



Clark Montessori

"Bringing Education to Life"

December 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

New Teachers:

Margaret Ascolese (Intervention Specialist)

Susana Calle (Spanish)

Stefanie Frankenstein (7/8 Community 100)

Apollos Harris (Intervention Specialist)

Michael Henson (Intervention Specialist)

Brad Ingram (Physics)

Mark Killian (Social Studies)

Brad Meyers (Language Arts)

Carolyn Quinn (Music)

Josh Roderer (Music)

Anne Schoelwer (Math)

Diane Siereveld (Intervention Specialist)

Jennifer Silence (Intervention Specialist)

New Support Staff Members:

Cathy Anderson (VT/Social Worker)

Glen Arnold (IA)

Adrienne Barth (IA)

Ralph Berry (Security IA)

Rachel Campbell (IA)

Tonya Duke (IA)

Jewell Fields (IA)

Anita McMullen (IA)

Deb Sensel-Davis (IA)

Michelle Smith (IA)

Jamela Watkins (Ind. Nurse)

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the second quarter at Clark Montessori Junior and Senior High School. The school is buzzing every day and night with students learning and engaging in co-curricular activities. We have a team of parents and staff working on designing Clark's new building and we are getting together a list of improvements we'd like to see at Clark-Jacobs for our time here.

I want to introduce our new teachers this year. I am working with the most talented and committed staff in any high school in the nation! Our new teachers and

support staff are listed at the left.

We are so fortunate to have Maria Lagdameo as our new Assistant Principal. Maria comes to us from Winton Montessori. Her door is always open to students and parents. Her phone number is 363.7191.

Clark works hard to uphold the Montessori triangle of Parents, Teachers, and Students working together to create a successful learning community. Just these past weeks we had student-led conferences, college application help nights, sports prac-

tices, Fall 2007 Sports Awards Ceremony, Andros meetings, our parent-led 'Snack Attack' after school, and committee meetings of the Clark Foundation and the Clark LSDMC. These are just a few of the many ways to participate at Clark. We'd love to see all our families here throughout the year. Call me at 363.7190 or stop in anytime with ideas and powerful school spirit. Working together, we will achieve the Clark Montessori motto of *Bringing Education to Life*.

-Rupa Townsend, Principal

Cougar's Den

Our Fall Season

Our student-athletes, coaches, and fans have had a wonderful fall sports season – learning, growing, and oh yeah, winning. **Once again Clark Montessori had the highest rate of participation in athletics for all Cincinnati Public Schools!**

This year we started high school football! Our Cougars went an amazing 8-1-1 in JV football, beating powerhouses North College Hill and Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. Seventy-five percent of our players were playing football for the first time. This is a real tribute to the coaching staff which boasts more than 45 years of head coaching experience and 3 state championship titles. Varsity football next year!

Our girl's junior high soccer team went 8-1 in league and are League Champs! Our boy's junior high soccer team won the prestigious Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy post-season tourney and are Tournament Champs!

The varsity golf team accomplished a first, advancing to Districts in the State Tournament. They were one of the top four teams in the area.

The men's and women's soccer teams traveled to Columbus to defeat Columbus East, spend the night, and see the Columbus Crew play.

Demonstrating what Clark is all about, parents and the athletic department rallied and worked their tails off to make sure we had a men's JV team this year. Way to go parents.

Our volleyball teams continued to improve over the season. The JH football team had a winning record in their first season in our new League, where most teams have been playing together since 4th grade. Cross country fielded its largest numbers ever and continues to grow and challenge. The junior high golf team improved for a gratifying season.

cont'd on pg. 2



Clark Picnic 2007



Senior Day, Homecoming 2007



Cougar Men's Soccer

Cougar's Den Cont'd

Our Winter Season

As fall passes, winter sports are gearing up. The men's and women's high school and the boys and girl's junior high basketball teams prepare to challenge for League titles. We should be very good and exciting. The high school and junior high swim teams look to be the largest and most potent in Clark history. The Cougars will be hosting 3 home meets at XU. The high school bowling teams are forming and are ready to take on all comers in their League. Madison Bowl is our

home lanes. And our teams are powered on by our junior high, junior varsity, and varsity cheerleading squads.

We would love to see all our Clark family at our games and meets this winter season. On game days you can call 363-7138 for that day's schedule and you can go to Complete Team Info or the Weekly and Monthly Calendars on the athletic web page for a complete schedule. Our admission prices are the cheapest in town and thanks to the Boosters, students are free.

We also encourage you to become a Booster, get free passes to our home games and support athletics. Boosters have great meetings once a month at Hooligan's Bar and Grill. You can see meeting notices on the Clark e-mail server list.

Baseball Field

Want to see something awesome? Check out the renovation of the baseball field behind the school!

Go Cougars!

by Tom Donnelly, AD

High Notes from the Music Department

Clark's Holiday Programs are coming up on Thursday, December 13th at 12:30 and 2:15.

This year will feature lots of new music with the debut of the Clark JH and HS choirs under the leadership of **Ms. Carolyn Quinn** as well as the new band under the direction of **Mr. Josh Roderer**. In a special tribute to building unity, all these ensembles include both Clark and Westside students!

This fall, Clark students **Mariah K., Benjamin H., Emily P. and Natania H.** were all accepted into the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. In addition, both Benjamin and Natania were CSYO concerto competition winners. We will keep you posted regarding their upcoming concerts. One date is set now, so mark your calendars to see Natania at Music Hall on April 30th.

Congratulations go out to Senior **Michal J.** for making it through the auditions to become Clark Montessori's first participant in OMEA District XIV High School Honor Choir! The group is comprised of selected students from all around the Greater Cincinnati area. They join for two intense days of rehearsal, culminating into an awe inspiring

Concert. Bravo, Michal!

Several Junior High string students played at this year's Cincinnati Youth Collaborative Scholarship dinner. They represented Clark and Westside quite wonderfully!

The Clark/Westside choir has been invited to sing the National Anthem at the Xavier Women's basketball game on January 16th at 6:45pm. Come on out and support our singers!

Spring '08 intersession contains a musical adventure! Members of the steel bands (all of the 9th grade, an 11th grader or two and, if all goes well, many of the 10th grade) will be working with special needs audiences locally, upstate, and in New York City. This trip also includes a visit to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and to STOMP at the Orpheum Theatre in Manhattan (where their show began in the US).

Other band highlights:

* 7th grade steel band is up, running and has begun their first tune, *Limbo Rock*.

* 8th graders are working on a version of Scarborough Fair that includes **Lucy R.** on viola and **Sammie S.** on violin

* 9th grade steel band is almost ready with a samba

written by Trinidadian composer Ray Holman (he's been at our school a couple times). We hope to include soloists from Clark's new band in the final version. The band members are also learning to do improvisational solos on, appropriately enough, *This Little Light of Mine*.

* 10th grade is learning a Boogie Sharp tune entitled *Sarah* and is almost ready with their version of Trepak from the *Nutcracker Suite*.

The Clark Steel Pan Orchestra (formerly the 11th grade band) is wrapping up *Bee's Melody*, a favorite piece by Lord Kitchener, and is hard at work on an original composition by **Joey V.**

The seniors are making good progress on the Clark standard *Chasing Change* (written by Clark grad **Scott S.**

Bruce Weil (Fairweil@aol.com), Carolyn Quinn (cjqiola@mac.com), Josh Roderer (JoshRoderer@aol.com)



Senioritis -- College Center News

Make sure your senior spends time at the college center this year so they will be away at college next year.....

The Clark Montessori College, Career and Testing Coordinators are Steffanie Gentile and Amy Murray.

They can be reached:

In person at the College/Career office from 8:45am - 3:45pm by appointment after school

By phone
Steffanie: (513) 363-7153 - Amy (513) 363-7106

By email
Steffanie - gentils@cps-k12.org
Amy - murraya@cps-k12.org

We are currently scheduling Application Help Nights from 4:00-7:00 pm at least once a week through the week of December 17 for all seniors in order to meet application deadlines. Our last day of school before break is December 21 and we return on January 7.

Mark Your Calendar

**Almost Everyday After-school
Snack Attack**

**Nov. 30, Jan. 18, 21, Feb. 29
No School**

**Dec. 2 & 22
Shop at Joseph-Beth Booksellers--get 10% off and 10% goes to Clark**

**Dec. 3 & 4
Auditions for Clark Showcase**

**Dec. 6 & 11
HS Registration Night for current 8th graders**

**Dec. 13 (during School)
Clark Winter Concert**

**Dec. 18 & Jan. 22
Eat at City BBQ - 25% goes to Clark**

**Jan. 10
First Ski Trip - Afterschool**

**Feb. 9
Wine Tasting Fundraiser
- Contact epsplgg@fuse.net for info**

**Feb. 23
Talent Show**

**March 6
Clark College Fair**

**May 10
Prom**

**May 21
Class of 2008 Graduation**

Student Fundraising Committee

We sponsor fundraisers for individual student accounts for junior high trips and high school intersessions. So far this year we have had success with: candy bar/snack sale, pie sale and done grocery bagging at Bigg's. We plan more bagging dates at Bigg's on Colerain, as they are one of our Partners in Education.

We are definitely planning a flower sale in the spring, and may sell Hamilton County Park stickers after Christmas. Also under consideration are catalog sales, another snack sale, and Bigg's coupons.

We would like to sponsor a spaghetti dinner for the junior high communities, but have not been able to find any junior high parents willing to help us with this. **SOS- Barbara and I are coordinating this committee but cannot do all these fundraisers without help!** If it would be possible for you to

help with any one fundraiser, in a large or small way, please let us know! It is probably easier than you think, and a great way to better understand the Clark community. We are here to work with you, and we do want to offer lots of possibilities for all our students to earn the necessary money for their trips.

Please call or email if you would be interested in helping, or if you have any new ideas or feedback for us, especially since many of these activities are new.

I want to express our appreciation for Alena O'D., Heather D., Lisa S, Lisa P., and Julie Schubert for their help thus far. Thanks!

Pam Schaible,
phschaible@hotmail.com
Barbara Yarbrough
barbara.yarbrough@healthall.com

Cougar News Needs You

Do you have some news to share? Send it to us. Also, we would love for students to help write this newsletter. If you (or your student) would like to help, contact Cathy Kramer at cathykramer@fuse.net or call 961.5909. Students can receive community service hours.

Partners in Education

Partners in Education/PIE – Do you work for an organization that supports public education and would like to give back to the Cincinnati community? – PIE is looking for organizations that could become partners with Clark whereby both the organizations and Clark benefit from the partnership. As the Clark budget gets ever tighter, it is essential that we tap into the resources of organizations that might support us through donations of time, products and/or money. This is a win-win partnership! Contact Mary Gontero, gonteromc@fuse.net

Cougar Clubs

Acting
Kate Wilford 761.4775

Astronomy Club
Barb Scholtz
scholtb@cps-k12.org

Art Club
Carla Lamb 363.7151

French & Spanish Club
Alal Elyadi 363.7177

HS Student Council
Mary Wertheimer
363.7185

Mock Trial
Drew Ramsay 363.7164

Peer Leaders
Marta Donahoe 363.7136

Prom Committee
Margaret Ungar
StUnger1@aol.com

Ski Club
Carl Weirs & Greg Meece
363.7160

Ultimate Frisbee
Liz Keuffer 641.3557

Talent Show
Margaret Ungar
StUnger1@aol.com

Yearbook Club
Michael Smyth 363.7140

JH Yearbook Club
Kate Fischer 363.7128

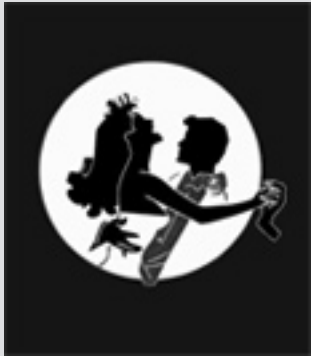
Academic Team (intra-mural)
Deb Sensel- Davis
senseldavis@fuse.net

Clark Bands
Josh Roderer 363.7183

Choir
Carolyn Quinn 363.7061

Sports
Tom Donnelly 363.7138
All Clark sports teams are listed on the Clark website; click on Athletics, then Complete Team Info.

Please let our Asst Principal, Maria Lagdameo, know if we have missed any clubs.



The Prom Committee is hard at work to create another fantastic prom. The Student Leaders for prom this year are: Jessica L., Senior Student Chair; Sarah U., Junior Student Chair; Porshae G. Student Treasurer; Miranda C., Student Secretary; Jena S., Student Fundraising Chair; Ladoir G. and Dziko C., Student Dance Chairs.

The Clark Showcase will take place on Saturday February 23, 2008. We haven't scheduled a time just yet. Auditions will take place on Dec. 3 & 4th after school in the auditorium.

Prom News

The Prom will be held Saturday, May 10th, 2008 at the Newport Syndicate 8PM - Midnight. At the last Prom meeting, the students voiced that they wanted an After-Prom this year. So, Miranda C. our Student Secretary is conducting a survey to see if it is feasible to have an After-Prom.

Last year, Prom was attended by 172 students who danced the night away to the theme: Red Carpet Affair. All Dance Systems provided music and Miller's provided photography. The positive response was overwhelming. Everyone

really enjoyed themselves. I hope we can meet their expectations this year!

Parents - We need your help. If you interested in helping out but are unable to attend meetings please send an email to Stungr1@aol.com.

*by Margaret Ungar
Prom Committee Parent Chair*

Celebrating Our Montessori Family

This column will focus on individuals in our Clark community each month, including parents, faculty/staff, students and alumni. We want to celebrate accomplishments and recognize what varied and interesting people are in our midst! If you would like to nominate someone to appear in this column, contact me at phschaible@hotmail.com.

We congratulate senior **BEN H.** on being named a National Merit Semifinalist. Ben enjoys learning and all of his classes, but has decided to focus on music for the near future, hoping to study the violin at a musical conservatory in Germany next year. Ben started studying the violin at age four and currently practices from two to four hours per day. He comes by this musical talent naturally; his parents are both musicians. His father teaches composition at UC and also composes music and plays piano. His mother teaches violin and viola.

As Ben's mother was born in Italy, the Hoffman family lived in Italy for three years when Ben was young, and visits there twice a year. In fact, traveling has been a significant factor in his life; South America and Antarctica are the only places he has not been!

Before Clark, Ben attended the New School. He has been

happy to attend Clark, feeling he has gotten a good education, has been challenged, and has been well rounded with different people and experiences. Some of his community service has been spent at the Clifton Library and on the Junior Ski Patrol at Perfect North Slopes. Ben enjoys reading and playing soccer, when he can get the time. Ben will be performing a solo at the Cincinnati Youth Symphony Orchestra concert on December 8, 4pm at Corbett Auditorium at the UC. All are invited to attend. The cost is only \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

ANNA B., class of 2001, was among the first graduates of Clark Montessori High School. In fact, Anna was instrumental in the very existence of the school! After finishing at Sands Montessori, Anna went on to the new Montessori middle school. In 8th grade, she and a group of fellow students were given a project on initiating change.

They researched the ideas of Maria Montessori regarding high school, visited a high school loosely based on these principals in Wisconsin, and wrote a paper - in part expressing a desire to continue their Montessori experience. Impressed teachers and parents presented this paper to

the Board of Education, and ultimately Clark Montessori High School was born.

Anna went on to attend Calvin College where she received a degree in Social Work in 2005 and continued at The Ohio State University, graduating in 2006 with a Master's degree in Social Work. She will soon start a new job at the Hamilton County Board of MRDD.

Anna competed as a diver for Clark, qualifying for the state championships her senior year - our first state qualifier! She also competed for Calvin College, placing in the conference championships her senior year there. She now coaches the Clark and Wyoming High School diving teams - and still has time to work with her church's high school youth group!

Anna is happy she attended a Montessori high school, feels she was well prepared for college, and that the senior project was a big help in making the transition. Although college was a "big change" as far as classroom setting, she felt Clark prepared her well to work responsibly both independently and in a group setting.

*by Pam Schaible
Parent*



Clark Montessori High School Continues to Set Its Place In History

As I reflect back, nearly a year ago on December 2, 2006, staff, parents and community folks participated in a visioning session to prioritize all things we thought would be important to the renovation to the Erie Avenue Building. There was much talk of green roofs, plenty of daylight, and more academically functional rooms, be they classrooms, labs, administrative or other appropriate support areas. There was even talk of a new building... "if we could have our heart's desire".

The planning group's enthusiasm was always somewhat dampened by the fact that CPS had mandated (by Master Plan) that we would get a renovated building, at a project budget cost for construction which had been set at least four years in the past. It was apparent to all of us that the renovated Clark would be to some degree better than it's current state, even with less money than we had hoped for. Yes, we would have had new mechanical systems, new windows, other refined spaces and other things.... but, when all was said and done the build-

ing would not be a facility that would, by it's nature, embrace the Montessori academic philosophy and it's community.

However, through acts of faith, the State's construction budget reassessment, CPS Facilities staff help, and the willingness of all to see that Clark get the best possible school, we are on the threshold of a new day. We all have an opportunity to participate in the design of the **new Clark Montessori High School**. Our school can be the best example of architecture intertwining with academic programming, incorporating "Green Concepts" to the maximum as the budget will permit and developing a spirit of place that will magnify the spirit of the academic excellence that Clark has become know for over the course of these past ten+ years.

Clark will be like no other school if we do our part. We have a great team of architects working with and for us. We need to challenge them to be their absolute best as they take on this challenge of a lifetime. Even though your

children may not get to attend class at the new school, you are still part of the Montessori community even after you have passed onward into life. Clark will be there and we can all play a part in its legacy. The degree of participation is up to you. We appreciate all of you and want the new Clark to reflect what best in all of us.

We have much we can do together to enhance Clark-Jacobs during our stay here. We still have the last wish list that needs some serious attention. If we attack that list, we can make a real difference in the building. Of course, this depends upon the volunteers we get! **We want to get some volunteers together for work over winter break.** If you can volunteer, please email me at alexcama@fuse.net. Together we can and already have made a significant difference. As Always, thanks for each and every one of you.

*by Charles Alexander, parent
and LSDMC Chair*



Students Experience Democracy in Action

Over 30 Clark seniors worked as poll workers on Election Day this year. This is the first election that Hamilton County allowed 17 year olds to work the polls. Sally Krisel, a Clark parent who is Elections Administrator at the Hamilton Co. Board of Elections said that Clark had more students participating than any other school. The comments about our students from the Presiding Judges were uniformly positive. Presiding Judge in Anderson Twp., Doug Craig, was very impressed with the skills of **Jessica L.** and **Neil McN.** He even made a follow-up call and requested the Clark Varsity Basketball schedule and plans to catch Neil at basketball.

The Board will send a follow-up survey to the students who participated and to their presiding judges in preparations for the upcoming March 4, 2008 Presidential Primary. Reminder that all students who will be 18 years old by November 4, 2008 can register to vote and are encouraged to vote in the March 4, 2008 Primary. Clark students who did not get placed in November will have a chance to work in March. For more information contact Sally Krisel at 632-7089.



Junior High News

The JH Andros Payment schedule for all the communities:

Fri., Nov. 16 - 1st payment of \$280 was due
Tues., Jan. 15 - 2nd payment due
Fri., Feb. 8 - 3rd payment

Fri., Mar. 7 - 4th payment
Wed., March 19 - final payment due

Cash or money orders may be given to the classroom IA. Parents who wish to pay with a check or credit card must pay in person to Barb Bar-

nett in the main office during school hours. A current ID is required.

Contribute to Clark

Each year the parents, grandparents, alumni, and community friends donate to support our students. Clark Montessori relies on the generosity of our contributors to help give our students the very best education possible. There is simply not enough funding coming from state and local sources for Clark to provide our students with an intellectually challenging curriculum in a caring community. All donations to Clark Montessori School Foundation are tax deductible.

Clark Montessori Foundation
5425 Winton Ridge Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45232

Corporate Matching Gifts - Many companies offer a matching gift benefit. Please request a matching gift form from your Human Resources office; complete and mail the form, along with your gift, to Clark Montessori.

Honorary Or Memorial Gifts - Contributions can be made to honor or remember an individual. Those being recognized will receive a letter notifying them of your gift.

**Clark Montessori Newsletter
Clark Montessori JR/SR High School
5425 Winton Ridge Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45232
Phone: 513.363.7100**

**Do you know an interesting factoid about a
Clarkie? Send info to:
skrisjack@cinci.rr.com**