



Clark Middle School

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK

January 2007 CALENDAR EVENTS

Jan. 8 First day back from winter break beginning of 3rd Qtr.

Jan. 9 ESL Parenting class
5:30pm

Jan. 10 Spelling Bee

Jan. 11 Sports team photo

Jan 15. NO SCHOOL

Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Jan. 16 21st Century After school program restarts

Jan. 22 – 26 University week

Jan. 23 ESL Parent classes
5:30pm

Jan. 18 X-skiing & Girls basketball begins

Jan. 18 Math/Science Night

Jan. 23 SAB (student advisory board) @ 11:15am

Jan. 25 Dance: Sport theme

Jan. 30 Parent Luncheon @ 12:30pm

Jan. 30 ESL Parent classes
5:30pm

February Events

Feb. 6-9 Terra Nova Testing (7th graders)

Feb. 8 NAEP testing

Feb. 12-16 (Random Acts of Kindness week)

Feb. 12 Pennies for Patients

Feb 13 SAB mtg. 8am @ KCC

Feb. 16 Mid-Qrt. Report mailed home

Feb. 17 SUPER Sat./Enrichment

Feb. 19 Holiday No School

Feb. 27 Parent Breakfast
8:3.0am

Feb. 27 Parent classes 5:30pm

Wow! This has been an exciting and fast-paced school year. Already the excitement and anticipation of the Holiday Season is here! We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a joyful and peaceful Holiday Season.

On January 8th, we will be waiting to Welcome back our students from a wonderful Winter Break. I hope that the brief break will be just enough to revive students energy and prepare them to complete the remainder of the school year with their minds focused on the “Three A’s”...Excellence in Academics, Excellence in Attendance and Excellence in Attitude. We will continue to join together in supporting “Excellence” for all of students!

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR LEARNING

Clark Middle School is a place where everyone is someone special. Our school is organized and designed to facilitate and enable “teachers to teach and students to learn.” The efforts of the staff to create a climate for learning at Clark Middle School are reflected in the accomplishments and achievements of our students.

Our educational goal is to make learning so exciting that students will experience the joy of discovering new ideas and building new skills, thereby developing a love of learning that will create “life-long learners.” Student work and projects are proudly displayed throughout the school and students who complete their work on time are reinforced and praised by teachers.

Positive attitudes toward school and staff and long-term changes in behavior are the staff’s behavioral goals for each student. The staff focuses on positive, effective approaches in building self-esteem by teaching students respect for themselves and others. Students are provided many opportunities to develop and demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility.

The Clark Middle School staff is deeply committed to providing and maintaining a strong discipline policy for students. We believe that all students have the right to a quality education. We firmly believe that each student has a right to attend school and learn in a positive, safe, threat-free environment.

Respect and responsibility are strong components of our school discipline program and they are evident throughout the school. Positive behavior and performance is recognized through a variety of awards such as Student of the Week, Reading awards, Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, 4.0 Award, as well as individual achievement recognition in classrooms.

Homework is an integral part of school and helps students develop responsibility and good study habits by successfully completing homework assignments. Emphasis is on the quality of the experience rather than the quantity of the work. Homework is a link between school and home, and Clark Middle School parent support for homework is an important factor towards building positive attitudes and good study habits.

Clark Middle School’s learning environment is school strength. Classrooms and school programs reflect the school’s strong emphasis on learning. Students and parent express pride in their school. The school takes every opportunity to recognize and reward students, staff and parent for their successes and accomplishments. The community’s pride in Clark has resulted in almost no incidences of vandalism. The school community’s total support for quality education is on-going and impressive.

Our home to school communication connection provides parents information about school programs and ways to become involved and supportive of school efforts. With the support of parents and community, the staff and students have created a school at Clark Middle School where a climate of learning is one of the primary educational goals. We hope we have created a school climate where the love of learning enables every student at Clark to experience personal success and development into a life long learner.

Cessilye R. Williams



Assistant Principal Update

Jane Johnson
7th Grade
Assistant Principal
742-4717

Mario Toro
8th grade
Assistant
Principal
742-4723

Safety & Security:
Leticia Freed
Julia Freeman
Troy Hodge
Kenneth Prayer

*all students have
the right to
be safe at school, &
it works!*

Children model 93% of
what they see others
doing.
Model excellence and
our children will follow
suit.

January 2007

Happy New Year 2007 to all Clark families. Clark's primary goals are to create a place for academic excellence in a friendly, safe, caring, and welcoming climate for students, parents, and staff. It is a sense of belonging that for the majority of students mean a dedication to high academic achievement, development of appropriate social skills, commitment to responsible citizenship, and participation in the many sports and activities available at Clark.

Several activities start up in early January. Cross-country skiing and hockey start January 8th. Tae Taekwondo will begin in mid-January and girls' basketball begins in February. A participation form and sports physical are required for the athletic activities. Sports physical are good for a full year, so if your child had a physical last summer or fall, he/she does not need another one. Participation forms for each activity are in the main office.

Lunchtime basketball, logic games, individual classroom tutoring, band and the library offer students a variety of options during lunch. Clark students are encouraged to participate in activities that promote a healthy mind and body.

The Anchorage municipality operates the Clark library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm-8:00 pm and Saturdays from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. Students need to go home after school, but may return to the library later in the afternoon.

During the fall semester, Clark students completed the AVB lessons (Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders) stressing the prevention of bullying and harassment. Parents are strongly encouraged to support their child in reporting to staff any problems they are having with harassment/bullying at school. Every child has the right to walk into Clark knowing that they will not be harassed, bullied, or threatened.

Students are taught to understand the difference between "snitching" just to get someone else in trouble and becoming a responsible citizen by reporting unlawful activities both inside and outside of school. Information provided to school authorities is kept confidential to protect the student. The Clark handbook is given to all students, and its content is reviewed on a weekly basis. Parents are encouraged to review the handbook rules and consequences with their child. Parent/school partnership, and peer power assures that all of our students will be successful and feel safe.



NURSE NEWS

If you receive a notice stating your child is due for another immunization, please have this immunization given and FAX (742-4756) or send in the documentation to the nurse. Please note the date the immunization is due. Some immunizations, if given too early, will not be accepted and an additional immunization will be required. Parents of children with a known anaphylactic reaction to food, animals, insect stings, latex, or anything else, must provide an Allergy/Anaphylaxis Action Plan completed by the physician and parent. The Allergy/Anaphylaxis Action Plan becomes the emergency plan for a student in the event an exposure occurrence happens requiring treatment at school or on a field trip. If you need a copy of this form, call the nurses office. Please be aware that your students' ability to learn is affected greatly by sleep and diet. Many students are presenting with complaints that likely would not occur if the student had a good night sleep (between 8.5 and 9.25 hours) and/or ate breakfast. Breakfast is provided for all students at Clark, free of charge. They must be to the cafeteria by 8:10 in order for them to get breakfast.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Alaska Chapter, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Anchorage School District are pleased to announce the continuation of the *Power Breathing Program* for students with Asthma. The program will be taking place at Clark in February. Information will be sent to families of students with known asthma diagnoses. Contact the nurse for more information. If you have questions, you can reach the school nurse. Larue Ysen at 742+4701



TerraNova/CAT 6 Information

Clark Middle School

The TerraNova/CAT 6 is a norm-referenced standardized achievement test that is part of the Alaska Comprehensive System of Student Achievement (CSSA). The state requires the school districts to test grades 5 and 7. These grades will also participate in the statewide administration of the Standards-Based Assessment in April.

The TerraNova/CAT 6 will be administered to students in grades 5 and 7 the week of **February 5-9**. The required sub-tests are timed and include reading, language, and mathematics. The TerraNova/CAT 6 individual student results are reported in national percentile scores. The student's achievement is compared with that of the national sample of students upon which the test was normed. By administering a norm-referenced test, we are able to gauge how our students in the Anchorage School District perform compared to students who were in the national norm group.

The make-up dates for the TerraNova/CAT 6 are February 9th.

Each individual school will set their testing and make-up schedule. The combined length of the tests is 170 minutes with additional time required for test distribution and reading of directions. The individual schools will determine whether to administer all the required tests in one school day or spread them over two school days.

Parents are asked to help by having their students rested and ready for testing on the testing days. Eating a nutritious breakfast is important. Please have your student to school on time and avoid scheduling appointments on the testing dates.

Third Quarter Starts January 8th Gearing up for second semester

Counselor's Corner

January 8th, 2007 will mark the first day of the third quarter. This is a great time to review your student's grades and progress so far this school year. If you are not satisfied with their progress, please don't hesitate to contact your counselor to go over some options. There are support classes available, tutoring, plans for success, and other resources we can explore for your child.

Terra Nova Testing

All 7th graders will be participating in the yearly Terra Nova Test on February 6th and 7th. We will be providing breakfast for those students taking the test, but Please encourage your child to do their best and to get plenty of rest the night before. The school uses this test to determine academic placement and potential **need** for support services.

University Week

Clark will be hosting a University Week from January 15-19. The purpose of this week is to promote higher education, and to explore options open to our kids for their future. Activities will include tours of King Career Center and UAA, presentations by Educational Talent Search, family night, and career exploration activities. Clark sincerely believes that there are educational opportunities available for all of our students, and together we can work to find one that is right for you child.

Parent/Student Breakfast & Luncheon

What	When	When	Where
Luncheon	January 30, 2007	12:30pm-1:45pm	Clark's Library
Breakfast	February 27, 2007	8:30am-9:45am	Clark's Library

If you need to arrange a conference with your student's teachers

CITC

We hope that you had a wonderful winter break and the New Year brings good things.

Currently in Class, our 7th grade students have been reading A Distant Enemy by DebVanasse. It is a story about a half-Yupik boy who lives in a village, loves the traditional native ways and learns to deal with personal issues regarding the changing times and the introduction of Western ways. The 8th grade students have been reading Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson. This story involves another angry young man who gets in trouble with the law and goes through Circle Justice, a Tlingit way of healing and rehabilitation, on a remote island in southeast Alaska. Both grades really seem to enjoy the books and are learning valuable lessons about the struggles we all must face. We have introduced the Socratic Seminar process to our 8th grade classes, and hope to use this more as a tool for getting our students to a more in-depth understanding of the units we cover this year.

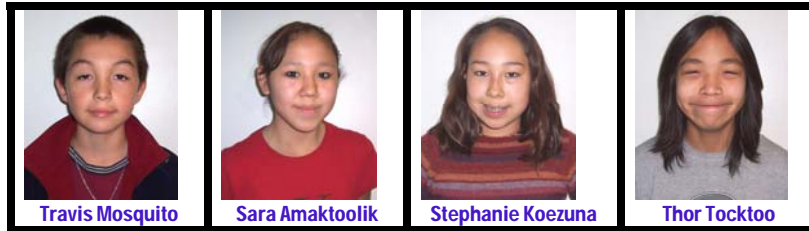
Recognizing Our Youth: **Students are recognized for various reasons from extraordinary effort to outstanding academic performance.**

Congratulations to December's Students of the Month!!!

7th Grade

8th Grade

Awesome!



Keeping On Track...

With the third quarter just starting, we would like to remind you of the many resources available to help students be successful. Here at Clark there is the 21st Century program, Indian Ed's Homework Club, and now the Evening Program two nights a week. Students can get help at lunchtime. There is also help on Saturdays and online. Please call CITC Family Advocate, Ms. Dora Boy Scout at 360-7626 or Indian Education Counselor, Mr. John Clayton at 632-6072 for more information.

Act Now... Don't forget! Native Youth Olympics (NYO) training begins January 16, 2007. Be sure to get your forms from Ms. Vicki in Room 122, Mr. Clayton in the office, or Coach Wood, Room 118. You must have a physical. NYO is open to all students, not just Alaska Natives. If you've got the skills, bring it and represent yourself and Clark! Join the fun!!!

And Finally...

A thank you goes to all students and their families for joining us for our Second Quarter Potluck, held December 13, 2006. Very special thank yous go to Stephanie Koezuna and her family, the King Island Dancers, for an exciting performance and to Travis Mosquito's mom, Rose, who donated some wonderful door prizes. We hope all had fun and thank you again for supporting your students and school. See you at the next potluck!



Stephanie Koezuna and her mother, both members of the King Island Dancers, perform.

Indian Education-

Mr. John Clayton My name is **John A. Clayton, Jr.** and I am the **Counselor for the Indian Education.** Exciting things are happening here at **Error! Contact not defined.** The **SBA support and after School Homework Club** is up and actively recruiting students that need help in receiving better grades, completing their homework or just working on increasing their SBA scores. **If your student could benefit from this please contact me at 742-4700.** We also have an **Saturday Class** here at Clark M.S. every Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Students can receive help with their homework, work on increasing their multiplication/division skills, and also work on their SBA scores using Homework.com or Larson Math. We are here to ensure your student success... so please get your student involve so that they may experience the success they deserve.

Indian Education Program is offering an **Evening Program on Tuesday and Thursday at Clark Middle School from 6:15-8:15 PM.** They will be offering:

- Homework help from grades K-12**
- Family Cultural & Craft Projects**
- Open Gym**
- Math & Reading Tutoring for Grades K-12**
- Alaska Native Language Classes – Yupik & Tlingit**
- Scholarship Workshop for Jr./Sr. High School students.**



Parent-Help From the Reading Department



Tips for Helping Your Child Enjoy Reading

An article from "Math and Reading Help for Kids"

Reading doesn't have to be boring! Learn about fun activities and techniques parents can employ to bring excitement into their children's reading.

Many times students do not enjoy reading because they struggle with their reading homework and skills. This can be unfortunate because students can learn a vast amount of information from fiction and non-fictional texts. Thankfully, there are many techniques you can take as a parent to increase your child's joy for reading. Two techniques you can use with your children are journal and letter writing activities.

Journal Writing

Writing in a reading journal is a way for children to make the connections that are essential to make reading useful and fun. In a reading journal, children write their observations about what is going on in the text. These can be both literal and figurative.

It is also effective to write what the child is thinking and feeling about the literature, along with their reading process. Are they feeling the emotions the characters are feeling, do they read as an outside observer or do they take on one of the characters personas?

Letter Writing

Another fun and effective writing activity is literary letters. You and your child can read a book together and write to each other about the book. These letters can be about anything having to do with the book. For example, what do you think will happen next, what are the main themes and how do they apply to your life, did the ending surprise you, etc.

These writing activities get your child really thinking about what they are reading. In doing so, they will be finding and experiencing the details and emotions they miss when they just scan the text to find answers for homework.

By praising your child's work, you are also praising the work they have put into reading. This improves their confidence, which, in turn, will increase their joy of reading. Over time, the use of these activities will increase your child's confidence in their reading abilities, and help make them look forward to reading. Help your student learn and enjoy reading, and in turn you will open a world of possibilities for their future.

From the Social Studies Department:

In our Social Studies classes here at Clark, we are all over the map...ha ha (pun intended). Many of our 7th graders are wading through Global Geography while our 8th graders have stepped back in time to the early days of American History and are exploring our Nation's past. Recently, many of our staff attended a training at Bartlett High School regarding preparing our students for Advanced Placement classes. We came away with new ideas and perspectives as we move toward the close of the semester and into the New Year.

We continue to use a variety of instructional methods in our classes. Ask your students about the work they are doing in their social studies classes. You might be surprised at the different types of activities that students have before them. We continue to strive to offer a challenging and rewarding curriculum!!!!

Craig Naylor, dept co-chair, 8th Grade
Maureen WmsCornelius, dept co-chair, 7th Grade

PE NEWS



Ms. Bandle's PE/Health- seventh grade classes will be starting the New Year with a two-week unit in team handball. We will end January with a special presentation by Officer Rollins and the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). The eighth grade Physical Education students will be switching to health class this semester. Please be looking for a letter coming home the first week back from break that will include what we will be covering and major topics in the curriculum. During the first two weeks upon returning to school, Ms. Sager's PE classes will be participating in APD's Officer Rollins' D.A.R.E program. Ms. Sager's classes will be in the MPR along with Mr. Larkey's and Mr. Purcella's. They will not be dressing out during this program. After the two weeks of D.A.R.E., Ms. Sager's classes will be in the gym participating in a basketball unit. We will resume dressing out at that time.

Learning Center News

The focus of the learning Center has been on assisting students in their research for end of the quarter research projects; strengthening math skills through hands on activities at the board; assisting students in organization to complete missed or incomplete assignments and a writing activity, What I like most about school. I was amazed at the things that our students like about school. One student stated that he thought the teachers were nice and that they were willing to help students with their work. He continued to say that he thought teachers deserved more. So staff, you never know who may touch. On that note, Happy Winter Break.

FIREWEED TEAM 7th

Science – Kostival -We are currently working with the periodic table. Key concepts include: atomic mass, atomic number, electrons, neutrons and protons. This gives us an opportunity to investigate how chemicals react with each other.

Social Studies with the exciting Mr. Libal!

Welcome to the second half of the year Fireweed parents. For the third quarter, our focus will be brief unit covering present day Middle Eastern countries, followed by a study of the continent of Africa. As always, we will highlight the five themes of geography as we study the land and people of these areas. We will supplement the regular curriculum with a Socratic seminar study of African literature.

ESL Ms. Cronin-Wmscornelius

As we transition to a new quarter remember, ask your students to share their writing folders. Writing is an essential component of Language Arts. Literature selections for the quarter are regionally focused on Africa. We will read a variety of genres including short stories, fables, poems and current news articles. Extra credit is always available for a written summary of an article from the Anchorage Daily News or a reputable website such as CNN or Fox News. Reading Foundations will continue to focus on developing effective reading strategies as preparation for success on the SBA's our team will collaborate to foster interdisciplinary units pertaining to the 7th grade curriculum of social studies & language arts.

Language Arts – Aleksich

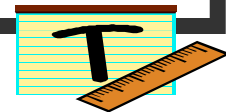
Third quarter will focus on a variety of different units and areas of focus. In reference to writing, students will compose an expository essay and work on a unit pertaining to poetry. The literary focus of the quarter revolves around Africa and Asia. In addition, students will be preparing for the up and coming SBA examinations that will take place at the end of the quarter.

As always, please be on the lookout for weekly student progress reports and feel free to e-mail or call if you have a question regarding your student's academic progress.

Language Arts - Mrs. Shurigar

FRAME is a new graphic organizer we have been working with in class. It is similar to the LANGUAGE! organizer called Build It we use to organize our notes and stories. FRAME is a more versatile multi-purpose tool we can use for speeches, taking notes in class, and planning activities. We have also been doing daily exercises in a program called SIM to increase and expand our sentence developmental writing skills. This program is in addition to the writing we are doing in LANGUAGE! Along with the sentence and paragraph writing structure, we have been working on our spelling, punctuation and grammar on a daily basis. It is hard to believe we are in to second semester already. The amount of daylight is already lengthening a few minutes each day. Before we know it, our spring assessment dates will be here, and with them the warming seasons.

TEAL TEAM



Happy New Year, Welcome back! Students have a fresh start at grades and attendance, and there are many exciting things coming up in social studies, language arts, and science.

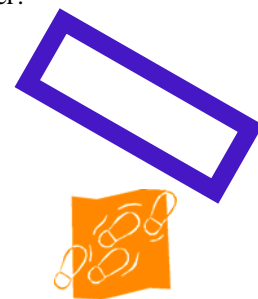
--Ms. Owens > Social Studies: Welcome back from Winter Break! Everyone should be well rested and ready to tackle the globe. We are finishing up our exploration of Europe and discovering the beginnings of civilization. Be prepared to delve into the Middle East in February.
--Mrs. Scalph > Language Arts: WOW! We just finish the exciting novel, The Adventures of Ulysses. During the first week in January, we're viewing the video, The Odyssey, so we can compare/contrast the novel to the video. The writing focus this quarter is persuasive writing, and students will be writing persuasive letters. We'll also do some poetry connected with the Middle East to integrate with Ms. Owens social studies classes.

EXTRA CREDIT QUESTION OF THE MONTH: What/Who are the theme(s), setting, and major characters in The Adventures of Ulysses? If you know the answer, and you should, write it down on a piece of notebook paper and give it to Mrs. Scalph.

--Mrs. Parcels > ESL: In reading, we are continuing to work on our comprehension skills and The Rewards Reading Program. In language arts, we will be studying ancient civilizations, writing compare/contrast papers, and participating in seminar activities. In social studies, we will be studying ancient civilizations, beginning the study of the Middle East, and participating in seminar activities.

--Mrs. Constantine > Special Education: In Language Arts Block—We have almost finished our first unit on bats. Students are getting much more comfortable developing a graphic organizer and writing 3-paragraph essays. We have supplemented the *Language!* Curriculum with some fun activities such as having students write out their own Simon Says statements and then read them to the class in order to see how they play out in a game. Of course, we changed the game to be their 1st names, such as “Cody Says.” In Study Skills—We are experiencing memory strategies in our Mnemonic Unit. The unit begins with students being given one minute to view 20 items that are then covered up. The students then have 2 minutes to write down as many items as they can remember. We then discuss what strategies they used to remember the items. Next, we move to learning unit spelling words by using different mnemonic strategies. Students take frequent notes on each strategy. Strategies include creating clues like: We do not eat sand day for Wednesday.

--Ms. Wetzel > ESL Tutor: Ms. Wetzel is a tremendous asset to our team! All of our students are benefiting from her help and assistance in all subject areas. We greatly appreciate her!



BLUE-TEAM

WOW! Can you believe we are in the second half of the school year already? Time is definitely flying by. Before you know it, spring will be here and our students will be taking the Standardized Based Assessment (SBA) Examinations. The staff on the Blue Team would like to extend an invitation to you and your student to participate in an exciting program for a small number of students. We are providing an after-school SBA Tutoring Program that offers sessions where we see huge potential for success on the upcoming SBA exam. The program began on December 18, 2006 and will continue until the scheduled examination in April 2007. It is a flexible schedule and your child may come as often as fits into your schedule. The program is from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If your child needs a ride home on a school bus, one will be available for transportation. The students will have the opportunity to rotate through three 35-minute tutoring sessions on math, reading, and writing skills. There will also be a session where students will be allowed to complete any homework assignments.

Letters have already been sent out to students who are eligible to attend these sessions, however they are open to all students. Our goal is to ensure that Blue Team students are equipped with the test taking strategies they will need in order to be successful on the SBA examination. Please contact the school if you would like an application for the program. Also, remember you may contact teachers of the Blue Team if you have any concerns about your student's performance at school.

LANGUAGE ARTS

By way of introduction, my name is Sharon Pinkney and I am the Blue Team's Language Arts teacher. This is my sixth year teaching here at Clark. I believe this is an awesome school and your child will benefit greatly here. The main focus of the eighth grade Language Arts curriculum is to encourage students to embrace a love for reading, improve their writing abilities, and to gain confidence in presenting numerous oral speaking assignments. My desire this year is that we become partners in your child's education. I thank all of you who read the Language Arts syllabus your child brought home on the first day of school. By the number of signed acknowledgements I received, I can already determine you all are great supporters of your child's education. You can expect me to call home, not only when any concerns arise in the classroom, but just to let you know how great your child is in my classroom. Wouldn't it be great to receive positive phone calls about your child? I hope you in turn will contact me when you have questions or concerns about what occurs in my classroom. You may reach me by calling the school or e-mail me at Pinkney_Sharon@asd.k12.org. Let's partner up to ensure that we "Leave No Child Behind".

Mr. Coleman's-class- "Prepositions, transitions, adjectives....my kids are on their business! The *Language!* program is in full effect and students are learning. Soon, we will be leaving Book C and entering Book D. Anyway, I am very proud of the progression our students are making. No place to go but up!"

Macedo's corner,

English: We will be learning the use of dialogue in a story. Learn to identify the climax of a story. We will continue working on descriptive, persuasive writing and using graphic organizers.

Social Studies: We are starting on *The Road to Revolution*. From the Treaty of Paris 1763 to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. (Chapter 6)
Reading: We started unit two. We are learning to think critically, to create ideas, and classify those ideas using a graphic organizer to engage in class discussion.

DIAMOND TEAM

We look forward to starting off the second semester refreshed and ready to complete the seventh grade with success. We are offering a Diamond Team SBA prep program that runs Monday through Thursday from 3:00 – 5:00. It is a combination of test taking skills, math activities, reading comprehension, and vocabulary development. We would love to have your child in our program. Please contact the school if you are interested in joining us. We also have lunchtime tutoring available in all subjects. Please have your student see a Diamond Team teacher for a pass.

Here are some more tips to ensure academic success for your child: Check with your teachers for missing assignments weekly, turn assignments in on time, come in at lunch for help, obtain an academic progress form from your counselor to be filled out weekly, and most importantly please be in attendance every day, on time, and with all of your materials.

In **Language Arts**, we will be writing a persuasive letter. Your student will do an excellent job, as they have been preparing for this all year with their weekly letters home. We will also be studying poetry. We will be reading others poetry and writing our own. It is a great way for your child to express their own ideas, as well as study different literary devices and elements of poetry.

In **Social Studies**, we will kick off the New Year with unit three, the Middle East. Students will create and label maps of the Middle East. We will also compare and contrast the three major religions of that area. During this unit, the students will research current events between the United States and the Middle East, including their affects on each other.

In **Science**, we will be studying cells and body systems. We will be also doing a two- week project on viruses, bacteria and the disease they cause. Students will be asked to create pamphlets of the diseases we are studying to present to the class. We will be concentrating on diseases that are prevalent in the Middle East.

Science Department

The science department has just purchased some new computer software and probeware. We will be using the new equipment in many of our labs. Being something new, I am sure that it will be a while before we are proficient with its use. But that will come with experience. Mr. Wood is quickly becoming the 'expert' and will be teaching the rest of the science department soon.

We are also planning to host a combined math/science night here at Clark for January. The date has tentatively been set for January 18th. Watch for upcoming fliers for this activity.

Electives Team



WORLD LANGUAGES :

FRENCH with Mme. Scalph:
Bonne Annee (Happy New Year!)

3rd-Hour French > 7th Grade: Bienvenue (Welcome) to my *fantastique* "new" group of seventh graders. You're well on your way to learning some of the basics in French. First, you'll learn that about 40% of our English language is derived from French. That means, you already know a lot of French words and phrases. Very shortly, you'll be learning the French alphabet and saying it to the teacher. You'll also learn the first hundred numbers in French, and basic French sentence structure. Every Friday, you'll play BRAVO (a French version of Bingo) to review and learn more French. You'll also climb to the very top of the Eiffel Tower and visit many French-speaking countries and regions via video. **Extra Credit Question of the Month? How do you say, "Thank you very much" in French?** (Write the answer down on a piece of paper, and give it to Mme. Scalph.)

6th-Hour French > 8th Grade: Congratulations to my 8th-grade French students who did a *magnifique* job on their French-English dictionaries. After a brief review, we'll be learning new vocabulary, verbs, and phrases. As part of cultural experience this quarter, you'll see Bugs Bunny, Little Lulu, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, and other cartoon characters speaking French. Via video, we'll also travel to more areas and countries where French is spoken. Thanks for all of your hard work! You are doing a *superbe* job!

Extra Credit Question of the Month: How do you say, "That's life," in French? (Please write the correct answer on a piece of paper, and give it to Mme. Scalph.)

Au revoir!

SPANISH 1A – 1B -SPANISH 1A: Students in first year exploratory Spanish are now working with Christmas vocabulary and grammar of making nouns plural and a review of indefinite articles. As we approach the end of the second quarter I have given students their progress reports so that they can see what past due assignments they have. Each student may turn in any past due assignment for partial credit up Until December 18th. This might help the grades of many students who have neglected their studies. We will start the third quarter studying vocabulary of things found in your house, and visiting the library to do research on a South American country of their choice. **SPANISH 1B:** Second year Spanish students are reading more and expanding their vocabulary. AS we finish up the second quarter, we are studying La Familia, and the vocabulary involved with family members. We also have worked with Christmas vocabulary and read about customs in Mexico for La Nochebuena. We finished reading and translating our first short novel/story and will start the second one next week. Starting the third quarter, Spanish 1B will expand their work on verbs, sentence structure and use of the language in everyday situations. Parents, please remind your child to review their notebook and assignment sheet to see what is due from their textbook each week. Generally, I take no late assignments and each student should be responsible to turn in their work on time. Gracias. Sr. Jarussi

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

"BAND NOTES" – Mr. John Cleveland -3rd Quarter has started with a Bang! All of Clark's bands are making steady progress with a real hunger for new music and chances to perform. During 1st semester, we had the opportunity to play for the student body during lunch, and the audience loved it. We hope to get an opportunity to do this again. We are currently preparing for the upcoming Area Band Festival. This involves only Eighth

Grade Band students. The dates will be provided soon. Get ready to hear some great music! This is the time of year that we will emphasize the importance of scales. Please encourage your young musicians to practice. Thank you for your continued support of Clark Middle School's Band Program.
Mr. "C"

CHOIR – Ms. Mobley -The Choir is looking good this year! In December they sang for the Educational Facility Planners Conference at the Millennium Hotel and were a big hit! They went on to do an amazing job singing for family and friends at the Winter Concert. During third quarter, the choir will be working on music for Solo & Ensemble Festival, which will be held at Central Lutheran Church on March 2nd from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The festival is an optional event for advanced students to sing for a judge, who then gives written and verbal comments

ORCHESTRA AND GUITAR – Mr. Robert Tornfelt -Solo and Ensemble Festival is coming up March 2nd, so now is the time to prepare a solo. Establish a regular practice routine at home 5 days a week, one half hour each day. Regular practice on what we cover in class is normal for students who want to advance in music instrument study so they can play new and different music pieces in a way that sounds good to the listener. **Study especially the rhythms, fingerings, and bowings of the music we study in class.** Come to class prepared, and with the desire to learn and review music. Have your instrument with you, and your music folder with all the music and papers I have handed out to you. Keep track of it. It is expensive and very time consuming to get the music for you. Put your name on every piece. Don't leave it "lying around". You are also expected to have in class, every day, your pencil and electronic tuner or pitch fork so you can improve on tuning your instrument by yourself, and mark special fingerings or markings in your music whenever I request it or whenever you need to remind yourself of something in the music. You should also have a folding music stand at home to help you maintain good posture as you read your music. I can't over emphasize the importance of proper posture at your age. It will affect you for years to come. I look forward to learning new music and rising to new levels of playing with a beautiful tone and interpreting music.

"TRADITIONAL ELECTIVES" -(Art- **Mr. Rocky Pasquale**, and Family and Consumer Sciences- **Mrs. Ramona Rivers**) -We would like to welcome our 8th grade students to our second semester classes and our 7th graders to our 3rd Quarter classes. The Traditional Elective classes programs are designed to permit exploration in the assigned areas of study with the intent that students will have a broader understanding of how their core courses are incorporated in all aspects of learning. **Art classes** are busy, busy, and busy! Students are currently learning and applying art techniques. They are now working on a drawing unit. Mr. Pasquale looks forward to discovering and developing some brilliant, creative young artists this semester. **Family and Consumer Sciences (F.A.C.S.) students** have been engaged in learning and practicing important safety procedures to follow during laboratory and every-day activities. They are currently completing a hand-sewing project, making plans for up-coming Food Technology Labs and selecting and completing activities in the areas of Textile Creations and Nutrition. Remember the important ingredients for student success in the F.A.C.S. program: attendance, preparation, participation, cooperation, and responsibility. Parents, please ensure that your students are ready to fully participate in class activities by sending the class Lab Fee. I am happy that you and your student is a part of this class, and I hope that you will enjoy learning and working this quarter!

Mars Team



It's hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year! We hope that your holidays were restful and that you were able to spend some time with family and friends. Our students have studied everything from Greek Mythology and Asia to Chemistry and landforms around the world. Mars students have made many projects in all of their Core Classes. This requirement will continue throughout the rest of the year.

As always, watch out for quarter projects due in science class. These projects require hands-on models and written reports in order to receive credit. Language Arts topics coming up include the school wide spelling bee and a large poetry unit. Social Studies will focus on Europe beginning in January. This will include a large research project that will be due toward the end of January.

GREEN TEAM

We are half way through the year! We hope everyone has had a joyous holiday break and is ready for big things in 2007. The Green Team had great success working with students before and after school during December to get work caught up and grades returned to acceptable levels.

Science students have finished Earth Science, and will be starting Astronomy by the time you read this. Our focus will be on the 8 planets, minor planets, and comets. Enriched and Gifted students will be covering stars and galaxies as well. This will present some great opportunities to use Socratic Seminars to go a little deeper into space research and cosmology.

In Mr. Naylor's History class, Quarter 3 will find your student in the exploring the "Peculiar Institution" of slavery and its lasting impact on American society. Student will review a variety of components, both from their text and from primary information gathered in Slave Narratives. Students will close with a look at the impact of slave spirituals and find their own "spiritual" in today's music. Together, we will create a class CD of Clark spirituals.

Currently on the Green team, we are deep into the study of Yellow Fever and how it affected the country at large. We have been closely studying the roles of such individuals as Dr. Rush, Mayor Clarkson, President Washington, Absalom Jones, and Richard Allen. We have spent considerable time looking at the role of The Free African Society and how these amazing people stepped up to the plate when no others would.

As we mentioned above, we have been putting a lot of effort into helping kids get caught up. Please take advantage of our free tutoring services! Also, three extra credit points to any Green Team student who walks up to Mr. Gallup and says, "Three points, please."

Any Green Team student who needs extra help in any of their classes may work with Mr. Gallup or Mr. Malta either before or after school. Tutoring hours are 7:00-8:00 AM and 3:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Mr. Malta is working with students during lunch, as well.

Contacting us is easy: our email addresses are:

Gallup_John@asdk12.org
Malta_Brian@asdk12.org
Naylor_Craig@asdk12.org

Math Team

Mrs. Ramsey teaches both math and Taekwondo at Clark. She has a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo, and trained in both the United States and Philippines. She has been certified by the World Taekwondo Federation to teach this sport.

Taekwondo Class -The Taekwondo class will begin on January 8, 2007. It lasts from 3:00 – 4:00 Monday through Friday. Students are encouraged to participate in this sport. Taekwondo is a Korean martial art that teaches self-discipline and aims to improve the whole person. Participants will build strength, speed, and coordination. In addition, it encourages self-confidence and leadership.

Clark Middle School was the first middle school to offer Taekwondo as an elective class. In order to offer longer sessions, the program was offered during the after school program. Mrs. Ramsey led the successful Taekwondo program at Clark from 1997-2003, but then took a break to earn her Master's degree in mathematics. This year she is back and ready to teach Taekwondo once again!

Taekwondo students will:

1. Learn how to combat bullying,
2. Improve personality and leadership,
3. Learn how to focus in the classroom,
4. Learn self-discipline and build self-confidence
5. Participate in tournaments and meet students in other studios,
6. Earn their belt and pursue a black belt,
7. Stay healthy, work out, and have some fun!

Ms. Graziano- Math 8 and 7th grade Pre-Algebra -Another quarter of the year has come and gone and we are working our way through 3rd quarter. The students have been working to understand pre-algebraic concepts in both 7th and 8th grade. Standards based assessment preparation is continually weaved into instruction and students are reminded to practice their basic math facts at home. As we make our way toward State testing, please remind your son or daughter about the importance of staying current with class work and getting plenty of sleep each night. In conclusion, the Math and Science departments will be hosting a Family fun night, tentatively scheduled for the 18th of January. Look for more information to come home with your child.

READING with Ms. Franklin



Second Period:

Donavic Toota

Third Period:

Michael Elder
Lai Lia Yang

Fifth Period:

Storm Newgren

Sixth Period:

Rebeka Crider

Seventh Period:

May Saetern





Winter Break Reading Challenge

Don't let your brain go to mush during winter vacation... accept the winter reading challenge! You will have fun and expand your medulla oblongata at the same time! Students who complete the tasks in all 20 squares will be entered into a drawing for a prize. For each square, you must spend *at least 15 minutes reading*. Complete as many squares as you can, and then return this form – *with parent/guardian initials – to the library by January 12, 2007 to be eligible for a prize!*

Read while listening to music. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read aloud to a friend. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read a web site. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read in the bathtub. <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read a newspaper article. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read in bed. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read instructions for an electronic device. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read the Sunday comics. <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read the words to your favorite CD while listening to the lyrics. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read while wearing someone else's shoes. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read instead of watching a favorite TV show. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read silently while surrounded by at least 2 other silent reading friends. <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read a magazine. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read cereal or food containers. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read one full novel. Novel: _____ <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read aloud to someone younger. <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read instructions to a game and then play the game. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read in your favorite chair. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read to a pet or plant. <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read on a plane, train, or automobile. <i>Initials:</i> _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please initial the square *if* your child successfully completes the task. Students should read for *at least 15 minutes per square*.



National Junior Honor Society

This year the National Junior Honor Society started a **paper-recycling program** with Mr. Gallup here at Clark Middle School. We made recycling "bins" and placed them in 14 different classes throughout the school. Every Friday NJHS members empty the "bins", separate the newspaper from other paper and bag everything up. They then load the bags into Mr. Gallup's car and he and takes it all to a recycling center.

We are currently making **Clark Spirit Scarves** during lunchtime to sell as a fundraiser. Blue/yellow scarves will sell for \$5.00 each while Blue/white/yellow scarves are priced at \$7.00 each. NJHS members will be selling the scarves in the MPR during breakfast. These scarves are perfect for Blue and Yellow Fridays here at school. Show your school spirit and support the NJHS by purchasing a Spirit Scarf today.

After the winter break, NJHS will be hosting the **3rd Annual NJHS Clothing Drive for Covenant House**. We will be taking donations from January 8th through the 26th. Your donations of gently used winter clothing will be much appreciated.

We are very busy and having lots of fun. We will keep you updated on all future activities.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NINE STAR

We would like to advertise the Job Center availability for all Clark parents, Clark students over 14 and Mountain View residents. Service are at no cost.

Most importantl, the staff can assist with job placements. Our job placement rate for the month of November was 58% of all Mountain View residents looking for work. The Resource Room personnel can also help with resumes, carrer counseling and interview skills.

The job center will also continue to advertise jobs for the Glenn Square Mall and other work opportunities in Mountain View.

New Area Community Coordinator Sharon Patterson, replacing Maria Carter who is out on extended family leave.

David Alexander

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY FORUM

Special Education Community Forums are a disability outreach and informational series of workshops for everyone: parents, teachers, students, caregivers, etc.

January 20, 2007

Clark Middle School

8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Lighting Up the Winter Months: Mental Health Issues for Children with Special Needs

Hear nationally acclaimed expert on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
Diane Malbin

For more information on the other presenters & topics, contact the STeP Center at 742-3872 or click on the SECF icon on our website:

<http://www.asdk12.org/depts/step/>

Free childcare by calling 742-3872 24 hours in advance.

The Mountain View Community Council (MVCC)...

meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM downstairs in the Mountain View Community Center at 315 Price Street. (The northeast corner of Price and Peterkin, which is two blocks north of Price and Mountain View Drive.) Next two MVCC **Meetings:** Monday, January 8, 2007 & Monday, February 12, 2007 **Time:** 7 PM to 9 PM **Place:** Downstairs, Mountain View Community Center, 315 Price Street

Currently, the hot topics for the community are:

- 1.) The pending Clark Middle School renovation and associated election for bonding in the spring.
- 2.) The development of the 8-acre Wilhour/ Warner properties next to the new Glenn Square retail complex.
- 3.) Conversion of the Parks & Recreation Building adjacent to Clark into a community library.

Other, ongoing projects include:

- 1.) Planning and Funding for a community Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center.
- 2.) The Glenn Highway/ Bragaw Street overpass project.
- 3.) The annual Mountain View Spring Clean-up (Get involved for fun and fulfillment!)
- 4.) The completion of our Neighborhood Plan.

Your participation is always welcome! Please attend, or contact me at hughwade@hotmail.com or at 230-1523 if you have any questions.

Thanks. Go Falcons!

Hugh Wade

Mountain View Community Council President

Clark Middle School to undergo major surgery

An extreme makeover is planned for the oldest middle school in the district- Orah D. Clark Middle School. Built in 1959, the existing 41 classroom school will be demolished and a new three-story design, using the core-academic team concept, will be built. The school will enlarge by about 41,000 square feet to accommodate the 950 students in grade 6-8 that Clark serves in its Mountain View neighborhood. "We had some challenges because of the slope of the topography and with maintaining adequate acreage for the for the school because of the new Glenn Square commercial development to the west and the municipality's plans to expand it Parks & Recreation building's library to the northeast," said ASD Facilities Manager Ray Amsden. "But we have made it work and we are looking forward to start of construction next summer." The design team flipped the existing floor plan to take advantage of the scenic views for classrooms, and center the gym on the athletic fields. The cost of construction is estimated to be about \$65 million. The Anchorage School Board is also soliciting the Legislature for financial assistance because Clark is a "high-need" project. Amsden added, "We believe this project is a continued investment in Clark as a cornerstone of the Mountain View Community." (ASD, 2006.) *In the School Zone*. Vol. 8, No. 3)

Acknowledgments

ART DEPARTMENT STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

(Mr. Pasquale)

The Art Department would like to recognize the following students for their outstanding work during the First Semester.

*Shannon Lamb
Nicole McClean
Mia Xiong
Christina Isbell
Jack Yang
Marina Meas
Kerry Saephan
Alicia Clemetson*

*Amber Caballero
Nancy Sourivong
Kaitlyn Meyers
Travis Hartgrove
Anna Spencer
Sara Hoffman
Kevin Kiphibane
AnnMarie Burnell*



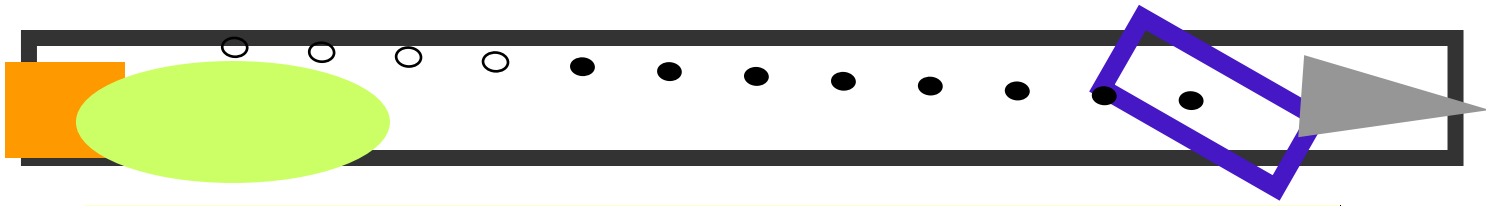
I congratulate you for your consistent effort and performance

FROM THE LIBRARY

we would like to congratulate **Xiu Qing He** for submitting the winning "Check it out @ Your Library" bookmark from Clark Middle School. **Deborah E. Joyce** and **Choua Vang** received honorable mention. This year over 50 students participated in the "Bookmark Contest" sponsored by the ASD school librarians. We want to say a great big thank you to all those students for their colorful, creative bookmarks supporting the idea of reading, literacy and love of the library! This year the overall middle school bookmark winner was from Gruening Middle School. Again, congratulations and thank you to all the participants! We are so excited in the Library! We recently received our order of brand new books and we are so pleased to add them to our collection. We have many new state books to help our students with their research projects, many popular biographies and a variety of fiction books to just read for pleasure. It is so much fun to be able to offer our students so many great new books to read!!

Good Job!





Calendar of Events

January 2007

- January 15
 - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day!
- January 16
 - 21st Century After school program restarts
- January 22 – 26
 - University week
- January 23
 - ESL Parent classes 5:30pm
- January 18
 - X-skiing & Girls basketball begins
 - Math/Science Night
- January 23
 - Student Advisory Board @ 11:15am
- January 25
 - Dance: Sport theme
- January 30
 - [Parent Luncheon @ 12:30pm](#)
 - ESL Parent classes 5:30pm

February 2007

- February 6-9
 - [Terra Nova Testing \(7th graders\)](#)
- February 8
 - [NAEP testing](#)
- February 12-16
 - Random Acts of Kindness week
- February 12
 - Pennies for Patients
- February
 - Student Advisory Board Meeting - 8am @ KCC
- February 16
 - Mid-Quarter Report mailed home
- February 17
 - SUPER SATURDAY - Enrichment
- February 19
 - Holiday No School
- February 27
 - [Parent Breakfast @ 8:30am](#)
 - Parent classes 5:30pm

Anchorage School District **Statement of Non-Discrimination:**

The Anchorage School Board is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, economic status, handicap, and other human differences. No person shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of educational opportunities and services, academic or extracurricular, offered by the District. It is the policy of the District to comply with the statutes, regulations and executive orders enforced by Federal, State, and Municipal agencies, including but not limited to Executive Order 11245, Title 41, part 60-1, 60-2, 60-20, Title VI and VII of the Education Amendments Acts of 1972, Chapter 18 of Alaska Statute and Title 5 of the Anchorage Municipal Code. The Anchorage School District believes strongly that a learning environment must be structured to reflect diverse cultural traditions and contributions. Furthermore, the Anchorage School District values diversity among students and staff and believes that all students and staff have the right to participate in school activities free from prejudice. The Anchorage School District has zero tolerance for any behaviors that ridicule, harass, intimidate, or otherwise threaten students, staff and community members on school campus or at school activities. Individual and/or groups are in violation of this policy if they:

- **Make demeaning remarks directly or indirectly, such as name-calling, racial slurs or “jokes”;** or
- **Physically threaten or harm and individual;** or
- **Display visual or written materials or deface, damage, or destroy property or materials;** or
- **Perform any other act that is clearly discriminatory or harassing in nature;**

Because of the person's race, creed, gender, national origin, age, language spoken, ability, disability, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical or mental condition, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation.

Students or staff members who believe that they have been the subject of harassment and/or discriminatory behavior will report the incident immediately to the principal or department supervisor. Complaints regarding harassment/discriminatory behavior will be investigated immediately. *Additionally, reports of discrimination and harassment may also be reported directly to the following agencies: Anchorage Equal Rights Commission (343-4342 or the State of Alaska Human Rights Commission (274-4692).*

Any student, staff or community member who violates on school campus or at school activities this policy by engaging in conduct defined above that directly or indirectly causes intimidation, harassment or physical harm to another student or staff member will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

For more information or assistance contact the EEO Office at 742-4130.

Apologies from member's of Clark's choir students

To all students, parents, and staff of Clark,

We would like to apologize to everyone who attended our concert. Some of the students in the choir were acting very inappropriate. That was wrong of us; it was not a hockey game, but a formal concert. It was very rude to yell. We are sorry for what we did. Now our Choir cannot be trusted to sing anywhere for a while. We realize that this is not fair to the rest of the choir members. We hope everyone can forgive us and do come back to see our choir perform at the spring concert. Please do not judge the rest of the choir members for our actions!

Sincerely,

Jessica Warren
Chrissy Crowe
Kayla Meeks
Heather Cullickon

