

The Red Review

2022/2023 February Vol. 6

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

Welcome to the short month of February, which in the educational world is known as “hitting the wall month”. As we start the second semester in January everyone is refreshed from the two-week break and the time spent with their families and friends. Then come the months of January and February where students and staff are extremely busy with all different activities along with dealing with the weather and cold. Even with February being the shortest month, the time of the year where life gets hectic as school and activities are in maximum overdrive. Basketball and wrestling are going through the pressure filled time of conference meets/tournaments and district competition. Junior High and Youth teams winding up their seasons with their final tournaments and families are kept on the run. To add more to the plate February is a big month for the Speech team as their season is in full swing and kids are missing school for meets along with having some Saturday meets to attend. The one good piece of luck this year is we were able to have a couple of snow days for a break where last year was rough with no snow days during this time.

With the students being involved in so many activities and their busy schedules please remind your children to make sure they are getting the rest and nutrition they need to keep busy with their active lives and keeping up on their grades.

It is a Great Day to be a Patriot!!

Notes from the Principal

By Lee Schneider

What a fast January, and so glad that we have been able to get back on track after break and keep plugging along! I want to say THANK YOU to the students and parents for helping us get to this point. It was nice to finally have a couple of snow days after getting none last year! It is always a time to help refresh and refuel for the long months of January and February.

With that, it does appear that we are in for an extended forecast of cold temperatures. Please, make sure that your child has gloves, hats, coats and warm clothing for when they go outside or are walking to school.

This is the second semester of our modified grading practices and retakes policy. With these adjustments, there has been a refocus on the student developing and taking ownership of their education. There are some bumps and “retraining” over winter break but we are more than proud of the student's ability to change and excel! We will be MAP/NSCAS testing again here in the end of January and into the first part of February as we get students ready for their Spring state assessments.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions! My door is always open!!

GO PATS!!!!

Preorder the 2022-2023 Yearbook

Now is your chance to order this year's yearbook before prices go up in December! Only \$47.00 and they will be ready for pickup in August.

Last year's books are still available for \$52.00 (limited quantities)

For more information contact Mrs. Kratochvil at ssedlacek@clarkson.esu7.org or you can order online at <https://yearbookforever.com/>.

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

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Clarkson High School
Wednesday, February 15th,
11:30am to 5:30pm
Please call the school or go
online to schedule an
appointment!



Parents of Special Education Students

By Mrs. Heimann

In March, during Parent/Teacher Conferences, there will be a survey that needs to be filled out for the Nebraska Department of Education. We will have computers available for Parents/Guardians to take the survey.

If you do not attend conferences, please let the school know so the link can be sent to you to complete the survey.

Thank you.

Read Across America week is in February!

By Sophia Kratochvil

This year to celebrate we are dressing up for the last week of February in honor of Read Across America day which is Thursday, March 2, also known as Dr. Seuss's birthday. Due to spring break, students will not be at school on the actual day, so we are going to celebrate the rest of the week with some wacky dress-up days and a reading challenge. Kindergarten through 6th graders are going to compete to see which class can read the most books.

The winner gets an extra recess during library class. Good luck and happy reading!



Read Across
America Week



February 27- March 1, 2023

Monday

Mixed up Monday: Wear your Pajamas to school.

Tuesday

Oh the places you'll go: Wear your favorite college shirt or dress for traveling the world.

Wednesday

Dr. Seuss day: Dress up as a Dr. Seuss character or as your favorite book character.

Thoughts From Kindergarten

By Wes Pokorny

The Importance of Movement and Learning in Kindergarten

As parents and educators, we all want to provide our children with the best possible start in their education. Recent research suggests that one key component of this is movement and learning. According to neuroscientist Carla Hannaford, movement is essential for the development of the brain. In her book "Smart Moves: Why Learning Is Not All In Your Head," Hannaford argues that movement is necessary for the formation of neural connections, which in turn leads to better learning and cognitive function.

Hannaford's research has shown that children who engage in regular physical activity have better attention, memory, and problem-solving skills than their sedentary peers. In addition, movement helps to develop the fine and gross motor skills that are necessary for writing, drawing, and other activities that are important in the early years of education.

This is particularly important in kindergarten, where children are just beginning their formal education. Movement and play provide a way for children to explore and discover the world around them, while also helping to develop the skills they need to succeed in school.

As parents and educators, we can support this by incorporating movement and play into our children's daily routines. This can include activities such as dancing, playing games, and doing puzzles. It can also involve taking regular breaks during the school day for physical activity.

In conclusion, movement and learning are closely connected, and it is essential for the development of a child's brain. Encouraging children to move and play at a young age can help them to develop the cognitive, motor and social skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Thanks for reading and if you are interested in the book below let me know. If you are interested in how we prepare the brain to learn feel free to stop by room 305.

Reference: Hannaford, C. (1995). Smart moves: Why learning is not all in your head. Great Ocean Publishers.

The Science of Reading in the Kindergarten Classroom: Why It Matters

Reading is a foundational skill that sets the stage for a lifetime of learning and academic success. As such, it is essential that we provide young students with the best possible instruction in reading from the very beginning. One key approach to achieving this goal is through the implementation of the science of reading in the kindergarten classroom.

Anita Archer, a leading expert in the field of reading instruction, has conducted extensive research on the most effective ways to teach reading to young students. Her work has highlighted the importance of systematic, explicit instruction in phonics and phonemic awareness, as well as the need to provide students with ample opportunities to practice and apply these skills in authentic reading contexts.

One of Archer's key findings is that students who receive systematic, explicit instruction in phonics and phonemic awareness are much more likely to become successful readers than those who do not. This is because phonics instruction helps students understand the relationships between letters and sounds, while phonemic awareness instruction helps them understand the structure of words and how they are pronounced.

Another important aspect of Archer's research is the emphasis on providing students with ample opportunities to practice and apply their reading skills. This means that in addition to direct instruction, students should be given plenty of opportunities to read authentic texts, such as books and stories, and to engage in interactive writing activities.

Some of Archer's most famous key phrases are:

"Phonics is the foundation of reading"

"Phonemic awareness instruction is essential for teaching students to segment, blend, and manipulate sounds in spoken words"

"Explicit instruction is necessary for students to understand the relationships between letters and sounds"

"Reading should be taught in context and in authentic texts"

In conclusion, the science of reading is crucial in the kindergarten classroom. By following the research-based principles outlined by Anita Archer and other reading experts, teachers can provide their students with the best possible foundation for becoming successful readers.

Middle School Social Studies

By Tami Sayers

For the second semester, the middle schoolers are diving into some exciting topics in social studies. The fourth graders are learning about the Oregon Trail. We are reading a diary chapter book about the real-life experiences of the pioneers. As we read, we are incorporating activities. The fourth graders made covered wagons at home with a purpose to float an egg in. This was because a major struggle of the pioneers was to float their wagons across the rivers. The students also got to indulge in some "skeeter cakes" that were mentioned in the book. The pesky mosquitoes found their way into their pancake batter along the river. I mixed up some batter with mosquitoes for everyone to try! They were worried about the stingers and getting sick, but fortunately the chocolate chips didn't taste too bad!

Fifth graders are learning about the 13 colonies. They are putting their interactive notebook together to highlight the major facts. In addition to the textbook reading, we will be watching documentaries and interactive presentations to experience the life of the colonists and learn how our country became what it is today.

Sixth grade is wrapping up a unit on ancient Mesopotamia. Hammurabi's Code of Laws was one of the first of its time. We've done a study of a few of them and compared them to the laws we have now. The students are surprised by how many ears and hands got cut off as a form of punishment!

As we continue to learn about our history, the best part is applying it to their lives today. I look forward to what the rest of the semester will bring!

English Notes

By Lynn Morfeld

It is amazing how students can recognize the writing of their classmates - and not just through identifying handwriting. They have been classmates for so long that they can recognize the word choice and cadence of each other's writing. I often give students code names to use to avoid bias in giving feedback on pieces of writing, yet despite these code names, students can often still figure out who wrote the paper they read. "It just sounded like ____." That's all thanks to one of the traits of strong writing - voice.

Voice is the author's personality coming through in the words they choose and the sentence structure they use. When you read a textbook or reference article, there's not a lot of personality. The authors are focusing on the content - not their own voice. However, when we write personal essays and letters, it should sound like us.

The eighth graders were assigned a piece of creative writing to help them explore voice. Each student was randomly given a stereotypical persona (millionaire athlete, the dad of a newborn baby, a rich, spoiled little girl, etc.). Their task was to write a thank you letter to Santa, as that given personality, thanking him for a bike, clothes, and a new phone. Their reasons for getting those items, as well as their word choice and sentence fluency, needed to SHOW (not tell) the personality that was given. Here are some of the writings students shared to this month's newsletter.

Dear Santa Claus,

I have recently been following the use of the da Vinci surgical system, which gives a surgeon an advanced set of instruments to use in performing robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery! The discoveries that technology has made, extraordinary! For your assistance in aiding my journey to success, I sincerely extend my overflowing gratitude to you for your exquisite presents this year. I will remember you when I discover the cure for cancer.

I very much appreciate the perfect style of clothing. Never has one understood my style as you have shown me that you do. The older kids say things like, "You're so weird," and "Why do you dress like that?" I personally think I impress all the pretty girls when I make my entrance into the classroom. They just don't understand that preciseness is key. The clean diagonal cut paired with cashmere fabric makes the perfect balance of elegant, yet breathable ties. They match perfectly with my pressed vests and trousers. I have set my calendar to wear them every Tuesday and Thursday of the school week. I had to reduce my schedule of wearing them due to the days in which I am more likely to be made fun of due to who is in my class.

Back to the gifts, nothing pleased me more than when I carefully but strenuously removed the wrapping paper to discover the new iPhone 14 Pro Max. My brain went supernova as I discovered all of the hidden tips and features including the dynamic island at the top of the phone. This feature interacts with all of my different apps, including Final Cut Pro and Codecademy Go. It adds a whole new dimension to the phone. I am also looking to purchase a super protected phone case in an attempt to protect this new masterpiece from the older kids I mentioned earlier.

Finally, I have saved the largest for last. I tore back the paper to reveal what I have been wanting for eons! Ok well maybe not quite that long. I could not be more joyful as I pronounce the words printed on the gift, "3x5 Feet Bicycle Scale Model - Including Data Sheets - Seat Weights - And Formula Guides." I am

working on a project in school which entails a study about weight and inertia. This unique opportunity to work with a bicycle will carry me through my research and experiment.

I will continue tracking the advancing robot surgery systems, and my project with weight and inertia. I have already customized my background on my new phone and love the increased size and quality of the cameras. You really hit the nail on the head with these gifts this year. Thank you so much again, for your amazing generosity and intense thought you must have had to put into these gifts.

Sincerely,

Claire Holoubek (persona - a young technology wiz)

Dear Santa,

The only reason I am writing this is because I am alone and have nothing else to do. Thanks for the new phone, clothes, and bike. I don't see any use for the new phone anymore. What's the point if I don't have anyone to stay up late and call? I find myself going through old conversations that consist of lol or k. I can't tell you how many times I have thought about texting him. How could all those messages and time mean nothing? The clothes were nice but blue was "someone's" favorite color, so I put them in the back of my closet. Finally, we have the bike. It wasn't my idea to get bikes. I guess the only thing I can use it for is to make "someone" regret their decisions. I really should have never let them into my heart. I always knew it would end like this but didn't want to believe it. My days are waking up at twelve pm, eating lunch, shutting myself back into my room, listening to music, and not being able to fall asleep till 1 am.

Anyway, thanks for the phone, the blue clothes, and the bike I probably will never look at again.

Maybe next year I will have someone who really cares.

P.S. I hope next year that jerk gets the same "gift" I got this year.

Sincerely, Hayley Podany (persona - teenage girl going through a break-up)

Dear Santa Claus,

Please send me help. I HATE it here. I just got back from playing a simple game of chess, but these old hags here can't even dally up enough strength in their arthritis-prone hands to move a pawn without shaking the board and knocking down all of them. It is just ridiculous, and nothing like how Frank and I used to play. Heavens to Betsy, I miss him, especially in the holiday season. Twenty-five Christmases without 'em now. Any hoos, enough about me. I'm supposed to write you a letter thanking you for the gifts I received, but who is this actually going to, because don't be kiddin' me, I know your secret. This chamber of boredom made this our afternoon activity, which I think is a bunch of baloney, but here we go.

First off, thank you for the bike I got, the P-Pe-Peloton? Goodness, I can't even say it right. The exercise bike is what I mean, and to let you know, I ordered the "caretakers" to set it up in my room. They did but said I could only use it with the safety strap and a helper to help me (as if I need help) so I don't bust a hip. I love the idea of strengthening my legs Santa, but come on, they won't even let me use the bathroom myself, so heaven forbid I use the exercise bike. Although it does remind me of the good days when Frank and I used to ride our bikes through the mountains.

Anywhoot, the phone, why in the world would you get me a flip phone? I've had one my whole life, I mean come on, give a new iPhone or something man. I could use a little spice in my life if you know what I mean. Not to be ignorant, but why waste the money on something I already have? Sorry, sorry, I am acting like the Grinch, but I do apologize because I just haven't ever been the same without Frank.

And lastly, I would love to thank you for the dress I received. It is surprisingly quite lovely, and I look forward to wearing it to the Sunday Service this weekend. I can really show this one off to the gals to make them real jealous. How groovy, because I love making them angry.

As I write this letter with my NON-arthritis-prone hands, I do thank you for all that I received even though I'm gonna be gone soon. I mean if you really wanted to impress me, you'd either bring Frank to me, or me to Frank, and I'm really fine with either or. I guess he's probably the reason I'm so lousy during the time of giving, but I really do miss him and would like to see him soon. I'm not sure what control you have over that, but please get off your bum and try. Sorry again, I would erase my hateful comments but these goons took my eraser privileges away from me. Actually, no I wouldn't, live life with no regrets kiddos. Just because I'm old,

actually a little older than old, doesn't mean I'm brittle, I'm built like a toughie. Back in my day, I served in the Vietnam War. For the record, I was the best of my squad. Thanks again, I guess.

Sincerely,

Edna (Maizie Stoklasa - persona - crabby elderly woman)

Dear Santa,

I cannot believe you didn't get me anything I wanted for Christmas, and I was good this year. I only pushed my sister down the steps 2 times, but she took my toys so I had a reason.

I am very, very upset with my bike. I wanted the one with the princess Belle on it, but you got me the one with Tiana, like seriously can you not tell the difference? I put it on my Christmas list in bold and underlined **BELLE BIKE**, like could you not tell that I wanted the Belle one? I think you need to be fired and hire a new Santa. Oh and the phone you got me. I wanted the iPhone 14 pro max in purple, but you got me green, and then you got my 14-year-old sister the purple one I wanted. That made me so mad. But like why get me green that is such a gross color. Now people are going to make fun of me for it. Thanks a lot Santa. Mom and Dad are also mad at you because I'm only 8, and they think that I don't need a phone but it's whatever. They aren't the boss of me.

I was looking forward to this Christmas because I knew it was gonna be the best one yet but it wasn't because of you. Ughhhhhh I'm so mad. You got me some cute clothes but the shirt with the tractor on it? Seriously Santa are you blind? I'm a girl, and girls don't wear tractors, duhhhh. That is a boy thing. Oh and the pants you got to match it was pink. That doesn't match the green shirt. I think Mrs. Claus needs to help you shop for girls because your style sucks, and I'm tired of it. This has happened for the past 3 years already.

Mom told me I have to be nice and write you a thank you note and be grateful that I got presents, but I'm not too happy with you. Thank you, Santa for the presents I didn't want and you getting everything wrong. Like this was literally the worst Christmas ever. How could you be so mean? I made it so easy for you because I was very specific on my Christmas list. It's not that hard. Also, I asked for a puppy too but never got one that was first on my list so that obviously means that you need to get it for me. It's okay though because you probably would have messed that up too because Santa messes everything up. I hope you had an amazing Christmas because I didn't. THANKS A LOT.

PS: YOU BETTER GET EVERYTHING RIGHT NEXT YEAR OR THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A SANTA CLAUS ANYMORE.

Love, Chelsy (Persona - bratty little girl)

News and Notes from the Social Science Dept.

By Bob McEvoy

The 2022-23 school year has been very interesting here in the Social Science Department of Clarkson Public School. Here are a few of our highlights so far this year:

-8th Grade American History- This class begins by looking at our Native American and European roots and how these two cultures interacted early on in U.S. history. Emphasis is given to European exploration, early British Colonies, and the ensuing development of our nation from its' War for Independence from Great Britain to its' own U.S. Civil War.

-10th Grade American History- This class has been exploring the events and the brave men and women who preserved our American way of life during WWII. The students will soon understand that the following "Cold War" period may turn out to be the most dangerous period of American History yet. We will then move through the conflicts and social change of the late 20th Century that helped shape America into what it is today.

-7th Grade Civics/World Studies- This group has been given an introductory look into our country, our government, and our uniquely American way of life in comparison to other regions of the globe. There is an emphasis on patriotism, geography, civic duty, and the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United States. Great focus

is also given to the Constitution, the 27 Amendments, and the role of the Three Branches.

-American Government- This upper-level course is taught in conjunction with 7th Grade civics with a deeper look into the inner-workings of the three branches, the electoral process, and preparation for becoming an informed member of the voting population. The class just finished studying the role public opinion and the media play in our society.

-World Geography- The expectation is for each student to carry with them a working knowledge of our U.S. Geography in relationship to the World Geography that surrounds us. In the end, we will cover the entire globe---with the goal being that they can compare and contrast our United States geography to that of the rest of the world.

-Current Issues- The students have spent their year discussing the modern problems we face and the possible solutions to those issues. Through current events, documentaries, and their own reflections on the world we live in, they continue to work on building their own working knowledge of the world around them. The class also continues their work on a time capsule project that will include all of the news stories, journal entries, and reflections that they have compiled to date. The goal is to someday look back and see what the world was like during 2022-2023.

Thank you for taking a look into our corner of the building, and here's hoping for continued success in 2023 for all of our students and activities here at CPS- Go Patriots!!!

Spanish News

By Vicky Miller

¡Hola! We are fully in gear as we start up with classes again in 2023. The students are beginning to explore new units. Keep in mind as you read this article in English about the highlights of our class, the students are completing all of these tasks in Spanish! They hear class activity instructions in Spanish, they watch Youtube videos in Spanish, they read articles in Spanish, and they summarize what they saw or read in Spanish or compare their opinion of it with a classmate in Spanish and so on. We don't just talk about all of these Hispanic people or events in English. They are immersed in the Spanish language during the majority of class time each day while focusing on completing a daily goal such as "I can give basic info about the life and career of Hispanic athletes". They are learning content AND a new language simultaneously!

(Some of) the 7th graders are just getting started this quarter! They have been investigating a unit called *Nuevos amigos en la escuela* (New friends at school). They're learning the basics to be able to meet new friends in a school context. They can tell their name, introduce others, ask/tell how they're feeling, and tell what they like about their school including classes, lunches, activities and more as well as beginning to recognize Hispanic names & nationalities and identify where those Spanish-speaking countries are on a map.

Spanish 1 is exploring the world of sports. They can talk about sports they like to play or watch and give their opinion about them. They gave their opinion about some extreme sports as well. Students can give basic info about an athlete, such as their sport, team, position or jersey number. Students identified important characteristics for athletes of various sports. After comparing soccer players Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, students then researched and compared some Hispanic athletes of their own. Students are currently making campaigns to promote an athlete for an award for Univision Premios Deportes, a Hispanic sports awards program.

Spanish 2 is in a unit called *Viviendo una vida sana* (Living a healthy life). This is a fun opportunity to look at what it means to live a healthy life, beyond just food and exercise. They are exploring ideas like getting sufficient sleep; identifying stressors, talking about the effect of stress on our minds and bodies, and managing stress; the effect music has on our emotions; good and bad uses of technology; and investigating different ways companies promote healthy habits. Students even tried meditation and yoga and they identified their biggest stresses as keeping up with school work and balancing a busy schedule.

Spanish 3/4 picked up the unit *Vagando por los parques* (Wandering through parks) again that we had paused during my maternity leave. During this unit, focused on national parks, students have read and written their own reviews on experiences in parks, told stories about some of their most memorable trips to parks, and researched a variety of wildlife. They are pushing to use more variety of vocab to help plant them solidly in the intermediate proficiency range.

CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Wednesday, February 1st – 10:00 late start – Teacher Inservice – NO morning preschool

Thursday, February 2nd – JH Boys BB at Wayne 6:00 pm

EHC Conference BB tourney at Midland College

Friday, February 3rd - EHC Conference BB tourney at Midland College

Saturday, February 4th – Speech meet at Schuyler

FFA District 2 State Degree interviews/proficiency review

Stanton JH Music festival

EHC Conference BB tourney at Midland College

Monday, February 6th – EHC Conference Honor Band at Twin River

JH Boys BB vs. Humphrey St. Francis at Leigh 3:30 pm

C team BB at Madison 6:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7th – Marathon BB at Pierce 4:30 pm

Wednesday, February 8th – FCCLA State officer candidate screening in Lincoln

Thursday, February 9th – Marathon BB at Stanton 4:30 pm

JH Boys BB vs Madison at Leigh 4:30 pm

Friday, February 10th – Speech meet at Lindsay

HS Wrestling Districts, TBD

Saturday, February 11th – ACT test date

Speech meet at Humphrey

HS Wrestling Districts, TBD

Monday, February 13th – Boys BB at Aquinas David City 5:30 pm

Girls BB Subdistricts, TBD

National FCCLA Week begins

Tuesday, February 14th – Girls BB subdistricts, TBD

Wednesday, February 15th – NHS Blood drive 11:30 am - 5:00 pm

School Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Thursday, February 16th – State Wrestling tourney in Omaha

Girls BB sub districts, TBD

Friday, February 17th – Speech meet at Howells

State Wrestling tourney in Omaha

Boys BB vs. David City at Leigh 6:00 pm

Saturday, February 18th – Speech meet at Battle Creek

State Wrestling tourney in Omaha

C Team BB vs. Tekamah-Herman at Tekamah 6:00 pm

Monday, February 20th – Boys BB subdistricts, TBD

Tuesday, February 21st - Boys BB subdistricts, TBD

Wednesday, February 22nd – EHC Conference Speech meet at Twin River

Thursday, February 23rd - Boys BB subdistricts, TBD

Friday, February 24th – Girls BB Districts Finals, TBD

Saturday, February 25th – Boys BB District Finals, TBD

Sunday, February 26th – FCCLA Peer Education Conference

Monday, February 27th – Boys BB District finals, TBD

FCCLA Peer Education Conference

Tuesday, February 28th – FFA District 2 CDE 2 Contest at CCC

Boys BB District Finals, TBD



	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
February 1	10:00 start - no breakfast	hamburger casserole
February 2	homemade breakfast pizza	chicken fajita
February 3	Clarkson Bakery rolls	pizza
February 6	ham, egg, & cheese on a Clarkson Bakery croissant	cheddar brats
February 7	muffin	chicken salad or ham sandwich
February 8	pancake/ sausage on a stick	corndog
February 9	tornado	pork nachos
February 10	pancakes & sausages	grilled chicken sandwich
February 13	PB&J	chicken drummies
February 14	yogurt parfait	hot ham & cheese
February 15	sausage, egg, & cheese on a bagel	Salisbury steak
February 16	homemade breakfast burrito	hamburger
February 17	biscuit & gravy	oriental chicken
February 20	ham, egg, & cheese on an English muffin	chicken fried steak
February 21	combos	chicken & gravy
February 22	bagel & cream cheese	fish sticks
February 23	Empanada	taco salad
February 24	cereal	grilled cheese or tuna salad sandwich
February 27	waffles & sausage	pork steak sandwich
February 28	breakfast round	sub sandwich

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Clarkson Public Schools
PO Box 140
Clarkson NE 68629



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