

The Red Review

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clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

As Clarkson Public Schools continues to look at ways to improve the education we provide for our students, we are excited about a major change that will be taking place in March. At the start of the 4th quarter, we will be starting our adventure into being a 1:1 school. A 1:1 school is a school where computers or other digital devices are provided for students in a certain grade range to use in the educational process. We feel it is very important as our curriculum and world continues to evolve that our teaching and education needs to model 21st Century Learning. We have chosen to start in the 4th quarter so as a school district we can get any bugs we may find out of our system going in to the 2014-2015 school year.

For the past two years the staff has been going through in-services with technology training to give them training, tools and resources to use in their classroom with technology. With the constant changes to technology and the use of technology in education we will continue to provide resources to our staff to keep up with continual change of technology. We have also made physical changes like updated our wireless capacities to be able to deal with increased wireless traffic.

Our school's goal with the change is to use technology to enhance student learning. It is important for our students to continue to get a quality education but also to receive one in which they have access to and the ability to work with technology on an everyday basis. Technology has become more and more relevant in our day to day life and it is important for us to make sure we are providing our students the resources and knowledge to live, work and compete in the 21st Century World.

The grades involved will be grades 7-12, so in early March, the students in grades 6-11 will be put through a technology boot camp. During this boot camp the students will be trained in computer care and responsibilities, but also in certain technology skills that will help them with their work with the 1:1. Parents will also be required to attend an informational meeting in March. In this meeting the parents will be informed in many areas, which will include Digital Citizenship,

the parent role with the computers and the student's responsibilities with the computers. More information will be sent out after Christmas so parents will be in the loop of what is going on with the change.

Even though our K-6 students are not involved, they will still have easy access to technology with our mobile computers carts and i-Pads carts to use in the classroom. The younger students have grown up with technology and have shown great skills in using technology. They seem to be fearless in use of technology and are sponges to picking up on using the devices.

Presents for Pats

In the spirit of the holiday season, Clarkson Public School is again looking to help students in our community. We are calling this program "Presents for Pats", incorporating our school mascot. We would like to purchase books and Patriot clothing for children. Here is how you can help! We are asking students to visit with their parents about this project and if possible, to make a small donation. Donations can be turned in to classroom teachers or Mrs. Kappel. If most of our students and staff donate \$1, we will be able to help several children with practical, educational items this holiday season.

The staff would greatly appreciate your support! Monetary donations can be brought in at anytime, but it would be especially helpful if all donations were collected by Friday, December 6th.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Kappel at school, 402-892-3454 or jkappel@esu7.org.

Please consider donating a dollar or two to the Presents for Pats project!

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¡Noticias de Español!

By Vicki Miller

Spanish students of all ages (7-12) took a week out of their regular studies to learn a bit about *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). *Día de los Muertos* is celebrated November 1st and 2nd primarily in Mexico. Though it falls near Halloween on the calendar, it is not just a Mexican version of Halloween. Students discovered similarities and differences between the holidays and the American and Mexican views of death. We read *Mi abuela ya no está* (My Grandma Isn't Here Anymore) and learned about the traditions and meaning of the holiday through the eyes of a young Mexican girl. We sang *Chumbalaca*, a fun children's song that's heard each year for the occasion, and some students even wrote their own verses to the song!

Students explored the World Wide Web to gather more information about beliefs, traditions and symbolic items related to *Día de los Muertos*. Students made various decorations to adorn our classroom for the day, among them *calaveras* (skulls/skeletons decorated in the traditional style) and *ofrendas* (an altar honoring a deceased loved one). Students finished the week by watching *La leyenda de la Nahuala* (The Legend of the Nahuala), an animated Mexican movie that takes place on *Día de los Muertos*. Students picked out references to traditions and beliefs that they had learned about all week. Ask your Spanish student(s) to tell you more about this fascinating holiday!

Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

FAFSA Time Soon Approaching!

Seniors and their parents: Start preparing for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You will complete the form after January 1st and typically before April 1st depending on your college's priority deadline. Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in federal, state and college-based financial aid.

Winning the Scholarship Game

Seniors: Follow the advice below to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- *Don't pay for scholarship searches: Free scholarship search sites are available on the Internet including ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org, which has over 1,800 state and local awards.

- *Visit your school counselor weekly for information about local scholarships. Spreadsheets will

continue to be handed out to juniors and seniors with information about scholarships as they are received.

- *Get organized: Place scholarship applications in deadline order and prioritize each award. Local awards and college-specific applications deserve top priority because you're more likely to earn them.

- *Continually update your activities, honors and volunteer or paid jobs – you can use the Activities Resume at EducationQuest.org

- *Earn the best possible ACT scores by taking the exam in December of your senior year.

- *Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership or other skills. Give them advance notice (at least 2 weeks) and a specific deadline. Writers like to have a copy of part of the scholarship so we have an idea of what the scholarship committee is looking for, a resume with student involvements, and if necessary, an addressed, stamped envelope. Finally: Don't forget to give people THANK YOU's for writing the letters!

- *Get an early start on essays. Describe your interest, hopes for the future, and leadership abilities.

- *Pay close attention to grammar, spelling and neatness. Ask at least two people to proofread your application.

Practice ACT workshop held!



On Saturday, November 9th, 20 high school students participated in a free ACT workshop held at Clarkson High School. This event has been well attended for almost ten years in Clarkson. Students are able to take a retired ACT test under similar testing conditions as is done for the real test. The following week the tests are scored and returned to students. They are given advice in how they can practice and improve their score. Great job Clarkson students!

Calling all Box Top/Campbell's Soup Label Collectors!!!

We still need you to be on the hunt for as many box tops and soup labels as you can find! For participating products, please check out the following websites:

Box Tops: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>

Soup Labels: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/>

Science news

By Suzanne Beeson

Science students are cruising along with a multitude of topics to study before the semester ends.

Earth Science students continue to discuss erosion with their focus now on water erosion. Physical Science students are finishing up their study of heat transfer.

Biology students can compare and contrast for you bacteria and viruses. Chemistry students continue to balance equations while Anatomy and Physiology students are focused on the muscular system.

READING

@ your school library

by Mrs. Alt

The library/media center will house the 2013 Book Fair from Dec. 2-Dec. 6. This year's theme is "**Reading Oasis: A Cool Place To Discover Hot Books**". The profits from this event fill the classroom libraries with new titles. See you in December.

Book Fair dates and open times include:

Mon. Dec 2 – 7:45 - 8:15 AM

3:35 – 4:30 PM

Tues. Dec. 3 - 7:45 - 8:15 AM

3:35 – 4:30 PM

6:00 – 6:50 PM

& after the Winter Festival

Wed. Dec. 4 - 7:45 - 8:15 AM

11:25 – 11:50 AM

12:30 – 1:00 PM

3:35 – 4:30 PM

Thurs. Dec. 5 - 7:45 - 8:15 AM

3:35 – 4:30 PM

Fri. Dec. 6 - 7:45 - 8:15 AM

3:35 – 8:00 PM

We welcome all to come browse the bookshelves. This is a great time to motivate and encourage our readers to excel. Looking forward to seeing you there.

The most frequent comments @ your school library seem to be:

What should I read next? or...

Choosing the "right book"

The "right book for me" has:

- a print size that is easy for my eyes to see.
- a topic that is interesting.
- passes the five finger test.
- from a series I read and liked.
- I can understand and like the first sentence.
- has a front fly, back cover, or back fly that looks interesting.
- has the perfect amount of pictures.
- has a reading level is in a good range for me (not too hard, not too easy).

Using the "Five Finger Test" will help you decide if a book is too hard for you to read.

Five Finger Test

Open your book to a page in the middle that is all text without any pictures. Hold up 5 fingers on one hand. Begin reading at the top of the page. Put up a finger each time you stumble over a word or come to a word you do not know. If you can get to the bottom of the page and still have two or three fingers up, this book has passed the five finger test! It probably is just right for you. Zero or one finger up indicates this book is too easy for you. Four or five fingers up indicate this book is too difficult at this time for you. Keep browsing.

This issue of book selection is visited many times each week. It takes practice, and the students persevere in their quest for just the RIGHT book.

**Parts reprinted from Red Hill Elementary

The beautiful thing about
learning
is that no one can
take it away from you.

B. B. King