that you can borrow and they have been carefully chosen for the Clinton School community. Many of them were selected based on the results of the survey Mr. Katz sent home a few months ago. Not all of the books on the list are here yet, but we have several, and they are available for borrowing now.

To browse and borrow a book, please stop by any time during school hours (in the front lobby, near the main office). We'll also make the books available during PTA meetings. You'll be asked to sign out the book you're borrowing on a sign-out sheet and to return it in three weeks.

Please take advantage of this wonderful program. A partial list of some of the books available follows:

- Dim Sum, Bagels, and Grits: A Sourcebook for Multicultural Families*
- Encouraging Your Child's Math Talent: The Involved Parents' Guide*
- Keys to Parenting Your Anxious Child*
- Mom, Jason's Breathing on Me: The Solution to Sibling Bickering*
- Nurturing the Shy Child*
- Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls*
- Parenting a Struggling Reader/Hall & Moats*
- Parenting Your Adopted Child*
- Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*
- Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Lives of Adolescent Girls*
- Strength for their Journey: 5 Essential Disciplines African-American Parents Must Teach Their Children*
- The Working Parents Handbook*

## STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS CHORUS

Five students from Clinton School and South Orange Middle School participated in a concert of the New Jersey Elementary Children's Chorus on Saturday, May 5, in Flemington, NJ. Clinton students Sarah B., Alexandra P., and David P., and Clinton alumni Ysa B. and Angelina L. were selected for this chorus of 130 fourth through sixth grade singers.

The chorus is an annual event jointly sponsored by the New Jersey Music Educators' Association and the New Jersey American Choral Directors' Association. The students were coached by Clinton music teacher Barbara Eames. "It is truly amazing to hear what these young people can do when given the opportunity to excel," says Mrs. Eames, who has been honored to have had students accepted into the chorus each year for the last seven years.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS FOR NEXT YEAR

Last year we rolled out a new program to replace our old-fashioned school store. We'll be doing the same this year, using a company that provides better quality products (Crayola, Prang, Staples) at competitive prices—School Kidz USA. There are many advantages to using a program like this including not having to spend time shopping for back-to-school supplies, and avoiding tax charges since we are a school.

The pre-packed school supply kits will be put together using specific school supply lists provided by Clinton teachers. Order forms for each grade will be sent home in backpacks shortly. **This will be your only chance to order the kits (deadline June 20<sup>th</sup>),** which will be available for pick-up the day before the first day of school as well as the morning of the first day of school. If you have questions, please contact Leah Gomberg at 973-275-0927 or [ldgomberg@verizon.net](mailto:ldgomberg@verizon.net).

## CLASSROOM NEWS

This feature, compiled by Amy Higer, provides an opportunity for everyone to learn about some of the innovative and inspiring activities that engage students during the school day.

### 2ND GRADE

Our four second grade classes took a trip to the Navesink Lighthouse in Atlantic Highlands, NJ, on May 31st. It was a hot but clear day, perfect for climbing the beautiful lighthouse tower and taking in the breathtaking view.

### 5TH GRADE

Fifth Graders had a glorious day visiting part of the Hudson River estuary off of Liberty State Park. The kids all had turns using a "skein" (thread or yarn wound in a coil) to see the diversity of estuary water life. The kids also enjoyed beachcombing for shells and sea glass, and even found the legendary "Kirkland Bridge." And they learned quite a bit about estuary life along the Hudson River. Sun, sand, full-waders, cool breezes, and a lot of fun!

## BOX TOPS CLIPPERS

We are ending the year on a good note! We have presently collected \$69.80 for May. Good job! Also, Campbell's Soup labels are still coming in. Keep it up! Thank you all for sending in box tops and Campbell's Soup labels all year long and please keep collecting them over the summer. We'll look forward to receiving a huge pile when school starts in September. —*Stephanie Mosé*

**Kindergarten:** Cosmas- **Joaquin T., Juliet A.,**  
Swan-**Josh R., Miranda L.**  
Shelfo-**Conor B.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Frascella-**Niko B., Jack O., Isaiah J.,**  
**Renee M.**

Motz- **Natalie M., Valerie T.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Cutrufello- **Shannon D., Nicky B., James C.**  
Poutre-**Scott M., Jack K., Nitasha G.,**  
**Matthew H., Sofia G.**

Hall- **Kiambu J.**  
Froelich-**Ruby Z., Rebecca D.**  
Kent- **Stefen R.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Khan- **Scott M.**  
Dreschel-**Christian M.,**  
Banks- **Shannon A.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Kirkland-**Clare D.**

## 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 May meeting.

### **Discussion:** Lunch/Recess Supervision

**Action:** There is still concern over the lunch and recess periods. Training has been provided for the lunch aides and there is ongoing communication among all Clinton School staff as to the day's events. Also, it is a great time to have staff and parents both take the opportunity to reiterate the values of our Character Education Program and to discuss with the students how to use those traits in real situations. In addition we are still looking for parent volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Mike Paris at michaelpari@gmail.com or 973-544-6182 for available times.

### **Discussion:** District Assessment

**Action:** There were questions raised regarding the CRT(Criterion Reference Test) given recently to all the first graders. This test is used to determine placement for Project Ahead for second grade. In addition the test is used by the staff to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the math program. Parents will receive their child's test scores over the summer. For more information on District Assessments for all grades please consult your Clinton Handbook.

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

**Kindergarten:** Tammy Dandino, Kat Lozynsky  
**First Grade:** Mike Paris, Celynn Lennon  
**Second Grade:** Serena Sailsman, Stephanie Motachwa  
**Third Grade:** Laura Whitmire, Sharon McHale  
**Fourth Grade:** Beatrice Mebude, Stephanie Williams  
**Fifth Grade:** Mary Jo Hoyt, Rita Willis  
**At-Large:** Erica Dussman

Contact your PAC members with any items you'd like addressed.

## SAVE THE DATE

Our Fall PTA After School Enrichment Program will begin on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and run until Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. As always, the eight-week session will include a wide variety of wonderful classes. Registration materials will be sent home very soon after school begins in September, so watch your child's backpack for materials. If you have questions about the program please contact Cecelia Cancellaro at ccancellaro@comcast.net or 973-763-1730.

## CONGRATULATIONS FIFTH GRADERS!

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.

**LOST:** Lightweight, black team jacket belonging to Erin D. A big S patch (Synchroettes) on the top left side. Erin's name is embroidered in yellow on the bottom left. American flag patch on the right sleeve. Red and yellow striped collar. A **generous reward** will be given if found. Please call Dawn at 973-723-5774.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our annual **Walkathon** was held on May 4<sup>th</sup> and it was a perfect day, with blue skies and pumped-up music keeping everyone going strong. Kids, parents, and teachers always have a great time at this event and this year was no exception. A special thanks to all the parent volunteers (who marked lap cards and worked the water station). This year the overall total pledge amount was \$12,000. This amount does not reflect money actually sent in. After all is said and done, with pledges in and the Walkathon company's fees deducted, we should end up earning about 1/3 of what was pledged. If you haven't already, it is very IMPORTANT to send in your pledge money now, rather than later, to avoid incurred fees from additional mailings of invoices. **Congrats to Mrs. Hall's class for winning the \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card prize for the most sponsors.** We also have three Clinton T-shirt winners:

**Valerie T.** from Mrs. Motz's class (20 sponsors)

**Lyric P.** from Mrs. Hall's class (20 sponsors)

**Tristan W.** from Ms. Antunes' class (17 sponsors)

There were five Clinton bear winners (11-15 sponsors) and the remaining students who obtained sponsors will receive a pencil/eraser set.

**The Mother's/Father's Day Gift Shop** was held on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and just like last year, it was a very special event for our students. They and the wonderful parent volunteers (who assisted) took great care in shopping for just the right gift for loved ones! It was a great thing to see. Even with the very reasonable prices, we earned about \$400 for Clinton when all was said and done. I've already heard from many Moms who were touched by the heartfelt gifts. And dads will have their day soon. My thanks to everyone who helped make the gift shop a success once again.

My sincere thanks to all of those who took the time to respond to my **fundraising survey**. I gave you the opportunity to "have your say" and this turned out to be a great tool in planning for next year. I was able to gain some new ideas and get great feedback. One of the new items is our proposed "one-time donation." Many of you are in favor of taking advantage of this option. You will be hearing more about it in the coming months.

As this school year wraps up, I want to thank all of you for your tremendous support throughout this school year. Fundraising is a lot of work and it's certainly been a labor of love for me. It's been such a pleasure to meet so many new people this year. I wish the two incoming fundraising board members all the best, and I will be here to lend support (I still have some years to go at Clinton as my oldest, Scott, will be entering 3rd grade and my youngest, Lance, will be entering kindergarten.) Have a wonderful summer. I'll see you at the pool.

—Deidra McLaughlin

## LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?

Gabe Marr, 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Columbia High School,