

Clinton Courier



Issue 1, September 2013

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



A very hearty welcome as we begin our 2013-2014 school year to all our Clinton families.

Your amazing children came back ready to learn, make new friends, and share with me why they love school. Most of why they love school is due to their teachers. "She makes us laugh," "he is calm," "she helps me read," "he's smart," and "she likes us" are just some of their feelings they share with me daily.

Our teachers have worked tirelessly and collaboratively to get their classrooms ready and assist in adding a new section of kindergarten last week. Again, I thank you for your support as most of our opening challenges have been met. We now continue our focus of guiding our Clinton kids in engaging in rigorous learning in a safe, joyful environment.

We will also be extra busy this year striving to exceed the objectives of our district and school goals while continuing the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), preparing for the 2015 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments, and ACHIEVENJ, the new evaluation system that includes more structured and frequent conversations among teachers, principals, and supervisors – as well as valuable data about teacher practice and student learning.

In preparing our Clinton kids for the future and implementing initiatives and regulations, we never lose sight of our mission and vision:

Mission Statement:

Clinton Elementary School, in partnership with the Clinton community, will provide and support a learning environment which engages and challenges all students, encourages them to strive for excellence intellectually and creatively, promotes care and respect for one another and pride in the diversity of our community.

Vision Statement:

Based on the core belief that all students have the ability to

FROM THE PRINCIPAL *Continued on page 4*

September-at-a-Glance

19TH ICE CREAM SOCIAL, 6PM (RESCHEDULED)

BOARD OF ED DEBATE, 7:30PM
DEHART COMMUNITY CENTER
120 BURNETT AVE, MAPLEWOOD

20TH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FORMS DUE



21ST NEWSTEAD 5K, 9AM

26TH GENERAL PTA MEETING

27TH LOCOMANIA

COMING UP IN OCTOBER

1ST SPED-PTO MEETING, 7:30PM,
BOARD OF ED. MEETING
525 ACADEMY STREET, MAPLEWOOD

2ND TEACHER PREVIEW LUNCH FOR BOOK FAIR

3RD K-5 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW, 7:30PM
CLINTON SCHOOL

4TH CLINTON SCHOOL PRIDE DAY—WEAR RED!!

7TH BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

In-This-Issue

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-COLOMBIAN CHEESE BREAD

PG 6 CLINTON STAFF ROSTER 2013-14

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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear Clinton Families:

It is with great joy that I welcome you back to a wonderful year at Clinton school. For those of you new to Clinton, especially our Kindergarten families, take heart in knowing your children are in great hands. The Clinton community consists of the most dedicated and talented group of teachers, staff, administrators and parents, all working tirelessly to enhance our children's educational experiences. So, as you let go of your Kindergartener's hand or wave good-bye to your children, know that our Clinton teachers know just what to do. I too, will be letting go of my younger daughter's hand as she begins Kindergarten at Clinton and waving good-bye to my independent third-grader. In doing so, I find comfort in knowing that they will be surrounded by an amazing group of educators and professionals.

Thank you to **Keli Tianga** for her diligent leadership and dedication of our PTA last year. To the entire PTA Executive Board from 2012-2013: thank you for your endless support and commitment to our school and students. I look forward to getting to know many more of you as our school year gets underway. Thank you also to **Leah Gomberg** for again heading up our School Supply Kit fundraiser; **Jung Lee Masters** for keeping our community informed with Clinton PTA emails; and **Anne Harding, Verna Jackson, Stacy Basko, Shelley Oswald, Elizabeth Aaron, and Shanta Bryant Gyan** for maintaining our garden throughout the summer and getting it groomed and ready for the school year.

Please join our PTA for just \$12 per adult in your household. PTA membership allows you many discounts with various retailers (check out pta.org and njpta.org), helps support many of our school activities, and shows your student that involved parents and guardians are the first steps to academic success for our children. Please help us reach our goal of 270 members.

We hope to see you at our first school events of the year:

- **Ice Cream Social**: our teachers scoop ice cream (\$2 per bowl) on **Thursday, September 19th** at 6 pm on the lawn
- Our **General PTA Meeting** on **Thursday, September 26th** at 7:15pm
- **Locomania** on **Friday, September 27th**

Remember the first Friday of every month is School Pride Day. Encourage your child to wear Clinton red or Clinton gear!

I am pleased to serve as our school's PTA president this year. Each year brings new goals and exciting ideas for our community. Clinton School PTA consists of an amazing group of parents that tirelessly volunteer their time and skills for the benefit of our children and school. Our PTA will continue to work together with our teachers and staff to create a rich and engaging learning environment for all our children. We look forward to working with you in creating another fabulous year at Clinton School. On behalf of the PTA executive board, we wish you and your family a great school year!

Best Regards,

Maureen E. Jones
maureenejones@yahoo.com

CELEBRATING CLINTON SCHOOL'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY

As you may already know, Clinton Elementary is a culturally diverse school. Our 500-plus students represent many countries of the world. One way we celebrate the school's wealth of culture is through the displays we have each month in our front hall. The first is already installed and celebrates **Hispanic Heritage Month**. Come take a look! It will remain in place until **October 15th**.

The term Hispanic is broadly used to refer to the culture, people, or nations with a historical link to Spain. Worldwide, there are twenty-one such countries, and a flag from each one is included in our display. We also collected pictures and information from five Clinton students who have a parent from, or a connection to, a Spanish-speaking country.

Part of the display this month is devoted to animals who live in the rainforest of Spanish-speaking countries. **Ravi** and **Maya Kurland** share pictures of bats, a gecko, and a tree frog. These pictures were taken by their aunt who travels to remote parts of rain forests in South and Central America to study and photograph nature.

Also, kindergartener **Valencia Almeida*** shares her thoughts about the culture of her father, who is from Buenos Aires, Argentina. **Max** and **Luca Mendoza*** include a picture of the Mendoza family visiting their father's native Colombia. In order to highlight the importance of the Spanish language to Clinton school, most of the text in the display is in both English and Spanish.

We look forward to a year of celebrating the diversity in our schools. For your enjoyment we have included a recipe from Colombia. Feel free to substitute for the yuca flour and let us know how it turns out!

— Neena Kumar and Monica Ross,
Cultural Heritage Coordinators

Pandebono - Colombian Cheese Bread *courtesy of Erica Dinho*

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup cassava starch or yuca flour
- 1/4 cup precooked cornmeal or [masarepa](#)
- 1 cup Mexican queso fresco or Colombian quesito
- 1 1/4 cup feta cheese
- 1 large egg

Directions

1. Pre-heat the oven to 400°F.
2. In a food processor, place the yuca flour, cheese and masarepa. Process until well combined. Add the egg slowly while food processor is running.
3. Divide the mixture into 12 equal -sized portions, shaping them into balls.
4. Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake for about 15 to 20 minutes or until golden on top. Serve warm.

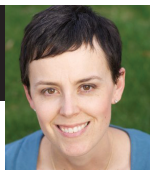
* *Special thanks to the Almeida and Mendoza families who donated many of the cultural artifacts for the display.*

**CLASSROOM NEWS COMING
NEXT MONTH!**

Classroom News can pretty much be defined as any and all things cool going on in each of the classrooms at Clinton School. So if your child's class has a special project going on or has had a fun visitor, please share the information with us. The *Courier* is happy to highlight individual achievements as well, so don't be shy. Please send information about classroom activities to mmsolages@verizon.net or drop a note with your contact information in the PTA mailbox folder labeled "Classroom News."

—Mauri Solages

LIBRARY NEWS



September is well under way and the library media center is once again a place of great energy. Over the summer, we received 100 Google Chromebooks that will be used to support learning in the library and in the classroom. This new technology facilitates students' access to online activities such as Edmodo, Learning.com, ALEKS etc. We also received many new titles for our collection to support the Common Core standards and a general love of reading.

Don't forget that we have many options for at-home learning including the Tumblebooks library of online stories <http://www.tumblebooks.com/library>. The username is **clintonelem** and the password is **books**. Many books are also iPad-compatible and multilingual. Additionally, we have a collection of audiobooks that can be found from Catalist Digital either on the web or as a free App. <https://www.catalistdigital.com/students>. The username is **clinton** and the password is **guest**.

The Clinton library is an active place of learning and exploration. Our students come to library with energy and curiosity. To assist them in finding books and materials, I encourage parents to volunteer in one of the many library roles: reading with children, assisting with book selection, shelving books or checking out materials. This is especially critical in Kindergarten and first grade as students love to read out loud with an adult. I look forward to meeting you at the Related Arts Back to School night or at school functions!

Jennifer Latimer, Clinton Elementary School Library
jlatimer@somds.k12.nj.us
www.AnywhereLibrarian.com
 973-378-7686 x 5004

FROM THE PRINCIPAL *Continued from page 1*

learn, all members of the Clinton School community will empower each child to reach his or her fullest potential. As lifelong learners, our students will possess core academic knowledge and 21st century skills leading them to become respectful, accepting, productive, and responsible citizens in this global society.

As always, we look forward to an exciting year of teaching and learning with you, our partners, and our Clinton kids.

Happy New Year!!

Patty

NOTES FROM THE NURSE



Happy September! It is always so exciting to begin a new school year. I hope you all had a very healthy, relaxing and enjoyable summer. As we begin this new year I would like to share some important information with you.

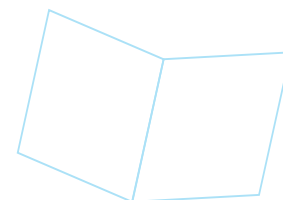
If your child needs to take any medication during the school day, including over-the-counter medications, a form must be completed and signed by both you and your child's physician. These forms are available in my office and on the district website. Please do not send medications in with your child.

If your child has any health needs, please share this information with me so I can provide the best possible care for your child. I am currently reviewing health records and if your child's record is incomplete I will notify you by mail.

Please feel free to call me at any time with any questions or concerns. As always your child's health and safety are my main concern. Let's have a great year!

Your Nurse,
Joann Harrigan
 973-378-7686 ext.5003

GET READY FOR THE FALL BOOK FAIR



Mark your calendars! The Clinton Fall Book Fair will be held **October 3rd – 8th**. Come browse our fantastic selection of books. We'll have many of your favorites from the spring as well as new offerings. In addition to regular hours during the school day, the Fair will be open in the evening for Back to School Night. Parents, please stop by! We are looking forward to another successful fair – can't wait to see you there!

—*Andrea Beck, Sharon Geraghty and Michael Geraghty,*
Book Fair Co-Chairs

FUNDRAISING NEWS

The special fundraising efforts made each year by the Clinton community help provide monetary support for many of the important activities and initiatives that make our school such a special place. Once again, we have a slew of great fundraising opportunities.

DISPLAY MY ART

We kick off the year with the ever-popular Display My Art fundraiser. **Ms. Tischio** will be assisting the effort by having the students complete their drawings in art class beginning the week of **September 23**. Order forms and free magnets will come home in backpacks in mid-October and orders are due by **October 22**. This will ensure that all merchandise will arrive in time for the holidays—perfect timing since Display My Art products make wonderful holiday gifts!

NO FRILLS IS BACK

Our popular No Frills Fundraiser starts later this month. This is a great opportunity for those who prefer to make a monetary tax-deductible donation to the school in lieu of (or in addition to) participating in our other fundraisers. You can make a one-time cash donation to the Clinton PTA that will go directly to funding many important events and projects at Clinton School. We now accept PayPal, too!

KEEP CLIPPING THOSE BOX TOPS!

Those little box top labels on your child's favorite cereals and snacks earn Clinton School ten cents each, which can add up to a hefty sum. Please continue to clip and send box tops and Campbell's labels to school in an envelope marked "Box Tops" or drop them in the front hall receptacle. For a list of participating products, check out www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com.



NEWSTEAD 5K COMING SOON!



On your mark, get set and get training for the annual Newstead 5K on **Sept. 21**.

More than 500 runners transformed the quiet streets of Newstead last year into a bustling course, raising \$14,000 for the Achieve Foundation to support innovative programs, advanced technology and overall excellence in all nine schools in the district.

This year, you can register early or on race day. Registration for is \$20 until **Sept. 18**; from **Sept. 19** to race day the fee is \$25. The Kid's Fun Run is free.

The race begins at the South Mountain Annex, 112 Glenview Road in South Orange. The 5K begins at **9 am**, the two-mile walk kicks off at **9:05 am**, and the Kid's Fun Run begins at **10 am**.

Information on preregistration, sponsorship opportunities and more is available at www.achievefoundation.org.

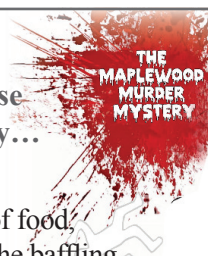
FIRST SPED-PTO MEETING OCT 1

Is your child receiving special education services through the district? Do you live in district, with your child placed out-of-district with services? Please join the Special Education PTO! The Special Education-Parent/Teacher Association (SPED-PTO) provides information and tools for parents they need to help them work collaboratively with the school district, and it helps them to be advocates for their children.

Membership is free, and our first meeting of the year is **Tuesday, Oct 1st** at the Board of Education meeting room at 525 Academy Street in Maplewood at **7:30pm**. All are welcome. Feel free to contact **Kate Shamburg** (SPED-PTO Clinton Liaison) with questions. Her email is kashamburg@gmail.com.

**An ancient history haunts the town.
A restless spirit walks, Whose are those
old bones? And why is it so vital today...
to solve the long-buried story?**

Join us **October 11** at **7:30** for an evening of food, wine and live entertainment as we unravel the baffling mystery. Fun, drink, food & dead bodies all for \$75 per person, \$85 after October 1. This will be an adult event. No one under 21 will be admitted. Tickets available at the libraries, online at maplewoodmurdermystery.brownpapertickets.com or email maplewoodmurdermystery@gmail.com for more information. All proceeds benefit the Maplewood Memorial Library Foundation. Click to see [flyer](#).



STAFF ROSTER 2013-2014

| POSITION | NAME | POSITION | NAME |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|--|
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| Asst. Principal | Ann Bodnar abodnar@somsd.k12.nj.us | Phys Ed | Jeff Lehman jlehman@somsd.k12.nj.us Jordyn Freede jfreede@somsd.k12.nj.us |
| Secretary | Vineta Budhu vbudhu@somsd.k12.nj.us | Library/Media Center | Jennifer Latimer jlatimer@somsd.k12.nj.us |
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| Grade 2 | Beth Frascella bfrascel@somsd.k12.nj.us Kathy Shelffo/Jill Fox kshelffo@somsd.k12.nj.us / jfox@somsd.k12.nj.us Marlene Cutrufello mcutrufe@somsd.k12.nj.us Natasha Pomares npomares@somsd.k12.nj.us | World Languages | Miguelina Dunne mdunne@somsd.k12.nj.us Alison Bekkedahl abekked@somsd.k12.nj.us |
| Grade 3 | Deb Cecacci/Joanna Leach dceccacc@somsd.k12.nj.us / jleach@somsd.k12.nj.us Mary Leocata/Kyle Brooten* mleocata@somsd.k12.nj.us / kbrooten@somsd.k12.nj.us Michael Drechsel mdrechse@somsd.k12.nj.us Stefanie Wrembel sizzolin@somsd.k12.nj.us | Child Study Team | Rebecca Milligan rmilliga@somsd.k12.nj.us Michael Zarabi mzarabi@somsd.k12.nj.us Nathan Hollis nhollis@somsd.k12.nj.us |
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* **Mrs. Ris** and **Mr. Brooten** are maternity leave replacement teachers, who will be with us until **Mrs. Solas** and **Mrs. Leocata** return.

You can contact any staff member by phone: **973-378-7686** or by email using their first initial and the first seven letters of their last name followed by @somsd.k12.nj.us

For example: to contact Buddy Clinton you would type bclinton@somsd.k12.nj.us

The **Staff Roster 2013-2014** can also be found on the Clinton Elementary website: www.clintonelementary.org