



Clairton Elementary School Paper Bears

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Jaden McDougald: World Traveler!

by Martin Lawrence

Jaden McDougald, a Clairton High School junior, has been involved with Positive Deviance. In October, he was invited to the Positive Deviance Conference in Denmark, where he joined representatives from 19 other countries.

M.L. How did you get involved in this program?

J.M. Me and some of my friends and family members, who all live in Clairton, were thinking of ways to help the community. We thought about making the community safer as well as other ideas to change the community. What ended up happening is that we changed ourselves instead. I started using my time more wisely and took an interest in community service as well as spreading positive ideas.

M.L. How did you feel about traveling to Denmark?

J.M. I have never been out of the country, but I was happy take part in the 25-year-old conference with other young people from all over the world. There were representatives from Vietnam, France, Norway, Japan, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, Ecuador, Netherlands, Germany, Thailand, Burdkina Faso, Myanmar, Moldova, Slovensko, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Israel, and Demark. Even though people came from all over the world, the speakers communicated in English and Danish.



Photo courtesy of Jaden McDougald

M.L. Did you have any trouble communicating with people from so many different places?

J.M. Not at all. Almost everyone spoke English as well as their own languages. If I could learn a second language, it would be Danish because I think it would be easier than some other languages.

M.L. How can other young people get involved and make a difference?

J.M. Anybody can make a difference in his or her community. Just be positive.

M.L. What is next for you?

J.M. I will be able to go to the conference again next year. It will be held in Norway.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 21 Late Start—10:00
- 22 Early Release—11:30
Holiday Break Begins



January

- 4 Classes Resume
- 12 Parent Conferences
No School for Students
- 14 No School
MLK, Jr. Day



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Conferences

By Moylana Turner

Parent/Teacher Conferences are a good opportunity for families to visit with teachers to discuss grades and behaviors. It allows families to be more involved with students and their education.

On November 3, 2016, Clairton Elementary School held conferences. It was a big success with almost 300 conferences held. A lot of families took advantage of visiting the school. In addition to meeting with teachers, visitors were given a book for his or her child's personal library as part of the district's ongoing Title I initiative to increase reading. Mr. Danchik, Elementary Music teacher said, "It's important for families to take an interest in their child's education by discussing their progress and helping them achieve grade level goals."

Families also were able to purchase tasty treats at a Bake Sale run by Mr. Danchik. Proceeds from the sale go towards transportation for Elementary Chorus concerts.



DONUTS FOR DADS by Alex Spence

Donuts for Dads was an extremely successful gathering of students and the special guys in their lives. Both sessions were very crowded, and it was great to see everyone enjoying donuts and being together. Mrs. Maurizio provided a lot of useful information about the importance of reading with your children. The event ended with lots of door prizes, which were donated by The Education Partnership, Rite Aid, and JoAnn Fabrics. Muffins for Moms is scheduled for May.

Student of the Month

By Journei Williams



Every month, two students from each grade level are chosen as Clairton Elementary School Students of the Month. Students are selected by teachers based on academics, attitude, and attendance.

Students are recognized at School Board Meetings. They receive awards and have their pictures posted in the school and on the district website.

September

Dakota McCartney
Briya Carpenter
Anthony Allen-Irvin, Jr.
Avery Forkey
Corde Estes-Washington
Si'Ona Trent
Jaden Nichols
Paris Jackson
Brian Arias
Angelina Sacunas
Antonio Goodrum
Stevie Hamlin

October

Bailee Garry
Devin Washington
Kennedy Lewandowski
Jailin Clifford
Aaliyah Weatherspoon
Darren Pinson
Amber Pruitt
Charles Jones, IV
Devayh Johnson
Brandon Sumney
Serenity Lane-Pitts
Keire Dixon

If you see any of these students, give them a high five to congratulate them!

Accelerated Reader

By Che Hawkins

Mrs. Pecora, who is the Elementary Librarian, oversees the Accelerated Reader program. She checks the scores and recognizes the classrooms with the highest **number of points**. "I want students to read more books so they **know more!**"

Read over the break to earn more points for your classroom!

October and November
top A.R. classes:

Grade 2

Mrs. Englert - 69.8 points
Mrs. Englert - 135 points

Grade 3

Ms. Bellon - 106 points
Ms. Bellon - 122.5 points

Grade 4

Mrs. Parsons - 49.7 points
Mrs. Parsons - 145.8 points

Grade 5

Mrs. Baur - 46.3 points
Mrs. Ferguson - 261.5 points

Clairton Elementary School started the PAX Behavior Program. PAX is the Latin word for 'peace.' It also stands for 'Peace, Productivity, Happiness, and Health.' Teachers get the attention of the students by using a harmonica. Students play games to earn the opportunity to participate in 'Granny's Wacky Prizes,' which can be anything from laughing out loud for 10 seconds to making animal noises or walking backwards. There are tons of prizes to earn.

Spleems are given for unacceptable behavior. Too many Spleems prohibit some students from being awarded a prize.

In addition, Tootles are a big part of PAX. Tootles are notes to recognize positive behavior, and they can be given to a student by a teacher, administrator, staff member, or another student. Tootle walls of positive messages are all over the Elementary School.

Let's give a big bear paw clap to all the students who have earned Tootles!

Elementary Chorus Performances by Paris Jackson

On Friday, November 25, Clairton Elementary School's chorus sang at Kennywood Park's Holiday Lights celebration.

Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 sang an assortment of holiday songs under the direction of Mr. Danchik.

The trip was made possible by rais-

ing money at a bake sale, which paid for the bus transportation.

The chorus also performed at Clairton City's Light Up Night on December 14 at the Municipal Building.

The annual elementary holiday concert took place December

15. The program was called Holiday Windows.

Chorus also perform for a local senior center in the community.



Family Advisory Meetings

By Brian Arias

On October 26, 2016, the Clairton City School District held its Family Advisory Meeting for October. It was Halloween-themed. Visitors were treated to drinks and yummy cookies.

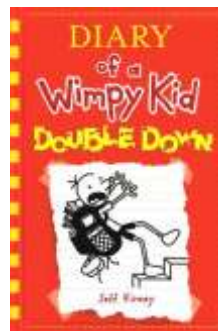
Mrs. Maurizio talked with guests about a lot of topics including PAX, Student of the Month, and the new elementary newspaper. She also reviewed district policies, interest groups, and Box Tops and Apples for the Students.

November's meeting was very crowded. Guests had a lesson on Classroll and how technology can help students learn.

There were great prizes at both meetings that were donated by The Education Partnership and JoAnn Fabric.

The next meeting will take place on January 25.

Book Nook by Anthony Janetka



It's time for Book Nook again!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is back and better than ever! Jeff Kinney brings you his newest book, Double Down.

In Double Down, Greg is **back and this time it's with more trouble than ever!**

Consider reading this new Wimpy Kid book over the Christmas break. Then, when you come back to school, take an Accelerated Reader test!



by Alex Spence

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Trubiani