

# The Red Review

13-14 October Vol. 2

clarksonpublicschools.org

## From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

As the school year heads into October, I want to thank everyone for the school year getting off to a great start. The students and staff have been fantastic and I am really excited about what I am seeing in the classrooms and school activities.

At this time every year is the NePAS (Nebraska Performance Accountability) reporting from the Nebraska Department of Education. In NePAS, NDE use the scores from NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) testing from last spring to compare and rank all of the schools across the state. The NeSA testing is down in the areas of Science (grades 5, 8 and 11), Math (grades 3-8 and 11), Reading (grades 3-8 and 11) and Writing (grades 4, 8 and 11). This year Clarkson Public Schools came out in the top 100 of all 248 schools in all of the different testing areas. Even though our rankings the past two years have been very good, we are continually looking at we can do as district as a whole to improve our scores across the spectrum.

I would like to remind our public about our new school website at [clarksonpublicschools.org](http://clarksonpublicschools.org) The website looks great and allows us to share more information with the public than our old website. I really want to thank Amy Gurnsey and Matt Murren for all of their hard work with the website, as there is a lot of constant updating and inputting of information. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter and letter in the paper, the process of getting everything switched over to the new website is a long, tedious, and continual process. At this time, the school calendar is up through February of 2014 and they are continually working on the website to update the upcoming months, keeping an updated weekly schedule of events and sharing some of the classroom activities.

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Wednesday, September 18 and were a huge success. Percentage wise, there was a record turnout for grades 7-12 and a great turnout in the elementary and middle school. We are looking at moving future Parent-Teacher Conferences back on the school calendar.

With all of testing and review work at the start of the year this will allow us to get more of an idea on how the students are doing in the classroom prior to conferences. With online grades and the improved and multiple forms of communication between school and home it is easier to communicate back and forth with your student's classroom grades, work, and progress.

Please don't forget that all home Clarkson-Leigh Patriot varsity competitions are now available online by going to <http://striv.tv/channel/clarkson-leigh> and clicking on the play button on the Patriot logo. This is a great opportunity if you have friends or families who are unable to make the game or may live out of state and would like to keep up on the games of their friends and family.

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Clarkson National Honor Society is sponsoring the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, October 3rd from 11:30am to 5:30pm in the high school gym. The need for blood is constant!

Redcrossblood.org states that a 34-year-old heart surgery patient needed 20 units of red blood cells, so every unit makes a huge difference. The NHS chapter continues to be involved in the High School Young Minds Change Lives Scholarship Program.

Scholarship monies are awarded to winning NHS applicants and the dollar amount is dependent upon the number of units of blood collected during NHS sponsored drives. Please give blood! To set up a donation, contact Jennifer Kappel at the high school or talk to one of the following high school students: Erika Rupprecht, Hannah Baumert, Christopher Konicek, Dwight Brabec.

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## Fall Activity and Retake Photographs Scheduled

The photographer from Lifetouch National School Studios Inc. will be at Clarkson on Wednesday, October 9th to take picture retakes and fall activity pictures. If you choose to purchase photographs you must give your order form and check to the photographer. Checks need to be made payable to the photographer. The photographer will not accept combined order forms or checks from families. Order forms will be handed out to students the week before.

## Business News

By Matt Murren

The school year is off to a whirlwind start! All business classes are flying through content, information, and doing very well. Personal Finance has completed a few chapters on personal financial planning for the future and will be starting a chapter on preparing taxes. They seem excited about the upcoming chapter!

Accounting I has learned about the general debits and credits of accounting thus far and has began to start journalizing transactions. We will soon begin posting transactions to a general ledger so that they can see how transactions are affecting the balances of the accounts. Accounting II just completed a chapter on payroll records, employee earnings records, and taxes. The chapter assignment was challenging but they did a great job, which led them to do great on the chapter test!

Information Management just completed a couple of Microsoft Word projects for class. They were allowed to create a business and then create flyers and brochures to market their business. They all did very well! Elementary Keyboarding is off to a fast start as the students are doing a great job of always keeping their fingers on the home row of the keyboard.

Multimedia is just starting a stop motion animation project, which should be completed in the next few weeks. Our first project was a silent film, which they really had fun with. If you get a chance, it is posted to YouTube and our school website, [www.clarksonpublicschools.org](http://www.clarksonpublicschools.org). On the school website go to students, classroom happenings and select Multimedia. You will then click the link and it will take you to the YouTube video!

As always remember, today is a great day to be a Patriot! GO PATRIOTS!

## Physical Education

By Jim Clarkson

The start of the school year has been outstanding. As the K-12 Physical Education Department Chair, I can say unequivocally that our health future is getting a great foundation. Our elementary students have really shown improvement in coordination and advanced movements through the first half of the quarter, we are currently wrapping up a football skills unit in which there was also some good improvement. Up next we will work on volleyball skills.

In the High School we have been getting good work done in the weight room, I like what I have seen from an effort stand point. In PE 1 in addition to the weights we have also been working on developing some flag football skills. The games have now begun and the 7 game series is pretty intense, man I love competition. The Lifetime Activities class is also wrapping up some flag football, but speaking of competition the volleyball final we had in this class was epic. The Jesse Gall, Thomas Bunner lead team beat a very spirited Johnny Steffensmeier team in a 5 game donnybrook. It was great theatre. I've got a pretty great job. Have a great fall and hope to see you all at a Patriot sporting event. GO PATS!



Jesse Gall, Libby Janousek, Kevin Prokopec,  
Trent Pekny, Thomas Bunner

## Science News

By Suzanne Beeson

With the first quarter half over we are in full swing here in the science room!

8th grade shared their rock collections and tried to categorize them a bit. We are also having fun identifying rocks such as gneiss and marble, conglomerate and sandstone to name a few.

The Freshman are busy doing some algebra to calculate speed of different objects. They have used toys as well as walked and hopped to help learn the formula.

Biology students are making some brief discoveries about biomes. (I always said science would be the greatest class ever if only we could take daily field trips to see all that we study.) Instead we are recognizing biomes from images on the internet.

Anatomy and Physiology students just tested over tissues and are now making models of the integumentary system.

Chemistry students are busy practicing electron configurations while physics studies position-time and velocity-time graphs of motion.

## Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

### **Mark your Calendar!**

Financial Aid Workshop in Clarkson!

EducationQuest will be in Clarkson on Wednesday, November 20th at 6pm to present a Financial Aid Program. New this year, all participants will be entered into a drawing to earn a \$500 scholarship for their son or daughter.

EducationQuest has been presenting this workshop in Clarkson for several years. Generally it is presented over distance learning, this year Clarkson will be hosting the presentation. That means, if you have any specific questions that you would like to have addressed with our EducationQuest representative, plan to come a little early or stay a little bit longer.

Great info will be shared about completing the FAFSA!

### **It's College Fair season!**

Each fall high school students have the opportunity to attend area college fairs. At a college fair, recruiters from colleges set up informational booths and take the time to visit with interested students. This is a great opportunity for high school students to start asking questions about potential schools they may attend. The sophomore class recently took a field trip to the Columbus fair. Students spent over an hour visiting with recruiters. What a great experience! They were able to start creating a mental list of colleges that provide programs of study in the areas they are

interested in. Students also learned about selective programs and the kinds of requirements needed to get into such programs, such as test scores in math and reading. The crew left with bags full of literature and of course – pencils!

### **Upcoming fairs are scheduled in these cities:**

Omaha Area College Fair, Sunday, October 20 1:00-

4:00 p.m. – University of Nebraska at Omaha

Lincoln Area College Fair, Sunday, October 27, 1:00-

3:00 p.m. – Southeast Community College

College Visits and Job Shadowing Opportunities

Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to work with Mrs. Kappel and set up college visits and job

shadowing, as excused absences from school. This year,

the senior class is meeting with Mrs. Kappel during the

Current Events class. During this meeting time, the

class has established plans for graduation but they have

also been given time to apply online to colleges, set up

their college visits with Mrs. Kappel and begin working

on scholarship applications. We will continue to

periodically meet during this time.

## Clarkson receives Grant thanks to

### **Monsanto and area farmers!**

Clarkson Public School is thrilled to receive a \$10,000 grant from Monsanto this fall! The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education grant has been awarded to the school for its Distance Learning Technology proposal. The grant's use is to purchase state of the art technology for the Distance Learning room. The technology will provide students with the opportunity to take classes offered from other high schools and colleges.

We have students taking College English Composition, Calculus, Business Law, Business Math, Accounting and College Algebra. Additional classes will be added second semester. The majority of these classes would not be available to Clarkson students without the distance learning technology and although DL has been around for many years, the technology continues to need to be updated. This grant will provide the funding for a Lifesize ICON 600 Series Video Conferencing System, the Bridge that allows connectivity to other locations, an AVTEQ 800 Dual Monitor Cart – displayed on 52" television screens.

Special thanks to over 50 area farmers who nominated the district for this grant and Monsanto for their generosity in supporting rural education.

A check presentation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, October 10th at 1pm in the high school gym. Nominating farmers will be personally invited to attend the brief ceremony that afternoon. Watch the Colfax County Press and school website for updates.

# READING

@ *your school library*

by Mrs. Alt

“Check out these readers”. This new school year is off and going quickly.

Elementary and middle school readers are “checking out” what’s available at the library. They created a checkerboard of readers on the bulletin board for this 2013-2014 school year @ our school library.

The high school classes came in for book selection during the first weeks. In addition, many of these students have returned the first book and are reading another. Certain series remain very popular with this age level.

Since reading is a strong predictor of a child’s success in school and later in life, it is important to encourage all students to read, opening up new and exiting worlds and building the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

The elementary grades are scheduled each week for checkout, library skills (for example, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are creating a genre log of books read by the students), quiet reading and/or read aloud time.

Elementary grades have library days scheduled as follows:

Kindergarten – Wednesday

Grade 1 – Thursday

Grade 2 – Monday

Grade 3 – Tuesday

Grade 4 – Thursday

Grade 5 – Tuesday

Grade 6 - Monday

Please assist your elementary and middle grade child in responsibly returning books and magazines. Mark your calendar for library day.

The lower elementary grades reviewed book care and selection. The second graders completed book parts.

The fourth through sixth graders are doing book talks on the new 2013-14 Golden Sower nominees. In order to vote in the state election, students need to have read four of the ten titles. To be eligible to vote in the school election, a student needs to have read one book. Lucky sixth graders – **Smells Like Dog** by Suzanne Selfors was their read aloud book in fourth grade so all the sixth graders have one Golden Sower nominee read.

In addition, the entire student body, the staff, distance learning teachers, Board of Education, and administration each have personalized “STARS” outside the library doorway. The really large starry filled wall designates “One School One Team One Goal” @ Clarkson Public School. By working together each day we strive for successful learning-



**One School  
One Team  
One Goal**

