

The Red Review

15-16 December Vol. 4

clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

As our winter season hits us, I wanted to make sure everyone is on the same page as far as preparing for snow days. Whenever we have a late start or a snow day the call is made as early as possible so parents can make adjustments for their children and for those teachers who live outside of Clarkson can make traveling plans. Our goal is never to put our students and staff in unsafe traveling conditions, we always make the decision looking at the idea is better to be making up days in May then to put students and staff in an unsafe position.

With us using Blackboard Communications for our school closing communication 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@clarkson.esu7.org or call her at 402-892-3454 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.

I truly hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!!!

SENIOR PARENTS

Senior pictures for the yearbook and newspapers must be submitted to Mrs. Morfeld before **Christmas** break:

- Vertical headshot (yearbook, Colfax County Press, Columbus Telegram)

- Baby picture (yearbook)

- Optional Baby Ad (baby picture, message, & \$20)

Contact Mrs. Morfeld with any questions

(lmorfeld@clarkson.esu7.org)

Christmas for our Troops!

Thank you so much students, staff and community members for generously donating to the Christmas for our Troops program in November. Donated items were on display during the Veteran's Day Program at the high school on November 11th. Numerous items were donated including food items, toiletries, magazines, crossword puzzle books, batteries, gum, sunglasses and money to aide in covering postage for the delivery of these items overseas. Special thanks to Pinnacle Bank-Columbus, The Next Generation Kiwanis, Columbus Family Y and the Columbus Telegram for helping to organize this event. Clarkson Public School would like to continue to support this program, please make a note of that for next year and if you have a family member or friend serving, share their address and items can be sent their way! Thank you again!!



The Red Review is a monthly publication of the
Clarkson Public Schools,
PO Box 140, Clarkson NE 68629

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Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

Prepare for the FAFSA with free programs and resources

*Juniors and seniors . . . it's time to start preparing for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

*Seniors – you'll need to complete the form after January 1st but before the college's priority date (typically March 1st or April 1st) to apply for federal, state and college-based financial aid. Juniors, you'll want to start learning about the FAFSA now as changes are happening with the form next year.

Financial Aid Program Webinars

EducationQuest will conduct free webinars on the following dates:

Tuesday, December 8th 7pm <http://eqf.org/1MOliXW>

Wednesday, December 16th 7pm

<http://eqf.org/1P9LFv4>

Monday, January 11th 7pm <http://eqf.org/1LYxtnE>

Wednesday, January 13th 7pm <http://eqf.org/1LYyjRj>

To join the webinar, click on the link under your desired date. The password is college.

College Funding Estimator

To estimate your FAFSA results now, use the College Funding Estimator at EducationQuest.org.

<https://www.educationquest.org/resources/college-funding-estimator/>

“Paying for College” EducationQuest.org

Visit the website for information about the financial aid process and the FAFSA.

<https://www.educationquest.org/11th-12th-grade-students/paying-for-college/>

Seniors . . . have you submitted your college applications?

If you haven't submitted your college admission applications yet, it's time to get serious! Contact your top college choices for application deadlines and procedures. Ask if the admission application is also the application for college-based scholarships. If not, ask about the scholarship application process.

<https://www.educationquest.org/11th-12th-grade-students/selecting-a-college/are-you-ready-to-apply2college/>

Winning the Scholarship Game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- Don't ever pay for scholarship searches! Use FREE resource such as ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. Free national sites include Fastaid, ScholarshipExperts.com, School Soup and Scholarships.com
- Visit your school counselor often for information about local scholarships.
- Focus on local and college-specific scholarships because you're more likely to earn them.
- Update your activities, honors, community service or paid jobs using the Activities Resume at EducationQuest.org
- Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exam in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year.
- Use quality references such as the teacher, coach or counselor. Encourage them to write specific examples of your leadership skills. Give them advance notice and a specific deadline.
- Tailor your essay to the scholarship. Ask an English teacher to read your essay and offer advice on making a big impact. Your essay will need to stand out from other applications.

December “To Do” List

Complete these tasks during December to stay on the college-planning track.

Seniors:

Submit college applications.

Estimate your FAFSA results using the College Funding Estimator at EducationQuest.org.

Watch a Financial Aid Program Webinar.

Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors:

Watch a Financial Aid Program Webinar.

Search for scholarships.

Register by December 28th for the January 23rd SAT.

Register by January 8th for the February 6th ACT.

For FREE help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

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

EducationQuest.org: Follow on Facebook and Twitter for college planning tips!

Senior Scholarship Project

In December, senior class members will be recognized for mock scholarship awards. This is the fourth year the senior class has participated in the senior scholarship project. Approximately two weeks before the deadline (Tuesday, November 10th), seniors were given an instruction sheet and a listing of local scholarships. Based upon the scholarship criteria, students selected two to complete. Mr. McEvoy assigned this as a grade in his Current Events class and Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Morfeld and Mrs. Kappel are currently evaluating the scholarship applications and providing lots of feedback. Winners will be selected and be recognized for their success. Students are encouraged to take the feedback, make improvements and resubmit prior to the actual April deadlines. Good job seniors!

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/>

Sophomores write letters to the Veterans.

Dear Veteran,

In my English class we've been learning how to write letters. While learning how to write letters we learned the importance of writing them. Writing letters is turning into a lost art. When I saw a documentary on war letters it really showed me how important writing letters can be.

In this documentary the sheer details of the war made me appreciate wartime soldiers. You never really know the true extent of war. You have to be there to know how it feels. One soldier said that he didn't see people, he saw targets. Then one soldier explained what it was like to lose a friend. His family and his fellow troops would be the only ones who would remember him.

I suggest that everyone watch the whole documentary. My favorite part had to be when they read the letters of the soldiers coming home. They were so sweet, but sad at the same time. Especially when one soldier asked for patience and understanding from his family. Everyone should see it to have a better understanding for what you and many others went through.

These war letters show so much value for writing letters. Many soldiers died after those letters were sent. If I received one of these letters and found out that my

loved one died, I would protect that letter with my life, as many probably did.

I'd like to end this by saying thank you for serving this country we call home.

Extremely grateful,
Jacquelyn Lee

Dear Veteran,

In English class we talked about letters. Since it's Veterans Day, we watched a documentary called War Letters. It was a compilation of letters that soldiers had written to various people and letters people had written to soldiers. It was an amazing thing to watch.

Watching this documentary helped me realize just how much soldiers hate war. While listening to the letters I thought, "Well, if you knew it was going to be awful, why do it?" I realized that these men went into war knowing it would be a terrible experience to protect their country, to protect us. The respect I have for them is immeasurable.

I think there are two specific parts everyone should watch. The first being the letter where L. Cpl. Stephen Daniel [Vietnam War] talks about the death of his friend Lee Clark. He's angry about it because he knows this man didn't deserve to die because "Clark did more for the U.S. than any president or senator." Daniel also said he didn't deserve to die for people who don't care about him, for the people who will never care to know his name. That letter shows just how soldiers would appreciate recognition.

The second part is the last letter where a Vietnam veteran, Richard A. Luttrell, leaves a letter to a Vietnamese soldier he had killed. He had carried a picture of this man and his daughter for years. Luttrell was apologizing for killing him when he had let him live. It was heartbreaking to see how guilty he was. It shows that our soldiers really do care about the things they do in war.

This documentary teaches us that letter writing is important. It's a part of history and can teach us so many things. These letters were the soldiers' lifelines; they were what they could look forward to, the people receiving them too. Without letters, these soldiers would be completely cut off from everyone with no way to vent.

Since they wrote letters, everyone has the opportunity to learn from them. We have the opportunity to see just to learn from them. We have the opportunity to see just how much the soldiers sacrifice for us and their country.

Sincerely,
Breanna Ashton



Scholastic Book Fair

The library/media center will house the 2015 Book Fair from December 7 - December 11. This year's theme is "Monster Book Fair." 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 7 - 7:45 - 8:10 AM
3:40 - 4:30 PM
- Tues. Dec. 8 - 7:45 - 8:10 AM
3:40 - 8:00 PM Oakland-Craig Basketball
- Wed. Dec. 9 - 7:45 - 8:10 AM
12:00 - 1:00 PM PreK-2nd Parent Lunch
3:40 - 4:30 PM
- Thurs. Dec. 10 - 7:45 - 8:10 AM
12:00 - 1:00 PM 3rd-6th Parent Lunch
3:40 - 4:30 PM
- Fri. Dec. 11 - 7:45 - 8:10 AM
3:40 - 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.

Science News

By Suzanne Beeson

Physics students are busy calculating projectile motion using a launcher.



Marissa Heins, Colton Pospichal, Brendan Cropp, Alex Novotny, Alyssa Novotny

Patriot Football

By Jim Clarkson

I would also like to thank everyone for the support of the Patriot Football team this year. It was an absolute blast of a season. The players and coaches worked very hard, but trust me we had a lot of fun everyday. This is a great sports community. Go Patriots!

We also had several players make the All-District Team.
 1st Team - Kobe Paprocki, Seth Thompson, Brandon Steffensmeier, Colby Becker, Tyrell Pokorney, Bradley Bunner
 2nd Team - Dominik Harper, Tony Cuyler
 Honorable Mention - Brody Boyd

PE News

By Jim Clarkson

As we head into the Holiday season, the competition in the various PE classes have been amped up substantially. After playing 4 square for several weeks (Check out the Champions below) we have now advanced onto indoor soccer. After a couple weeks of skill development we have now moved onto game play. Let me just say I like the aggression and competitive will. There are definitely some bruised shins and banged up elbows, but hey if you feel too good you're not living right, at least that is what I tell myself. As a reminder coming up after the Holiday break in January Jump Rope for Heart will be kicking off, so thank you in advance for all the support that goes along with that. Have a great winter, but do not let the cold weather stop you from being active. As they say in Shawshank Redemption "Get Busy Living or Get Busy Dying"

4-Square and 2-Square Champs



Abigail Langdon



Travis Stanley



Kobe Paprocki

READING

@ your school library

by Mrs. Alt

News this summer from the Nebraska Library Commission regarding updates about the NebraskAccess database were welcomed for the K-12 students and teachers. Students, as well as all Nebraska residents have access to refreshed lineup of 15 databases. These databases offer reliable sources in today's Internet cluttered with information.

NebraskAccess provides Nebraska residents with free 24/7 access to premium databases containing thousands of full text popular magazine and journal articles; primary source documents; genealogical, health, legal, small business, and science resources; reading recommendations; and research resources for K-12 students. These resources are available to Nebraska residents at no cost. The Nebraska Library Commission purchases subscriptions for Nebraskans with funding from the State of Nebraska and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Community residents looking for free resources to create a family history, establish a small business, learn about medical conditions, get homework help, find a good book or movie, plan for retirement, or research thousands of other topics will find dependable current information in NebraskAccess.

Students can link to NebraskAccess resources from computers at home, at our school, and at public, K12 school, college, or university libraries across Nebraska. Access to these resources from any Internet connection is available using one password (given at the library), or a Nebraska driver's license, or state identification number.

Our students may access these databases on the school web page –

www.clarksonpublicschools.org

Under **Students** tab

slide down to **Subscriptions**

click on **NebraskAccess**

It is exciting to offer these resources to the students.

**Knowledge is free
at the library. Just
bring your own
container.**

November's Artist of the Month



Kendall Samek

**Happy
Holidays!**

Elementary School Parents[®]

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Title I Program
Educational Service Unit #7

make the difference!



Ask questions to strengthen your child's comprehension

Much of your child's school success will depend on reading comprehension. Comprehension is much more than having your child recognize the words she is reading. It means that she also understands the *meaning* of what she is reading.

To strengthen your child's reading comprehension, encourage her to:

- **Summarize.** Talk with your child about the material. Ask her to recall facts (such as characters, setting and plot), but also ask questions that require deeper thinking: What problems did the characters face? How does the story progress from beginning to end? Why did things turn out the way they did?
- **Make connections.** Ask your child what she has already learned or experienced that relates to the story. Is the story like or unlike

others she's read? If the story is about a mouse, for example, what does she know about mice that matches or doesn't match the information in the story?

- **Solve problems.** Ask your child how the characters were affected by one another's actions. Can she imagine things from different viewpoints? If your child took a character's place, would she make the same decision the character made? How might this have changed the story?
- **Apply knowledge.** Ask your child to explain the message or moral of the story. Did the author have a clear opinion? If so, what was it? Does your child agree? How can your child apply what she's read to her everyday life?

Source: "Reading Comprehension and Higher Order Thinking Skills," K12 Reader, niswc.com/elem_reader.

Midyear is a time to review attendance



The halfway point of the school year is approaching. It's time for a mid-year checkup on your

child's attendance.

Researchers in Oregon looked at what happens when students miss as few as one day every two weeks. Here's what they found:

- **School absences add up.** Kids who aren't in school can't learn what's being taught.
- **Missing school becomes a habit.** Students who miss a lot of school in kindergarten are still frequently absent in fifth grade.
- **There is a clear relationship** between early attendance and later achievement. Kids who come to school regularly in the early grades are still doing well in secondary school.

How many days of school has your child missed? It's not too late to get back on track so he can have a successful school year—and school career.

Source: M.H. Buehler and others, "Why Being in School Matters: Chronic Absenteeism in Oregon Public Schools," Attendance Works, niswc.com/elem_attendance.

Take advantage of the winter break to prepare for college



It is never too early for your high schooler to start thinking about college applications.

And winter break can be a productive time for all teens to think about their futures.

Here are some guidelines:

- A freshman or sophomore can use this time to start looking at college websites and brochures. If he has an idea of what he would like to study in college, he can focus on schools with strong programs in that area. Your teen can also review the admittance requirements for his potential course of study. That way, he can work with his counselor in the spring to make sure he takes the appropriate classes in high school.

- A junior can narrow down the list of colleges he'd like to visit. Many colleges have open houses in the spring. Make travel plans now, if necessary—planning early often means getting the best prices. You might also suggest your teen write a practice college application essay or update his résumé.
- A senior should be wrapping up his college applications—many are due in January. Remind him to make copies of his applications before he sends them, so he's not starting from scratch if one gets lost in the mail or if the file doesn't go through. And be sure to celebrate when he has completed all his applications!

Source: "Applying to College: FAQs," BigFuture, The College Board, niswc.com/high_college.

Community service should be a year-round priority for teens



Educators know that community service has significant academic benefits for students.

It gives students an opportunity to apply what they've learned to real human needs.

Volunteering also helps students gain valuable life experience and skills—which can put them on the path to their future careers.

Ask your teen to research and select an organization that your family can help. As a family you could:

- Support an organization. Some families give a monetary gift to a charity they support. But that isn't the only way to help. Find out if you can collect old blankets

and bring them to an animal shelter. Could you organize a collection of canned goods for a food pantry? Would your local hospital accept a donation of gently-used books or movies?

- Prepare and serve a meal. A local soup kitchen or homeless shelter may need volunteers to prepare and serve a meal.
- Give the gift of time. Is there a nursing home nearby? Ask if there are any residents who do not have regular visitors.
- Give a gift anonymously. Perhaps your teen knows someone who is going through a rough time. Leaving a small plant or a batch of cookies at their doorstep could lift that person's spirits.

Q: My daughter has come down with a serious case of "senior slump." Unfortunately, it's only the first semester of her sophomore year! She's stopped doing homework, according to her teachers. She just doesn't seem to care whether she passes or not. How can I get things turned around so that she actually makes it to her senior year?

Questions & Answers

A: Right now, your teen is putting a lot of energy into *not* caring. The challenge is to get her to apply that energy to doing something productive.

Here are four time-tested steps you can take:

1. **Think about what's different.** Does she have a new group of friends? Did she enroll in more (or less) challenging courses this year?
2. **Talk with her teachers** about what they're seeing. If there are teachers, counselors or coaches who knew her last year, seek their input as well.
3. **Talk with your daughter** about her progress in school. Tell her that even if she doesn't care about school, you do. Relationships matter with teens.
4. **Set deadlines and specific goals** with your teen. She may be feeling overwhelmed, so help her focus on specific positive steps she can take. She may not be able to raise her English grade this marking period, but she can read the novel the teacher assigned. She can do her math homework every day. Each positive step will motivate her to try a little harder.

Calendar Events December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>District One Act at Elgin Pope John 1:00 performance</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Wrestling Dual 6:30 Crete at Schuyler (JV/Varsity)</p> <p>FCCLA Family Christmas 7:00 in Leigh</p>	<p>4</p> <p>High School Teacher Meeting 7:45 a.m.</p> <p>Marathon BB 4:30 Humphrey/LHF at Clarkson</p>	<p>5</p> <p>JH Wrestling Tourney 8:30 at Schuyler</p> <p>Wrestling Tourney 8:30 a.m. at York (JV/Varsity)</p> <p>Marathon BB 2:00 at Madison</p> <p>JH Girls BB 9:00 Humphrey/LHF at Leigh</p>
6	<p>7</p> <p>FFA District 1SF Contest at East Butler</p> <p>JH Wrestling Triangular 7:00 at Howells</p> <p>C Team Basketball 6:00 East Butler at Brainard</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p>	<p>8</p> <p>JH Girls BB 5:00 at Battle Creek</p> <p>Marathon BB 4:30 Oakland Craig at Clarkson</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p>	<p>10</p> <p>JH Girls BB 3:45 Madison at Leigh</p> <p>C Team BB 6:00 Aquinas at Leigh</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>Marathon BB 4:30 at Winside</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wrestling Tourney 3:00 at Boys Town (Varsity)</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair</p>	<p>12</p> <p>JH Wrestling Tourney 9:30 at Boone Central (Albion)</p> <p>Wrestling Tourney 9:00 at Boys Town (Varsity)</p> <p>JV Wrestling Tourney 9:00 a.m. at Fort Calhoun</p> <p>Marathon BB 2:00 Lyons-Decatur NE at Lyons</p> <p>ACT Test Date</p>
13	<p>14</p> <p>C Team BB 6:30 HSF at Leigh</p> <p>School Board Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>JH Girls BB 3:30 Schuyler at Leigh</p> <p>Marathon BB 4:00 GACC at Clarkson</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Wrestling Quad 6:00 at David City High (JV/Varsity)</p> <p>Marathon BB 4:30 at Pender</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PreK-12 grade Winter Music Concert 7:00 p.m. in Clarkson</p> <p>Wrestling Varsity Flatwater Fracas Tourney at Grand Island (Heartland Event Center)</p> <p>PreK-12 teacher meeting 7:45 a.m.</p> <p>Fire Drill</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Wrestling Varsity Flatwater Fracas Tourney at Grand Island (Heartland Event Center)</p> <p>Marathon BB 1:00 Howells-Dodge at Howells</p>
20	<p>21</p> <p>High school Finals</p>	<p>22</p> <p>High School Finals - 1:00 Dismissal</p> <p>NO ELEMENTARY</p> <p>End of the 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester</p> <p>Newsletter article deadline</p> <p>Marathon BB 4:00 B-R at Bancroft</p>	<p>23</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p>	<p>24</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p>	<p>25</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p>	<p>26</p>
27	<p>28</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p> <p>Holiday BB Tournament in St. Edward</p>	<p>29</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p> <p>Holiday BB Tournament in St. Edward</p>	<p>30</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p> <p>Dance Team Christmas Party 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</p>		



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	01	02	03	04	05
			B-biscuits & gravy L-spaghetti	B-bacon pizza L-chicken tenders	B-breakfast chicken patty L-calzonette	B-Clarkson Bakery rolls L-chicken patty	
	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
		B-pancake sausage stick L-quesadilla	B-bkfhm egg croissant L-sub sandwich	B-French toast & sausage L-chicken fajita	B-pizza bagel L-taco salad	B-hOMEMADE burrito L-pizza	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		B-muffins L-chicken nuggets	B-egg sausage biscuit L-pork steak	B-breakfast pizza L-chicken fried steak	B-omelet & sausage L-tacos	B-Clarkson bakery rolls L-stromboli	
Clarkson Public Schools	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Lunch Menu		B-ham eggs L-bagel hamburgers	B-combo L-fiestada pizza				
Menu Subject to change.	27	28	29	30	31	01	02

December 2015

Clarkson Public Schools
PO Box 140
Clarkson NE 68629

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