

Clinton Courier



Issue 5, May/June 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Clinton School Class of 2017,

Where have all the years gone? I can honestly remember your first day of kindergarten so many years ago. You were all very excited and a little bit nervous, but you had made it to the “big kid” school and that was all that really mattered to you!

During the past six years I have watched you grow as learners and community members. You have learned so many new things and explored new talents. You have attended so many school pride days and ice cream socials. You have understood the connection between physical activity and learning. You have made so many really good friends and have participated in numerous field trips. I was able to accompany so many of you on the American Young Voices trip. I saw pure musical joy exude out of all of you! It was a joy to watch! You read thousands and thousands of books, led many morning announcements, and took care of many critters like butterflies, tadpoles and guppies. You started your journey of learning a musical instrument and Spanish. You followed your passion with Genius Hour projects and learned to tie your shoes, code and play Capture the Flag. You played many many many many many hours of Four Square and “mixed it up” at lunch.

Most importantly, you have become true leaders at Clinton School. You all are a group of kind, caring, passionate, real world young people who are truly ready for the next phase of your life.

I wish you the best of luck in your new school. Both South Orange and Maplewood Middle Schools are incredibly lucky to have you.

Sincerely,
Ms. Bodnar

June-at-a-Glance

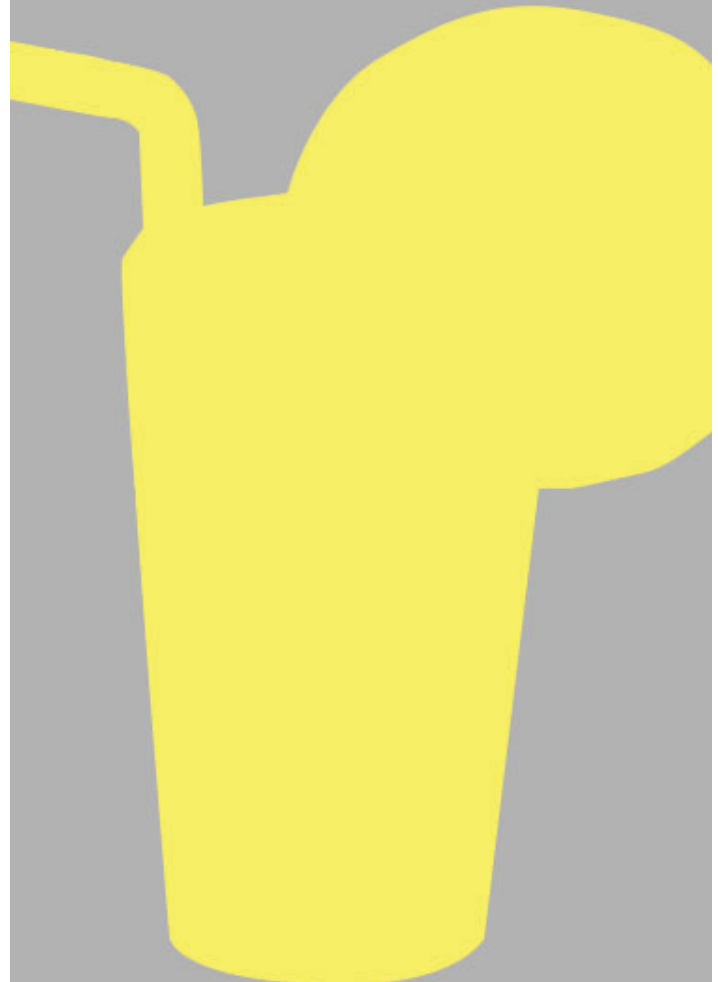
20TH

FOUR HOUR DAY

21ST

FOUR-HOUR DAY AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

HAPPY SUMMER!



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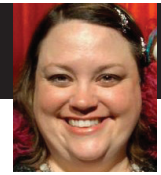
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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT



Hello, Clinton Community!

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had a great school year. I'm writing this right at the beginning of the end, before my kids do their Kindergarten Moving Up, or 3rd Grade Publishing Party or 5th Grade Graduation, so basically before I get too sentimental to be coherent.

This year we held up a lot of our great traditions, like the Ice Cream Social, the All School Musical Revue and the International Dinner, to name a few. We also tried some new things, like the Harvest Fest and the Whoos's Reading Read-A-Thon (along with our Read-In). We sent every grade on field trips, brought them some fantastic assemblies and gave our parents some meetings with interesting topics.

I've been so proud of how adaptable our community has been. When we added a huge event like Clinton Fest with only a few weeks' notice, everyone pitched in and made it an awesome event. When we realized the 4th grade was going to be on a field trip that day, the 4th grade parents organized a "make-up day" for them. It all happened so fast, but making sure the kids had fun and were happy was the only thing anyone cared about.

The generosity of our community humbles me. Our food pantry has been well-stocked all school year, the book drives we've hosted have been successful, and our fundraisers are always well-met. Because of this generosity, we are able to keep our programs going, enhancing them along the way, and add some new things. Stay tuned to learn about all the cool things we have planned for next year!

I've really enjoyed being your PTA President this year. We did away with writing thank yous every month in the Courier, mostly because I have been terribly afraid of forgetting people and because I hope I've thanked everyone enough in person that they feel the gratitude. It occurs to me that I should thank many members of our board, though, because these are the people who made so many amazing things happen this year.

So, thanks to **Jess Murphy**, our VP, who organized our first Harvest Fest and Halloween together, and has done so many behind-the-scenes jobs this year, I can't even begin to count. **Jonelle Delk** keeps track of the money and every little detail you could ever imagine, not just for us at the PTA, but for the Beyond the Bell program, too. **Kimberly Bulkley** is the best secretary we could ever have, and is constantly thinking of more ways to be thoughtful and thankful to our faculty and staff, and as inclusive as possible with the kids. **Eileen Campos** and **Donna Herley** headed up our fundraising efforts and helped make this year incredibly successful. And **Margy Nolan** and **Jamie Ebright** (who is joining our

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board next year) did an amazing job with the Auction this year! **Verna Jackson** not only made sure membership was up to date, but also showed up to so many things with a great attitude, ready to help in any way. **Renata O'Beirne** brought us the Pumpkin Patch, Winter Craft Fair and our Spring Picnic. All great times! If your kids enjoyed ANY assembly this year, from the Farmer's Market to the Laser Show and beyond, you can thank **Candice Davenport**, who had an equal amount of enthusiasm for every single one of them! **Katie Rumley** kept us well-informed on Special Education matters, and helped in so many other ways, too. **Annie Horcasitas** has been thoughtful about ELL matters, and continues to think of new ways to work with our ELL families. **Anne Harding** and **Kathleen Hong** have put together every issue of the Courier not just this year, but for many years. Anne has also been our Garden Coordinator for years, but passed the reins on to **Kate Monagle** this spring. Our members at Large, **Paul Gaykowski**, **Ambra Teague** and **Arden Canecchia** have pitched in and helped on numerous PTA events and traditions. Our President Emeritus, **Andrea Beck**, was a great support to me personally, and to the entire board. We had two honorary emeritus members this year, too: **Maureen Jones** and **Sharon Geraghty**. I don't have enough space here or anywhere to tell you all of the great things they do for Clinton and the entire school district. And **Norman Villatoro** — you don't get an e-blast or a web update without Norman!

Our teacher representatives are especially fantastic, too. They have been such a great bridge between the parents and the staff at Clinton. Thank you, **Ms. Cudmore**, **Mr. Mack** and **Mr. Lehman**. You are wonderful!

And did you know that we have the best Principal and Assistant Principal in **Ms. Bodnar** and **Mr. Beaumont**? I certainly do! Not just because I love Clinton, but because it's objectively true!

So long for now. Have a wonderful summer, full of sun and fun and laughing kids. When we come back, I hope you will take every chance you get, however big or small, to be a part of our school community. The more you know about the school, the PTA, and the community, the more we all benefit. See you soon!

Sincerely,
Liz Gordon

LIBRARY NEWS



Adios, bonjour and good-bye to the 2016-2017 school year. This is the important time when the library starts its yearly inventory. Please remind your students that their library books are due back in the library. If you have book concerns, please let me know.

This summer we will again have a summer reading list to support all learners. I am excited to be a part of the creation of the list and know that there will be plenty of options for everyone. Your students will also meet the town librarians and learn about the summer reading club titled "**Build a Better World.**" I am so excited to be a part of summer reading at the library.

Lastly, please remember that our many programs will be available over the summer. Raz-Kids (<http://www.raz-kids.com/main/Login>) and Typing Agent (<https://somsd.typingagent.com>) be used from any computer. Please feel free to visit the public libraries for some a/c and quiet reading or typing.

Happy summer reading!

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HAPPY

SUMMER