

The Red Review

13-14 January Vol. 5

www.clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

As 2014 kicks off and we start the New Year, I hope everyone is coming off a great holiday break and ready to have a fantastic second semester.

As we begin the second semester we have some major yearlong projects that are starting to reach their finishing stages. Our building construction classes, under the direction of Darrell Bailey, are continuing with the renovation of the Fred and Pat Wacha house for our SPED Program. The progress on the house has been amazing and the plan is to host an open house for the community during the second semester so everyone can see the house and learn more about the Life Skills Program we are establishing. We have received some interest from neighboring school districts so we are very excited about not only what we can do for our students but for students in neighboring districts, along with some financial gains for the school district in the area of SPED costs.

We are also getting closer to the start of the 1:1 computer initiative at Clarkson Public schools. The computers have been ordered; boot camps for the students and Computer Use Agreement for the parents have been organized and set up. Our boot camp days are set for March 3rd, 5th and 10th and our parents meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11th. The computers are being issued to the students on that same night in time for the start of the 4th quarter on March 12th. The parents meeting will be an informative meeting about their role in the 1:1 initiative, what the schools expectations are for the students and the parents and some parental information on Digital Citizenship.

We are in the initial planning stages for the class schedule for the 2014-15 school year. We will be working with Leigh Community Schools to see how we can work together to continue to provide a quality education for our students. In creating the schedule we will look at student needs and interests, staff availability and endorsements and other options such as Distance Learning, college classes and online courses to fill our needs. It is quite the process to go through but in the end it is quite rewarding when we can offer a quality schedule to our students.

A couple of winter notes to pass along, with using Alert Now for school closing please make sure Amy Gurnsey has your updated phone number and contact information. There are times parents change cell phone numbers and don't notify us and we are unable to contact them so it is very important to make sure you make us aware of any changes to your contact information. If you have made changes please contact Amy at agurnsey@esu7.org or call her at 892-3454 so we can update our information. Also please make sure to have your students dressed properly for the winter months, make sure they have hats, gloves and warm coats for their transportation to school and for recess. As you know in Nebraska our weather changes on a minutes notice so please make sure your kids are prepared.

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Business News

By: Matt Murren

Well the first semester flew by quickly and finals are in the books! We had a great first semester in all the business classes and I think the students had a great time while learning some valuable material. Unfortunately our Multimedia class' Public Service Announcement for the WOWT Channel 6 challenge was not selected as a finalist for the winner, but they did do a great job. The PSA is online on the school website if you ever wanted to take a look.

Accounting I and II completed their semester final projects. They weren't enthused with the amount of time and work it took but they did a fantastic job. Accounting I did a packet on a business while they journalized, posted, and created financial statements. Accounting II completed a

packet on a business with payroll, taxes, payable/receivable ledgers, and different journals. Like I said they were not enthused with the length of the packet but did a fantastic job completing.

Personal Finance had a great semester. We had many great class periods with discussion on financial activities such as loans, mortgages, taxes, and banking activities. The students did have to fill out a federal income tax return based on a family that was imaginary and they did a fantastic job. Information Management and Junior High Computers both had semester projects. Information Management did some Excel and Word work while also working on photo editing. Junior High Computers completed a personal PowerPoint and it was nice for myself to find out more about the students and their interests.

Hopefully everyone has a great holiday season and a happy New Year! Always remember, It's A Great Day To Be A Patriot!

Girls Basketball

By: Matt Murren

The basketball season is in full force and the girls are doing a great job! They are working hard each and every day and as a coach, that is all we can ask for. I have been very impressed with how hard the girls want to work and their desire to get better each and everyday. Hopefully from your perspective, as parents and fans, you are enjoying watching their hard work and effort on the court!

The varsity just picked up a great, hard fought win against East Butler to go to 3-2 on the season. We ended the game on a 9-0 and the crowd was fantastic! As a coach and for the players, it's always exciting when the fans and students get involved in the game and create a great atmosphere. We close out the week against Pender and Howells-Dodge before the mandatory 5-day moratorium. The Holiday Tournament starts on December 27th with a game against St. Edward at 5:30pm at the Patriot Pavillion (Mr. Clarkson's Name for the Gym!) in Clarkson.

The JV and C Team are continuing their hard work and intensity everyday and are improving. JV is currently 2-2 and C Team is 1-2. As a coaching staff, we are preaching for the girls to always give full effort and intensity every minute of every game and practice. With this happening, we feel we can have great success at all levels. We look forward to seeing you at future games. Always remember, It's A Great Day To Be A Patriot!

Science News

By Suzanne Beeson

One semester down, one to go! Be sure to ask your children how they did on semester tests since everyone took them this year. While an 80% is a C, I am always pleased to have majority of the science students score above that on the semester test. When you put it in terms of retaining 80% of a semesters worth of knowledge it sounds better.

Earth Science completed reviews on plate tectonics and earthquakes, Physical Science ended a unit on electricity, Biology students can list the taxa of a Human (be sure to ask them about the Latin terms they now know), Anatomy and Physiology students are experts on the muscular system, chemistry students continue to build knowledge of chemical equations and physics has delved into machines and their mechanical advantage. I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and happy. Happy Holidays!

Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

Parents of seniors, please use the following information as provided by EducationQuest to help prepare for the FAFSA!

It's time to prepare for the FAFSA!

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Even if you don't think you'll qualify for need-based financial aid, you should complete the FAFSA to qualify for low-interest student and parent loans.

Follow these steps to prepare for, and complete, the FAFSA and the financial aid process:

Contact the college(s) you applied to and ask for their FAFSA priority filing date. Some types of financial aid are awarded first-come, first-served, so submit the FAFSA before that date.

Complete your 2013 taxes early as the FAFSA requires current tax information.

Gather these student and parent items:

- 2013 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2013 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers

- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding your home and retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
- 2013 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2013 Workers' Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2013 such as housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Be prepared to answer the following FAFSA question:

Did you or anyone in your household receive any of the following federal benefits?

- Supplemental Security Income
- Food Stamps
- TANF
- Free or Reduced Price Lunch
- WIC

Complete and file the FAFSA electronically at fafsa.gov before your college's priority date.

Expect a Student Aid Report acknowledging that your form was processed.

Expect Financial Aid Award Notifications in the spring from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the financial aid assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans).

Apply for student and parent loans (if necessary) in the summer through your college.

Check out these free FAFSA tools and resources

Visit the ["FAFSA Tools"](http://EducationQuest.org) section at EducationQuest.org where you'll find:

- **College Funding Estimator** – estimates your FAFSA results
- **FAFSA Checklist** – provides a list of items you need to gather before you complete the FAFSA
- **FAFSA Tutorial** – explains each FAFSA question
- **FAFSA Demo and IRS Data Retrieval videos** – walk you through the FAFSA process
- **"FAFSA Made Easy"** video shows that completing the FAFSA is easier than it seems

If you are filing a FAFSA for the first time and want free personal help, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to make an appointment. Kearney: 308-234-6310 or 800-666-3721; Lincoln: 402-475-5222 or 800-303-3745; or Omaha: 402-391-4033 or 888-357-6300.

Juniors, Please do the following:

__ Register by January 10 for the February 8 ACT, go to www.actstudent.org to register and plan on participating in the John Baylor workshop in January and February! (more details to come)

__ Research colleges and narrow down some that you are interested in – schedule a visit to get on campus – through Mrs. Kappel.

Kearney	Lincoln	Omaha
308-234-6310	402-475-5222	402-
391-4033		
800-666-3721	800-303-3745	888-
357-6300		

Senior Scholarship Project

On December 17th, senior class members were recognized for mock scholarship awards. This is the second year the senior class has participated in the senior scholarship project. Seventeen seniors participated. Three weeks prior to the deadline (Monday, November 11th), seniors were given an instruction sheet and a listing of local scholarships. Based upon the scholarship criteria, students selected two to complete and turn in on or before December 3rd. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Morfeld and Mrs. Kappel evaluated the scholarship applications, providing lots of feedback. Winners were selected and given candy bars for their success. Students were encouraged to take the feedback, make improvements and resubmit prior to the April deadlines. Good job seniors!



Front Row: Sydney Novak, Erika Rupprecht, Jadine Wiese, Trine Svendson
 Back Row: Abbey Hamernik, Hannah Baumert, Kaleb Papousek, Trent Pekny

English Notes

By Lynn Morfeld

The sophomores tried their hand at writing descriptive poetry. They were asked to write a poem about their favorite season. Personification (or, giving inanimate objects human characteristics) was to be illustrated in the poem as well.

Here are a few of their pieces.

On a warm summer night
By Marissa Heins

*On a warm summer Night
Pure bliss is all I could ever imagine to feel*

*When the sky begins to fade into dark;
When everything is – better*

Mud squishes

And squeaks

Between my toes

While the setting sun pounds against my neck

And on the lake,

Glimmering and reflecting

Across the ripples.

Colors of peach and yellow dance

Intertwine

Mingle across the sky,

And it is breathtaking

In the distance,

Rows among rows of towering trees are silhouetted

Along the sunset

Guarding over the

lake,

Like an army –

Taking orders from

the Earth

Locusts buzz amongst their leaves,

Before the crickets come out to sing their song,

And it is calm

- until the

BANG

BOOM

Of the fireworks bellowing

across the sky

And the smell of smoke fills the air

As the sun ducks out of sight.

I watch the sunset

By Brendan Cropp

I watch the sunset

Past my ever dying fire

The smoke rolling off

Hits my face and makes my

Eyes water

I throw another log on,

The flames jump to life

There is barely a sunset now

I can hear the crickets chirping

And see the lightning bugs

I see them glowing softly

In the pale moonlight.

I listen closely and hear the

Cicadas buzzing.

An orchestra is playing

An orchestra of the sounds of summer

The tree branches dance

Against the night sky with

The light breeze

The moon smiles down upon

My camp with its

Witty smile

It's late

It's time

To turn in

The Winter Dance

By Rachel Rupprecht

*Good morning sunshine it's time to
dance!*

Put on your tap shoes and take my hand.

*As we start dancing the other shoes
will follow along. Jazz, hiphop, ballet,
shoes will help make this song.*

*When we step outside it's shivering
cold, thank goodness I am bundled up
like I am always told.*

*Up in the sky there are snowflakes
doing ballet, they float right and left
before we begin the day.*

*As I begin to dance, the ice beneath
my shoes starts to break, it shatters into little
pieces because of all my weight.*

*The air smells so fresh and free, I am
so happy to be me!*

*It's noon now, time for ballet
this is my favorite type of dance and that's
all I can say.*

*The sun up way above me, it's so
warm and calm you see.*

*As the rest of the day goes by,
it warms up and the icicles begin to
cry.*

*As the sun goes down I take
off my dance shoes, I go home and
rest my head and dream midnight blues.*

*Sitting on the cool grass
By Jessi Sayers*

*Sitting on the cool grass
Wearing nothing heavier than a jacket
While the day light is dimming
A spunky red leaf all alone
Is brave enough to dance off the tree by itself.
The wind picks up its voice
Sending a chill to my body,
My nose finds the fields of harvested crops
The light is now full darkness
Up above the stars reunite
After another long day away,
A pack of wolves unite
Singing in harmony to the moon up above.
Hot apple cider takes my mind off work
As it hits my tongue
I know my day of work has ended.*

*Glistening snow flakes
By Alyssa Novotny*

*Glistening snowflakes falling to the ground
Shimmering, swirling, not making a sound
The cubs enjoy one last refreshing drink from the
stream
Before mother bear nudges them to the den to
dream*

*A screech from the hawk lets the little mouse know
it's near
Knowing he should run but paralyzed with fear
Tiny footsteps scrambling through the deep snow
Still thirsty and hungry but he must escape his foe*

The cardinal nibbles at the few berries left on the

*bush
Cracking ice startled her, she quickly left, swish
Singing into the forest both far and near
Powerful warning from the cardinal that winter is
here*

*A coat of ice is sparkling on the trees
A shimmering in the moonlight swaying in the
breeze
Overwhelmed by the weight, small branches
become weak
Crackling and splitting, the branches begin to creak*

*The howling wind, a constant blow
Icicles formed and drifted snow
Day into night and night into day
Bitterness of winter, how long will it stay?*

*Drip, drip, the icicles begin to disappear
The curious cubs are getting near
Puddles are forming as winter begins to thaw
They cautiously examine the pool with their paws*

*A new aroma has filled the air
The two cubs venture on without a care
The snow packed between their toes
Bitter cold upon their nose*

*The fresh smell of new vegetation after the freeze
Sprouting leaves waltzed in the breeze
The baby squirrel arose with a quiver
As the fish danced through the river*

*A warm gust tickled the trees
Putting the creatures of the fresh forest at ease
Days are getting longer, the leaves have begun to
appear
At last, spring is here.*

*As the temperature begins to drop
By Camille Koehn*

*As the temperature begins to drop
And geese begin to soar
You know the time is coming.*

*The sun begins to hide
Before the clock even reaches five.
The winds begin to blow
While the flurries creep in,
You grab a warm blanket
And a cup of hot cocoa.*

*In the distance you hear coyotes
Howling at the soaring moon.
As the moon rises,*

*We can only wait
For the warmth of the sun,
The very next day.*

Fall Sunset
By Brandon Steffensmeier

*Fall sun Burning Bright
All of us are waiting for Night.
For when it comes we will be nice
And cool, But Yet..we Just got
Out of school.*

*When Practice Ends.
So does the sun's realms.*

*You drive home with the
Windows down.
Feel the nice cool sweat.
Trickling down.
You smell Your Practice Apparel.
It smells like 3 day old mayo.
You go outside to hear leaves running on the
ground.
You stay out there, hopefully to not be found.*

Physical Education

By Jim Clarkson

Happy Festivus, for all you Seinfeld fans out there. A great time of year I am a fan of the Holidays as long as I don't have to go to a mall, or Walmart. Here at the school we are wrapping up an enjoyable first semester. In P.E. we have gotten a lot of things in and I am excited about the next semester and what it holds.

To wrap up the first semester we just finished learning, practicing, and playing indoor soccer. It is a sport that a lot of Clarkson kids have not been exposed to. Some picked up the skills very well, the things that I hope they got out of it are teamwork, spacing, and awareness. Like any sport there are lessons to be learned that can help us in everyday life. We did have a pretty epic battle in P.E. 1 with a 5 game series, in which I did include a picture of the championship team.

As we look forward into January I am excited to do a first time unit with our P.E.1 class. This unit is Archery. We were able to get a grant last year, and with some help from Mr. Lemburg it enabled us to get some high quality indoor archery equipment. I am really looking forward to this. We also have some team handball, as well as

badminton, and pickleball It is going to be fun. In the Elementary we will kick off the New Year with some **Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart**. If our elementary students approach you **PLEASE** be open to donating a little bit to try and help a good cause. I realize it is post Christmas but it really is an important cause, we even have a current student **Christopher Konicek**, who had to undergo a heart procedure last year. He is now doing well, but it is a reminder that we must take care of our most vital organ the heart.

One more and I am out of here. I would just like to say thank you, to everyone that supports our school and sports teams. We have a great community here at the school and a great relationship with Leigh as well. The power of sports and/or being part of a team is very important. It can be a sports team or your family or work can be a team, but either way we cannot do it alone. So embrace the Teamlife because when you have a team working for one goal good things will happen. So may you and your Team have a great 2014. GO PATS!



Front Row: Jena Hart, Kendra Marxsen, Shelby Paprocki, Cully Cerv

Back Row: Paxton Indra, Connor Brandt, Blake Paprocki, MaGyver Brabec

Music Department News

By Debra Faltys

It has been a very busy December for kids in the music department. Concerts, pep band, auditions, fundraisers, final exams and that was just in the music room. Guess that is why kids from Class C and D schools are so successful at getting things done when they move onto college life. They have been doing it all already.

We had five students selected to the UNK Honor groups. Philipp Schelhammer made the

UNK Honor Band, Jadine Wiese, Kaleb Papousek, Erika Rupprecht and Christopher Konicek were selected for the UNK Festival Choir. Students will rehearse Monday, January 27, 2014 and the final concert will be at 6:00 p.m. at the UNK Health and Sports Center. The charge for the evening concert will be \$3.00 per person.

We had several students audition for the East Husker Conference Honor Band also, Jenna Podany, Marissa Heins, Jessi Sayers, Trent Pekny, Philipp Schelhammer, Jonathan Langdon, Hannah Baumert and Lucas Gurnsey. We should know the results by the 1st of January. That concert is February 10th in Logan View. Philipp also auditioned for the Class D All State Band. We should know those results also by the 1st of January.

There are 19 junior high students going to the Stanton Honor Choir and Honor Band Festival on the 8th of February. Looking ahead to March, the Honor Band in York will be on the 1st. We look forward to rehearsing and preparing new music for both of these events.

The 5/6 Honor Band at Lyons/Decatur Northeast is on the 15th of March. We will be sending applications when we get back from Winter Break.

The band and choir had two fundraisers. We made and served desserts and had a coffee bar at the Opera House for the performance of the play. We also had a bake sale at the December 6th home basketball game. We made \$500.00 between the two events. Thank you to parents, students and the patrons who made these events a success. As our students continue to audition for honor groups across the state it is becoming necessary to update our technology and the way that we submit our auditions. We also need to update our stereo system for our home performances. Uniforms and robes need to be dry-cleaned. These are all expenses we are currently raising money for.

Clarkson Public Schools currently has four alumni students, Jillian Janousek (Concordia), Bailey Bond, Melanie Faltys, and Marissa Pfeifer (UNK), who are participating in music department programs at the college level. As a teacher it is such a joy to hear and see them continue to love and enjoy performing. I was fortunate enough to hear them at two of the holiday concerts this winter.

2nd Grade News

By Holly Clarkson

The first semester has flown by so quickly! I can't believe a new year is on its way. The second graders have been working a lot this semester on their writing and I would like to put a little sample together of some of the things they have written. Enjoy.

The Vampire Night
By: Chloe Hanel

On Halloween night, I looked out my window and I saw a vampire coming closer to my house. I ran to my kitchen and got my bowl of candy. Then I put it on the porch, shut my door, and ran upstairs and slid into bed. I put the covers over my head and heard pounding on my door. There was a creepy voice that said "LET ME IN!"

I said, "NEVER!"

The vampire put his long fingernails through the door but luckily I have a secret door in my house but he found that too. The thing is though, that I have a rope that you pull and then the bottom of the floor comes open. So sure enough, he opened the door and I pulled the rope and then there was a big BOOM!

I ran out the side door and went down into the cellar, even though there wasn't a tornado. The good thing is, the vampire didn't find me even after he peeked in the cellar door. I heard the cellar door close and then I opened it a little bit. I saw him leave my house and he looked disappointed. He did take my candy though. I smiled and said in my head, "Ha, ha! You couldn't find me!"