

THE COYOTE HOWLING

THE OFFICIAL PARENT NEWSLETTER OF CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL



FALL 2016



Tracy Chandler, recipient of the Dunes Learning Center Green Apple Award at the Sand Creek Country Club on September 15. This award is given in celebration of excellence in environmental education.

From the Desk of Assistant Principal Joe Stanisz

Fall sports are in full swing and the weather is cooling off! Time seems to be moving very quickly! We just completed our fall spirit week and pep assembly with a football victory over the Highland Spartans (16-8). A big shout out to Mr. Wartman and everyone who helped make the pep assembly a success. Make sure to come out and support all our Clark athletic teams, clubs, and other groups.

The end of the nine week grading period is approaching very quickly (October 14th). Please make sure to encourage your children to come to tutoring and communicate with their teachers about any extra help or make-up work they need to complete.

Tutoring takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 am. Also, utilizing their agenda book and checking Canvas is a great way to keep up with assignments and keep an eye on what is happening in class.

Picture retakes will take place on Tuesday, October 25th. Also, we have scheduled our annual Veterans' Day assembly for Friday, November 11th. Stay tuned for more information.

Kudos to our staff and students for all their hard work and dedication throughout the first month of school! Keep up the good work! Go Coyotes!!!

From the Desk of Principal Scott Graber

From the opening day, to the first school assembly, to dress up days, and College Go week, the students have done an outstanding job! As we move through the school year, I strongly encourage you to check daily with CANVAS to monitor your child's performances. Get involved with your child as you monitor their grades and activities.

Congratulations to our students for getting involved in our clubs and teams at CMS. School Spirit at its BEST! Keep up the awesome job! We have numerous clubs that are beginning so it is important to check out the school website to see when the meetings, tryouts, or events are taking place. Please continue to show your support by attending and being a supportive parent.

ISTEP scores were sent home with your child on Monday, September 26. It is important that you look at the scores, read through them and feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns regarding the scores. Also, during the school year, the students will be taking the I-READY assessment three times to monitor their academic performance. Teachers will use that data to provide supplemental and or enriching activities for your child. Our goal is to challenge the students daily with critical thinking and higher order skills.

Communication continues to be paramount as we strive to keep you updated with school related information through the School Messenger phone system. Please understand that I try not to use the

School Messenger frivolously but only when necessary or to share pertinent information with you. As such, we ask that you remind your child to keep their cell phones at home or in their lockers. Cell phones cannot be in a testing environment, such as during the ISTEP tests and we want to make sure the students are in the habit of leaving them in their lockers or at home. If there is an emergency, we will contact you via the School Messenger phone system.

On September 15, Ms. Tracy Chandler, teacher for students with autism disorders –structured learning classrooms, was awarded the Indiana Dunes Learning Center Green Apple Award for her excellence in teaching. Ms. Chandler has been teaching for 30 years and does a tremendous job daily at CMS. We are fortunate to have her on our staff. Congrats Ms. Chandler! We are very proud of you!

And finally, thank you to the parents and guardians for your continued support. Your involvement in your child's education is paramount to our success. Please take time during the evening to read with your child, ask them about their day, study with them for a test or quiz, or have them explain a particular lesson or event that they learned while in school.

Please feel free to contact me at CMS if you have a problem or concern. Until next month, stay safe.

Reminders for Parents

Attendance - Volunteering - Announcements - Calendar

Attendance

Don't forget to call the school office at (365-9203) by 9:00 a.m. whenever your student is going to be absent. If your student goes to the doctor or dentist please have them bring in a slip for verification from the doctor or dentist. PLEASE don't forget to leave your child's NAME when calling them off.

Volunteer

Anytime you volunteer, you are required to have a current limited criminal history check on file and a copy of your drivers license. There is no cost. Fill out a form as soon as school starts and you'll be covered for the entire year.

Academic Calendar

Do you need to know when school is in session for the 2016-2017 school year? Please check out the LCSC website at www.lcsc.us and look for the ACADEMIC CALENDAR link on the lower left side.

Daily Announcements

Announcements are posted daily on the website. Check them out at: <http://clark.lcsc.us> to stay up to date on all the events and activities!

Improved Communication Between Home and School

Three new resources to improve communication between students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the community.



Skyward
Student Information System that shows student schedules, grades, attendance, and discipline. It is also used for online registration and to pay for school lunches.

Primary system that parents will use to monitor student academic performance, attendance, and behavior.

All families must have an account. It can be accessed via the web or the Skyward Family Access app for smart phones.

Pinwheel
A Scheduling Solution for school sponsored teams, organizations and clubs. Will be used mostly at the middle and high school level if your child participates in extracurriculars.



Parents and students will be able to view an up-to-date calendar of practices, meetings, competitions and events.

Coaches and sponsors can send out texts and emails to participants and their parents letting them know if a time has changed or event has been cancelled.

Community members can join and view when school events are by subscribing to a particular sport or club.



Canvas
Learning Management System that shows what students are learning and doing in class each day.

Secondary (Middle Schools and High School)

Calendar will show upcoming due dates for assignments, tests, projects, and class events.

Should be used by parents to verify studying and homework that needs to be done nightly. It is also where parents and students will go if they are absent to see what they missed.

Update from Guidance

Mrs. Churilla and Mrs. Bowman, new counselors to Clark MS, have been busy meeting new students and planning activities for the students. The New Student Breakfast was held on September 8th for all students new to the corporation or transferring from another school. The morning kicked off with a delicious breakfast of pancakes, fruits, whipped topping, sausage, juice and milk. The students enjoyed an interactive bingo game to help them meet the other students.

College "GO!" Week, Sept. 26-30th, will be filled with a variety of activities and videos to assist middle school students in better understanding their interests and how choices they make today can impact their college and career choices for the future. Students will also be making pennants and will be able to participate in several "dress up" days. October will bring a bullying presentation for the 5th graders, and several activities leading up to Red Ribbon Week at the end of October.



HELP Club News

“Chair”ish the Children Chair Contest

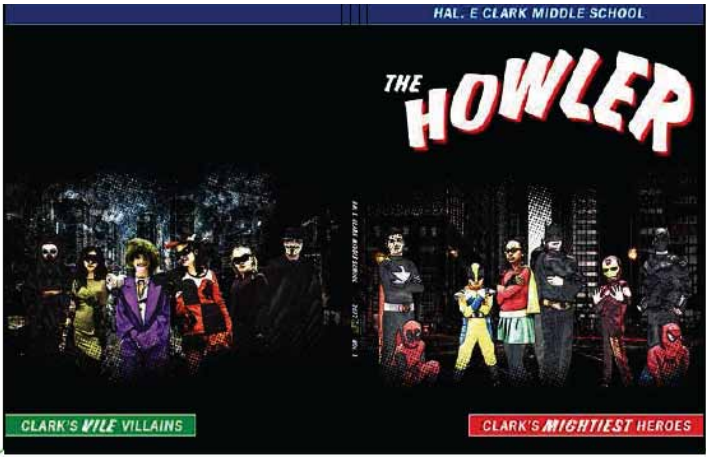
HELP Club is a community service organization open to all Clark students. Last year was a very productive year for the members. Decorating bags for Meals on Wheels, creating and posting directional signs for the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade hallways and assisting with Box Tops are a few of the activities members volunteered. The students also participated in the annual “Chair”ish the Children Chair Contest and Auction during Child Abuse Awareness Month. HELP Club was able to create six unique entries for the program. This

year the club is planning to participate in the “Chair”ish the Children Chair Contest and Auction. In order to give all members the opportunity to participate, Help Club is seeking donations of child sized chairs. If you have a chair to donate or have questions please contact Mrs. Margaret Govert (HELP Club Sponsor) at mggovert@lcscmail.com

Order your Yearbook Today!

Clark's 2016-2017 yearbook is currently in the works! Here is a sneak-preview of our yearbook cover! This year's theme is superheroes, and our cover features some of our very own Clark students! The design mirrors a comic book, and the students have been placed on a digital background and then enhanced with special comic book effects.

The cover will feature a soft lamination texture and a silver spot glitter coating on the city background, which will add to the unique look and texture of the cover. This yearbook will surely be one to remember for many years to come. Don't miss out on the opportunity to own a piece of Clark history! Purchase your copy today...before the price increases!



Paws for a Cause

St. John Pet Parade

Paws for a Cause students and club sponsors, Cindy Ring and Sonya Furman participated in the first Town of St. John Pet Parade. The event took place on Saturday, September 17th with participants winning gift cards and gift baskets in several categories. A St. Bernard won the Largest Dog prize

and a teacup maltese won as the Smallest Dog. We had a rabbit and kitten in the same cage win first prize for Best Decorated Carrier. Bandanas, Frisbees and food samples were handed out to all participants. A great time was had by all.



News from the Media Center

New York Times best-selling author Jennifer A. Nielsen to visit Clark Middle School on Friday, November 18th

We'll have two assemblies (5th & 6th grade and 7th & 8th grade), students and staff will meet the author, book order forms will be sent home and only books purchased through the in school sale may be signed by the author, commemorative t-shirts will be sold and autographed, reading contests have already started, fabulous prizes will be awarded. This will be another awesome day for everyone at Clark!

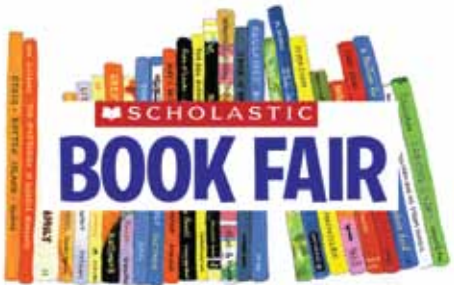
Read Ms. Nielsen's fantastic stories and earn your AR points. You won't want to miss her Underworld Chronicles, The Ascendance trilogy, The Praetor War trilogy, Infinity Ring: Behind Enemy Lines, A Night Divided or her latest book, Scourge. All titles are available in print and on eBooks. Also, check the public library for additional copies. You won't want to be left out of the reading loop on this one!



Book Fair

Parent Volunteers Needed

The SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR is scheduled for November 21st, 22nd & 23rd in the library. Please encourage your students to support the library fundraiser by purchasing books at the fair. Each Language Arts class will be given a shopping day and time. Parent volunteers are needed. Please contact Karley Kutka or Cindy Sues at clarkmspto.yahoo.com if you can help



State Mandated Vision Screening

Screening Performed by Walmart Opticians

On October 15th, 2016, Walmart Opticians will be performing state mandated vision screening on all 5th and 8th graders. Please make sure you child is wearing their glasses or contacts that day.



Soil & Water

5th Grade Presentation

On September 15th and 16th, Mrs. Huseman and her associate from Lake Country Soil and Conservation visited Clark’s fifth grade students for a presentation on water sheds. The students actively participated in discussions and engaging activities to understand the effects pollution has on the water sheds in our communities.

Student Council Update

From Gina Mielcarek

Student council will have their annual Halloween Dance on Tuesday, Oct 25th (5th grade is a Halloween party) 6-8 is a Halloween Dance

We will also be doing a drive for Operation SOS (Serving our Soldiers) where we will be collecting items that will be sent overseas to our troops as part of their Christmas packaging

shipment. That drive will begin on October 31st and will run through the day of our Veterans' Day program on November 11th.

Lastly, we will be hosting Clark Middle School Mock Elections to see who the student body of Clark would elect as their President. That will be during lunch periods on Tuesday, November 8th.

Box Tops for Education



Box Tops for Education are back again this year! Turn in your box tops each month for a chance to win a \$5 Target giftcard. Place all

box tops in the box in the office. Make sure you fill out the box top slip and put it in with your box tops. There will also be an ice cream reward for the homerooms that bring in the most box tops. Ice cream will be rewarded at the end of each semester. Last year we earned over \$1200. Let's see if we can make \$2000 this year!



Applications for new members will be given to students who have qualified to be a part of the National Junior Honor Society early second semester. Students in the 7th and 8th grade who have a cumulative grade point average of a 3.33 will be receiving applications. In order to become a member of the Clark chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, members must complete the application and then be selected

by a faculty committee. Just getting the application does not guarantee membership. Students must have at least two in school and two out of school activities and answer an essay. Any questions about what is considered and in school activity can be answered by checking the agenda book for all school activities, asking current members, or contacting Mrs. Giannini at Clark.

Language Arts News

Aubrey Nelson - Department Chair

As we approach the second nine weeks, Language Arts classes will be studying new units. To help promote these units and extend them beyond the classroom, we encourage you to discuss the following essential questions with your child at the dinner table, on the way to a practice or game, or whenever you have an opportunity.

5th Grade

1. What is the difference between fact and opinion?
2. How can people's differences of opinion lead to a revolution?
3. What words are used in a text to express an opinion?

6th Grade

1. How do individuals react when dealing with disaster?
2. How do people deal with and explain the impact of damaging events?

7th Grade

1. How do I step outside of my own perceptions and to allow myself to look at a situation objectively?
2. How are people's perceptions shaped?

8th Grade

1. At what point do you transition from childhood to adulthood?
2. How do major economic events change and/or influence your life?
3. How can lack of communication interfere with the relationship between you and your parents?

Science News

Kerry Cooper - Department Chair

The 7th grade science students participated in a HUMAN GRAPH this year. They lined themselves up by birthday month and we had a drone fly over them to take an aerial photo displaying the bar graph they were lined up in! The students had a lot of fun and learned a great deal about graphing with this activity.

We had our first Cross Country RUN WITH YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER day on Sept. 9th this year. We had almost 80 students and staff participating in this event! Refreshments were served afterward in the gym foyer. Thank you to all who participated !!!

Social Studies News

Jason Putman - Department Chair

In the social studies department we are preparing for our annual Veteran's Day celebration. If your family has a veteran, past or present, that is available for the breakfast and ceremony please have them consider attending. More information will be coming home through your child's homeroom for this November 11th event. We are also looking for photographs of Clark's veteran family members. Please send

digital pictures to Mr. Magdziarz at jmagdzia@lscmail.com or print copy pictures can be brought to their social studies teachers for scanning and they will be returned as soon as possible. Also include as much of the following information as possible: name of veteran, relation to Clark student or staff member, branch of service, years served, and location.

