

Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association
Issue 6, February 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Well Clinton Community, it is hard to believe that we are half way through our 2007-2008 school year. And what a year it has been so far! We have worked hard together to help all our students become the best learners and citizens they can be. Between our very dedicated and talented staff, our incredibly caring and talented families, and the hard work and pride of our students, we are well on our way to achieving our goals. We have work ahead of us, but we have proven that together we can accomplish many things.

I would like to thank you all for signing in when you come into the building. It is so important for us to keep our students and staff safe. We also ask you to make sure your children are not on the school grounds before 8:25 am. Students who are getting breakfast should go to the cafeteria no earlier than 8:05. They must remain there until 8:25. There is no supervision outside before 8:25. Thanks.

During the next few weeks, we will be preparing our students for their standardized testing. We will be sharing sample tests with them and making sure they understand how to take the tests. We have added two recess clubs for those students who might benefit from extra test prep practice and/or homework help. We are using our Study Island software program (which can also be accessed from home) for the Study Island club. The Practice for Success club will focus on homework and/or reading assistance. Preparing our students for the tests does not mean we will be replacing our curriculum. We will continue to implement our curriculum and focus on their continued learning, not teaching to the test. We need to stay focused on our academics and related arts to prepare them for next year. We thank you for helping them understand that test scores are just one part of who they are as students.

Speaking of who they are as students, how lucky are they to be part of our growing global community? Walk Around the World will showcase how diverse we are and how this diversity enhances our students' lives. What a tribute to Clinton School! Without the foresight of Cecelia Cancellaro and the leadership of Cecelia and Leah Gomberg, along with the extraordinary talents of all involved, the nation would not recognize the greatness of our Clinton Community.

As we celebrate African American History Month, students will research and share in the great work and contributions of past and present Black Americans. Clinton School is very proud to help Miles Trojan (second grade) celebrate the extraordinary life of his great Aunt, Althea Gibson. We also have a beautiful display of information and artifacts in our front hallway.

I want to wish all of you a splendid Valentine's Day filled with lots of love and lots of chocolate!

Patty

FEBRUARY-AT-A-GLANCE

- 1-29TH AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
- 6TH PAC MEETING, 6 PM
PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7 PM
- 11-14TH KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION, BOE, 9 AM – 12:45 PM
- 13TH "WALK AROUND THE WORLD" EVENT, 6:30 PM
- 14TH CLINTON WINTER CONCERT, 9:30 AM AND 1:45 PM
- 15TH CULTURAL ARTS ASSEMBLY, NAT LOVE, 9 & 10 AM
- 18-22ND SCHOOL CLOSED-WINTER RECESS
- 19-21ST KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION, BOE, 9 AM – 12:45 PM
- 25TH COOKIE DOUGH/CHEESECAKE FUNDRAISER BEGINS

COMING IN MARCH

- 1-31ST WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- 6TH AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT BEGINS
- 7TH SCHOOL PRIDE DAY
- 8TH TRICKY TRAY/SILENT AUCTION, 6 PM

WALK AROUND THE WORLD

On **Wednesday, February 13th**, at **6:30 pm**, the Clinton PTA will host Walk Around the World. The idea for this event earned us a National PTA grant. Bring your family, get your passport, follow the map, and spend the evening visiting the countries of **China, Ghana, Haiti, and Spain**, all within the walls of our school! You'll experience the language, music, art, and food of these cultures as you travel through this amazing interactive event. The evening will conclude in our auditorium, with short performances representing each country.

Clinton School is one of only 32 schools across the nation to be awarded a grant from the National PTA for their annual Take Your Family to School Week, and one of only eight schools that will be visited that night by a National PTA Officer and a member of the AXA Financial Foundation Board for a "big check" presentation.

Admission is free and the event is open to all South Orange and Maplewood families. For more information, please contact Cecelia Cancellaro at ccancellaro@verizon.net or 973-763-1730.

PTA BOARD 2007-08

President

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

First Vice President

Cecelia Cancellaro
973-763-1730 ccancellaro@verizon.net

Vice Presidents

Fundraising

Karen Bethel
973-762-3474 kbethel@verizon.net

Assistant, Rosanna McCrear
973-763-9588 rosanna@mccrear.com

Cultural Arts

Lori Mirabal
lbmoperaforyoung@aol.com

Public Relations

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

Membership

Erica Dussman
973-763-1717 solutionstosavor@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Derek Romanau

Recording Secretary

Claire Sinclair

Corresponding Secretary

Robyn Birdsong-Frazier

Clinton Courier

Editor, Liz Herring
973-378-3099 echerring@verizon.net

Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator

Jacqueline Rhinehart

Members-at-Large

Maureen Davenport
Liz Salituri

Teacher Representatives

Meta Johnson
mjohanson@sommsd.k12.nj.us

Helena Nolan
hnolan@sommsd.k12.nj.us

Principal

Patricia O'Neill
973-378-7686/ponell@sommsd.k12.nj.us

Assistant to the Principal

Ann Bodnar
973-378-7686/abodnar@sommsd.k12.nj.us

Clinton School Office

973-378-7686

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Hello Clinton Families,

Storytelling Night was a big success! There are many people to thank. First, a huge thanks to **Gregg and Karen Bethel** who did a *lot* of scanning and put together a very creative presentation of the many wonderful books that were read. Thank you to all the readers: **Marc Stern, Robin Davenport, Deb Yohannan, Victoria Lorino, Alanna Munoz, Amy Rubel, Antonia Kent**, and special thanks to the very fancily dressed **Principal Patty O'Neill**. Thanks, too, to **Dave Chmiel** for his creative emceeing (and to **Zach** for all of his help, too!). It's good to be reminded every once in a while of why six ran away from seven...if you don't know the answer, ask Dave, or your child! And, this year we added a very successful book raffle to the evening. All children in attendance were entered and we gave away 15 books. Special thanks to **Cecelia Cancellaro** for getting the books donated and organizing the raffle with help from **Liz Salituri**. Usually we don't count how many kids come to an event, but since every child got a raffle number we know that there were more than 160 children (and then their families) in attendance. That's a record for Storytelling Night, and, another awesome accomplishment for Clinton School. It has been suggested that we have Storytelling Night more than once a year – we'll see what we can do!

And *wow!* Or should I say *waw!* Watch out world, here comes Clinton School's **Walk Around the World**. I'm guessing that by now you've heard about the grant that Clinton was awarded from the National PTA. Please be sure to come to the wonderful event for which we won the grant, on **February 13th at 6:30 pm**. Many, many people have dedicated so much time and energy to making each of the four countries featured fantastic multi-sensory experiences. Come hear the language and music, sample the food, see the art and sights, and much more. Getting this grant is a huge honor, and we are also going to have a visit that night from **Chuck Saylor, the President-Elect of the National PTA**, and an executive from **AXA Equitable** (the company that provided the funds for the grants), who will be presenting us with a check. And, if that's not enough, a number of our local and state elected officials will also come to "Walk Around the World" with us.

While you're at Clinton, look around at the walls and bulletin boards and see all of the wonderful work our students (and teachers) have been doing. Both groups are an impressive lot and deserve a lot of credit for their hard work. I look forward to seeing you around Clinton, the little school that could!

Best,

Leah

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

February is the month when our nation celebrates the rich cultural heritage of African Americans, and evidence of their contributions to our society fill our first floor display case. You will see images of African American astronauts, business men and women, and in this election year, presidential candidates, past and present.

Some of the display items are also connected to our Clinton School family. I recently met descendants of the late, great tennis star, Althea Gibson. Many of us know that Gibson was the first African American to win Wimbledon in 1957 and again in 1958. This led the way for Arthur Ashe's win in 1975, Venus Williams' victories in 2000, 2001, and 2005, and Serena Williams' triumphs in 2002 and 2003. However, in talking with Clinton mom, Crishan Trojian, who is the niece of the niece of the late tennis star, I learned that Gibson was also an author, actress, golf enthusiast, and can you believe, a singer!

The Trojian family is also connected to Rainbow Coalition founder and former presidential candidate the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Eric Trojian worked on the presidential campaigns for Jackson in 1984, 1988, and 1992 and was kind enough to share memorabilia. We are truly grateful to the Trojian family for sharing their artifacts and family legacy. Theirs and similar stories enrich the lives of our Clinton families year round.

—*Jacqueline Rhinehart, Cultural Heritage Month Coordinator*

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 Bob Hugel at bhugel@scholastic.com.

KINDERGARTEN

Ms. Cosmas's kindergarten class has enjoyed keeping in touch with a former student whose family recently moved to Japan. The class has been visiting the student's family blog and sending e-mail. Students have enjoyed learning about Japan and recently they took a virtual tour of their former classmate's new school. They also learned that the student's family recently rode on the largest ferris wheel in the world and also (bravely) tasted octopus!

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Motz's first-grade class has been studying and researching a group of aquatic, flightless birds: penguins. Among the facts students have learned is that all penguins live south of the equator. For upcoming lessons, students will be learning about how to make healthy food choices. This investigation will culminate with the planning and sharing of a nutritious breakfast. Students have also begun the homework assignment called Night Writing. They are writing every Monday and Wednesday about anything they desire. They can write short stories, comic strips, or poetry, to name a few. These first graders are on their way to becoming future guest authors at Clinton School. Mrs. Edelberg had better book them now!

SECOND GRADE

Mrs. Hall's second-grade class has been busy for the past few months. In October, Timur M.'s parents visited the class and taught students about the solar system. A highlight for November was the family project that each student had to complete and in December Mason S.'s parents came in to share some live music to celebrate the holidays. Also that month, Lubaba B.'s mother shared a lesson on Eid-al-Adha, and Bijoux R.'s grandmother and father taught a lesson in connection with Christmas. As part of the lesson, students made holiday cards for U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq. Finally, Ruby B.'s mother visited and made holiday crafts with the class.

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth graders recently went on a field trip to the Dreyfuss Planetarium at the Newark Museum where they were treated to views of planets, constellations, meteorites, comets, and asteroids. They especially enjoyed the experience of how it felt to be an astronaut inside of a spacecraft. They then solved a Carmen San Diego mystery with the help of satellites.

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE ENRICHMENT

The Enrichment students here at Clinton School are concluding their grade level units in both language arts and math. The 4th graders in language arts studied various cultural myths from around the world. Projects were displayed earlier with some fabulous scientific and mythological explanations of natural phenomenon. In math, the 4th graders concluded their study of topology, a strand of geometry, which has broadened their understanding of space. They have seen the world through the eyes of engineers and cartographers, to name just a few. As for the 5th grade language arts class, they are preparing for our final criminal trial, which will decide the fate of two famous fairytale characters. The verdict has not been reached as of this writing, but the suspense and team determination is building! Final projects for our 5th grade math students can be viewed on our bulletin board. Originally created number base systems are exhibited, demonstrating examples of spectacular math skills found at Clinton School. All of the Enrichment students have met their tasks with success. Now it's on to further exciting challenges!

SPECIAL WINTER CONCERT

The Clinton School Winter Concert will take place on **Thursday, February 14th, at 9:30 am and 1:45 pm** in the auditorium. The morning assembly will be for grades 3-5 plus morning kindergarten. The afternoon assembly will be for afternoon and full-day kindergarten and grades 1-2. All children will participate with their classes in singing two songs. The Clinton School chorus will sing at both assemblies, and chorus members should wear black skirts or pants and white shirts or blouses. The theme this year follows the PTA's Walk Around the World, and the music will be from many different cultures. You may even hear some songs in other languages!

—Barbara Eames

GOT THE WINTER BLAHS?

Send your child on a free trip to an island this winter- **Study Island!** Study Island is a safe place on the web that reinforces the subject matter taught in class and the skills necessary for taking multiple-choice tests in an engaging and fun manner. Study Island is open to all third, fourth, and fifth grade Clinton students. To request a username and password, e-mail your child's name and grade to Colleen Broderick at brodericks4@verizon.net.

GET YOUR E-NEWS NOW!

The South Orange Maplewood School District has started an E-Newsletter for news and announcements. You can subscribe to the newsletter by visiting the district website, www.somds.k12.nj.us/. The newsletter sign-up is on the bottom right side of the home page.

Clinton's new kindergarten registration dates are February 11-14th & 19-21st Register at 525 Academy St. in Maplewood between 9 am & 12:45 pm.

NAT LOVE RIDES INTO TOWN

In honor of African American History Month Clinton School will host a very special cultural arts assembly on **Friday, February 15 at 9:00 and 10:00 am. I, Nat Love** is a one-man show which brings United States history to life through the journeys of a black cowboy. Award-winning actor Rochel Coleman recreates the life and times of Nat Love, a.k.a. Deadwood Dick, in a series of stories based on Love's autobiography. Born a slave in Tennessee, Nat Love went west at the age of 15 to seek freedom and equal opportunity. He earned the name Deadwood Dick on July 4, 1876 by being the best cowboy in a competition (in Deadwood, South Dakota) which included roping, riding, and shooting. Nat took on all challengers and was the best at every event in the competition.

Parents are welcome to attend this third cultural arts assembly of the year. Additional seating is available in the balcony. Thanks to the PTA for sponsoring another great learning opportunity for the kids.

—Lori Mirabal, Vice President, Cultural Arts

GETTING TO KNOW SECOND-GRADE TEACHER BETH FRASCELLA

We recently sat down for a chat with Beth Frascella, who this year made the switch from teaching first grade to co-teaching second grade with an ESL teacher. Here's what she has to say.

Where were you born and raised? Where did you go to school? I was born in Summit, went to school in Livingston, and got a B.A. from Seton Hall. But I'm not done with school—I'm currently taking courses online for my master's degree to be a reading specialist. I love it!

How long have you been teaching? A long time. I started out as a substitute teacher in Ohio, then moved back to New Jersey and taught preschool in Chatham and half-day kindergarten at Seth Boyden. In 2002 there was a first-grade position opening at Clinton, and Mr. Rhinehart, who was the principal at that time, asked me if I would consider interviewing. The rest is history.

I heard that one of your fellow second-grade teachers at Clinton is a former student of yours. Is that true? Yes. I had done my student teaching at Tuscan and at the end of the year, the fourth graders wrote me a thank-you letter. One of the students who signed it was named Janine Guida—that's the maiden name of my colleague Janine Poutre! I didn't realize it until I found the letter recently.

Why did you switch from teaching first grade to second grade? Last year when Mr. Katz was principal, he asked me to think about moving to second grade, where I'd be co-teaching with an ESL teacher. I realized I would get a chance to put into practice some of the ideas that the kindergarten and first-grade teachers and I had been discussing about how to better help students in the ESL program. So I accepted.

Has it been challenging? Any change to what's familiar is challenging. But I've discovered over the years that I really do thrive on challenges. I love to learn and try new things.

Why did you decide to become a teacher? I think I was just born one! I was the child who gathered all the younger children on my block and set up a classroom in the garage to play school.

What qualities make you good at it? (Don't be modest!) I'm a good listener. I end each day mulling over what went right and what would I want to do differently. And I hope my enthusiasm for learning is contagious. Also, I take cues from my students. As much as I know what and how to teach the prescribed curriculum, if a lesson just isn't working, I readjust to meet the students' needs.

Why is your personality suited to teaching young kids? I'm a pretty laid-back person, one who truly appreciates and recognizes the individual in a person. Each child has unique thoughts, interests, and abilities, and I am genuinely interested in getting to know them on that level.

What's your biggest challenge on a typical school day? Trying to squeeze in all of the things I have to do—and want to do—before the bell rings at 3 pm.

Brian Osborne has talked about how one of his former teachers significantly influenced his life. Who most influenced yours? This is a hard one. There have been a few defining moments in my life, all involving different people. But, honestly, I think the most influential were my three children. When they came along, they changed the whole landscape of my life and my husband's and put everything into perspective.

Does anything about the job still surprise you? Answering your questions, I find it surprising that I still feel so very passionate about what I do, as if I was starting my first day of teaching! I guess that's the beauty of it—every day is a new start, with new things to learn and discover, sprinkled with twists and turns.

—Nancy Mattia Henegan

AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

Get ready for the **Sixth Annual International Dinner, "A Taste of Clinton,"** to be held on **Thursday, March 27th from 6:15 to 7:45 pm.** This wonderful event brings together the culturally and ethnically diverse families that make Clinton School so very special. Share in the delicious array of international dishes prepared by our own Clinton families. We will once again be including the popular hot dog stand for the more picky eaters. So come and socialize with other Clinton families over a fabulous meal. In order to make this event a success, we need your help. Please let us know if you are willing to prepare a dish for the dinner or volunteer a bit of your time by aiding with set-up, clean-up, or other miscellaneous tasks. Please contact Anne Klein at 973-762-5699 or kleins.nj@comcast.net or Robin Davenport at 973-763-9165 or rdavenport@caldwell.edu.

The Parenting Center and Elementary School PTA's are sponsoring **Parents as Partners – Understanding the Elementary Education Curriculum: An Evening of Teacher-Presented Workshops on February 27th at 7 pm** at South Mountain Elementary School.

CONGRATULATIONS SINGERS!

Barbara Eames is proud to announce that seven students from Clinton School were selected by audition to participate in the **New Jersey Elementary Honor Choir.** They will sing at a concert this spring with 120 children from around the state of New Jersey. The students are fourth graders **Michael H., Grant K., Patty L., and Lily M.,** and fifth graders **Hannah G., Nina K., and Ali P.** Congratulations to all who auditioned and to those who were selected.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. This is a great time to focus on your family's dental health. Good oral hygiene is an important part of overall health. Some fun activities are:

- Make a tooth-brushing chart and have everyone check off that they have brushed at least two times each day. Young children should be supervised to be sure that they are brushing properly.
- Pick a healthy snack each day. Sugary snacks cause plaque to build up quickly on the surface of teeth.
- Treat everyone to a new toothbrush. You'd be surprised how many germs live on toothbrushes.
- Visit www.colgate.com for lots of fun games and activities and find out how to get an email from the tooth fairy.

Just a few other reminders:

- Our weather can be quite erratic. Please be sure to check the forecast and dress your child for the weather. Whenever possible we try to let the kids out for some fresh air at recess. It is so healthy to get away from the germs.
- Please remember our district's medication policy. Medication may not be given during the school day without a note from the doctor. This applies to over-the-counter medications as well. Please do not send your child to school with medication to take during the day. This can be dangerous.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. The health and safety of all our students is my main concern.

—Joann Harrigan, Clinton School Nurse

IT'S CANDY GRAM TIME!

Hey! It's candy gram time! This year we will be selling **heart- and rose-shaped lollipops** for \$1 apiece or \$.75 each if you're buying one for everyone in your class. We'll be taking orders from Feb. 4 through 8. We will also be raffling off a massive, elephantine, gargantuan jar of Hershey's Kisses. **Guess how many Kisses are in the jar and you'll win them all!**

Remember, *gargantuan*. You get two guesses for \$1. All the money is going to Heifer International, which works with families around the world to end hunger and poverty while still caring for the Earth. Happy February!

—Hannah Gibbons, Student Council President

SPRING ENRICHMENT IS COMING

Registration materials will be sent home in early February for the next PTA Spring After School Enrichment session, which begins on **Thursday, March 9th** and ends on **Thursday, May 1st**. We'll have a wide variety of classes including a few new ones such as photography, Spanish, and an art class using recycled materials. Please register early and be sure to list a second-choice class. Students who receive free and reduced lunch are eligible for scholarships. Contact Cecelia Cancellaro at ccancellaro@verizon.net or 973-763-1730 for more details.

The PTA Executive Board would like to thank the following people for taking the time and effort to translate our bi-monthly newsletter of events into Spanish and Creole. Their support and expertise are allowing us to reach out to more Clinton families than ever, and they are helping us to make our wonderfully international school feel like a small world:

Jose Fuentes, Senora Maritza Leyva, Francel Michel, Renaud Pierrelouis, and Gladiz Ricci.

BOX TOPS CLIPPERS

We are starting off the New Year a bit slow. Hopefully things will pick up. We collected \$29.80 in December. Thanks for remembering to write your child's name, grade, and teacher on the envelopes. Let's work hard this month to get even more box tops in as well as Campbell UPC codes! To see a full list of eligible products, visit www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com.

—Stephanie Mosé

Kindergarten:	Shelffo- Jack G., Brian J. Swan- Toby C., Drew S.
1st Grade:	Johnson-Natalie K. Motz- Joshua R. Wittig- Christopher T.
2nd Grade:	Hall- Michael M.
3rd Grade:	Kent- Luz A.
4th Grade:	Johnson-Alaina B., Christian M. Schwarz- Grant K.
5th Grade:	Drechsel- Ashraf C.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THE TRICKY TRAY/SILENT AUCTION?

*Are you an **artist** who can donate a piece of your art? A **business owner** who could give us a **gift certificate**? An **attorney** who could donate a service? A **massage therapist** who can donate a massage? Maybe you're a very good athlete who can provide a few **tennis lessons or batting practice**? Perhaps you work for a big company that would be willing to donate an **electronics item**? No prize is too big or too small.*

We are still in the process of collecting prizes for our **Annual Tricky Tray and Silent Auction**, which will take place on **Saturday, March 8th, at 6pm** at the **Maplewood Woman's Club**. So far this year our parents/teachers have offered up some great gifts including a living will from a Clinton parent/attorney, belly dancing lessons from a Clinton mom/belly dancer/yoga teacher, a classic silver Tiffany bracelet from a Clinton parent who is employed by Tiffany, just to name a few.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year (last year we raised over \$20,000) and the money has funded some wonderful things for our school including a new playground and a climbing wall for the gym. We want to do even better this year, so please support this event with a prize and by coming out that night for a truly fun evening. If you have questions or would like to donate a prize, please contact Claire Sinclair at hifromclaire@yahoo.com or 973-763-0088.

Win a Nintendo Wii!

We are once again raffling off chances to win a **Nintendo Wii!** To purchase raffle tickets for **\$10 each**, please fill out this form and return it to school with a check (made out to Clinton PTA) in an envelope marked: **Attn: PTA/Claire Sinclair/Wii Raffle** (Your raffle ticket(s) will be sent to you in your child's backpack). The winning ticket will be drawn at the Tricky Tray, though you do *not* need to be present to win.

Name: -----

Child's Name and Teacher: -----

Phone/E-mail:-----

NEWS FROM PAC (JANUARY '08)

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) provides a forum for interaction between the principal and parents. Parents not on the committee may submit items for discussion through any committee member.

The following topics were discussed at the January meeting:

- 1. Bullying:** A PAC member brought up an issue regarding several 4th graders engaging in bullying toward a peer. Principal O'Neill indicated that she is aware of the students involved and has been working with them to resolve this problem.
- 2. Doors:** A question was brought to the membership regarding the length of time the doors are left open in the morning. The safety patrol determines how long the doors will remain open. The doors are not to be left open for the entire time between the first and second bell.
- 3. Teacher Replacement:** Principal O'Neill indicated that a maternity leave replacement has been finalized for Ms. Pomares's class. A formal announcement will be forthcoming.
- 4. Class Parents and PAC:** As a follow-up to our last meeting, the utilization of class parents to facilitate the communication of PAC issues and agenda items was discussed, the goal of which is to extrapolate ideas and to increase participation of parents as stakeholders in the development of PAC agendas and action plans. Toward that end, the PAC representatives of each grade will disseminate a letter reaching out to class parents prior to the monthly meeting.
- 4. Ice:** An issue was brought to the membership regarding icy conditions on the school grounds during a recent weather event. The particular event in question was an unusual weather situation, however. Facilities staff along with Ms. O'Neill work diligently to insure that the walkways are cleared of snow and ice during inclement weather. Parents with specific concerns are encouraged to contact central administration as the number of custodians available to clear the snow is controlled by them.
- 5. Kindergarten Orientation Survey:** PAC members continue to work on fine tuning the Kindergarten Orientation Survey to be utilized during the upcoming Kindergarten Orientation day.

IT'S TIME TO ENTER THE WORLD LANGUAGES POSTER CONTEST!

The theme of this year's World Languages Poster Contest is "Why is it important to learn a foreign language?" The submitted posters should emphasize the benefits of learning a foreign language, such as promoting friendship and understanding, enhancing career opportunities, or developing global awareness.

Posters must measure at least 18 by 24 inches and no more than 22 by 28 inches. Students are to submit their posters to their Spanish teacher by **February 8, 2008**. **Each student who submits a poster will receive a participation prize.**

The posters will be displayed at Clinton School and the whole staff will be invited to vote for the best entry for each grade. These winners will get a **\$10 gift certificate**.

One of the winning posters will be entered in a state-wide contest sponsored by Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey (FLENJ). **The prizes awarded by FLENJ in each age group (K-4 and 5-8) are: \$50 for the first prize, \$30 for the second prize, and \$20 for the third prize.**

For the last five years, a student from our district has won first or second prize, and we're hoping for a sixth winning entry.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask your Spanish teachers, Mrs. Leyva at mleyva@sommsd.k12.nj.us or Mrs. Seltzer at lseltzer@sommsd.k12.nj.us. If you'd like to see pictures of last year's posters, visit senoraseltzer.com.

RECOMMENDED READING

Some wonderful stories were shared at this year's Storytelling Night. Here is a list of the books that were read that evening:

1. *What Goes Around Comes Around* by Richard McGuire
2. *Terrific* by Jon Agee
3. *Dog Breath* by Dav Pilkey
4. *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra and Marc Brown
5. *I'm a Dog* by Art Spiegelman
6. *Perro Grande ... Perro Pequeno/Big Dog ... Little Dog* by P.D. Eastman
7. *Pigsty* by Mark Teague
8. *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Connor

The South Orange Middle School HSA invites you to an **Elegant Evening of Art & Song** to be held at the Maplewood Tennis Club, 489 Ridgewood Road, on **Saturday, March 1st, 2008**. The Preview is at 7pm, the Auction at 8pm. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and desserts as you view a stunning collection of affordable art and more. Limited seating is available. **RSVP by February 22nd** Tickets are \$35 per person/\$50 per couple (includes name recognition in evening's catalog). Proceeds benefit the wonderful programs at SOMS. For additional information and to purchase tickets, please contact Cheryl Galante at cgalante@comcast.net.



A Community School for All Ages

Nearly 200 courses, lectures and trips
every spring, summer and fall

Creative arts and academic
enrichment camp for kids & teens
June 30 – July 25

Free ESL and GED classes

(973) 378-7620 / www.somadulthoodschool.org