



CLIFTON MUSTANG “THE (E – MAIL) MESSENGER”

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SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

RICHARD TARDALO

It is once again my privilege to welcome everyone back to school. I am pleased to report we had a successful opening day and that all of our schools were in tip top shape for our students. Our professional staff members were eager to once again engage the children of Clifton in the teaching/learning process.

- We have opened our academy programs at Clifton High School in the visual and performing arts as well as our business academy. This provides our students with an opportunity to specialize in these areas as they pursue their high school diploma. Our goal is to assure that they have the appropriate skills necessary to achieve success in both college and/or the world of work after graduation.
- We have implemented the math connections program at both middle schools to prepare students for the required end of course exam in algebra which will be required for all graduates beginning with the class of 2014.

- We will be hosting a statewide Science and Technology Fair at CHS on October 23rd & 24th from 10 AM -5 PM. Each day there will be plenty of exciting educational exhibits for children of all ages and entry is free. Please visit the website for additional information: <http://www.njsciencefestival.org/>



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

School #1

Welcomes new staff: Kristin Seyka, Lynda Cadorin, Margaret Hriczov, Kristin Orlovsky, and Pat DeLotto.

Grants Awarded: Received \$500.00 from Pepsi Co. in the name of Ms. Frances Rogers to purchase books for the school one media center.

Kudos to School #1 as they celebrate their eightieth anniversary 1930 -2010.

School #2

School Two is happy to welcome Jennifer Lucas as the new building principal. She has been a teacher in the district for many years and was recently assigned to School Twelve as the assistant principal. In addition to Ms. Lucas, there are several new staff members at School Two:

Nicole Lavender – Kindergarten Teacher

Diane Jakimec – Special Education Teacher

Lucille Scannella – Paraprofessional

Linda Wdowiak – Paraprofessional

Connie Firstmeyer – Paraprofessional

Cathleen Brogan - Paraprofessional

We are also happy to have Sarah Mundrick, speech teacher, assigned to School Two full time this year and welcome Joseph Medway as a teacher replacement for Michelle Amoruso.

The staff at School Two is busy working with the students using the EnVisions math curriculum and Writer’s Workshop in Grades K-5. The K-2 teachers have eagerly begun using the new Journeys reading curriculum for Language Arts Instruction. The colonial garden planted in the front of School Two by last year’s fourth graders is filled with herbs including rosemary, sage, mint and onions. The herbs are now ready to be harvested and Peg Codey, the district Science Supervisor, will be coming to work with the students who planted the garden last spring.

The students and staff are excited to begin a new school year at School Two!

School # 3

We welcome the following new teachers:



Mrs. Riel Bilto has a bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Bilto graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998 with a master's degree in Elementary Education. After graduation, she taught for three years in Philadelphia. After staying home with her family for a few years, she returned to teaching in a private school in NJ. Mrs. Bilto has been a substitute teacher, a BSI teacher, and a first grade teacher over the past three years in the Clifton Public Schools. Mrs. Bilto is delighted to be a first grade teacher at School Three.



Ms. Debra Prunk graduated from Towson University in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She decided to change careers and pursue her passion for teaching by attaining a master's degree from Montclair State University. After graduating in 2007 with a dual certification in Elementary Education and Teacher of Students with Disabilities, Ms. Prunk worked as a third grade inclusion teacher for several years in NJ. Ms. Prunk is now a Resource Room Teacher at School Three and she is excited to be working with such a dedicated group of educators.

Mr. Brian Reilly graduated from Montclair State University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Education. After graduating, Mr. Reilly was a substitute teacher in the Clifton Public School District for two years. Now he is a Kindergarten teacher at School Three. Mr. Reilly is excited to be a Kindergarten teacher and he is delighted to join the School Three team.



School #4

School 4 began this school year with bright, colorful classrooms and shiny hallways. Filling those spaces are some of the brightest and nicest children in Clifton. In fact, our enrollment has grown by 16%. In order to accommodate the additional 25 children we now have two new teachers. We are proud to announce that Ms. Terry Fierro is one of our kindergarten teachers and Ms. Helene Liaci is now a fourth grade teacher. We also welcomed Mrs. Mia Celluro as a Basic Skills teacher and Mrs. Nancy Munck as our administrative assistant.

School 4 has a long and proud tradition of providing a quality education to the children in the Southwest corner of our wonderful city. Great things are already occurring in our classrooms and after school. Our Kindergarteners took a field trip to the local fire house, Engine 1 and the PTO is planning its annual Fall Fundraiser, Pumpkin Sale and Halloween Party. *Go School #4!*

School # 5

We welcome our new School Five staff to Clifton and to the School Five Learning Community of Teachers, Students and Parents by giving them a warm welcome and telling you a little about who they are.

Ms. DeMarco graduated from Caldwell College in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and English. She completed her Student Teaching at School Sixteen in Clifton in 2006. She has taught in Schools Sixteen, Fifteen, Five, Seventeen and Eleven in many different grade levels since 2006. She began this school year as a First Grade Teacher in School Five. She is excited to be a First Grade teacher and we are delighted that she has joined our Faculty.

Ms. Ditzig

Ms. Ditzig is very excited to teach Fourth Grade at School Five. She has taught in School Seventeen for the past five years and has taught First, Second, and Fifth grade. She attended William Paterson University and received a degree in English Literature and an Elementary Education Certification. In her free time, she loves to cook and bake. She enjoys watching the Food Network and learning more cooking techniques. She also likes to read. She is a big fan of the Harry Potter series.

Ms. Lana Gelman

Lana Gelman received her Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology from Queens College, in New York City, where she spent most of her life. She has been working in the public school setting for the past two years. Prior to going to college she served four years in the U.S. Army. She is originally from Lviv, Ukraine and loves reading Russian literature.

School # 5 Continued

Ms. Lori Lill

Ms. Lill is a Fifth Grade Teacher at School Five. She has taught in Elementary Schools Number Three, Five, and Eight. Ms. Lill has taught in Kindergarten, Fourth and Fifth Grades. She also attended School Five Elementary School, Woodrow Wilson Middle School and Clifton High School. She graduated from Montclair State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Family and Child Studies with a Concentration in Early and Middle Childhood. Ms. Lill loves teaching and is delighted to be a Teacher at School Five!

Miss Alexandra Wisnowski

Miss Wisnowski is very excited to join School Five as a Fifth Grade Special Education Teacher! She attended New York University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. She earned a Masters of Arts in Special education from Caldwell College. Miss Wisnowski has worked for the District in School Sixteen teaching grades one, two, and four in both regular and special education. In her spare time she loves to read, write, and spend time with her three dogs.

Mrs. Carrie Zon

Mrs. Zon has joined the staff at School Five and is very excited to be one of our Resource Teachers. She has taught in the Clifton school system for ten years. She attended Caldwell College and earned her Bachelors Degree and received her Special Education certification from Montclair State University. In her free time she enjoys traveling and spending time with her two daughters.

School # 5 continued

We would also like to welcome two new members to our School Five Family. Mrs. Claudine Arcuri gave birth to her second daughter. We welcome Alyssa. Mrs. Joan Testa gave birth to her second son. We welcome Andrew to our School Five Family. Our School Five Family continues to grow as we celebrate these very special life experiences as a staff.

The School Five Home And School Association continues to provide support and programs for our students. Our active group has planned our annual Book Fair that will take place during Back –To-School Night this month. We thank them for their continued support.

Our School Five Learning Community is excited about our continued work with our math series, EnVision Math, in its second year. The kindergarten, first and second graders are excited that they have begun to use their new reading series, Journeys. These programs are helping our students build stronger skills in problem solving and understanding. The faculty, staff and students continue to be supportive of each other as we continue our learning curve using Differentiated Instruction. All of our efforts benefit students. We thank the Clifton Board of Education for the opportunities that it provides for our students and staff.

School #8

School Eight welcomes the following people to our school: Ron Frech, resource room teacher; Rachel Breite, basic skills teacher and Cruz Romero, kindergarten aide.

Last year, School Eight was selected to receive a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation to construct an outdoor classroom for its K-5th grade students. It is 95% completed! A few items such as magnifying lens, bird feeders, etc. will be added so our children will be able to explore the world around them right in their own school backyard. The outdoor classroom has picnic benches and foam mats for seating. Assorted plants and shrubs showcased in the newly created outdoor classroom include Hostas, Bleeding Heart, Rhododendrons, assorted ferns, Astilbe, and there are even more varieties inside this area.

This extension to classroom learning will provide innovative and endless ways to provide lessons in all areas of the school curriculum. Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies will come alive using nature as the vehicle to authentic learning.

The success of this project involved tremendous community support and cooperation. The backing of the Clifton Department of Public Works, including Mr. Al Greco and Mr. Al Dubois, was invaluable. All Jersey Fence Co. installed the fence within a day's notice and Birch Lumber assisted with the quick movement of materials from one place to another. School Eight also received generous donations from The City of Clifton, Mikula Contracting, Passaic County Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program, The Terre Company and Rutt's Hut.

School #9

Students and staff voted on the April Election Day and it became official...we are the SCHOOL NINE BULLDOGS!

Please welcome the newest members of the School Nine Bulldog Team.



Megan Fitzpatrick- A life long Clifton resident, I attended Clifton High School where I was a Mustang Cheerleader all four years. After graduating from CHS, I went to Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York. I graduated with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education and a Masters degree in Special education. During my time at Manhattan, I was a Jasper Cheerleader for three years and was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, the international education honors society. Through the school of education within Manhattan College that I was enrolled in, I completed two full semesters of student teaching in two New York City public schools, PS 24 and PS 86. I am extremely honored and excited to now be teaching in my home town! School # 9 News Continued



My name is Laura Lazar and I am pleased to be the new speech and language specialist for School #9. I received my undergraduate degree in linguistics and communication disorders from Queens College of the City University of New York in 1999. I completed graduate studies at Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York where I received an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology in 2001. I am licensed to practice speech-language pathology in both New York and New Jersey. In addition, I am certified by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and hold a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. For the past nine years, I have worked as a pediatric speech-language pathologist with a focus on child language disorders. My career as a speech-language pathologist began at the Mount Saint Ursula Speech Center in Bronx, New York where I provided diagnostic and therapeutic services for preschool and elementary school children with speech and language delays. From 2003 to 2008, I worked at the Rainbow School for Child Development in Bronx, New York, where I provided speech and language therapeutic services to preschool children with mild to severe articulation deficits, fluency disorders (i.e., stuttering), and language delays. For the past two years, I worked as a speech and language teacher in the Mount Vernon City School District in Westchester, New York, where I provided speech and language services for children in grades K-6. I believe strong communication skills are critical to academic success, and I am committed to providing quality speech and language therapy to all that I service. I look forward to a productive and successful school year.

School # 11

Susan Blum from CCMS to our 3rd grade staff. Lisa Heiner replaces Anne Friedland as our counselor (3 days a week). A brand new HSA team (HSA Board).

Michele Petrelli joins us for 6 months, home -based at #11 as our Foundations teacher.

In addition (replaces our "Kindness Tree" started by Anne Friedland) is a kindness bucket. Each classroom will have its own plastic bucket where, when kindnesses toward others are noted, a message is placed in the bucket. I hold the extra large bucket, where, at the beginning of each month, each classroom dumps its "kindnesses" into the large bucket and a drawing for prizes is held during our first Monday of the month "Morning Meeting."

School # 12

School Twelve would like to welcome Mr. Jason Habedank , Assistant Principal, Mrs. Frances Rodriguez, Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher and Ms. Allison Maletsky 5th Grade Teacher. We are very excited with the implementation of our new K-2 Language Arts Series as well as the Math EnVisions Program. School Twelve will continue with the Multicultural Arts Activities. School # 12 will host a 100 year celebration with a Beef Steak Dinner at the Clifton Boys & Girls Club on May 13, 2011.

School #13

School Thirteen is very proud of the achievement of four staff members who have recently completed their master's degree. Mrs. Wojtylo (3rd grade), Ms. Talbot (1st grade), Ms. Rossi (physical education), and Ms. Diduch (5th grade). They model in their accomplishment our school goal for students of being life long learners.



School #14

School 14 is excited about our school theme for 2010 – 2011: Endangered Species. Teachers and students are learning about habitats, conservation, social studies, and geography through this theme. Thanks to our wonderful Home and School Association, we will be visited by the Central Park Zoo and Turtle Back Zoo who will use real animals and puppets to bring this theme alive. Students will participate in Penny Drives and other fundraisers to support this cause. We invite all of our parents to attend our monthly Home and School Meetings and get involved in our school. It not only benefits our students, it is a lot of fun for the grown-ups too!

School #15

The School 15 family would like to welcome Kimberli Gerechoff. Ms. Gerechoff will be teaching third grade. Ms. Gerechoff is a graduate of Monmouth University, where she was awarded her Certificate in Elementary Education and a B.A. in Anthropology. Ms. Gerechoff is currently enrolled at Montclair State University where she is working on her Master's and certificate in Teacher of Students with Disabilities.

School 15 would also like to welcome Mrs. Stella VanWinkle, Mrs. Angela Kishbauch. Mrs. Janine and Mrs. Kishbauch are paraprofessionals who are working in our TRIAD program.

School 15 is excited to have 11 SmartBoards in the building, which will be used as hands-on supplements that aide in instruction in all subject areas. Students and staff are very excited to use these interactive tools to enhance the learning and instructional experience.

School #16

School Sixteen school community would like to welcome Megan DePiero and Joanne Zakrzewski to their school staff. Mrs. DePiero and Miss Zakrzewski are teachers of two new Special Education classes in the kindergarten and first/second grades. Both are excited to begin the new school year. Congratulations to Mrs. Juarbe, Mrs. Rumana and Mrs. Trout, classroom teachers at School Sixteen, all of whom welcomed baby boys into the world in the spring and summer.

Students happily arrived back to school ready to begin the exciting new programs in language arts and math along with other content programs that awaited them.

School #17

NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome the following new staff members at School 17 this year:

Tracy Morigi	PreK Teacher
David Roberts	Paraprofessional
Wendy Peterson	Paraprofessional
Kathy Seasock	Paraprofessional
Meghan Brophy	Paraprofessional

ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

School 17 will once again be utilizing the Accelerated Reader Program with students in grades 2 – 5. Teachers determine individual student reading levels, and children read books according to their ability. Students later take a quiz on the book to determine their comprehension. Prizes will be given each Friday to children who score above 80% on any three quizzes. This program was implemented last year and was met with great success. Children were very encouraged to read and were motivated to receive prizes.

NJ After 3 PROGRAM

School 17 is very fortunate to once again have the New Jersey After 3 program for the 2010-2011 school year. Thanks to the efforts of the Boys and Girls Club, we were selected as being eligible for this highly competitive funding. The NJ After 3 staff will supervise up to 150 students after dismissal until 6:00 p.m. at a very reasonable cost to parents. This much needed service will greatly benefit many School 17 families.