

Clinton Courier

A Publication of the Clinton Parent Teacher Association
Issue 9, May 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The month of May, as beautiful as it is, is also one of the busiest months in education. Not only are your children still learning and growing, but we begin our rigorous planning for their learning experiences for next year and beyond. We also prepare for our end-of-year activities and welcome our new students and families to the Clinton community.

We have many new kindergarteners anxiously awaiting their chance to come to the “big school.” We also will be welcoming students from other countries, other states, and from around the corner. Whatever situation brings our new students and families to this extraordinary community we are all the better for it. We thrive on diversity and creativity and look forward to the contributions our new students and families will inevitably grace us with. Change is not always easy, but rest assured this community goes above and beyond to make every new family feel welcomed and supported.

As we plan ahead for next year, please keep in mind that one of the most difficult tasks we have is to create class lists for the year ahead that are balanced and provide for learning for every student in the class. Our teachers have many arduous meetings trying to complete these lists. With this in mind, we ask that you do not send in requests for particular teachers. Next year’s class assignments for teachers are not finalized and there are teachers who are retiring. What you can do, if you think it is necessary, is email your child’s current teacher(s) to let them know what type of teacher your child will be successful with.

There are so many things we are looking forward to and our end-of-year activities are no exception. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support as we celebrate with your children the results of their great efforts.

Patty

District Goals for 2010-11

The Board of Education invites parents, teachers, staff, and members of the community to share their thoughts and ideas at a Roundtable Discussion about District Goals on **Monday, May 10, 7:30 - 9 pm** at the **Columbia High School Library**.

MAY-AT-A-GLANCE

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1-31 ST | ASIAN PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH |
| 3-7 TH | TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK |
| 4 TH | TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH, 2:35 PM |
| 6 TH | CULTURAL ARTS ASSEMBLY, BALL IN THE HOUSE |
| 7 TH | SCHOOL PRIDE DAY PLANT SALE PICK-UP, 2:30-6 PM |
| 12 TH | PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:15 PM |
| 14 TH | TEACHER’S BOOK FAIR PREVIEW LUNCH, 11 AM – 1:30 PM |
| 15 TH | SPRING RENAISSANCE FAIR, 11 AM-3 PM |
| 15 TH -21 ST | SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR |
| 20 TH | AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT ENDS GENERAL PTA MEETING, 7:15 PM |
| 21 ST | LOCOMANIA, 1 & 2 PM |
| 25 TH | KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION, 9-11 AM |
| 31 ST | MEMORIAL DAY, SCHOOL CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, 8:15 AM |

COMING IN JUNE

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1-30 TH | CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH |
| 2 ND | FIELD DAY (K & ASPIRE) ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL, 6:30-7:30 PM |
| 3 RD | FIELD DAY (1-5 TH GRADES, RAIN DATE 6/4) |
| 4 TH | SCHOOL PRIDE DAY |



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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Clinton School is a special place indeed. We are a group of dedicated parents, teachers, and administrators whose goal is to enrich the lives of every student and provide them with the necessary foundations of learning. At Clinton School, we provide an education that reaches far beyond our classrooms, and will have profound and positive effects on our children's lives.

On April 22nd, we celebrated Earth Day and held our annual International Dinner. Every day is a green one at Clinton, but on Earth Day the students celebrated by creating hats, instruments, and posters from recycled materials and marching around the grounds of school chanting "Save our Earth, so it won't be hurt"! Priceless!

In the evening, Robin Davenport, Deidre McLaughlin, and many volunteers put on an international dinner like no other! More than 200 people came together to celebrate our differences and share our similarities. The delicious dishes represented more than 20 countries and our students and their families eagerly tried lots of new foods as they dined together in our nicely decorated cafeteria! Thank you to all who donated dishes to make this dinner such a huge success.

In true Clinton style, May will be another busy month, filled with fun events. We began the month by celebrating our amazing leader on Principal's Day. Thank you to Ms. Patty O'Neill for your hard work and dedication to our children throughout the year. Our celebration continues through the week of May 3rd, as we honor our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to our amazing staff. Our students have had a tremendously successful year thanks to your dedication and efforts each day. To thank our teachers and staff, the PTA has hired a massage therapist to give teachers ten minute massages. We'll also celebrate their tireless efforts at our annual Teacher Appreciation Lunch on May 4th.

Our Scholastic Book Fair begins on Saturday, May 15th, which is also the day of our popular Spring Fair (11am-3pm). Please join us for both events as you won't want to miss a day filled with games, food, crafts, bounce houses, good friends, and much more!

We continue with LocoMania on May 21st and our 2nd annual Float Building for the Memorial Day Parade. Our float will once again be built with recycled materials, and this year, to celebrate the diversity of Clinton School, the float will represent the many countries from which our student population hails. Please join us as we build the float and then march in the Maplewood Memorial Day Parade.

Thank you,

Karen Bethel
President PTA

PTA MEETING: MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION

Please join us for our next PTA meeting on Thursday, May 20th, at 7:15 pm. Principal Kirk Smith of South Orange Middle School will talk about the transition from 5th grade to middle school and answer questions, so if you have a 5th grader you won't want to miss it. You'll also get to hear from a former Clinton student government representative about the middle school experience. A representative from South Orange Middle School's Home and School Association will also be on hand.

During this meeting we will also confirm the nominees for our 2010-2011 Executive PTA Board. Babysitting for children ages 4 and older will be provided.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Classroom News provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the Clinton community to learn about all the different activities that engage students during the school day. Please send information about classroom activities to bobhugel@gmail.com.—*Bob Hugel*

First Grade It was a busy month for first graders in Ms. Zalinsky's and Mrs. Moskowitz's class. Students observed and wrote about plants, learned how to measure objects at home and in the classroom, tackled the challenge of fractions, and made their own books about Earth Day.

Mrs. Cutrufello's class had an enriching month learning ways to keep the earth clean and healthy. For a social studies assignment, students wrote essays about what they could do to protect the earth's environment. Children were encouraged to write neatly and to pay close attention to their spelling and punctuation. Each student drew a brightly colored picture to accompany his or her essay. The class extended what it learned about helping the earth by participating in Clinton School's annual Earth Day parade where students wore hats made from recycled newspapers and chanted, "Save the Earth!"

The entire first grade also completed an extensive study on penguins. On April 29, a real penguin made a special visit to Clinton. The "celebrity guest" came from the Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant. A staffer from the aquarium gave a special presentation on penguins. Students wore black and white clothes to school to commemorate the occasion. A generous donation from the Clinton PTA made this presentation possible.

Second Grade Second graders are seeing first hand how springtime and science go together as students begin a unit of study on life cycles. The children will be observing the life cycles of plants, fruit flies, moths, frogs, and butterflies.

Second grade students have also been invited to participate in a program, Our Little Volunteers, sponsored by the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills. Students will be making beaded bracelets to be given to hospitalized children in order to offer them our best wishes for hope and good health. Mrs. Latimer, Clinton School's new media specialist, is helping the second grade complete the project during library time.

A special congratulations goes to Lila Z. in Ms. Froelich's class. Lila was runner-up in designing a service project and was awarded \$50 to carry out the project. She will create an art display from recyclable materials, collect donations from people who come to see the display, and give donations to Friends of Earth, an environmental organization.

Third Grade On Tuesday, April 27th, third graders took a class trip to the Essex Green cinema in West Orange to see the new movie *Oceans*. The students were captivated by the stunning images of the sea and its extremely varied marine life.

Fifth Grade Fifth graders are looking forward to meeting Marion Blumenthal Lazan, a Holocaust survivor and author of the book *Four Perfect Pebbles*, who will be speaking to the students on June 2. Ms. Blumenthal Lazan will recount her experiences as a nine-year-old interned with her family in the Bergen-Belsen camp, the same camp in which Anne Frank died.

ART AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

The annual Clinton School Art and Music Festival is right around the corner. Volunteers are needed to help with preparations for the Art Show. Every Clinton student will have a piece of their art on display! Adult volunteers are needed to mat the work and also to assist in hanging up the display. It's fun and easy, and no prior art experience is necessary!

Matting the Art: We will provide you with a kit containing art work, paper for matting, and all other necessary supplies and you can do the work at home. Ms. Tischio will have the art ready to be picked up on May 10th and 11th. We'll need you to return it no later than May 21st.

Hanging the Art: We will be hanging the artwork on May 28th and June 1st. We could use help from anyone who is available during the school day or after school.

Please contact Barbara Cokorinos (bac2@nyu.edu or 973-763-2163) if you are willing to help or if you have any questions. The Art and Music Festival will be held on the evening of **Wednesday, June 2**. We look forward to seeing you there!

—*Ms. Tischio and Ms. Martin*

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been a very busy place the last few weeks, and I am thrilled to be a part of the school. Thank you to **Sue Von Brachel**, a Clinton parent, for creating the new artwork around the library and **Ms. Tischio and our student artists** who helped us showcase our Earth Day book display. I encourage all parents who have any time on their hands to volunteer in the library. We are making a difference every day.

New books will be arriving soon as a result of this year's **Read-a-thon**, and I thank you for supporting this project. We also recently received a generous professional book donation from **Edward Ash-Milby**, and the professional library has been separated into subjects for easier use.

The 4th grade has been working on conflict and primary source information. As part of this lesson we listened to actual audio readings of war time letters on the Gilder Lehrman- Institute of American History web site. We were able to hear the opinions of two generals who fought for different sides of the Civil War and how it affected their friendship.

Lastly, our library web page is updated and can be found at the Clinton Elementary website at www.somso.k12.nj.us/clinton or linked from the PTA site (www.clintonelementary.org). On this web page is my blog, where I provide library lesson updates, interesting articles, and book recommendations. Happy Reading! —*Jennifer Latimer, Clinton School Library*

THE CLINTON FLOAT NEEDS YOU!

The theme for this year's float is "**Clinton School Celebrates Diversity,**" and we're going to need lots of help to build it. We will be working at Erica and Mike Dussman's house, 16 Highland Avenue, on the following dates: **Saturday, May 22, 1-4 pm; Saturday, May 29, 10 am -4 pm; and Sunday, May 30, 10 am -?** There will be tasks for both children and adults. Come for an hour or come for a day. All are welcome! Please RSVP so we have an idea of how many to expect. Email Jackie Lahey at jaclahey@aol.com or call 973-313-9757.

We still need **YELLOW PLASTIC BAGS**. If you subscribe to the *Star Ledger* or shop at Shop Rite, please save and donate your yellow bags. You can drop them off inside the school entrance or at 3R Living on Maplewood Avenue. Thank you!

Please plan to march in the parade on **Monday, May 31**. We will assemble at the Columbia High School Student Parking Lot at 8:15 am. Every child must be accompanied by an adult. One adult can take responsibility for more than one child, but children may NOT be dropped off alone at the point of assembly. Every child is encouraged to march in a Clinton School T-shirt or a red shirt.

The Clinton Spring Flower/Plant sale made close to \$400 for our school. I'd like to thank all those who participated. You can pick up your orders after school on **Friday, May 7th**. If you can help sort plants on that day, please contact Liz at EDeutsch2001@verizon.net.

LOCOMANIA & RAINBOW PHOTO UPDATE

The Clinton PTA, in collaboration with our awesome physical education teachers Mr. Jeff Lehman and Ms. Jordyn Freede, is proud to present our second-annual fitness fundraiser—**LocoMania!**

On **Friday, May 21st at 1 pm (Grades K, 2 & 5)** and **at 2 pm (Grades 1, 3 & 4)**, all Clinton students will spend fifty minutes skipping, hopping, galloping, and dancing on the Underhill Field Track led by Mr. Lehman and Ms. Freede. Music will be provided by Clinton Dad and resident DJ Jeremy Moss. The Electric Slide, the Hokey Pokey, the Cha Cha Slide, and YMCA are just a few of the fun dances they'll do. Students will be learning these dances during their physical education classes in the weeks leading up to the event, so they'll be eager to show off their moves!

Pledge sheets will be sent home the week of May 3rd and students can ask family, friends, and neighbors to sponsor them (either through a flat rate pledge or by pledging a particular amount for the three 15-minute segments). One hundred percent of the profits will go to Clinton School! All students will participate in the event, whether or not they seek pledges. Pledge forms and payment must be sent to school by June 1st.

We will also be taking our annual **Rainbow Photo** that day, so please have your child dressed in the color requested for their grade. See list below:

Grade 5 – purple
Grade 4 – blue
Grade 3 – green
Grade 2 – yellow
Grade 1 – orange
Kindergarten - red

If you can volunteer to hand out water, keep things organized, and cheer on our great kids, please contact Leah Gomberg (ldgomberg@verizon.net or 973-275-0927).

INTERNATIONAL DINNER THANKS

If you had an opportunity to attend Clinton School's International Dinner, "A Taste of Clinton," you were undoubtedly impressed by the range of scrumptious dishes that were contributed this year. This fabulous meal could not have happened without the assistance of some extremely helpful Clinton parents. Special thanks go out to Clare Payton, Jenny Lindstrom, Jung Lee Masters, Heather Spencer, Sharon Hargrove, Kat Lozynsky, and Susan King (last year's international dinner co-chair) for their assistance with set-up and clean-up. And thank you to Jose Fuentes and Marie Tertus for translating the flyers into Spanish and Creole. I was particularly fortunate this year to be working with a superb co-chair, Deidra McLaughlin, whose organizational skills, enthusiasm, and camaraderie made working with her a true pleasure. And most of all, let me thank the many fabulous Clinton cooks from nations all over the world who contributed their treasured recipes to this event. Through the years I've co-chaired the international dinner, I've always appreciated how new friendships are formed and great conversations occur while sampling the diverse and delicious dishes of the Clinton community. This is my younger daughter's last year at Clinton, so I have to give up my co-chair position, but Deidra promises to keep this great Clinton School tradition going. I hope you will help her to make future dinners better than ever.—*Robin Davenport*

THE CLINTON GREEN

"The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind..." Wind energy, that is. Today, we as a nation stand at the precipice of implementing widespread green energy in the form of wind farms. On Wednesday, April 27, 2010, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar greenlighted the development of an offshore wind farm off the coast of Massachusetts. The approval took nine years! Why? Because we, the American people, have heard: **They will be unsightly.** Well, can you see them? Yes. Are they ugly? Not really. The turbines and propellers actually look very mid-century modern: white and sleek like Saarinen dining chairs.

They will be expensive. Rumors abound about the crazy high cost of wind. But, as with all green projects, the costs are up front and the savings are down the line. We are "investing" in a greener future.

They will harm the environment. Yes, they will be drilled into the ground and will include some underwater tubing, but the ground effect is significantly less disruptive than strip malls, which we approve on a daily basis.

The tougher environmental issues surround wildlife. Yes, some birds and bats have flown into them and died, in part due to older designs that had attractive perches and lighting. By comparison, common housecats kill 100,000,000 birds per year (bring your cats inside, please). Many more bats have been killed by cave explorers disrupting their habitats.

Every time we humans do something (except hugging and jumping rope), we impact our environment. We need to weigh the effects of wind farming against our greater challenges, such as oil dependence, coal mining, and air pollution. Oil spills alone create a devastation that is far-reaching and permanent—there is no such thing as an oil-spill "clean-up," only a containment. Now, go turn off your lights....

—*Clare Payton*

AMAZING A CAPPELLA ASSEMBLY

On **Thursday, May 6**, the Clinton PTA is delighted to welcome **Ball in the House**, a tour de force of vocal sound that must be heard and seen to be believed. This five-man, pop/R&B “mouth band” hails from Boston, Massachusetts, where they live when not touring on the road. Ball in the House is one of the best-known and most-loved acts in the *a cappella* community today. Parents are welcome! Thanks again to the PTA for funding another awesome cultural arts assembly.—*Jackie Lahey*

ASIAN PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

I'd like to offer a big thank you to **Harriet Sigerman** and **Sue and Jeff Boni** for putting together the Women's History Month display, and hooray to our April raffle winners and all the students who participated. In May Clinton celebrates Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month to honor Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. And yes, there will be another raffle.—*Tricia Bloom*

THE RENAISSANCE FAIR IS COMING!

Here ye, here ye! The Clinton School Renaissance Fair will take place on **Saturday, May 15th, 11 am-3 pm**, on the Clinton School grounds. It's an event not to be missed, so mark your calendars now!

Get ready for a fun-filled day! You can make costume crafts including capes, pouches, and more or enjoy the inflatable rides, face painting, prizes, “Fayre Play” games, DJ tunes from the “Musique Forte,” jugglers, and much more! Visit the Troll's Tavern for lunch and snacks—the menu includes BBQ chicken, hot dogs, burgers, pizza, salad, and lots more! Plus our Confection Cauldron has cotton candy and ice cream! Be sure to visit Merlin's Mystical Maze, which will be open all day long and is free! Special events include a live falcon and owl exhibition at 1 and 2 pm.

Of course with so many great activities we'll need lots of volunteers. Can you help with set-up, break-down, or just cover a booth for an hour? Please contact Leah Gomberg at ldgomberg@verizon.net or 973-275-0927 or Deb Yohannan at deb1105@optimum.net or 973-761-4055. Thanks in advance for your support!

Avoid the lines and get a price break by getting tickets in advance. You can save \$5 by purchasing 50-Ticket Family Value Packs for \$20! Send the form below with payment to school in an envelope marked “Fair Advance Tickets.” Tickets will be waiting for you at the ticket booth on the day of the fair. Make your check payable to Clinton School PTA, and please include your phone number on the check.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Number of Value Packs: _____

Child's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

CATCH THE SPRING BOOK FAIR

Mark Your Calendars—the Scholastic Book Fair is only a couple of weeks away! We kick it off on **May 15th** during the Clinton Spring Fair and it will run through **Friday, May 21st**. Informational flyers and Scholastic brochures have been sent home in backpacks. Take some time to browse the many titles and start working on your wish lists! Teachers are also starting to compile their own wish lists and as they become available we will post them on our Book Fair website at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/clintonelementarysomsd>. They will also be displayed at the Book Fair so that you can donate a book to your classroom or even to the Clinton School Library. We always need help with our Book Fair – volunteer forms were sent out a couple of weeks ago. If you haven't already returned your form, please do so ASAP. You can also volunteer by contacting us through the website or by emailing or calling Kris Stringer at kristine.stringer@gmail.com or 973-313-1970.

The Book Fair is not only a fantastic opportunity to pick up great new books or treasured classics, it is also a chance to give back to our school. Clinton earns a credit with Scholastic based on the proceeds from the Book Fair which can then be used to purchase books and other materials for our school. So come on out and show your support for reading and for Clinton School! For further information, visit our website or contact Sharon Geraghty at s_geraghty@comcast.net or 973-761-4120.

SUPPLY KITS FOR NEXT YEAR

Order forms for the pre-packed school supply kits will be sent home on **May 21st**. Put together using specific school supply lists provided by Clinton teachers, these kits make your back-to-school preparation painless. This will be your only chance to order the kits (**deadline is June 1st**), which will be available for pick up on **September 3** and on the morning of the first day of school (**September 7**). If you have questions, please contact Leah Gomberg at 973-275-0927 or ldgomberg@verizon.net.

PTA BOARD NOMINATIONS

The PTA Board Nominating Committee (Cecelia Cancellaro, Amy Janay, and Keli Tianga) is delighted to announce the nominees for open slots on the 2010-2011 PTA Board. Below is a list of the open positions and the people who will fill them. The nominees will be confirmed at the general PTA meeting on May 20th.

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Fundraising Assistant: Amy Janay

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VP Public Relations: Cecelia Cancellaro

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ANNOUNCING THE SUSAN J. WEITZER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The South Orange Maplewood School District announces the creation of the **Susan J. Weitzer Memorial Scholarship** to honor the memory of our beloved instrumental music teacher who tragically lost her life in October of 2009. Susan Weitzer taught beginning band instruments from 1998-2010, touching the lives of thousands of students. To honor her memory, a scholarship fund is being created. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who has participated in the band program and demonstrated commitment and dedication to the band program. Donations can be sent to: **South Orange Maplewood Board of Education Business Office, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Checks should be made payable to SOMSD.** We thank you in advance for your generous support.

A REWARDING GIFT

When thinking of a fitting way to thank a teacher or other school staff member who's helped make this a great school year for your child, why not choose the gift that gives back to our children's education? For a donation of \$5 or more per card, you can order a special Honor Your Teacher tribute card with your child's personal message printed inside to be sent to a teacher or staff member at the end of the year. Your donation will go directly to SOMEF's Teacher Grants program that enables all teachers to apply for grants for special classroom projects. For more information, call 973-378-2055. Orders are due **June 1** and will be delivered to schools by **June 15**.

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9am - 3pm



Come and learn all about the world of musical theater - singing, dancing, acting, set-design and creation, promotion.

More important, learn how you can use all your gifts and work with others to help out those in need.

All performance proceeds will go to rebuilding work in Haiti.

Rutgers theater students and local parents, teachers and performers will help kids create a show for their parents, friends and neighbors.

Participants will need to audition and register on either **June 1, 2nd or 3rd at Morrow Church from 7-9pm**. The kids will get their scripts and music so they can learn speaking parts and music prior to the camp. A typical day at camp includes scene blocking, dance rehearsal, music practice, set creation, costume creation, Haiti culture experiences and of course lunch and improv games!

Camp costs: \$50.00 camp materials donation. This donation covers license and script materials expenses. Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Ridgewood Rd., Maplewood, NJ...07040.
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