

Dear Parents

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Mission... The school community, through rich and diverse experiences, will become life-long learners assuming active challenges of a global community.

From the Superintendent

By John Alfieri

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It is hard to believe that another school year is about to close. This year will always be a special one in my memory as it was the beginning of a new journey. I thank you all for welcoming me into your school and making me an integral part of the "CPS family." As I reflect upon this school year, I can think of the many positive events that took place. Also, a lot of learning for me as a "rookie".

It is always a challenge to be new to any position, especially when you start on the same day as the new principal. I would like to publicly thank our office staff for assisting us and supporting us all year. You have no idea how much of a pivotal role that these fine folks play in the day-to-day operations of CPS. Their trust, confidence, and support have been an inspiration to both Rich and I all year.

There is so much good at CPS: wonderful kids, involved and caring parents, dedicated teachers, and a cadre of people in this community that look to CPS as the nucleus of all that is good in education. The staff is already meeting to "brainstorm" these new ideas, creative solutions, and endless possibilities for another year ahead. We will be assessing our site-based objectives, looking at facilities usage plans, and welcoming the changes that we have made. Next year will have a lot less mystery as people settle into their new places and begin to make plans come to reality. With this in mind, continue to keep us informed and aware. It is only the unvoiced problem or concern which has no solution.

With each and every change, the best interest of the children is always the key factor in any determination. I thank the entire staff for their professionalism and willingness to make positive changes on behalf of their own professional growth and the benefit of the children whom we all serve.

I would also like to thank the members, past and present, of both the Clinton and Glen Gardner Boards of Education for the gift of

their time and talents. Their most amazing characteristic is their desire to make the school life of every child better...in many instances,

Although the summer is quickly approaching, the work on this end remains constant. If you would ever like to have a conversation, please feel free to give us a call and set up a time. It will be a good chance for us to get to know one and another and put our heads together. So many good ideas have come from people simply telling us what they think. And, there is value in the face-to-face connection.

My wish for your family is a safe and happy summer – it gives us all a time to “recharge our batteries” for the year that lies ahead. Again, thank you for making my first year here a special one.



From the Principal By Richard Katz

From the moment I started at CPS last July, including my first *Dear Parents* column and Back-to-School Night speeches, I have always maintained my appreciation for and immediate recognition of the incredible school community that is Clinton

Public School. As we close out our first year together, I am just as impressed, energized, and inspired as I was when I first made those statements.

For me, it has truly been a wonderful year both personally and professionally. I have sincerely enjoyed getting to know you and your families, and have been equally thrilled for the opportunity to work with such a caring and knowledgeable staff. I believe that we are all on the same page; working cooperatively to continue to build upon the outstanding educational experiences your children receive at CPS.

Some have characterized 2007-2008 as a year of change. There have been several advances and modifications in areas such as the middle school structure and schedule, developments in literacy and technology instruction, an adapted model of the multi-age program, initiatives to enhance programs in special education, increased student activity opportunities, and a reprioritization of our approach to staff development. And well, there are more. So I guess it could be accurate to describe it as a change year, but my hope is that you would also describe it as a year of progress and development of untapped potential.

I truly believe that the accomplishments of our school community this year have directly benefited students and have established building blocks that will allow us to continue to improve into the future.

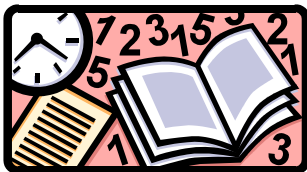
Another priority I spoke of early in the year was the importance of trust. I shared that there is nothing more significant to me than the existence of mutual trust between home and school. It is also my hope that you see the value in our actions and understand our commitment to maintaining relevant and meaningful two-way communication.

To this end, please take a few minutes to answer the questions below to provide us with insight into your views of the successes, challenges, and concerns you perceive at CPS. Sharing your observations and experiences is an essential element in our quest to continuously advance our relationship as partners in education.

You may respond by email to me at rkatz@cpsnj.org, by visiting my blog on our website and clicking the link to the survey, or by sending your thoughts in writing to the main office.

1. What do you like best about our events and activities designed to involve parents?
2. How can we improve our parent involvement practices?
3. What are your greatest concerns/worries about helping your child do well in school?
4. What is the single most important thing the school and teachers can do to help you help your child do his/her best in school?

Above all, one thing I can say for sure is that I have never felt so comfortable and welcome so quickly in any setting; I look forward to calling CPS home for many years to come. I thank you for a terrific first year together and wish you and your families a relaxing and delightful summer.



Main Office Briefs

By Lily Epstein

Enclosed in this issue of *Dear Parents* are revised calendars for June and July for the 2007/2008 Calendar-Handbook.

We are compiling class lists for the 2008-2009 school year. Please notify the Main Office if you are planning to move out of district over the summer. We are also updating

our database so please call if you have changed your address, phone number, or emergency information.

Reminder: Last Day of School is a half-day, June 17th



Nurse's Notes

By Mary Ellen Bowlby, RN

Reminder: Immunization Requirements for Sixth Grade Students for the 2008-09 School Year

There are two new immunizations required for incoming sixth grade students this September. Students entering Sixth Grade September 2008 will be required to receive one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine after the 10th birthday. Also, children born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering the sixth grade will be required to receive one dose of meningococcal-containing vaccine. Information has been sent home to fifth grade parents regarding these requirements. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sunscreen

Students are outside for gym, recess, field days and class trips at this time of year. Please apply sunscreen at home prior to coming to school. Fourth grade classes recently participated in a Sun Safety program presented by Marc Katz, Cancer Coalition Coordinator from Hunterdon County Department of Health. They learned about the importance of sun safety and skin protection. Look for the UV sign outside the main

lobby door. The students are monitoring the UV index daily and updating the sign.

Field Days

All grade levels will be having their "Field Days" soon. Many grade levels participate in activities that involve water. Please send an extra set of clothes in with your child that day in case they need to change.

Sports Physicals

Please schedule appointments with your physician for your child's sports physical for the 2008-2009 school year now. Forms are available in the main office, in the nurse's office and on-line.

Sports physicals will be performed at school by Dr. Frank, our school physician, on Monday September 8th during school hours. Call me if you would like to schedule your child's physical here at school rather than with your private physician.

Lyme Disease

Many wood ticks have been found on children this year. Continue to check your children for ticks after they have been playing outside. Tick-borne illnesses continue to be a problem in our area. Examine yourself and your family members after you return from tick infested areas and remove the ticks before they have a chance to feed. Ticks that are removed promptly are unlikely to transmit disease organisms.

Medication

If your child has a supply of medication in the nurse's office it should be picked up by a parent on the last day of school, unless it is necessary to have it available at school during summer school. Medication policy and a doctor's order form are enclosed in this packet. Please have it completed over the summer by your physician if your child will need to receive any medication for the upcoming school year. Dr. Frank has provided standing orders for Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums, and cough syrup that can be given to students by the school nurse. Written permission will no longer be needed to administer these medications. Parents will be called and informed if there is a need to administer them to a student during school hours.

Voicemail

If you need to leave me a phone message please use the learning line. Call 908-735-0950 Ext. 500. Do not leave a message on my direct line (908-735-7283). These messages are somehow lost in the system and do not reach me.



CPS Before Care and After Care Program

By Martie Orlando

You may continue to submit applications for After Care however **there is currently a waiting list**. If any student is withdrawn from the program the next person on the list will be accepted into the program. A handbook is available about all aspects of the program and families are encouraged to read it. If you have any questions, you may leave me a voice message (ext. 159) and I will gladly get back to you.



CPS Distinguished Student

By Robyn Apffel

Each year the Hunterdon County Business and Education Alliance names distinguished students from each school that submits a candidate. This year our middle school teachers proudly recommended MGM to receive the 2008 CPS Distinguished Student Award. Mariana is highly qualified to

represent our school because of her outstanding achievements both in school and in the community. She is recognized for her enthusiastic participation in our music program, as well as in sports, art, and academics.

M. approaches life with a confident smile on her face and a song in her heart. She has secured leading roles in our school musical and inspires younger students to reach for the stars. M. works hard at doing her best, taking direction from her teachers and mentors, always striving to learn whatever it will take to finish with a flawless production. She brings the same enthusiasm to her immaculate and highly creative artwork, for which she has received statewide recognition. M. also is a fine writer, following all the best advice to plan, write, edit, and re-write. She has consistently achieved high honor roll status. This year Mariana worked on the yearbook.

Mariana lives a healthy lifestyle, being careful of her diet and participating in cross country in school and tennis outside of school. She enjoys the physical activity and the social aspects of team sports. She is a devoted daughter, fully aware of the importance of family, and deeply appreciative of the dedication of her parents to her education. She has participated in many community activities, including Girl Scouts and church affiliation. In the community, M actively volunteers at the Hunterdon

County Art Center. She places very high value on her friendships, and is pleasant and cooperative with all students and teachers.

On May 22, Ms. Viotto, Mrs. Kucyn, and Mrs. Apffel were very pleased to accompany M and her parents to the banquet awards ceremony honoring the county's distinguished students. We may be a little prejudiced in M's favor, but we firmly believe that she certainly is by far the most distinguished of the bunch! M, the entire CPS community rejoices in your selection as our Distinguished Student of 2008. We are all proud of you and are honored by your presence among us. Congratulations!



Enrichment

From Doreen Bleck

The Academy at CPS

The Academy at CPS is a philosophy, not a program. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to set high personal standards of excellence regardless of innate ability. We believe that school, more than ever, needs to define criteria for excellence. We believe that all students will benefit from a program that encourages academic excellence, active participation in school

activities, community service, wellness, and exposure to cultural events. Four eighth graders volunteered to participate in this independent activity requiring self-discipline, and responsibility. They also have to do twenty hours of community service. The four students from this graduating class who completed all of the necessary components are: IA, JB, TZ, and RW. We commend these students and wish them well in their high school endeavors.

Battle of the Books

Most everyone has heard of Reading Olympics, but this year we continued our interest in books and joined for the first time in the 7th and 8th grade Battle of the Book competition at Union School. Only four students participated but they proved to be strong competitors. Each team had to read from the 15-book list. Our team representing CPS was: Isabelle Aspin, Casey Broslawski, Kelly Cavallo, and Tom Wang. Next year we are looking for more people who enjoy good books.

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

Each year students in 7th and 8th grade who received a 95% or higher score in either math or language arts, are sent an invitation from Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth to take the SAT tests. Some of our students took the test and received high scores. These students performed well enough on the test section to receive a State Award with

High Honors in math: JB ,
MG, and JK.

These students achieved
“Distinction” meaning a test
score that equals or exceeds
the average score for a college-
bound high school senior:
Reading - JB and MG
Math - JB, MG, JK, VL, and
BR,
Congratulations!

Clinton Public School Summer School

CPS is ready to go with
another exciting, educational
and fun Summer School.
Letters to individual students
will be sent home the 2nd week
of June informing them of
their teacher and the room to
report to. The Ready, Set, Go
students will meet in Lobby #1
to wait for their teacher.
Please look at the attached bus
schedule. If there are any
questions, please call Mrs.
Bleck 735-8512 ext.132.

Heifer International

In the effort to “do something
for others” EarlyAct and the
PTA decided on making
Heifer International the
recipient of the CPS
Walkathon held of Friday,
May 23rd. This project tied
into the school theme of You,
Me, and the World”.

On May 9th the student body
watched a touching film,
demonstrating how one goat
could have a major effect on
the life of a little girl in India.
From that assembly, students
collected pledges of straight
money donations, or living

donations where the pledge
pinpointed an animal to be
purchased. In two weeks time
our school family collected
more than a generous share of
money. A total of \$11,836.08
was collected. We want to
thank all who participated in
this important event.

Sun Safety for the Fourth Grades

You may have looked out on
the playground and seen lots of
students wearing wide
brimmed hats protecting them
from the rays of the sun, or
you might have notice the UV
Level Board placed in front of
the school. Marc Katz, Cancer
Coalition Coordinator from the
Department of Health visited
our school and presented sun
safety awareness to our fourth
grades.

Here is what they heard...
Too much exposure to strong
sunlight, especially when
resulting in sunburns, is one of
the major risk factors for
developing skin cancer.

As the warm summer months
approach and people head
outdoors, their risk increases,
but there are things people can
do to limit their exposure
to the sun.

The following are strategies
for protecting yourself from
sun exposure:

- Wear a wide brimmed hat,
protective clothing and plenty
of sunscreen with a sun
protection factor (SPF) of 15
or greater, applied
20 minutes before going into
the sunlight and reapplied
every 2 hours.

- Wear polarized sunglasses to
offer protection to the eyes
from reflected radiation.
Avoid exposure during 10:00
a.m. and 4:00 p.m., when the
sun's rays are strongest.
- Remember that sunlight can
reflect off water, sand, and
concrete and can reach below
the water's surface.
- Children need extra
protection. Encourage them to
play in the shade, wear
protective clothing and apply
sunscreen regularly.
- Caution: Children age 6
months or younger should not
wear sunscreen.



Physical Education News

By B. Emery, M. Bulger
& T. Bidwell

Summer Sneaker Shopping

Each year we are faced with the
problem that many of our
students are not adequately
prepared to fully and safely
participate in Physical
Education class because of the
footwear that has been
purchased for them. When
shopping for new sneakers for
your family this summer, please
consider the following. A safe
athletic shoe needs to have
good support for lateral
movement but not be too rigid
or bulky for running activities.
In addition, sneakers should fit
properly so that when tied
snugly they will stay on the feet
during activity. We suggest that
parents refrain from purchasing

"heelies", rubber soled slip-ons such as Mary Janes, clogs, clogs and the new slim Skecher type sneakers for their child to use during P.E. class. Also, students may not participate in P.E. with sandals, open toe shoes or boots of any kind. Please be aware that students who wear inadequate footwear for Physical Education often become frustrated when they are unable to move freely and keep up with their classmates. We do recognize the pressure parents experience when shopping with children. Unfortunately, some of the most fashionable, popular and expensive sneakers are not the safest. You may wish to consult your podiatrist or pediatrician for some ideas before shopping. Thank you for supporting us with this safety issue.

The Physical Education Department wishes everyone a very safe, healthy and exercise-filled summer!



Yearbooks to Be Distributed Soon!

By Robyn Apffel

In September 2007, the eighth graders who made up the yearbook staff began making plans for the 2008 edition of the CPS yearbook. They took their job very seriously, planning every one of the eighty-eight pages of the book, followed by months of photographing individuals, teams, clubs, and events,

experimenting with layouts, typing and proofreading, and managing sales campaigns. They learned a lot about the production of a yearbook, as well as the business end of the endeavor. Now all their hard work has become a visual reality. The CPS 2008 yearbook has arrived. It will be distributed to eighth graders on Monday, June 9, and on the following day will be distributed to other students and staff who have purchased the book in the earlier sales campaigns. There will be additional books for sale on a first-come-first-served basis at a cost of \$30 per book. Students wishing to purchase a book should bring an envelope with their name and homeroom on the outside and a check or money order written to CPS in the amount of \$30. This may be given to their homeroom teacher or to Mrs. Apffel.

The staff is very excited to share their efforts with the CPS community. There are many, many pictures of students in this edition, including individual photos of every student, sports, clubs, the music program, Halloween, staff, and of course color portraits of our graduates. The yearbook is a fine way to capture memories of a student's career at CPS.

Although we have done our very best to clearly and properly identify every photograph, please understand that we may miss an occasional error along the way. If we have misidentified or misspelled a name, we apologize in advance.

We have already caught one error in which we assigned an erroneous title to Ms. Nardi, who is an administrative assistant to the business administrator. We have noticed a couple of missing apostrophes that we know for sure we corrected, but perhaps neglected to save our corrections. Perhaps there are other errors that we have not yet caught, but overall, we are confident that you will be pleased with the new yearbook and will be delighted with the many faces of Clinton Public School displayed in the pages.



SEPAC

By Susan Komorowski & Donna Zehnbauer

Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, June 3rd @ 7:00 pm in the CPS Library. John Alfieri and our Special Education Team will be available to talk about our special education program at CPS. If you have a child at CPS who is classified under Special Education and/or Related Services, we invite you to attend our meeting.

Our next Super SEPAC Saturdays will be on Saturday, June 21st @ 11:00 am @ the Clinton Community Center on Halstead Street. Join us for one hour of crafts and activities to encourage social skills and opportunities--fun for all ages! No need to

register, just come and experience the excitement of children having a fun time. Play sessions are free.

See our website cpsnj.org for times and location.

For more information on upcoming meetings and special activities, check the SEPAC website, via the CPS Home Page. Click the "Information Tab", then click "SEPAC".



Have a Great



June Events

- 3 SEPAC Meeting
- 4 PTA Meeting
- 5 Theme Culminating Event
Grade 2 Dessert Theatre
- 6 End of Marking Period
3rd Grade & 3/4MA
Red Mill Trip Night
Field Day Grades 5, 6
8th Gr. Dinner/Dance
- 10 Field Day K-2
- 11 Field Day Grades 3, 4
- 12 5th Grade Trip – Sandy Hook
- 13 100+ Book Club
Ceremony
5th Grade Picnic
- 16 6th Grade Picnic
GG BOE Meeting
- 17 Report Cards
12:45PM Dismissal
8th Grade Graduation
- 18 BOE Meeting
- 30 First Day of Summer School