

# The Red Review

13-14 February Vol. 6

www.clarksonpublicschools.org

## From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

It is very strange to look at the heading and see the title of February newsletter and try to understand where the school year has gone this year. It just seems like it was August and we were putting the finishing touches on summer projects before school starts. I guess it is true that time flies when you are having fun.

February is usually a tough month during the school year. Basketball is starting to wind up as we go through the conference and sub-district tournaments, students and staff are getting tired of the winter days and since there is not a break from school unless Mother Nature provides a snow day the stretch gets a little long. I am sure the staff and students will not only get through the month but have a great month in all aspects of school.

This is the time of the school year when the Clarkson Speech team starts their competition season. This year we have 26 students competing under the guidance of Troy Mach and Vicky Miller. Following last year's successful run we are looking for a great season from the speech team and we wish them the best of luck. If you haven't gone to a speech meet or performance I would encourage you to attend, it a great experience to watch students put themselves in situations where they step outside themselves to compete. You will find our speech meet events on our online calendar at [clarksonpublicschools.org](http://clarksonpublicschools.org)

Another major event in February is the State Dance Competition. The Patriot Dance Team will compete at the State Dance and Cheer Competition on February 22, in Grand Island. The members of the Patriot Dance Team are Bridget Dinslage, Kaitlyn Dlouhy, Hannah Hake, Karmen Hake, Halee Held, Erika Rupprecht and Rachel Rupprecht. We wish them the best of luck as they compete against schools from across the state.

As March approaches we are putting the finishing touches on preparation for our 1:1 implementation as the computers are in and have been imagined. The students are very anxious about getting their hands on their own computers and we are anxious to see all the hard work the past

couple of years put into motion. If you have any questions about our 1:1 implementation please feel free to call or email. We will be having a mandatory meeting for parents and students in March before the roll out.

## Physical Education

By Jim Clarkson

Happy New Year! Hope 2014 is off to a great start for everyone out there. We have kicked off the New Year at full throttle. In the High School we are playing some Team Handball, which is very intense and at times physical. In the elementary we are knee deep in the Jump Rope for Heart and I would like to thank anyone who has donated money to the cause. In class we have been jump roping fools, some of the older kids have even dabbled into the world of double dutch. It is really fun to watch the kids learn new skills with the jump rope, along with supporting a great charity, that is what it is all about.

I would also like to congratulate Trent Pekny for being selected to play in the Sertoma 8-Man All-Star which will be played June 21<sup>st</sup> in Hastings.



Trent Pekny

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# READING

@ your school library

by Mrs. Alt

“Chilly Readers” is the theme on the library bulletin board that displays brightly colored penguins. As we begin the second semester we have “chilly readers” checking out new reading materials. Several upper level classes visited to browse and select books and magazines to survive this chilly winter.

The second graders are working on table of contents for fiction and nonfiction books. They are also learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction.

A lot of scavenger hunts are keeping the third graders amused. These youngsters are learning to find books on the easy and fiction shelves, and they are learning the importance of ABC order. Also, several are finding new titles and/or series that interest them.

Reference is the WORD OF THE MONTH for the fifth and sixth graders. The fifth graders are delving into the many different kinds of dictionaries as well as the info a dictionary provides. The sixth graders are beginning a Reader’s guide unit this week. Both classes are doing an “excellent” job with the GENRE log sheets. These are the tallest tallies ever!

New titles are being added daily to the shelves. The magazines, especially the current issue, are popular this year with the high school students.

“I don’t have to  
look far to find  
treasures.  
I discover them  
every time I  
visit a library.

-Michael Embry,  
Author

## Sophomore Fundraiser

By Vern Lodl (Sophomore Class Sponsor)

The Sophomore Class at Clarkson Public School has begun the annual fundraiser as of January 22. They are raising funds for their Junior and Senior year activities. Please help them in their cause by listening to their sales delivery when you are approached by one of them. Thank you for your support.

## Counselor’s Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

If you’re a college-bound senior, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to be able to apply for state, federal and college-based financial aid. Submit the form before your college’s FAFSA priority date as some financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served. Priority dates usually fall between March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Check the financial aid section of the college’s website or contact their financial aid office.

When completing the FAFSA – use the following website: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) Please note that this is the correct website – FREE! There are other websites that look similar but charge money to do the same thing.

### Juniors Participate in College Entrance Test Prep Sessions

The Junior class is currently completing college entrance test preparation during their school day. Depending upon the colleges students plan to attend, they made the decision to either participate in the John Baylor ACT prep sessions or the Compass test sessions. Each group received binders with instruction about the material covered in their respective test and sample problems that are assigned each session to complete. Sessions will conclude after the first week of February. Juniors are then encouraged to take their test.

Both the ACT and Compass are used to determine acceptance into colleges or specific programs. The results can also be used to determine scholarship money. Students may be placed into specific courses in college in the areas of math and English based upon their testing results.

### Reminder dates for Juniors for the ACT:

Test Date	Deadline to register
February 8, 2014	January 10, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014
June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014



# Elementary School Parents<sup>®</sup>

February 2014  
Vol. 25, No. 6

Title I Program  
Educational Service Unit #7

*make the difference!*



## Elementary schoolers need to practice what they learn

You've probably heard the old saying, "Practice makes perfect." Well, it really is true. That's one of the reasons teachers give homework. It provides the extra practice children need to remember what they have learned in school.

It's important to make sure your child does her homework every day. You can help by encouraging her to focus when she is doing an assignment. If she doesn't concentrate, she is more likely to forget what she has learned. And remember, the more practice your child gets, the more confidence she will gain.

Also encourage your child to:

- **Make flash cards**—for math facts, vocabulary words, spelling words. Then use them with a timer to

challenge herself. Can she do the entire "7 times table" in a minute?

- **Read a chapter from a textbook** and then have her tell you the key facts of what she read. Be sure to ask her a few questions, too.
- **Share a fact with you.** You might leave time at the dinner table for everyone to share one new thing they have learned that day.
- **Create a matching game.** Put vocabulary words in one column and definitions in another. Have your child match the word with its definition. You could also do this with math facts by putting math problems ( $7 + 4$ ) in one column and answers (11) in another.

Source: J. Thompson, *The First-Year Teacher's Survival Guide*, Jossey-Bass.

## February is a great month for learning!



February includes the birthdays of many famous people. Plan some fun activities to

help your child learn about these heroes, writers, inventors, scientists and artists:

- **February 4**—Rosa Parks. Learn more about this heroine of America's civil rights movement.
- **February 8**—Jules Verne. Read one of his science fiction stories with your child.
- **February 11**—Thomas Edison. Ask your child to create a new invention.
- **February 12**—Abraham Lincoln. Challenge your child to memorize the Gettysburg Address.
- **February 19**—Nicolaus Copernicus. Take a walk together and look at the stars.
- **February 22**—George Washington. In his honor, bake a cherry pie together.
- **February 25**—Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Check out a library book with reproductions of his paintings. Ask your child to paint one of his own.



## Middle school classes can help your child prepare for college



College may seem a long way off, but middle school is the time to start thinking about it.

Taking the right classes in middle school will allow your child to take more advanced classes in high school—classes that help with college admission.

The U.S. Department of Education says middle school students should take these courses when possible:

- **Algebra I** in eighth grade and geometry in ninth grade.
- **English and science.** These should be taken every year in middle school.
- **History or geography.** Middle schoolers should study at least one of these subjects each year.

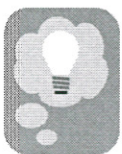
- **Foreign language.** Most colleges require students to have taken two or more years of a foreign language. Beginning these classes in middle school can give your child a head start.
- **Arts and music.** These classes help with intellectual growth.

**Source:** "Getting Ready for College Early," U.S. Department of Education, [www2.ed.gov/pubs/GettingReadyCollegeEarly/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/GettingReadyCollegeEarly/index.html).

**"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."**

—Stacia Tauscher

## Give your middle schooler's critical thinking skills a boost



As your child progresses through school, her teachers will expect higher-level thinking.

Instead of just giving an answer, she will need to give examples to support it.

You can help your child practice this type of critical thinking if you:

- **Slow down.** Don't rush through every conversation with your child. Instead, take time to really discuss various topics, from the upcoming science fair to the weather. The more you explore things in depth, the more opportunities you'll be giving her to think.
- **Don't swoop in.** When your middle schooler is struggling with a question, don't be quick to answer it for her. Instead, give her a chance to mull it over on her own. If she asks, "Which sport should I try out for?" get her to think it over carefully. "Which one do you most enjoy? Is one more challenging than another?"
- **Ask her to explain herself.** When your middle schooler reaches a decision about something, have her put her thought process into words. "I'm excited that you picked basketball. Tell me why you chose that one." By explaining how she made the decision she did, she'll be clarifying it in her own head.
- **Withhold judgment.** You may not agree with your middle schooler's way of thinking on every topic, but you should still respect it.

**Source:** A. LeSorti, "Developing Thinking in the Gifted," The Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education, <http://tinyurl.com/kp86u9m>.

## Do you know what your child does after school?



There are plenty of opportunities for middle schoolers to get into trouble after school—especially if their parents

aren't home. Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out how well you are monitoring your child's after-school time:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you make sure** your child contacts an adult after school, such as a parent, neighbor or sitter?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you keep in touch** by phone when your child is out of school and you are not there?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you encourage** your child to be involved in supervised extra-curricular activities after school?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you have rules** about who may be in the house when you are not there?
- \_\_\_ **5. Have you and your child** discussed the dangers that kids can get into after school (such as alcohol, illegal drugs) and how to avoid them?

### How well are you doing?

Mostly *yes* answers mean you are working hard to keep your child safe and productive after school. For *no* answers, try those suggestions.

### Middle School Parents

*still make the difference!*

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# It Matters: Discipline

## Encourage your teen to become self-disciplined



Discipline and responsibility go hand in hand. And there are many ways you can help your teen become more self-disciplined and responsible.

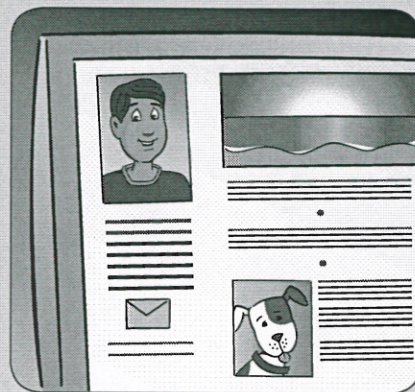
Have your teen:

- **Use a calendar** to manage her time. Seeing her test and project dates alongside those of her other activities will help her see which evenings she has time to relax—and which nights she'll have to buckle down and study.
- **Begin to schedule** her own appointments. This will prepare her to be responsible for managing her time in the future.
- **Set a budget** and stick to it. She may have some spending money from an allowance or a part-time job. The budget will help her pay attention to her spending—and see that adding to her savings can be more rewarding than buying another shirt.
- **Plan a family outing**—even just a local day trip. Planning a trip teaches your teen to be responsible. Have her research places to visit and come up with a budget. She should include travel expenses and money for meals.
- **Read the news.** Learning about the issues world leaders deal with may help your teen see that her responsibilities (like doing the dishes) aren't such major inconveniences after all.
- **Read a book** that relates to one of her classes. Responsible and disciplined students look for ways to complement their learning.

## Find out how friends, TV and social media influence your teen

**E**ven though you have a big impact on your teen's life, you aren't the only one influencing his behavior and his attitude about important things, such as school. Make sure you are monitoring outside influences that affect your teen, like:

- **Friends.** Try to get to know your teen's friends and their families. Allow your teen to invite friends over occasionally. Talk to your teen about what he and his friends do for fun. Ask him if his friends are planning to go to college.
- **Television.** What shows does your teen watch? Watch some of your teen's favorite shows with him, and use them as a starting point for a conversation. Do they promote your family's values? Ask him why he likes the shows.



- **Social media.** Ask your teen about the social media sites he belongs to—Facebook, Instagram, etc. Together, look at some of the things he and his "friends" post online. Are the photos, comments and videos appropriate? Do they reflect your teen's values?

## Effective consequences are natural, related and reasonable



Setting consequences is an important part of discipline. They show your teen that his actions carry results.

Experts agree that consequences are most effective when they are:

- **Natural.** The best consequences happen naturally. Example: Your teen doesn't do his homework. Natural consequence: He earns a bad grade. However, when a natural consequence threatens your teen's safety, don't let it happen.
- **Related.** The consequence should relate directly to what

your teen did. Example: Your teen comes home with an empty gas tank—again. The rule is to fill the tank before returning the car. Related consequence: He can't use the car for one week.

- **Reasonable.** Example: Your teen comes home after curfew. Reasonable consequence: He has to stay home next Saturday night. Not reasonable: He's grounded for two months.

*Source: S. Borowitz and A. Siegler, When We're in Public, Pretend You Don't Know Me: Surviving Your Daughter's Adolescence So You Don't Look Like an Idiot and She Still Talks to You, Warner Books, Inc.*



# February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																			
						<b>1</b> EHC Conference BB Tournament February 1-8, TBA Speech meet @ Stanton Conference Wrestling @ Seward																																			
<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> JH Girls & Boys BB 1:30 @ St. Edward	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Midterm Grades Due to the Office/JV Wrestling tourney 5:00 @ York EHC Conf. AD meeting @ WIP	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Elementary Meeting 7:45 a.m. NHS Blood Drive Wayne Honor Choir	<b>8</b> ACT test date JH Honor/Choir in Stanton Speech meet @ Winside Conference Wrestling 9:00, TBA State FFA Degree Interviews & Proficiency Review - Schuyler																																			
<b>9</b> Dance team to Osceola	<b>10</b> Conference Honor Band at Logan View, 7:00 Concert C team BB 6:00 Madison @ Leigh JH Girls/Boys BB 3:30 @ Humphrey SF School Board Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lincoln's B-Day Parent/Teacher Conference 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> marathon BB 4:30 Stanton@ Clarkson JH Boys BB 3:45 @ Madison	<b>14</b> K-12 Meeting 7:45 a.m. Speech meet @ Lindsay HF	<b>15</b> Speech meet @ Humphrey																																			
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> President's Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter article deadline	<b>21</b> Boys BB 5:30 @ Cedar Bluffs	<b>22</b> Speech meet @ Wisner-Pilger C team Boys BB 9:00 @ Stanton																																			
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:00 Dismissal-teacher in-service School improvement meeting Technology meeting 2:30 FCCIA Peer Ed. Retreat @ Kearney	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Speech meet at Newman Grove	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> HS Meeting 7:45 a.m. Girls BB Districts																																				
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<a href="http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/">http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/</a> © 2010 Vertex42 LLC																																									

Menu subject to change

# February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3 Breakfast - omelet/sausage Lunch - hamburger/bun	4 Breakfast - bkf. Pizza Lunch - chicken nuggets	5 Breakfast - egg sausage English muffin Lunch - pork patty/bun	6 Breakfast - pancake sausage stick Lunch - chicken and gravy	7 Breakfast - bkf. Bites Lunch - beef quesadilla	8
9	10 Breakfast - bkf. Combo Lunch - meat lovers stromboli	11 Breakfast - hot pockets Lunch - meatball sub	12 Lincoln's B-Day Breakfast - sausage egg croissant Lunch - tacos	13 Breakfast - ham egg biscuit Lunch - scalloped potatoes and ham	14 Valentines Day Breakfast - Clarkson Bakery Roll Lunch - chicken patty/bun	15
16	17 President's Day Breakfast - tomato Lunch - ribique/bun	18 Breakfast - muffins Lunch - cheeseburger casserole	19 Breakfast - sausage egg biscuit Lunch - chili	20 Breakfast - homemade burrito Lunch - chicken fajita	21 Breakfast - biscuits and gravy Lunch - pizza	22
23	24 Breakfast - ham egg croissant Lunch - hot dog/bun	25 Breakfast - taco go omelet & sausage Lunch - oven roasted chicken	26 Breakfast - homemade bkf pizza Lunch - sub sandwich	27 Breakfast - bkf sausage/bun Lunch - mini corn dogs	28 Breakfast - Clarkson Bakery Roll Lunch - chicken tenders	

January 2014

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March 2014

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