



Clark Middle School November/December Edition 2021



Happy Holidays! I trust that you were able to enjoy family and friends over Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the upcoming holidays as well. Please take time to enjoy family and friends as we bid farewell to 2021 and anxiously await 2022.

Thank you for your support in November as we had a tremendous Cereal Drive for the St. John Township Pantry. I believe we collected 554 boxes of cereal. It's amazing and such a blessing to see the community come together and support this need. Over the past few years, I have worked at a men's homeless shelter on Friday nights from 6:00pm until 11:00pm in a local city. It's truly heart wrenching to hear some of the stories from the men but the bottom line is that no matter what the issue(s), please be thankful for what you have. I hope that during this cereal drive, your child (ren) was able to feel good about giving back to the community and helping someone else. So, thank you!

Coming on December 7th for 5th grade students ONLY will be the CogAT testing for high ability. The test will start in the morning and continue until after lunch. Please try and make arrangements for your child to attend the testing sessions. In late October, I sent an email with information about CogAT to all 5th grade students (well, actually I made an error and sent it to all CMS students), so I apologize for the inconvenience. Students that do well on the CogAT test will then take an additional test called the IOWA test. The data from the tests will be analyzed and students/parents will be notified if their child(ren) qualifies for the high ability class. If they do qualify, we will place them into the correct high ability class(es) for grades 6. For your information, if a child qualifies in ELA, then they will also be placed in the HA class for social studies...the same applies for math if they qualify then, they will be placed in the HA class for science as well.. Another letter was emailed to the parents on November 22nd.

Our holiday choir concert took place on November 30th at LCSH auditorium. Thank you for attending. Our holiday band concert will take place on December 7th at 7:00pm. Thank you to Mrs. Arroyo and Mr. Walton for their dedication and great job with the students this year.

The NJHS did an awesome job decorating the school windows for fall. It's great to see the pumpkins, fall messages, leaves, etc. Great job to Mrs. Bartolomeo and the students.

Don't forget that our holiday break is from December 20th through January 3rd. Students will return to school on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Happy Holidays!

Mr. Graber



Notes from Mrs. Beach



It is hard to believe how quickly the year is passing. In just a few weeks it will be winter, 1st Semester will be over and 2022 will be here. I can't help to wonder what the New Year has in store for us. It is my hope the New Year puts an end the word COVID. In the meantime, the students continue doing a great job wearing mask and maintain physical distancing when possible.

Over Fall Break, I had the pleasure of chaperoning 46 8th grade Clark students on the Washington D.C. Trip. As many of you know the 3 day trip turned into a four day trip when the flight home was canceled. I will say the students adapted to the changes and made the best of the situation and had an amazing time. We were on the go the entire time and I can say with confidence students made memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to all the students for you exemplary behavior and thank you to all the parents for the welcome we received upon returning.

Congratulations to the 5th graders for winning the Cereal Food Drive competition. All boxes were donated to a local food pantry to help community members in need.

I want to give a shout out to the Clark Music department for hosting a virtual Veteran's Day Ceremony. Thank you for your dedication and hard work to make the event possible. Winter sports have officially begun!!! We would love for you to come out and support the Clark Coyotes. Best of luck to all the athletes and coaches!!

With the time change, it is getting dark early and many students are walking or riding their bike to and from school. Please remind your child to cross busy streets with a crossing guard. Also students are not allowed to enter the building before 8:15 A.M. unless they are being direct supervised by a staff member.

The lost and found box is exploding with sweat shirts, jackets, water bottles, books and glasses. If your child is missing an item please have them check the lost and found area located outside the main office by door A. Please keep in mind, tutoring is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00am. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to receive additional help or make-up missing work.

**Hope everyone stays healthy and Happy Holidays!!!
Assistant Principal,
Kim Beach**



During the week of November 8-12, CMS students participated in a cereal drive with their Advisory class. Throughout the week, 554 boxes of cereal were collected! The cereal will be donated to the St. John Township Food Pantry to help local families in need. A big thank you to all who donated!



A MESSAGE FROM THE CLARK COUNSELING STAFF:

The Clark staff is very proud that Mrs. Karen Bowman was recognized at the Indiana School Counseling Association conference in Indianapolis as the Exemplary Middle School Counselor for the entire state. Way to go Mrs. Bowman!

On November 18, the counselors presented a lesson to the 7th grade Digital Citizenship classes using Naviance. Naviance is a platform that can be used for career exploration, college information, and for students to learn more about their personalities. They can use Naviance to help understand what careers are suitable for them as individuals. The students watched a video about learning styles and then completed an assessment to help understand what environment they can learn best in. They received helpful feedback on recommendations of how to learn and study more effectively.

Looking forward, our 8th grade parents can attend a Freshman Parent Night at Lake Central High School on Thursday, January 20 at 6 pm in the High School Auditorium. Clark counselors will meet with all 8th grade students to present scheduling information for freshman year in early February, before scheduling takes place. More information to come.

Freshman Parent Night



Freshman Parent Night on Thursday, January 20, 2022. at Lake Central (for parent's of current 8th graders)

The parent presentation will take place in the Auditorium starting at 6 p.m. The informational tables will be open from 6:30 - 7:30

Library News

By: Tina Genovese

The Library has been a bustling place during the month of October. Project Lit held a Murder Mystery party, which turned out to be a lot of fun for the members! All came in costume and assumed their role, as they all worked to solve the crime. Members were treated to pizza and cookies at the after-school event and had a great time!

The Scholastic Book Fair was held Monday, October 25 thru Thursday, October 28. Students were super excited to welcome the in-house fair back and sales reached a record high for Clark Middle School! A percentage of the sales will be used to purchase new books for the Library as well as other activities for students. A huge thank you goes out to the parents who donated their time to work the fair. Clark Middle School is fortunate to have such a great group of parents willing to help!

Watch for new titles coming to the Library soon!



Washington D.C. Trip

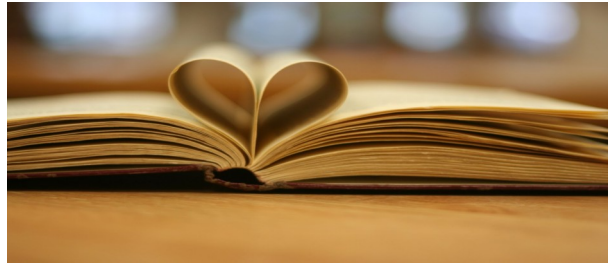
After a two year wait, Clark finally made it to Washington DC. Because of the pandemic, the trip consisted of a total of 49 participants: 36 eighth grade students, 12 freshmen who decided to take the trip that was cancelled for them last year, chaperones Mrs. Beach and Mr. Brandner, and group leader Mr. Gustas. The students left October 28, 2021 for 3 days of adventure in Washington DC. A few of the things the students got to see were: the War Memorials (Iwo Jima, Jefferson, FDR, Martin Luther King, WWII, and Vietnam were several they were able to see), Arlington Cemetery, and White House; pictures with congressman Representative Frank J. Mrvan; visiting the Spy Museum, Ford Museum (where Abraham Lincoln was shot), and Mount Vernon. A favorite of many was the Air Force Memorial at night, which was by the Pentagon.

We thought our trip was over on October 30, but due (again) to the pandemic, our flight home was cancelled and we had to stay an extra night. We left the next day, not by plane, but by bus! We drove home from Washington DC on a coach bus back to Clark. We arrived home at 11:00pm. The kids thought they missed Halloween and Trick or Treat, but our Clark parents are the best! The parents were there in the parking lot waiting for us, dressed up in Halloween attire,(along with their cars), and arranged it so our students could Trick or Trunk that night. What a great way to end our trip to DC! It was a trip the students will never forget!

The fun will continue again next year. Students in 7th grade can sign up for the DC trip next October 27-29, 2022 through WorldStrides. Students can sign up at worldstrides.com/register using the trip ID number 200249. If any parent has questions, they can always contact Mr. Gustas. His email is bgustas@lcscmail.com.



ELA News



Independent Reading

The ELA department is working hard this school year to foster independent readers and assist preteens and young adults in their journey to find the right book that hooks their love of reading for life. Although this has always been a goal of ours, this year it is especially vital with our ever changing environment along with the Accelerated Reader program no longer being utilized in our middle schools. The effects of reading extend into our quality of life: high levels of leisure reading and reading proficiency are associated with greater academic, financial, professional, and civic benefits. We are all working hard within our classrooms to inspire those that really dislike reading to develop a love of reading or at least a new appreciation of reading while those students that are already avid readers can continue to grow on their reading journey.

Coming Soon!

Beanstack is a web and mobile application used to track independent reading time and help build a culture of reading in school and at home. The program is designed to make it easier for teachers and parents to help students track reading and stay motivated, as well as to provide insights about reading habits at school. The system is based on milestone badging for reading and/or activity goals. As students read, they earn virtual badges. Stay tuned for more exciting news January 4 when students return to school after winter break. HAPPY READING!

Lake Central Education Foundation

Ground Round 55 Winners:

- Allison Castle for "Creating Life-Long Readers"
- To add to and update my classroom library with the use of book clubs and first chapter Fridays to fit the needs of my current (and future) students, which in turn, will foster independent readers who are successful in all aspects of life.
- Laurie Rosine for "Project LIT"
- To fund our Project Lit club - 18 students who read good books and promote them throughout the school.

PROJECT LIT

Clark Middle School's newest reading club - Project LIT - has been keeping busy this year by reading books, promoting them throughout the school, and completing monthly themed activities.

The group of 7th and 8th graders meets twice per month. They have solved a murder mystery, cooked sweet snacks in our cooking room, and read several great books.

Mrs. Rosine would like to thank Mrs. Arens, LC's Head Librarian, Mrs. Genovese, our librarian, and Mr. Gustas for their continued support of Project LIT.



Social studies news:

On November 11, the Clark social studies department took part in a card writing campaign for the Adopt-a-Sailor program in honor of Veteran's Day. The staff and students of Clark wished the sailors that were adopted by the Hammond Mohawks organization Happy Holidays and Happy Veteran's Day. This is Clark's seventh year being involved in the program.

Students in Ms. Chandler's Applied Skills classes made turkey mosaic projects with their Peer Mentors.



CLUB NEWS

MATH COUNTS

The Math Counts club is a great way to practice your math skills either individually or with teams of students. This is a FUN way to work on math--- come and join us! For more information, reach out to Mrs. Cooper at kcooper@lscmail.com

ECO-TEENS

Eco Teens would like to thank everyone who recycled candy wrappers during the Trick or Trash days. We mailed a full box out the first week of November. Our donation will help the World Wildlife Fund.

5th Grade Projects

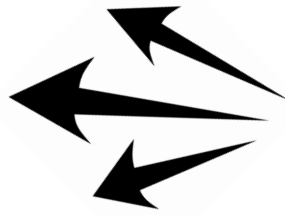


Mrs. Finley's 5th grade Advanced Social Studies

This 5th grade class worked hard to create a totem pole, "pottery" and paragraphs, and Kachina masks for Social Studies. The totem pole was divided into 5 sections. After they discussed how our class was like a family, kids got into their groups and decided which animals represent the characteristics of our class. From there, they decided the placement of the pictures. Great job to everyone!

"Native Peoples of North America were masters at using their natural resources in every aspect of their lives. They honored nature's abundant gifts through rituals, prayers, poetry, art, and even sacrifice. Now, it was the 5th grade's turn to demonstrate their resourcefulness and expert knowledge to create an exhibit, representing their chosen civilization/Tribe. They did a wonderful job showing us how resourceful and creative they could be!"





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TO 5TH GRADE SCIENCE
PODCASTS!



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6TH PERIOD SCIENCE



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Did you know?

Announcements are posted daily on
the website. Check us out at:

<http://clark.lcsc.us>

MAKE US A
FAVORITE!!



* Substitute Teachers Needed for Lake Central School Corp

Elementary schools, Middle schools, and Lake Central High School

Subs must be 21 years of age or older, pass a background
check, and must have completed a minimum of 30 college
credit hours. For more information:

Visit www.lcsc.us

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