

Clayton Elementary February Newsletter

Principal's Message

HELLO CES FAMILIES! WE HAVE HAD AN EXCITING WINTER SO FAR.

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE FUNDRAISER. CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RAISED THE LARGEST AMOUNT IN THE DISTRICT TOTALING \$687.00. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION.

OUR FOURTH GRADE SPELLING BEE TOOK PLACE ON JANUARY 11, 2024. IT WAS AN EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE BEE AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE 8 STUDENTS WHO REPRESENTED OUR FOURTH GRADE CLASSES. OUR FIRST PLACE WINNER WAS SAIGE HARRISON, SECOND PLACE WAS KAROLINE BARTSCH, AND THIRD PLACE WAS JAXSON SWEETMAN. WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY STUDENT WHO COMPETED IN OUR ANNUAL SPELLING BEE. THE TOP 8 WHO PARTICIPATED FROM OUR FOURTH GRADE CLASS WERE: SAIGE HARRISON, KAROLINE BARTSCH, JAXSON SWEETMAN, CHRISTIAN HRIVNAK, JAXSON MONIOUDIS, BRANDON MURRAY, SALINA SARGENT, AND CORA GOSCH.

AS MENTIONED IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER, OUR LIBRARIAN SUSAN ZOLPER IS HOSTING ANOTHER BOOK FAIR FOR OUR STUDENTS. THE BOOK FAIR WILL RUN FROM JANUARY 29–FEBRUARY 2.

WE ARE SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, MRS. YATSKEVICH, THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5TH. SHE DEDICATES ALL OF HER TIME TO STUDENTS BY PUSHING INTO CLASSROOMS, MEETING IN SMALL GROUPS, AND MEETING INDIVIDUALLY WITH THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED. SHE IS A HUGE ASSET TO OUR SCHOOL AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR HER.

WE ARE ALSO SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR BUS DRIVERS. BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION IS THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12TH. IF YOU GET THE CHANCE, PLEASE THANK YOUR CHILD'S BUS DRIVER. OUR BUS DRIVERS ARE DEDICATED TO THE SAFETY AND CARE OF OUR STUDENTS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THEM!

AS ALWAYS, WE APPRECIATE THE HOME–SCHOOL CONNECTION AND OPEN COMMUNICATION. PLEASE CALL US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

FACEBOOK [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CLAYTONELEMENTARYSCHOOL](https://www.facebook.com/CLAYTONELEMENTARYSCHOOL)

INSTAGRAM @CLAYTON_EAGLES

SCHOOL WEBSITE [HTTPS://WWW.SMYRNA.K12.DE.US/CE](https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/ces)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 2ND – 90S DAY FOR THE 90TH DAY OF SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 8TH – KIDS HEART CHALLENGE IN THE GYM

FEBRUARY 9TH – WEAR SUPER BOWL OR FOOTBALL GEAR

FEBRUARY 12TH – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 14TH – WEAR PINK, RED, OR HEARTS

FEBRUARY 19TH – PRESIDENT'S DAY – NO SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 20TH – 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL – DRESS LIKE A 100 YEAR OLD PERSON

FEBRUARY 29TH – RARE DISEASE FUNDRAISER – BRING \$1 AND WEAR A RARE HAT ALL DAY



A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL, MR. DAWS-

AS THE COLDER WEATHER BRINGS ON GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SNIFFLES, COUGHS, AND GENERAL ILLNESS, WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR CHILD MAY NOT FEEL WELL ENOUGH TO ATTEND SCHOOL AND MAY NEED TO STAY HOME. IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO STAY HOME, PLEASE PROVIDE A NOTE TO EXCUSE THEIR ABSENCE. MEDICAL NOTES FROM A DR ARE THE BEST, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY CASE OF THE SNIFFLES DOESN'T WARRANT A TRIP TO THE DOCTOR. WE WILL ACCEPT UP TO 10 PARENT NOTES PER SCHOOL YEAR TO EXCUSE AN ABSENCE. IF YOU KNOW THAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD, PLEASE CONTACT US IN THE OFFICE TO SEE HOW WE CAN HELP. ONE OF THE BIGGEST INDICATORS OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS IS BEING PRESENT IN CLASS TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION. WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP. THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HOUSE AND SCHOOL IS A CRUCIAL PIECE IN SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO BE SUCCESSFUL, SO PLEASE COMMUNICATE ANY ATTENDANCE NEEDS OR CONCERNS WITH US.



FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN TO DEVELOP HEALTHY ORAL HABITS AT AN EARLY AGE TO ENSURE A LIFETIME OF HEALTHY SMILES.

TOOTH DECAY CAN LEAD TO PROBLEMS WITH EATING, SPEAKING AND LEARNING.
DENTAL PAIN CAN MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO FOCUS ON COMPLETING SCHOOLWORK.

THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR GOOD ORAL HYGIENE:



BRUSH YOUR TEETH AT LEAST TWICE A DAY WITH A FLUORIDE TOOTHPASTE



FLOSS BETWEEN TEETH DAILY



EAT A WELL-BALANCED DIET



LIMIT BETWEEN MEAL SNACKS ESPECIALLY THOSE SUGARY SWEETS AND SODAS



VISIT A DENTIST FOR REGULAR CHECK-UPS



WEAR PROTECTIVE MOUTH GUARDS DURING ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

IF YOU NEED HELP FINDING A LOCAL DENTIST, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL THE NURSE'S OFFICE 302-653-3147 FOR ASSISTANCE.

GREETINGS CLAYTON FAMILIES

IT HAS BEEN SO MUCH FUN GOING INTO ALL OUR CLASSES EACH MONTH TO TALK ABOUT THINGS SUCH AS RESPONSIBILITY, KINDNESS, MINDFULNESS, AND GROWTH MINDSET. THIS MONTH, STUDENTS IN ALL GRADE LEVELS WILL TAKE PART IN A GUIDANCE LESSON AROUND CELEBRATING IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY. THE STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT BOTH THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND THOSE BELOW THE SURFACE THAT MAKE UP THEIR IDENTITY OR THE PIECES OF THEIR UNIQUE PUZZLE. WE WILL DISCUSS THOSE TRAITS THAT ARE VISIBLE IN A MIRROR AS WELL AS THOSE THINGS THAT ARE WOVEN IN OUR LIFE SUCH AS CULTURE, VALUES, GOALS, HOBBIES, THOUGHTS, AND PERSONALITY TRAITS. ALL THESE THINGS MAKE EACH OF OUR STUDENTS "PERFECTLY PERFECT". THE LESSON WILL CONCLUDE WITH WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO NOT ONLY LEARN ABOUT WHAT MAKES EACH OF THEM SPECIAL AND UNIQUE BUT ALSO WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO AND LEARN ABOUT OTHERS TO APPRECIATE ALL THAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER AND TO MAKE SURE WE ARE MAKING EVERYONE FEEL WELCOMED. AS ALWAYS, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THAT I CAN ASSIST WITH, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT VIA EMAIL AT SARAH.YATSKEVICH@SMYRNA.K12.DE.US OR VIA PHONE AT 302-653-8587.

Student OF THE MONTH

January Student of the Month

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade
Treon Kitson	Riley Adamczyk	Amani Downes	Olivia Cooper	JonCarlo Camacho
Willow Maloney	Evan Alvarez	Amauri McDonald	Isabella Davis	Simon Gandy
Rory Stone	Zachary Kassien	William Menasion	Rachel Fiske	Aubrey McDonald
Tansley Zulkowski	Nash Noval	Carson Scuse	Padyn Hewes	Andrew VanArdsdall
	Pamalick Touray		Autumn Otto	

Keep Up The Great Work!



Mrs. Massey's Reading Review

February is here! It is a month full of Valentine's Day activities, Black History Month recognition, and Groundhog Day and President's Day themes and crafts. Seriously, February is packed with amazing learning opportunities!

Did you know February also is "I Love to Read" month? That is right: an entire month dedicated to promoting a love of reading and being read to.

Families can foster a love for reading and support their child's literacy development at home. Here are some ways families can help their children become better readers at home:

- **Read aloud to your child:** Reading aloud is one of the most effective ways to instill a love for reading and improve literacy skills. Begin reading to your child from an early age and continue even as they become independent readers.
- **Set aside regular reading time:** Establish a consistent reading routine at home. Set aside a specific time each day dedicated to reading. This can be before bedtime, during meals, or any other suitable time.
- **Provide a variety of reading materials:** Make sure your home is filled with a wide range of reading materials, such as books, magazines, newspapers, and even e-books.
- **Be a reading role model:** Children often emulate the behavior of their parents, so let them see you engaging in reading activities. Model good reading habits by reading in front of your child.
- **Create a cozy reading environment:** Designate a comfortable and inviting reading space at home. It can be a corner with a cozy chair, bean bag, or cushions.
- **Encourage independent reading:** Foster independence by encouraging your child to read on their own. Provide opportunities for independent reading by having a selection of books at their reading level. Allow them to choose books that interest them and give them ownership over their reading choices.
- **Engage in discussions about books:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts, opinions, and questions about the books they read. Engage in discussions about the characters, plot, and themes of the story.
- **Support vocabulary development:** Help expand your child's vocabulary by discussing new words encountered during reading. Engage in conversations that incorporate new vocabulary and provide opportunities for your child to use these words in their everyday speech.
- **Make reading a fun and enjoyable activity:** Incorporate fun activities and games that revolve around books and reading. Create reading challenges, set goals, or have themed reading nights.

Remember, your child should be logging two steps of reading EVERY night (Monday - Friday).