

# The Coyote Howling

The Official Clark Middle School Parent Newsletter  
Winter 2016/2017



## From the Desk of Principal: Scott Graber

Happy Holidays from the CMS staff,

As we enter the holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you "Happy Holidays." I trust that you will be spending quality time with family and friends over the next few weeks. Enjoy your time together!

It is hard to believe the first semester is coming to an end. Teachers will be inputting grades until January 10 with report cards available on January 12, 2017. Please make sure that you review the report card with your child once it becomes available on Skyward. Students are reminded that they need to make sure they review Skyward daily and check on missing work, assignments completed, and grades obtained. Parents, you can also check your child's grades by logging into Skyward. If you have a concern or problem with obtaining the necessary information, please let the office know and we can assist you. As we start 2017, please be aware of some CMS staff changes. Mrs. Penny Gorski and Mrs. Linda Popiolek retired in December 2016. Mrs. Gorski was a departmental aide that worked for over 27 years while Mrs. Popiolek served as guidance secretary for over 32 years, both working in the LC school corporation. Mrs. Lyndsey Schaap will be our new guidance secretary and Mrs. Maria Raichle will be our new secretary in the main office. She joins Mrs. Furman as the face of the CMS office. I am sure that they will do a fantastic job. Also, CMS staff welcomes Mrs. Stephanie Fultz who is our new computer lab manager. Mrs. Fultz joins us from the Illinois area and works with our teaching staff and our student body with the computer labs, chrome carts, and testing schedules. Welcome!!!

The CMS students and staff have been busy as we continue to challenge the students daily with a curriculum that is engaging and standards based. Students have recently completed their second round of I-READY testing as we prepare for the upcoming ISTEP tests during the second semester. If you have a question about the standards or what is being taught in a particular class, please feel free to contact the following department chairpersons for more information:

Mrs. Aubrey Nelson...English/Language Arts

Mrs. Kerry Cooper....Science

Mr. Robert Gustas....Math

Mr. Jason Putman...Social Studies

During the second semester, be prepared to talk to your child about the upcoming ISTEP tests, 3 rd test for I-READY, 8th grade scheduling for the high school, as well as scheduling for the 5-7 th grade students. A school messenger will be sent with detailed information as those dates come closer.

Parents...over the past couple of weeks, I have received some communications from parents in regard to their child's grades, etc. I encourage you to contact your child's teacher before contacting one of the administrators. If you would like to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, please contact your child's teacher and/or contact the guidance staff for assistance. As a reminder, Mrs. Erica Churilla is the counselor for last names A-L while Mrs. Karen Bowman is the counselor for last names M-Z.

Winter weather....**BRRRRR** it is cold outside. Do you have an emergency plan if school is cancelled? What about a 2 hour delay? Is your child wearing appropriate clothing to school in regard to the winter weather? Please double check to make sure that your child is dressing appropriately for the weather and for school in general. The dress code applies all year long. For clarification on the dress code, please reference the school agenda.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

## Lake Central School Corporation Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake Central School Corporation, as a family, community, and school partnership is to ensure that each student becomes a self-directed learner and a contributing responsible citizen through an instructional delivery system that engages students in achieving their personal best.

### From the Desk of Mr. Stanisz, Assistant Principal....

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope that you had a safe and happy holiday season.

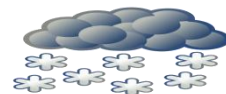
Thanks for your support of all our band, choir, clubs, and extracurricular teams during the late fall and early winter! It was great to see great parent/staff support in the stands and at events. Our 7th grade girl's basketball team kicks off action on January 24th against Taft Middle School at 5pm. This is the beginning of our winter sports season. Come out and support our student-athletes! We recently completed our winter portion of the I-Ready test on Reading/Language Usage and Math. We will continue to prepare the students for the first round of ISTEP testing that will take place in late February, early March. Thank you for your continued support in these areas.

Be mindful of our new safety drills and language that we are using in our buildings. An email was sent to all parents regarding this standard response protocol for students and teachers through the I Love U Guys Foundation.

Thanks for your help when dropping your children off by door J on the south side; however, please be mindful of the following issues: (1) please make sure that you remain in the car line and do not allow your child to exit the vehicle until they pass the unloading sign we have placed on the sidewalk. (2) If you are parking your car, please use a proper parking spot and do not pullout into oncoming traffic if you are parked in the front row. (3) The handicapped parking spots are needed for our students with disabilities and we appreciate your help in keeping those spots available. (4) When escorting your child to door J, please use the cross-walk located by the three orange cones. Thank you for your help in this matter!

Have you signed up for Twitter? Twitter is gathering support from parents and students around the school. To sign up, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) or download the app to your Smartphone and create a username. You can follow us at [@Clark\\_coyotes](https://twitter.com/Clark_coyotes) for news and information regarding CMS.

**Stay warm out there and enjoy the snow!!!**



# Clark News You Can Use

## Guidance:

The guidance office has been busy working with students and coordinating several activities. The end of October brought Red Ribbon week and the theme of YOLO (You Only Live Once-Make it Great!). An anti drug and alcohol use and abuse message was the focus through homeroom activities and videos stressing the importance of living “drug free” and finding life activities that can enrich one’s purpose. Every homeroom was asked to decorate their home room door with a drug free message and the most creative door messages were selected as winners. The four winning homeroom classes were Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Govert, Mrs. Castle, and Mrs. Pierzchalski. Each class was treated to a very special pizza party at the end of November. The counselors will also be meeting with the 6th – 8th graders during PE/Health classes in December for a presentation to review Bullying Prevention.

As first semester comes to a close, the guidance office would like to remind parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders that Lake Central High School will be hosting a Parent Information Night on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 from 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm. Please see the informational flyer in this newsletter.

**We wish all of you a wonderful  
Holiday Season!**



## Language Arts Department:

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?

## AR Field Trip

The Language Arts AR field trip will take place on May 16<sup>th</sup> (for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders) and May 17 (for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) at Jak's Warehouse. Students who meet 100% of their AR goals for the first three grading periods will be allowed to attend. The cost of the trip will be \$25 and includes unlimited attractions, a \$10 arcade game card, plus two slices of pizza and a drink.





## Paws for a Cause

Students recently hosted a bake sale at Alsip to the Rescue in St. John. The students earned almost \$400.00 which will be donated to Alsip to purchase large dog beds and other needed items.

The students also rotated stations that included making Christmas treat bags and pull toys, watching a presentation on training/walking the dogs and they also cleaned animal cages.

Co-sponsors Sonya Furman and Cindy were impressed with how well these student volunteers worked with the animals and customers at Alsip! Great job Paws for a Cause members!





## National Junior Honor Society



NJHS

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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who have a cumulative grade point average of 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 an in-school activity can be answered by checking the agenda book for all school activities, asking current members, or contacting Mrs. Giannini at Clark.



We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the NJHS Thanksgiving Food Drive. We had over 30 boxes which were donated to local food pantries! NJHS student volunteers made posters, collected and counted donations, as well as boxed the items to be donated.

# Thank You!

## INFO ON NUMATS:

Northwestern University's Midwest Talent Search (NUMATS) is a program that assists in identifying and meeting the needs of high ability students in the Midwestern states. If your child has scored in the 95th percentile of a nationally normed test or PASS + on the ISTEP MATH OR READING last year, and they are now a 7th or 8th grader, you may want to consider having your child take the SAT or ACT. More information is available on the NUMATS website [ctd.northwestern.edu/numats](http://ctd.northwestern.edu/numats).

The dates for the tests, required fees and eligibility information can all be found at this website, as well as answer questions you may have regarding the value of taking a high stakes test.

## Social Studies News:

The Veteran's Day celebration is in the books and was a great success! The Adopt-a-Sailor Holiday card program was also a great success with each student from Clark completing a card for a U.S. Navy recruit. Special recognition goes to 8th grader Emma Mysliwiec for her card receiving special recognition by the recruits. Great job Emma! In December all Clark social studies students will participate in the National Geographic Geography Bee. This school wide competition will culminate in January with one student being named Clark Geography Bee champ. The school champ will earn the right to compete in Indianapolis for the statewide title.



## Math News:

This year has been quite a challenge so far in math. As you know, we adopted new textbooks. All students should be able to access their books online through Canvas. If you can't do so, please contact your child's teacher and we will get them on to use it. There are quite a few helpful sites on the website, such as a skills review handbook, graphic organizers, and tool paper. The book is also available to be used as an app on your phone or other devices. We are getting ready to start some review for this year's ISTEP test. We will be doing some work during class, along with the regular curriculum. Don't forget, tutoring is every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8. Students do not need to sign up, just show up. We do ask that they be in the room by 8:15. As always, if your child is having problems in class, please contact your child's teacher. We are here to help in any way we can.



## This month for Science:

The advanced classes made some amazing volcanoes which were erupted in class. They were able to describe the different parts of the volcano and the reason why volcanic eruptions occur in the world. They look incredible and were shared with the regular level classes.



# LAKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



## Parent Information Night

Monday, January 23, 2017  
6:00pm-8:00pm

- Visit with staff from our academic departments on Main Street
- Tour Lake Central High School
- Attend a 30-minute informational presentation

*You're  
invited!*

### PARENT INFORMATION PRESENTATION

6:15pm and 7:15pm in the Auditorium

*Become acquainted with Lake Central High School! Parents will learn about their student's transition to high school, the new bell schedule, college and career readiness, student responsibilities, available resources, and so much more! Parents are invited to attend either session at their convenience.*

### TOURS

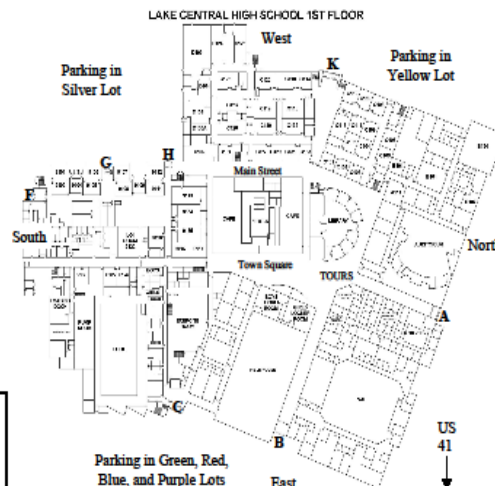
- Tours will begin in front of the Guidance office
- Tours will begin as groups are formed
- Allow approximately 20 minutes to complete a tour

Parent Information Night is for parents of incoming 9th grade students. Students are invited to attend an orientation "Rush" in August. Be on the lookout for more information as this school year comes to a close.

**Follow our Twitter & Instagram!**  
**@LCHSnews @LCHS\_Guidance**

### Parking

*Please park in the Green, Red, Blue, Purple, Silver, or Yellow Lots and enter through doors A, B, C, G, H, or K.*



*Class of 2021*

*"Elect To Read"*  
**NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

**FALL AUTHOR VISIT!**



**New York Times best-selling author Jennifer A. Nielsen visited Clark Middle School on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

What an awesome day for everyone at CMS! Ms. Nielsen presented two captivating presentations first thing in the morning. The remainder of the day was spent signing books and having meaningful conversations with hundreds of students and staff. She ate lunch with eleven AR reading contest winners: Claire Lindborg, Claire LaVoie, Jake Sues, Shannon Nolan, Emily Denny, Citlali Lopez, Ingrid Owczarzak, Hunter Carroll, Alex Gomez, Lucas Walker and Aubrey Carlson. The amazing day concluded with Ms. Nielsen reading a chapter from *The False Prince* to Mrs. Aubrey Nelson's 8<sup>th</sup> period class. You could hear a pin drop in the room while she read to the students. A group photo was taken and Ms. Nielsen headed to the airport. Wow! What a day!

The following week of November 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> was our **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**. We reached our highest total sales in nine years! All proceeds were taken in Scholastic Dollars. Thanks to everyone who supported the library fundraiser by purchasing books from our fair. A special thanks to parent volunteer, Karley Kutka for organizing a fantastic group of parents to work. And thank you to all the volunteers, you all did an incredible job and you're invited back to work again next year☺

The **March Madness Contest** continues and will conclude on March 15<sup>th</sup>. All students who read and pass the AR tests on the twenty Young Hoosier Book Award nominees will earn a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. All AR tests become raffle entry forms for chances to win spectacular prizes. There are tote bags filled with new books, autographed books from Jennifer Nielsen, Marie Lu and Gary Paulsen. Students, keep reading, there is plenty of time to participate in this contest!

Denise Snyder,  
Media Specialist



# Reminders for Parents

## 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 is going to the doctor or dentist please have them bring in a slip for verification from the doctor/dentist. PLEASE don't forget to leave your child's NAME when calling them off.

## Important Dates:

- Winter Break-December 23<sup>rd</sup>-January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Martin Luther King Day-January 16<sup>th</sup>
- President's Day-February 20<sup>th</sup>

## Christmas Fun For All!

### Mickey & Minnie No Bake Christmas Cookies



Living Locurto

#### WHAT YOU NEED FOR THIS RECIPE:

Double Stuffed Oreos  
Mini Oreos  
Choice of Frosting  
Red Candy Melts  
Wax Paper  
Wilton Bow Icing Decorations (or make your own)  
Christmas Sprinkles  
Holly Sprinkles

**HAVE FUN!**

## Daily Announcements:

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