

## From the Superintendent's Desk

By: Rich Lemburg

As we turn the calendar to the start of December it is amazing to see how fast the school year has gone. The great fall weather really helped to push the calendar along and to shorten our winter spell.

As we hit December, we are looking for a strong finish to a great first semester. Part of the strong finish is the annual taking of semester tests for grades 7-12. In the past few years as we continue with our 1:1 instruction and talk to the business sector on what skills they want their employees to have; we have tweaked how the semester tests have been administered. Our goal of semester tests are aimed at three main factors, students ability to show retained knowledge, their ability to present in front of a group and the student's ability to work collaboratively with other students.

Teachers will use different methods of semester tests to monitor student learning and to see what information has been learned throughout the semester. Some will use a traditional test to see what learning students have retained through the semester. Other teachers have the students work together in a collaborative setting to research and present which allows our students the opportunity to develop skills to work with others in collaborative situation. Third, teachers may also have their students doing individual projects and presentations to the class over different topics that help the students to get more in-depth with different subjects. This module allows the students opportunities to give presentations in front of peers and get them use to presenting to a group.

As schools continue to work with the business world to see how each can help we can work together to help students to gain skills and knowledge to be productive and successful in the workforce. These different semester tests methods have helped the students to have different opportunities to gain skills that will help them after they leave us at Clarkson Public Schools. I truly hope everyone has a great Holiday Season!!!

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## Notes from the Principal

By: Lee Schneider

It is amazing to believe that Thanksgiving is over and I am reaching out to talk about the end of the semester, finals, and the start of our winter sports season. First, I want to say how lucky we have been with the weather (fingers crossed it stays!) and with the success that we have already this school year.

The atmosphere and attitude within the building have been GREAT! It is amazing that finals will be coming up within the next couple weeks. Please, make sure to check in with our school website, as we will have our winter test schedule out. We are hoping to keep the same set-up that we went with last year.

With our winter sports starting it is important that we all look for last minute updates. We try very hard to have everything in place as early as we can but there is always changes. Either with a location, time or amount of games. I know already, that our own boys and girls basketball teams will be playing modified JV games. I have also fielded multiple email from other schools that will only be able to play 2 quarters or 3 of JV. So, with that being said please make sure to check the calendar. We will be updating it on a daily basis! Also, don't forget about the inaugural season of Patriot Wrestling!! We won't be hosting any meets yet, but we have plenty of tournaments and duals that are close by!! GO PATS!





## P.E.P Time: Robotics

By Susan Becker

One of the recent PEP classes was on Robotics. Julie Kreikemeier and Scott Riener from the Nebraska Extension Office came to Clarkson School for four weeks to teach students about Robotics. Students were able to assemble a computerized robot using LEGO EV3 Robotics kits. The students programmed the robot to move in different directions. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we appreciate Julie and Scott taking the time to share with us. Here is just a sample of the students' thoughts about Robotics.

Robotics has been amazing so far. Julie and Scott are our teachers. We are making robots out of Legos. I am in a group with Dexter and Troy. We do robotics in PEP. We have to make a robot with our group members. On the first day of robotics, we had to make a robot and see if it could hold a stress ball when it went down a ramp. We had to program the robot. My favorite part about programming the robot was when we got to move the robot with the Ipad and brick.

By Rylee Balzer

Robotics has been really fun. We get to do Robotics with Legos. The biggest piece is the brick. That's kind of like the brain of the robot. It is really hard to follow the directions completely. We got to program the robots. We got to make it move. The worst part was taking it apart.

By Korbin Lemburg

Robotics has been very fun because we get to build robots that move and when you program them they move. Another thing I liked in robotics was that we got to program the robots from the Ipad and we got to race them. It was fun driving the robots on the Ipad and racing them.

By Troy Graybill

Robotics Legos are fun because they aren't like regular Legos. They use a brick and cords. Julie and Scott helped us build it. The robotics vehicle uses motors, brick, and color sensors. One mess up could make the machine not function right. The programming was the funnest part because you got to see the robot move and race. I wish we could have had more time with Robotics.

By Dexter Indra

Robotics has a lot of pieces to put together. We use instructions to the robot together. My group took turns putting the Legos together. Everyone had an Ipad. The Ipad can control the robot. We made the robot move forwards and in a circle. We took turns to move the robot.

By Cadin Brandt



## Christmas for Our Troops

By Jennifer Kappel

Clarkson's National Honor Society Chapter sponsored the Christmas for our Troops project, working in conjunction with Pinnacle Bank-Columbus, The Next Generation Kiwanis, Columbus Family Y and the Columbus Telegram. Items were collected to be shared with our current military troops stationed overseas or in the states. Items collected included food items, toiletries, magazines, crossword puzzle books, batteries, gum, sunglasses and money to aide in covering postage for delivery of these items overseas. More than 1,300 items were collected and combined with donations collected at Columbus businesses and other area high schools.

This project became a class competition and the 8th and 10th graders won in their divisions, earning dessert for their class. The 6th graders won in the elementary and got to watch a movie. Thanks for everyone's support!

## 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](mailto:lmorfeld@clarkson.esu7.org))



## English Notes

By Lynn Morfeld

### War Letters

In 2001, a PBS documentary called War Letters was televised to accompany a book by the same name. War Letters (the book) contains over 150 letters from soldiers and their families from the American Revolution, the Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. Editor Andrew Carroll compiled the book from over 50,000 letters that had been sent to him by families of soldiers.

The end result is a powerful read about Americans on the front lines and on the home front.

The sophomores at Clarkson watched the hour-long documentary after a few lessons about the importance of letter writing (and writing some letters themselves). The timing couldn't have worked out better, as we watched War Letters the week before Veterans Day. In response to the video, students were to target a response to a veteran. Here are some of their letters.

Mrs. Morfeld has a copy of both the book and the video (VHS), but the video can also be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKpUEv1Ubms>.

Dear Veteran,

For a couple of weeks now, my class has been studying the nonfiction unit in English. Earlier this week we had to write a letter to someone we haven't spoken to in awhile. Just recently, our teacher, Mrs. Morfeld, had us watch a documentary about various letters from soldiers who've been in war. We're now given the opportunity to write a letter to a veteran.

Watching the documentary War Letters gave me more insight on what actually happened in every war. Hearing the soldiers talk about how scared they were and how much they missed their loved ones, really made me realize that soldiers are more brave than we even know. We really have no idea what they had to go through and all of the gruesome deaths they witnessed - deaths of some of their closest friends. I now appreciate what the soldiers do for us, because there is no way someone like me, or anyone I know, could even come close to the bravery each and every one of the soldiers had. Without the soldiers, we wouldn't be living in this amazing country we get to call home.

I realized now that most of these men counted on getting a letter from someone, because that was their only source of communication outside of war. Letters let them escape from the brutality of war and let them know that someone is thinking about them. These soldiers left their wives, newly born children, parents, and girlfriends. They did all of this simply to keep people they didn't even know safe. You'd have to be completely selfless, and that's a very hard thing to do.

In this documentary War Letters, there is a part where a soldier gets a letter from his girlfriend while at war. She tells him that she met a new guy, and that she's sorry. He then replies to her saying he will be okay without her, and he doesn't even care. But sadly the soldier died only 2 days later. There are theories that say this man died on purpose. He charged and attacked on his own without permission, causing him to get killed instantly. I think people should watch that part, because it's hard to imagine what that soldier was going through. His girlfriend gave him something to motivate himself, to fight, and come home to see her. Knowing that you've just lost someone you care about so much, could mess with your mental state. This slip clearly shows what some soldiers

have to deal with on a daily, and not just with their girlfriends.

Letter writing now has become extremely rare, and very few can say that they've sent a letter recently. Nowadays with technology being so advanced, it's really easy to just send a quick text and say, "Hey, how's it going?" You're texting, but it doesn't show the other person who you are. When you're loved one is in war, there isn't a time where you can just pick up your phone and text them quickly. They can't receive messages that way. The only form of communication for them is letter writing. There isn't "spell check" or "emojis" in a hand-written letter; this piece of paper is 100% you. Getting letters from loved ones gave every soldier a little taste of home; it made them feel like they were actually with that loved one. The soldiers can also keep those letters wherever they may go. Anytime when they miss their loved one, they can open up that letter and instantly be happy. It's important to remind your soldier that you are thinking of them, especially when they need it most.

I truly believe that soldiers need that certain reassurance from their loved ones to keep themselves going. Love goes a long way, the families of soldiers could back me up on that. I personally thank all of the soldiers who've given me my freedom, and I encourage everyone to thank a soldier like you.

Sincerely,  
Halee Steffensmeier

Dear Veteran,

We are currently in a nonfiction unit and focusing on letters. We have read a story about the importance of letters and how to write them.

We were also assigned to write a letter to someone we haven't talked to in awhile. Today, we finished up a video that was called War Letters. It was all of these letters that were written by soldiers and sometimes the replies.

Some of the letters had writing in them like, "How do you tell your parents you're going to war?" or "Why do I have to be the one to tell someone to do something that may get him killed?" Another letter told a soldier of the arrival of his new baby but also of the death of his wife. These words really caught my attention and gave me a whole new appreciation for our troops and veterans who have been

through this. The documentary War Letters made me appreciate everything you have sacrificed for our country as well as how brave and courageous you were and probably still are. It made me realize what you have gone through and how hard it must have been. For me, being away from home for a week is hard. I start to miss my family and the home cooking and my bed. I couldn't even imagine what it must have been like to be away from home for so long, especially under the circumstance of war.

If I could suggest one part of this documentary for everyone to watch, it would be the "coming home" portion. I would suggest this part because it showed the soldiers' excitement for coming home and what they had gone through and what the soldiers were thinking. One of the soldiers said his family would have to have patience with him because there are wounds they can't see. Another letter showed a soldier's excitement for the end of WWI. It made me happy and also made me realize how tough war is.

I believe that War Letters teaches us that the value of letter writing is very important for the soldiers. Letters were a piece of home and the only way they could communicate with their families. For the ones back home who were receiving the letters, it was reassurance that their loved ones were still alive. After watching this video, I have a whole new respect for soldiers and something as simple as a letter. I appreciate everything you have done for our country. I might start writing more letters after seeing the value they have had for some people. Thanks for your service and everything else you have done.

Sincerely,  
Abigail Langdon

Dear Veteran,

We are doing a unit in English about letter writing. We also watched a movie that presented letters by soldiers from war. This opened my eyes about what happens at war and how tough it really is on the soldiers.

The documentary that we watched was called War Letters. It was a compilation of several letters written by soldiers during war.

This made me appreciate that vets/soldiers really put their well-being on the line for our country. I honestly did not realize the value of

letter writing to the soldiers. I had no idea how many letters they wrote.

A specific part of the documentary had a letter from a veteran to the man he killed during the Vietnam War. The vet wrote this man a letter and put it at the Vietnam War Memorial. I think that everyone should watch this part of the documentary. The American's point of view opens your eyes to the fact that when you kill a person in battle, they are leaving behind a family also. It is eye-opening in the fact that you realize EVERY single soldier has someone that loves them, and they are heartbroken when they don't come home.

War Letters really teaches you the value of letter writing. You see how many soldiers wrote letters and how important it was to them.

We even saw one soldier beg the person he was writing to to write him back. Letter writing was their only form of communication, so they cherished it.

Thank you for your service to our country. This documentary really opened my eyes to what war was like and the value of letter writing. Thank you again, and God bless America.

Sincerely,  
Sara McEvoy

Dear Veteran,

In our English class, we are in a nonfiction unit. We read a story about the need to keep the art of letter writing alive. Our English teacher then proceeded to show us a documentary called War Letters. It was about different people writing to their loved ones at home while they were at war. It showed us letters about combat training. It then proceeded to try to give the people back home an explanation of what war was like. I think the part that would scare me the most was hand-to-hand combat - when you get right up close to the person and have to look them in the eye before you killed them. Just knowing what you must have gone through while at war made me appreciate you that much more. I can't even imagine how tough it must have been for you, missing family and friends. It also told us about all the little things they missed. They would have given up their car, hot girl, and cool drinks just for a blanket or shoelaces. This really opened my eyes to all the things I take for

granted every day. I have a whole pile of blankets laying on my bed right now, and they couldn't even get their hands on ONE.

I knew that war was difficult, but you never really think about it until you see something like this. Now my mind is just racing. I keep trying to put together an image of what it was like. They can take pictures or videos, but they will just never do war justice, I'm sure. I realized just how hard it can be to shoot at another man. You saw the people that died. I just assumed it was a faceless opponent, but now I know it wasn't.

I think the most moving part of this documentary that everyone should watch would be the letter that was written to a soldier who had a baby born back home. It also told of the passing of his wife. It really makes a person think about how difficult it must be for the soldiers. He missed out on his baby being born, and he will miss out on the funeral for his wife.

He has to grieve on the other side of the world, away from his family. He gets the news in a letter instead of in person. His family has each other to be supported; he has no one to help him get through this very difficult time. He just has to grieve in silence. He is also missing out on a very important time in the child's life. He misses out on deciding how it will be raised.

That baby has no one; it has no mother or father there. He has both joy and sorrow. This really portrays just how difficult it is to not be home for so long.

War Letters really teaches us how valuable a letter can be. For some it was the last thing that a family has to hold onto from a soldier before he died. Some letters were written, and then in the next day, the soldier died. That just makes it so valuable for a family. If he is a father to children who are too young to know him, these letters can let those children know what their father was like. This can also be a way to convey good and bad news. It's a way to bring home a little closer to a soldier and a soldier a little closer to home. It is a permanent written document. Without them, we may never know what war is like. Many veterans are gone from wars from years past. Like the Civil War and Revolutionary Wars, we don't have people still around to tell us what happened. We need to learn about this, because it will give us such a greater respect for these

veterans. Also from a historical standpoint, we can find out a lot about a war and why it was fought. If we know the mistakes that were made in the past, we can learn from them. Then, we won't make those mistakes, and have to fight wars like this.

This really made me think about all the veterans had to go through. Thank you for everything that I now know you must have gone through. I think this is probably the hardest thing a person could go through. Thanks so much for all you did.

Sincerely,  
Kara Kudera

Dear Veteran,

In English class, my teacher was talking about the importance of letters. To follow up with this idea, we watched a documentary called War Letters. This movie was about letters that were sent or received from soldiers. These letters were their only form of communication. Some of the letters were the last letter they ever received or had written.

This documentary was an eye-opener to me. It made me feel like I was actually in the war. Sometimes when I think of the things soldiers had to go through, I know it's not even close to what they actually had to go through. I'll never know the pain they went through, and no matter what I say or think, nothing can compare. I just want veterans to know how thankful I am for how much they have protected our country without you we wouldn't be a free nation. It also made me realize that I am truly lucky for the country I live in and for the soldiers who are still protecting us today. This makes me very happy to be an American. I think that's something I often take for granted because I often forget how hard these experiences were for these men.

I had the privilege of talking to my grandpa this weekend about his service in the Korean War. He's always been one of those guys who never really wanted to talk about it. I can see why he is this way because the way he described his experience made my heart drop. He served for two years in the Korean War. He said it was a horrifying experience that he never wants to relive. I asked him about the importance of letters. He said it was the only form of communication they had, and you

would wait sometimes six months just for one letter. He knew it scared his family not knowing if he was alive or not. He also commented on how scary it was not knowing if you were going to live another day to make it home to your family. He thought his chance was slim to none.

I think it is important to everyone to watch the comparison to hell section of the movie. These letters make my heart break. These letters definitely describe what it was like being in war. The way the soldiers describe these scenes is amazing. Their words almost make you feel like you are in the war. It also describes how some soldiers would do drugs because they were so tired of being in the war. Another man described his memories of snow. He then went on to say flexible flyers have turned into tanks, snowballs are bombs, and the wet stuff trickling down the backs of your neck is often blood.

War Letters teaches us about the significance of letter writing because you may never get to see your loved one again. This small letter was the only form of communication they received. Losing a loved one seems a lot harder because you're away from them for so long, knowing you'll never see them again and you never got to say goodbye. A letter is something you can keep forever and you can read it over and over again. A text message or email is not as significant because they can easily get deleted. There is just something about holding a letter in your hand and reading it. I immediately think of the person who sent me this letter and know that they spent time out of their day to think about me. That is something truly special to me!

Sincerely,  
Paige Moore

Dear Veteran,

We just got done reading a story from our nonfiction unit, "How to Write a Letter." We are writing letters to war veterans because we just watched a documentary on the book War Letters. My teacher made me watch it, but I'm glad she made me. It taught me a lot about what happened in the war. It showed me how much the ones fighting wanted to be back home with their loved ones. I, for one, loved the documentary.

The documentary War Letters helped me realize how much the war-time soldiers did for us. In some of the letters people said they didn't want to make friends because eventually they would probably die. It was hard to not make friends, but sometimes they just related to you really well. I didn't realize how the soldiers felt out there on the field. Some of them said that every moment that passed by they were expecting to die.

I would love for people to go to the part in the documentary that reflects back to God. One of the soldiers wrote, "I can't feel that God is in the war with me." Also, he wrote, "God doesn't work any miracles, because God would be doing all the work that he sent for us, the soldiers out on the field, to do." I would want you guys to go back to that part, because God does work miracles, but in different ways. God helped end that war. Even though so many died, many survived too.

War Letters taught me that letters are very important. They aren't like emails that just get erased; letters last for a lifetime. Letters were the only communication for the people in the war and their loved ones at home. The letters represented to the people at home that that the soldier was still alive and fighting. I would like to encourage people to watch the documentary War Letters, because it teaches you a lot about the war and the soldiers that were fighting out there on the field.

Sincerely,  
Cheyenne Brabec



## READING & Research @ your school library

By Mrs. Alt

Reliable information resources are available to the K-12 students, their parents, and all citizens of Nebraska.

NebraskAccess is a public resource portal for Nebraskans sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The portal offers

information databases, evaluated websites, government documents, and more.

Nebraskans are able to use this service at work, at school, and at home. Log in with either a password from their library, their Nebraska driver's license number, or State ID.

The website for NebraskAccess is:  
<http://nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov>

The main use of NebraskAccess for school students is the full-text access to thousands of magazines and journals (many professional). There is also availability to biographical and genealogical information. This service is free and offered 24/7.

In 2016 NebraskAccess expanded the databases. Consumer health, legal, and small business databases include a broader span of information for older students and adults. An e-book encyclopedia is also available on NebraskAccess.

Recent statistics indicate the wide use of NebraskAccess. Here are stats for a couple databases.

### Number of searches undertaken in the statewide subscription databases between July 1, 2015 & June 30, 2016:

FirstSearch.....	756,571
Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia.....	914,964
MyHeritage.....	231,542*

You are welcome to check out these database offerings. In this age of digital information, we are able to offer the students full text online resources, both current and specialized.

\*Stats from NCompass Newsletter, Vol. 21, No. 1



**Winter Break**  
**December 22**  
**thru**  
**January 3rd**

# Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

## **What to expect after you submit your FAFSA**

The Early FAFSA opened October 1 so many of you have already completed and submitted your form. Here's what happens next:

### **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR).**

You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received, and if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

### **Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA.**

Colleges who receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

### **Watch for verification requests.**

The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office.

### **Watch for financial aid award notifications.**

The colleges you applied to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you a financial aid award notification detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.

### **Haven't completed your FAFSA yet?**

No problem! You and a parent can complete the form at FAFSA.gov. Before you start, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need them to access and sign the FAFSA.

For free help with the FAFSA, watch this FAFSA Demo video, use our free FAFSA Tools, or call EducationQuest to make an appointment:

Omaha – 888.357.6300

Lincoln – 800.303.3745

Kearney – 800.666.3721

Scottsbluff – 800.303.3745, ext. 6654

Winning the scholarship game

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

Don't ever pay for scholarship searches! Use free resources such as ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. Free national sites include Peterson's, FindTuition, Cappex, and School Soup.

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 a 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 right college planning track.

Seniors:

\_\_ If you haven't already, submit college applications and the FAFSA.

\_\_ Continue to apply for scholarships.

Juniors

\_\_ Take an ACT prep course.

\_\_ Set up a ScholarshipQuest profile and start searching for Nebraska-based scholarships.

\_\_ Register by December 21 for the January 21 SAT.

\_\_ Register by January 13 for the February 11 ACT.

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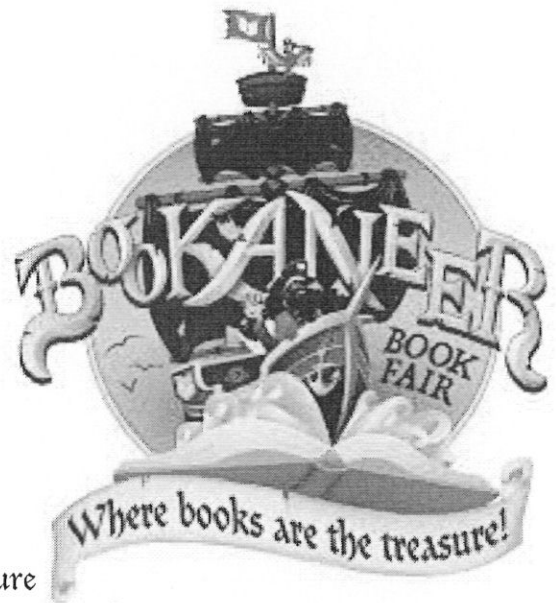
# Clarkson Public School Happenings

- Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – Wrestling Quad 4:00 at High Plains  
JH Girls BB 6:00 Wayne in Clarkson
- Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Marathon BB 4:00 at Lindsay
- Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wrestling Tournament 9:30 in Howells  
JH Girls BB 9:00 at Humphrey High  
Marathon BB 3:00 Madison at Clarkson
- Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – District FFA Leadership event at Raymond Central  
JH Girls BB 5:00 Battle Creek in Leigh  
Girls C Team BB 6:00 East Butler in Clarkson
- Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – JH Girls BB 4:00 at Madison  
Marathon BB 4:30 at Oakland-Craig
- Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – Marathon BB 4:40 Winside at Clarkson  
Wrestling Dual 6:30 at Stanton
- Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Parent’s Night for BB, Wrestling, and Dance  
Marathon BB 4:30 Bancroft-Rosalie/Lyons-Decatur in Clarkson
- Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Wrestling Tournament 8:00 in Osceola  
ACT test date
- Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Scholastic Book Fair, times to be announced.
- Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – School Board Meeting 6:00  
PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Music Concert 7:00 pm in Clarkson  
Girls C Team BB 6:30 at Humphrey St. Francis
- Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – JH Girls BB 4:30 at Schuyler  
Wrestling Dual at Howells, TBD
- Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Marathon BB 4:30 Pender in Clarkson
- Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Music Concert 7:00 pm in Leigh
- Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Wrestling Tournament 9:00 at Wayne High School  
Marathon BB 3:00 Howells-Dodge in Clarkson
- Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – JH Girls BB 6:00 Humphrey St. Francis in Leigh
- Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – JH & HS Final - 1:00 Dismissal  
Marathon BB 4:30 Yutan in Clarkson
- Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – JH & HS Finals 1:00 Dismissal  
NO Elementary classes
- Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
- Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – Varsity BB Tournament at Nebraska Christian, TBA
- Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – Wrestling Tournament 10:00 at Pierce  
Varsity BB Tournament at Nebraska Christian, TBA
- Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – Wrestling Tournament 10:00 at Wisner-Pilger

Dear Parents and Families,

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*

Our Book fair theme - Bookaneer Book fair: Where books are the Treasure! - takes students on a journey back to the time of Pirates and a treasure trove of engaging and affordable books kids will want to read.



**Book fair Dates:** December 12, 2016 - December 17, 2016

**Shopping hours:** On Campus: 7:30am - 8:00am  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
3:40pm - 4:10pm

Online: 24 hours a day from Dec. 4th to Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at  
<http://scholastic.com/bf/clarksonpublicschoolsdistrict>

**Special Events:** Monday December 12, 2016  
PreK - 8<sup>th</sup> Winter Music Concert  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Join us before the Winter Concert from 6:00pm - 6:45pm  
to peruse the book fair with your student.

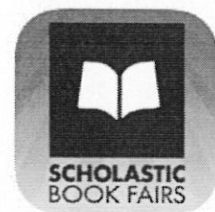
Saturday December 17, 2016  
Marathon Basketball against Howells - Dodge  
3:00pm - 7:00pm  
Drop by the book fair, as we are open from 4:00pm - 6:00pm  
during the BB Marathon. GO PATS!

We look forward to having you participate in our fair. Remember, all purchases benefit our school. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Cropp  
Book Fair Chairperson  
(402) 892-3454



# Enhance Your Book Fair With the Book Fairs App



## App Features

- Book details, including price, summary, videos, podcasts, and awards
- Reading levels for Accelerated Reader™, Developmental Reading Assessment, Lexile® levels, Guided Reading, and Scholastic Reading Counts!®
- Recommended titles
- Create wish lists and share them!
- Make book purchases through the Online Book Fair. (All purchases are added to your total Book Fair sales.)\*

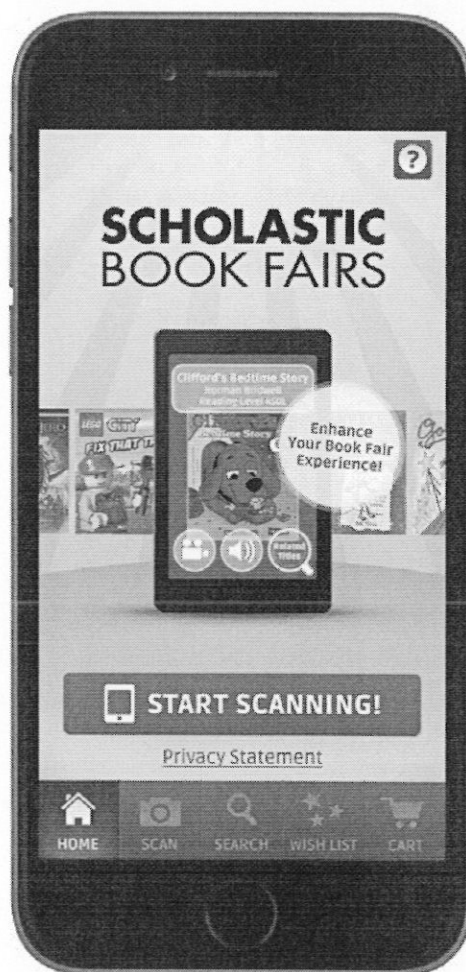
## Tips for Utilizing the App at Your Fair

- Ask volunteers to download the app so they can help shoppers.
- Help parents find age-appropriate books by scanning covers.
- Encourage teachers to use reading levels to help select books for their Classroom Wish Lists.
- Play videos and podcasts to find high-interest books for students.
- Use leveling data to locate books that fit into your school's reading assessment program.

## Help Parents Get Connected With the Book Fairs App

- **Send home letters to parents**, encouraging them to download the app before coming to the Fair. Find a sample letter in your Toolkit>Fair Files.
- **Provide flyers at the register**, explaining to parents the valuable tools they can access through the app. Flyers are available in your Toolkit>Fair Files.

\*The purchase of books through the Book Fairs app is available only to schools participating in the Online Fair and does not apply to "Buy One, Get One Free" Fairs. Some app features may not be available for every title.



For more information, visit [scholastic.com/bookfairs/app](http://scholastic.com/bookfairs/app)



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# It Matters: Building Character

## Is it a mistake or neglect? What's the difference?



Learning responsibility takes time. So don't expect your middle schooler to grasp it overnight. But do

expect him to take responsibilities seriously. And teach him the difference between an honest mistake and neglect.

For example:

- **An honest mistake** would be completing the odd-numbered problems on his math worksheet instead of the even-numbered ones; or taking the trash out on the wrong night.
- **Neglect** would be failing to do his math homework or a household responsibility at all.

Should you discipline your child if he makes an honest mistake? Probably not. Everyone slips up sometimes.

However, if your child neglects a responsibility—whether it's homework or a household chore—don't ignore the situation. Instead:

- **Talk to your child** about where he fell short and why.
- **Remind him** that school is his number one responsibility.
- **Let him know** that he's an important member of the family and his contributions matter.
- **Enforce a consequence.** It's best to agree on the consequence ahead of time and to make sure it is related to the responsibility he neglected.

Source: K. Thomsen, M.S., *Parenting Preteens with a Purpose: Navigating the Middle Years*, Search Institute Press.

## Show your middle schooler that you value and expect honesty

**B**eing honest is the foundation of good character. It is also vital for your child's academic success. Your middle schooler won't learn algebra if she simply copies her friend's answers. And she won't become a better writer if she has a friend write her English paper.

Practice honesty with your child and stress its importance. When your child asks why she should be honest, offer these reasons:

- **Honest people have self-respect.** They know who they are and they never have to worry about being caught in a lie.
- **Honest people are respected** by others. Family members, teachers and friends will respect her because they know they can count on her.
- **"Honesty is the best policy"** is more than a saying. Being



honest will keep your middle schooler out of trouble.

- **Honesty will earn your child** more freedom. When you know you can trust your child, you are more likely to grant her additional privileges. Teachers also tend to give more freedom to students they trust.

Source: B. Lewis, *Being Your Best: Character Building for Kids 7-10*, Free Spirit Publishing.

## Parents play a critical role in developing children's respect



What's one of the most critical values you can instill in your middle schooler? Respect. By teaching him to respect you, himself and others, you'll help him grow into a grounded, decent adult. You'll also help him have a better school experience.

To instill respect in your child:

- **Remember** that you're not his friend. Your child already has friends; he needs you to be his parent. Friends have equal power in a relationship; parents

and children do not. Earn your child's respect by being reliable and steady, not by being his pal.

- **Be tough** when necessary. Many parents find themselves caving in to their child's nagging. Don't be one of them. Instead, be firm and reasonable when dealing with your child. Treat him fairly and you'll demonstrate respect. Be consistent and loving and you'll earn it.

Source: J. Taylor, Ph.D., *Your Children Are Under Attack: How Popular Culture is Destroying Your Kids' Values, and How You Can Protect Them*, Sourcebooks, Inc.

# DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SCHOOL LUNCH MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Breakfast - roller dogs Lunch - pork steak	Breakfast - biscuits & gravy Lunch - chicken & gravy	Breakfast - sausage egg biscuit Lunch - hamburgers	Breakfast - homemade burrito Lunch - fried chicken	Breakfast - French toast & sausage Lunch - meatball sub		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Breakfast - combos Lunch - chicken nuggets	Breakfast - ham egg croissant Lunch - sub sandwich	Breakfast - pancake sausage stick Lunch - spaghetti	Breakfast - blkf pizza Lunch - taco salad	Breakfast - yogurt cups Lunch - pizza		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Breakfast - bagel & cream cheese Lunch - cheese crunchers	Breakfast - bacon blkf toast Lunch - turkey slice	Breakfast - tornados Lunch - chicken tenders				
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

**November 2016**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

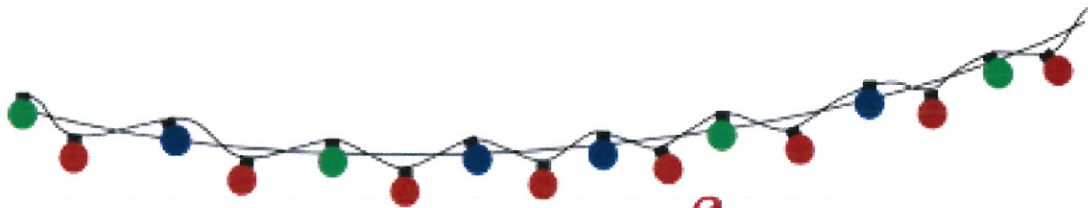
**January 2017**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Clarkson Public Schools  
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Clarkson NE 68629

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*Happy Holidays!*