

# Clinton Courier



Issue 8, April 2014

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*“If we had no winter, the spring  
would not be so pleasant...”*

—Anne Bradstreet

Happy Spring Clinton Community!!!

We surely waited long enough for a little warmth and sunshine. The beginning of this spring season was made even more pleasant by the warmth, sunshine, laughter, and tears we experienced during our Clinton Student Theatre production of The Golden Age of Television.

Once again, our Clinton stars came together under the leadership of Janet Trzaska and Patty O’Connell and our directors, musicians, stage managers, graphic designers, set designers and crew, make-up artists, front of the house organizers, ad salespeople, T-shirt sales/tickets coordinator, cast party planners, sound and lighting crew, and our film producer. From the bottom of our hearts we thank our ever-amazing PTA and all of you for your incredible efforts and dedication to our 325 uber-talented Clinton actors and behind-the-scenes crew.

What was equally as impressive as the talent and the show was the writing of the skits that told the stories. The writing and songs often made mention of some aspect of Clinton School, which made the show more meaningful to the cast, crew, and audience.

So, to all who were involved with The Golden Age of Television, I wish you Happy Days, smooth Transitions, lots of Fame, reading time with your children to Get Smart, vacations on Gilligan’s Island, Addams Family neighbors, a rescue puppy named Scooby Doo, and Looney Tunes to sing to in your car!!!

Cheers Clinton Community – “...where everyone knows your name....”

Thank you again.

Happy Earth Day too.

Patty

## April-at-a-Glance

- 10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL DINNER AT CLINTON, 5:30PM
- 11<sup>TH</sup> LIA SOPHIA JEWELRY SHOPPING FUNDRAISER 1-4PM AT 8 HIGHLAND AVE
- 12<sup>TH</sup> GARDEN BUILDING/SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION, 10AM—3 PM (RAIN DATE APRIL 13)
- 13<sup>TH</sup> LIA SOPHIA JEWELRY SHOPPING FUNDRAISER 2-5PM AT 8 HIGHLAND AVE
- 18<sup>TH</sup> GOOD FRIDAY, DISTRICT CLOSED
- 22<sup>ND</sup> EARTH DAY
- 21<sup>ST</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup> SPRING RECESS, SCHOOLS CLOSED
- 30<sup>TH</sup> INTERIM REPORTS MAILED THIS WEEK

## Coming-up-in-May

- 2<sup>ND</sup> CLINTON SCHOOL PRIDE DAY
- 5<sup>TH</sup> TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK BEGINS
- 7<sup>TH</sup> SPRING BOOK FAIR BEGINS
- 10<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL MAY FAIR

## In-This-Issue

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- Pg 5 FUN FOOD: CRUNCHY CHICKPEAS

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**FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT**

Dear Clinton Families-

The All School Musical Revue: The Golden Age of Television was another huge success. Over 300 students participated in this year's production, made possible by the many parent volunteers who dedicated their time, talents and skills to direct our students and turned them into Broadway stars. The transformation of our students into characters and all the performances on the stage were beyond words. What an amazing show!

**THANK YOU: Janet Traszka and Patty O'Connell** for producing this show from its inception to the final shows; **Jen Schuetz** for backstage directing; **Kyle Sturhann and Renata O'Beirne** for the creative set designs; **Paul Gaykowski** for sounds and lights; **Sharon Geraghty and her amazing make-up team** who brought the characters to life; **Melissa van Varick and her design team** for the artistic programs; **Amy McGlynn and the team of parents** who solicited ad sales; and all the directors who "directed" our students. So many parents participated on so many different levels and we know the show would not be possible without the many hands of the Clinton team. A special shout out to our **crew of students** who worked backstage handling sets, cued up lighting, music and everything in between. It was also a thrill to have former Clinton alumni return to help out with makeup; a true reflection of the Clinton spirit. I am so proud to be part of this amazing community: a community where we all come together to support our students and school; a community that pitches in and works together whenever needed; a community who welcomes all and embraces diversity; a community that is Clinton Elementary School.

Please join us **Thursday, April 10th at 5:30pm** for the popular Taste of Clinton-International Dinner where you will get a chance to taste a variety of culinary treats reflecting the cultural diversity of Clinton School. Donate a family cultural main or side dish that you can share with 12 to 15 people and be sure to send in your form if you are planning to attend.

On **Saturday, April 12th from 10am -3pm** we will have our Garden Building day. Whether or not you have a green thumb you can join us for a spring spruce up in our Clinton backyard.

Nominations are currently in process for the PTA Executive Board for 2014-2015 and our President ex officio, **Keli Anthony-Tianga** ([thetiangas@verizon.net](mailto:thetiangas@verizon.net)), heads the nomination committee. Please be in touch with her if you are interested in serving or know someone who would like to join the board. Have a great spring break and enjoy the sunshine!

Best,

*Maureen E. Jones*

Clinton PTA

[maureenejones@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenejones@yahoo.com)

# Grade News

Grade News can pretty much be defined as any and all things cool going on in our classrooms at Clinton School. The teachers for each grade are eager to share what is going on, so make sure to check in here each month to see the latest news!

## Preschool

We have had an exciting month in pre-school. We talked about how we are entering the spring season, and the changes in weather we are to see with this new season. We discussed rainbows and all the colors that make up a rainbow. The students were excited to make their own rainbows using dot-art. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day and enjoyed watching the performers at the assembly dance to Irish music and play the harp.

## Kindergarten

Another busy month in Kindergarten! We participated in Read Across America by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. In Reading, we identified character traits through numerous stories and are working on persuasive letters during Writing Workshop. Our students have been exploring flat and solid shapes as well as patterns. We learned about maps and models in Social Studies and enjoyed St. Patrick's Day activities culminating with Mrs. McGovern's kindergarteners dancing an Irish jig. Happy Spring!!!

## First Grade

First Grade finished with an exciting unit in nonfiction in both Reading and Writing. We learned about text features in a nonfiction book such as table of contents, headings, key words, captions, diagrams, labels and glossary. These skills carried over into writing, where we wrote All About books on animals, people or sports. We also wrote How-To books with specific directions on how to perform certain activities. We have been busy in Math as well. We completed units on length and weight, and are completing bar graphs and picture graphs. Coming up next is Numbers to 40 and then Addition and Subtraction to 40.

## Second Grade

March was a fast-paced month for Second Grade. In reading we are working on a unit focused on series books and are beginning to form literature circles to discuss the books we have read. We are writing a realistic fiction story and working on developing our characters. We loved our math unit on money, and we are excited to be starting multiplication. We are also learning about organisms, and life cycles (starting with frogs and moving to tadpoles when they arrive--it will be fun to observe their development).

## Third Grade

Students are working hard on graphing skills in math class, solving problems involving pictographs, bar graphs and line plots before moving on to fractions. The students have concluded the Native Americans unit in Social Studies. Please stop by the library to see their wonderful projects on display! They are moving on to Science where they will study different energy systems including light and sound.

In reading, we have finished our *Characters in Series Books* unit and recently started a unit on informational text. Students will read a variety of informational texts including magazine and newspaper articles, websites, and books. They will learn to use the text features in order to enhance comprehension as well as summarize main idea and details and generate questions about a topic.

We are finishing our realistic fiction stories and moving into expository writing. This unit will include writing from research and a feature article on a topic of interest. We will also practice developing questions for interviews, and conduct an interview to gain important information for our articles.

## Fourth Grade

The Fourth Graders went on their first field trip of the year. We saw the play "Freedom Train" at the Morristown Theatre. The play was about the life of Harriet Tubman, one of our great American Woman Heroes. In Social Studies, the students are completing projects about New Jersey Past and Present. In Language Arts, we're tackling complex texts, reading poetry, and producing fictional narratives.

## Fifth Grade

We are starting our expository research-based essay ...creating original theses and researching using internet databases. Fifth Grade is also enjoying studying historical fiction, reading fiction stories that take place during the American revolution. In Science we are studying earth movements and learning about layers of the earth. Math has been focused on decimals and we are continuing to work on solving real world problems.

## Multi-Grade

Our class has recently stepped up a reading level! We have progressed greatly in decoding new sight words and text. We welcomed spring with open arms and a new guided reading book, "*It is Spring*". While reading our new book, we learned what to expect with the seasons changing from winter to spring and expressed what we will see as the temperature begins to warm. The multi-grade class also enjoyed a weeklong celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday! We completed rhyming activities and created Dr. Seuss mobiles of various types of mammals, reptiles, and other classifications of animals!

## LIBRARY NEWS



Library in April is a very special place to be! Our amazing Miss Tischio is helping bring recycled books to life through various art projects. As the library freshens up its collection, we found that we had many books that were outdated and in need of a new use. I cannot wait to show off all of the student work in the library, in the halls and in a virtual museum on the school library webpage. Currently the library is featuring the Native American projects made by the third grade students, and their virtual library is on the library website under third grade. The students also presented their new knowledge through Google Presentations. This was a very fun tech unit to teach!

We continue to teach computer science lessons this month, with Kindergarten students learning how to build a computer program from the website [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) and fourth grade students using [www.scratch.mit.edu](http://www.scratch.mit.edu). The differentiation of learning is truly amazing to watch.

On a final note, April is National Poetry Month and all students will be exposed to poetry in many forms. Please encourage them to share their learning with you. First and second grade students in particular are making three-minute poems based on magazine clippings. It is a quick brainstorming style of poetry that has a low barrier to entry. Look for student work to go on display after Spring Break.

Happy reading!

*Jennifer Latimer*

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## NOTES FROM THE NURSE



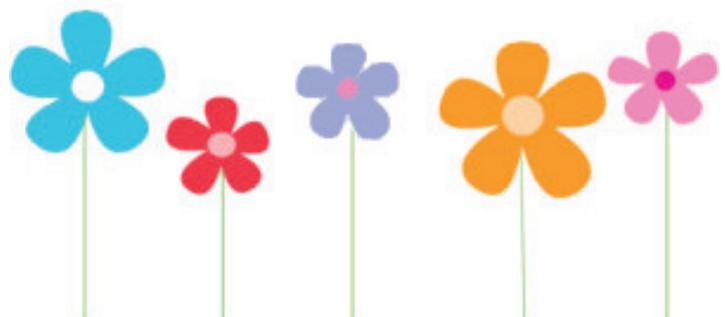
Spring is finally here...well at least according to the calendar. Even though we had such a harsh winter and continued cold weather, spring allergies seem to be starting already. I have been seeing many students with those itchy red eyes, coughs, runny noses and sneezes. Please remember that district policy states that no medication may be carried to school or administered in school without a district permission slip signed by both you and your child's physician. This applies to over-the-counter medications as well, including eye drops. If your child may need medication please have this form completed, they are available on the district website or you can stop by my office for one.

We spent many days indoors for recess due to the snow and extreme temperatures. We are looking forward to many outdoor recess days. Please check the weather and dress your child appropriately for outdoor play. If your child's allergies get so severe that their physician feels they should not go outside, please have the physician write me a note indicating the need to stay inside. P.E. classes are often held outdoors in the nice weather, so this note will be needed to excuse your child from P.E.

Warmer temperatures often lead to some of our pre teen students perspiring more. This is a good time to talk with them about personal hygiene and the use of anti-perspirants. I will be discussing this during health and P.E. classes as well. As our CATCH motto states, "Get outside and play."

Happy Spring.

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



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<http://is.gd/clintonamazon>

# Fun Food!

After school, reach for roasted chickpeas instead of chips, crackers or cookies. Legumes are loaded with protein and complex carbs that give energy and satisfy hunger longer than processed foods. Dial the spices up or down to your taste and look online for other flavor combinations. “15 More Ways to Flavor Roasted Chickpeas” at [www.thekitchn.com](http://www.thekitchn.com) is a good place to start.



## SPICY BAKED CHICK PEAS

- 2 15-ounce cans chickpeas
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon Spanish smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Pinch cayenne pepper, or to taste
- Kosher salt to taste

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Rinse and drain the chickpeas and dry by rolling them around in a kitchen towel. Combine the oil, paprika, cumin, cayenne and salt in a large bowl. Add chickpeas and toss to coat evenly. Taste and adjust seasoning if desired. Transfer the chickpeas to a parchment-lined baking sheet and spread them out in a single layer. Bake until golden and crispy, 25 to 35 minutes, shaking the tray to toss after 15 minutes. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and transfer the chickpeas to a serving bowl.

Recipe adapted from [foodnetwork.com](http://foodnetwork.com).

– Stacy Basko

## COME HELP CLINTON’S GARDEN GROW!



On Saturday, April 12, from 10am to 3pm, we will be setting up and filling seven new

raised beds for Clinton Garden! We’ll also be doing some litter clean-up (gloves and bags will be provided). Please join us if you can—kids are welcome. And please bring a shovel if you’ve got one! Our rain date will be Sunday, April 13, from 10 am to 3 pm.

For more information please call Anne Harding at 973-763-3893, or E-mail at [anne\\_harding@yahoo.com](mailto:anne_harding@yahoo.com).

## YMCA’S HEALTHY KIDS DAY ON MAY 3

**Healthy Kids Day** is an event that encourages families to “Build a Happier Healthy Kid” during a free, fun-filled day that includes interactive games, engaging and creative family activities and health giveaways to encourage children and families to adopt behaviors that support a healthier lifestyle.

One of the main attractions is the appearance of Spider-Man, who will present a 15-minute interactive program that promotes healthy lifestyle choices for children. The Y’s goal is to lead their community in reducing barriers to and increasing support for healthy living. All children that participate in certain activities at Healthy Kids Day will earn prizes and, for a grand prize, there will be a free youth bike awarded.

Children are encouraged to ride their bike to the Y where they can participate in a bike rodeo sponsored by Meadowlink!

**Where:** YMCA 13 Jefferson Ave, Maplewood

**When:** Saturday May 3rd

**Time:** 12:00-3:00pm



# April 2014 Elementary Physical Activity Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p><u>Locomotor Tag</u> Play tag and each round use a different locomotor movement such as skipping, galloping, sliding, running and walking.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Be creative and see how many different ways you can jump rope. Can you keep jump roping while doing all the different ways?</p>	<p>8</p> <p><u>Juggling</u> Practice Juggling w/ a sock or soft balls. Use at least two. Can you juggle three?</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Grab any kind of ball and play catch with a family member. Keep your eyes on the ball and catch it with your hands not your body.</p>	<p>10</p> <p><u>Golf Practice</u> Lay a hula hoop on the ground and practice chipping a golf ball into the hoop. Be careful.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Dribble a ball 100 times with each hand. Can you successfully dribble 100 times with each hand while moving?</p>	<p>12</p> <p><u>Ice Skating</u> Go ice skating today. No ice? Try rollerblading or roller skating</p>
<p>13</p> <p><u>Family Adventure</u> Go for a walk with your family on a trail you've never traveled before.</p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>Crawl Like a Seal</u> Lie on your stomach, arms straight out front. Use your arms to pull your lower body along keeping your legs and back straight.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Practice your chest passes against a brick wall. Remember to step towards your target.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Create a new game with a friend today using a ball and a paddle. Teach this game to other friends.</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>Rock Paper Scissors Tag</u> Meet in the middle, shoot, winner chases the loser back to safe zone. If tagged, join the other team.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Grab a racket and a ball and make up a game</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Go to the nearest basketball court and see how many lay-ups you can make out of 10 tries with your right hand. Left hand? Can you make 6?</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Gather up the whole family &amp; make up a game with a ball and a goal.</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>Inchworms</u> Keeping your legs straight place your hands on the ground, walk them into push-up position, and walk your legs up.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Play your favorite tag game at recess today. If you don't have recess, play it after school with some friends.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Write down all of the active words you can think of. When you're finished go act them out!</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Put your favorite song on and make up a dance to it!  Perform the dance in front of someone else</p>	<p>25</p> <p><u>Makeshift Bowling</u> Set up 10 targets like bowling pins and practice your bowling skills. Can you get a strike? Spare?</p>	<p>26</p> <p><u>Step Jumps</u> Find a step or a bench and jump up and down 50 times. Be careful. Take a break if you need to.</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Go for a walk with a grandparent or adult relative who takes care of you.</p>	<p>28</p> <p><u>Batting Practice</u> Grab a bat and ball and have someone pitch to you while you practice hitting! Eye on the ball!</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Use playdough to create a sculpture of your favorite athlete.</p>	<p>30</p> <p><u>Practice the Crow</u> Place your hands on the ground and lean forward resting your knees on your elbows</p>	<p><b>AAHPERD recommends school-age children accumulate at least 60 minutes and up to several hours of physical activity per day. Each bout of physical activity should be followed by cool-down stretches that help reduce soreness and avoid injury. Happy exercising!</b></p>		

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