



# JCSA *Jonas Clarke School Association Newsletter*

Jonas Clarke Middle School  
17 Stedman Road ♦ Lexington, MA 02421-7210  
781-861-2450 ♦ <http://lps.lexingtonma.org/clarkems>

Principal: Anna Monaco  
Assistant Principals: Jennifer Turner  
Jonathan Wettstone

June 2013 *Print edition*

Online at [www.clarkenewsletter.org](http://www.clarkenewsletter.org)

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Jonas Clarke Community,

It is hard to believe that June has arrived and we are in the final stretch of the 2012-2013 school year. This has been an exciting and thrilling first year for me as Principal of Jonas Clarke Middle School, and I know that this will be a year that I will reflect upon fondly in the future. I would like to thank all of you who responded to the parent survey designed by the school Site Council. We have looked very carefully at the results and

feedback that you sent, and have made an effort to incorporate what we read into the 2013-2014 School Improvement Plan. We will be sharing this plan with the community later this spring. I feel so fortunate to be part of such a supportive and welcoming community, and I have a great many thanks for all of those people who worked so hard to ensure that this year was a successful one.

Clarke has been a busy place this spring. There has been much going on both in and outside of the school. It is amazing to see how many students are involved in after-school activities, such as sports, clubs, and drama (just to name a few). This is a great sight to see. Last week, I attended the Clarke Spring drama production, *The Seussification of a Midsummer Night's Dream*. I could not have been more impressed with the students' dedication to this performance, and I laughed throughout the entire production. It was funny and extremely professional. Congratulations to Ms. Brown and all of the students involved. Well done!

Speaking of accomplishments, we are also proud to announce that Alec Sun, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Clarke, won the national MathCounts competition. Alec has had a busy couple of weeks being honored by the School Committee, granting interviews, and appearing on *Good Morning America*. Check out the links on the Clarke website for more information.

We have begun the transitions from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students recently chose their exploratory courses online, and were able to see the Math and Foreign Language selections that teachers entered into the Aspen portal. This was a new process for us this year, and we are hoping that the earlier timeline for placement gave students and parents the opportunity to check in with teachers about placement before the school year is over. Very soon, we will begin the process of team placement for next year. Please make sure to fill out and send back the student information form that was e-mailed out to all families if there is any information that you would like to share with us about your child. We read each and every one.

I would like to thank all of the parents who helped out with the teacher appreciation luncheon in May. As always, the teachers and staff are so thankful for such an amazing spread of food, and look forward to it all year. This year's picnic theme was perfect for a spring afternoon. Thank you to all for helping out and appreciating our teachers.

It is hard to believe, but the last day of school for students and staff is Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be having an early release day, and dismissal will be at 11:45 AM for all students. Happy Spring, and I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing, and safe summer vacation.

Sincerely,  
Anna Monaco  
Principal

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

6/4/2013 7:30 AM -12 PM  
Voyager Team Sponsored Breakfast  
Staff Lunchroom - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

6/14/2013 6:30 PM-8:30 PM  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Social - Gymnasium

6/5/2013 6 AM - 6/7/2013 7 PM  
Quebec Trip for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

6/20/2013 7:00 PM -9:00 PM  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony  
LHS Auditorium

6/6/2013 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Final JCSA Meeting/Elections  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cafeteria

6/24/2013 Final Day for Teachers and  
students - 11:45 AM dismissal



NEXT NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER ISSUE  
DEADLINE: AUGUST 16, 2013

EMAIL ARTICLES TO:  
[CLARKE.NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CLARKE.NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)

HAPPY SUMMER!

## FROM THE JCSA

Dear Clarke Families,

It is hard to believe that June is here! It seems like only a few months ago that the sixth graders were wandering through the building looking for their classrooms, and the eighth graders were enjoying being the “seniors” of Clarke. Now, the sixth and seventh graders are ready to move up, and the eighth graders are ready to move onto high school. It is time to close the 2012-13 school year and let everyone enjoy a well-deserved break.

We want to thank our entire JCSA Board and Committees for all their hard work during the year, including Kerry Heyda, Julie Read, and Anne Stevens for the school socials; Lisa Smith for yearbook sales; team parent coordinators Kristin LaFond, Gali Diamant, and Lesley Hausmann; school council reps Sandra Mayo, Liz O’Neil, Lorelle Yee, and Suzanne Cherson; Nancy Wurtz and Lucy Wall for putting together the directory; Joy McCallum as the METCO liaison; Paige Sabine and Becky DesRoches, who helped welcome new families to Clarke; Marcia Gens for the Green Team; Helen Goodreau, Karin Gehring, Patricia Valda, and Huayu Xiong for coordinating the Book Fair; Linda Resnick for coordinating the library volunteers; Alison Arshad, Leslie Forg, Beth Gavrin, and Sue Wilner for helping our kids show their Clarke pride in spirtwear; and Ellen Cameron, Terry Charon, Carol Selemon, Lori Benjes, and Maureen Gaines for organizing fantastic luncheons for our wonderful staff.

A huge thank you to our Magazine Drive chairs, Naomi Kieler and Kirsty Collis, and our Clarke Night Out chair, Anne Stevens. So much of what the JCSA does to support our staff and students would not be possible without their efforts and hard work to raise money for Clarke.

Thank you to our Newsletter team: Lesley Hausmann, Grace Clackson, and Irina Gritsevskaya. This team makes the monthly newsletter a place to find articles, team reports, and announcements in an easy-to-read format. Polly Kienle, our listserv manager, deserves our praise and gratitude for smoothly and efficiently delivering important announcements each Friday.

We also need to say good-bye and thank you to Jenny Richlin for serving as the JCSA Secretary for the past two years.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Clarke administrative team. They are always there to lend a helping hand. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the office staff, especially Phyllis Ho and Kim Hogan, for all their support. Thank you to Mr. Ed Davey for attending the JCSA meetings as the faculty representative.

Finally, thank you to all of the parents who helped make Clarke such a great place for our children. Parents volunteered by bringing in food for staff breakfasts, helping with the Clarke Night Out, giving out prizes for magazine sales, shelving books in the IMC, and in countless other ways. We really and truly couldn’t have done it without you.

Have a great June and a happy summer!

Kara Brandes	<a href="mailto:kara.brendes@gmail.com">kara.brendes@gmail.com</a>
Kathleen Lenihan	<a href="mailto:kathleen1lenihan@gmail.com">kathleen1lenihan@gmail.com</a>
JCSA Co-Presidents	

## \*\*\*TEAM NEWS\*\*\*

### ATLANTIS 6

Words from the Wise:

6<sup>th</sup> Graders on the Atlantis Team offer thoughts and advice to next years’ lucky 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

1. Don’t be afraid of losing one of your friends because you’re going to make new friends from different schools.
2. Learn to open your locker before the first day of school.
3. You don’t have to rush to class; take your time you’ll make it.
4. Be organized; don’t lose any papers.
5. If you get a bad grade, don’t panic. Just don’t let the bad grades pile up.
6. The teachers are really nice. If you need extra help all you have to do is ask them.
7. Do your homework. Studying for quizzes counts as homework.
8. You do have recess; don’t worry.
9. All the stuff that’s new and possibly scary will get comfortable real, real quick.
10. Everyone is in the same boat as you.
11. The work is nothing you can’t handle.
12. The older kids seriously probably won’t bother you.
13. You can go through changes and still be yourself.

## QUEST 6

Students are currently finishing up our unit on traditional literature. Students are writing their first five-paragraph essay, which will persuade the reader of the *real* purpose of Greek mythology. After we wrap up our essays, students will be engaging in Literature Circles. They will divide into smaller groups and select a novel that interests everyone in the group. Students will then create and run their own discussion groups based on the group text. As the year comes to a close, students will teach the rest of the class about the novel that their group read.

Quest Math students have begun an end-of-year review by using a web-based system called ASSISTments. The program (a collaboration between WPI and Carnegie Mellon) is composed of questions, hints, solutions, and web-based videos, blending tutoring with assessment. The system helps teachers practice the process of formative assessment because the teacher gets an instant report on student learning. In addition, teachers can use it for differentiating instruction by assigning specific problem sets that allow each student to get the practice he or she needs before reaching mastery. The students are excited about ASSISTments because they can work ahead, get the help they need, and realize how much they've already learned this year!

Social Studies students are finishing up their study of ancient Greece, and moving on to the Roman Republic. We will end the year researching the Roman Empire, the Incas, the Mayas, the Aztecs, and ancient China and India with the other sixth-grade Ancient Civilizations classes. This final project will culminate with cross-team presentations and sharing.

Quest students of Science have recently wrapped up their study of topics related to geology. The high point of the unit was PowerPoint presentations on topics ranging from "The Ring of Fire" to why we have tsunamis. Soon we will begin the construction of soda bottle rockets, which will culminate in a launch where students will determine if they met their design objectives.

## VOYAGER 6

Voyager Ancient Civilizations classes have been working on creating their own ancient Greek city-states. The students have to answer questions about their city-state, create a myth, draw a map, and draw a picture of their city-state's patron god or goddess. Each group will present its city-state to the class.

In English, students are completing their study of traditional literature with the reading of *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths*. They learned about the Olympian gods and read many Greek myths. They also wrote a persuasive essay answering the big question, "Why did the ancient Greeks create myths?" Students continue to learn about the parts of speech, in particular, pronouns. In our next unit, we will be reading a historical fiction novel about ancient China and the Silk Road. This journey will take us back 2,000 years as we travel from Xian, China to Rome, Italy.

What's your favorite flavor, color, season, singer, vacation spot, hobby, season, or day of the week? Voyager's Math students have been busy gathering people's opinions on the topics of their choice and turning the results into pie charts. The challenging part of the assignment was that the students had to interview a prime number of people. That requirement meant that the numbers were less "friendly," requiring long division and multiplication, instead of simple proportions, to determine percentages and the subsequent number of degrees for each "wedge" of the pie graph. They produced some artistic beauties that were also mathematically accurate.

Voyager Science students journeyed back in time to the formation of the Earth and uncovered Earth's history by investigating the layers of rock. Then, we journeyed to the center of the Earth. Students made a scale model of the layers of the Earth and researched and presented their expertise on the formation of geologic features that result from plate tectonics.

## ADVENTURER 7

Adventurer Geographers are rapidly finishing their trip around the world. Right now, we're studying South Asia and answering the question WWMGD? (What Would Mahatma Gandhi Do?) Soon, we'll be zooming to Latin America and tangling with the thorny issues of deforestation and immigration. By the end of the year, some students will volunteer for the Adventurer Challenge, and some of them will be able to name all of the countries in the world!!

Happy spring! We, along with other seventh-grade teams, were thrilled to hear Dr. Sarah Cooley from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution speak about climate change in April (see separate article). Now, Adventurer students are firmly "rooted" in our plants unit. The botany bottles are allowing students to see the germination process and development of corn and bean plants. Next, we'll be preparing for our field trip to the seacoast in Nahant. We'll end the year by studying different human body systems. And, of course, we'll be doing some dissections to study certain systems in more detail. These will include opening up chicken wings, sheep hearts, and eyeballs, to help us "see" their structure and learn more about how these parts function. It has been a great year of Adventure for our team!

In English, Adventurer students have begun reading a nonfiction book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. After close reading and discussion, everyone is gaining a "healthy" appreciation for how our food is grown and where it comes from. Also, in the coming weeks, look for our Secret Room books on display in the IMC. Students are writing persuasive papers, and the topics are self-selected. Topics range from protecting the bee population to the importance of team sports to stereotypes portrayed in Disney movies. Please check them out.

The seventh graders are finishing up a great year in Math! Students have completed a statistics project in which they surveyed other students on a topic of their choice. Students asked questions about everything from, "What is your fastest mile time?" to "How many hours of television do you watch per week?" They had to analyze the data and write about the information they collected, "statistically speaking." Students will next be learning about probability. Students will also be expanding and strengthening their knowledge of exponents as we learn about positive, negative, and fractional exponents. It has been a wonderful year of exploring different math concepts. Have a great summer!

## ENTERPRISE 7

The maiden voyage of Team Enterprise is sadly coming to an end, but what an amazing adventure it has been! Capping off the year, we all traveled to Nahant, where we visited the Northeastern University Marine Science Center. While there, we explored the stomping grounds of Henry Cabot Lodge, and learned about the center's original use as a military base. We wandered the insides of a World War II bomb shelter, saw anti-aircraft triangulation towers, and even learned that scenes from the movie *Shelter Island* were filmed right where we were exploring! While at the center, we all learned about the diverse ecosystems of tidal pools, and had a blast exploring the many pools ourselves. Some of our more advantageous explorers were lucky enough to discover an assortment of crabs, snails, mussels, narwhals, barnacles, and seaweed living in the flats along the bluffs. One of the many highlights of the trip was the opportunity to visit the marine touch tank located inside the research facility. It was great to see so many students conquer their fears by touching and even picking up the large and scary-looking crabs that were in the tanks.

In World Geography, we have begun our study of Asia, and look forward to rounding out our curriculum with an exploration of Oceania, India, and South America. In English, we have been working hard on our Secret Room projects, and can't wait to see everyone's final product. Team Enterprise selected an especially diverse range of topics to persuade readers about this year. Topics students researched include stereotypes in Disney movies, the abolishment of the penny, a call for starting school days later, and the issue of cloning. Final projects will be displayed in the IMC, so be sure to check them out! As the final month approaches, students will be reading *SeedFolks* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma* as they get a dose of non-fiction and learn about their environment and the food-chain we are all so closely connected to.

In Math, the seventh graders are finishing up a great year! Students have completed a statistics project in which they surveyed other students on a topic of their choice. Students asked questions about everything from, "What is your fastest mile time?" to "How many hours of television do you watch per week?" They had to analyze the data and write about the information they collected, "statistically speaking." Students will next be learning about probability. Students will also be expanding and strengthening their knowledge of exponents as we learn about positive, negative, and fractional exponents. It has been a wonderful year of exploring different math concepts. Have a great summer!

The seventh graders are wrapping up a great year in Science! Students have completed our Fungi and Plantae kingdom units. We have examined mushrooms, lichen, and mold under the microscope. We have also discovered and classified more than 15 different trees around Clarke. We have started our Animalia kingdom unit with our field trip to Northeastern University's Marine Science Center in Nahant, MA. We were able to interact with the different marine life specimens in the tidal pools. Students will continue learning about the Animalia kingdom as we focus on land animals and humans. We have several interesting labs in the coming weeks, such as our muscle and tendon chicken wing examination and our circulatory system's heart examination, to name a couple. It's been a great year of exploration and learning. Have a great summer!

## EXPLORER 7

The seventh graders are finishing up a great year in Math! Students have completed a statistics project in which they surveyed other students on a topic of their choice. Students asked questions about everything from, "What is your fastest mile time?" to "How many hours of television do you watch per week?" They had to analyze the data and write about the information they collected, "statistically speaking." Students will next be learning about probability. Students will also be expanding and strengthening their knowledge of exponents as we learn about positive, negative, and fractional exponents. It has been a wonderful year of exploring different math concepts. Have a great summer!

In English, students finished reading *Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli. This book explored the themes of individuality and nonconformity, as the main character teaches the reader that it is OK to be unique. Throughout the novel, Stargirl performs "random acts of kindness," so students were asked to describe their own kind acts as they wrote an essay titled, "Acts of Kindness." The students will soon begin reading their final class book, which is a nonfiction title called *The Omnivore's Dilemma*.

Over the last two weeks, the students have been working on a persuasive essay. Students had the opportunity to choose a topic that they felt passionate about, research the topic, and write a five-paragraph essay persuading their readers to agree with their viewpoint. Students followed the writing process and worked cooperatively with a peer to edit and revise their drafts. Along with the essay, each student will create a Secret Book room to display his or her persuasive essay. Each of the pages of the book must be decorated to show the themes of the essay. This artistic project allows students to experiment with different art supplies and media, and to show off their creative talents.

Science students have continued their survey of the major kingdoms of life by studying bacteria, protists, fungi, and most recently, plants. They examined the major plant structures including seeds, roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits. We finish off the year with a study of the major systems of the human body. Students will learn how each system works to perform a specific function as well as understand the interconnected nature of each body system.

In World Geo, students have finished studying Russia and the Eurasian republics, and have set their sights on East and South Asia. Students will examine the physical geography, climate, history and culture of the regions.

## ENDEAVOR 7

Endeavor students have completed the much anticipated Secret Room book paper and project! An impressive variety of topic selections are represented in this year's bundle, including skydiving, deforestation, salary caps in sports, and animal rights. Be sure to check out student work on display in the IMC starting next week! We are continuing our exploration of non-fiction writing with Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (Young Readers Edition). Students are invited by this engaging text to become "food detectives" and increase curiosity surrounding the modern American's plethora of food choices. A number of creative writing opportunities are on the horizon as we approach the end of the school year.

The seventh graders are finishing up a great year in Math! Students have completed a statistics project in which they surveyed other students on a topic of their choice. Students asked questions about everything from, "What is your fastest mile time?" to "How many hours of television do you watch per week?" They had to analyze the data and write about the information they collected, "statistically speaking." Students will next be learning about probability. Students will also be expanding and strengthening their knowledge of exponents as we learn about positive, negative, and fractional exponents. It has been a wonderful year of exploring different math concepts.

In Endeavor Science, students have been studying organisms in the bacteria, protist, fungi, and plant kingdoms. Our seed germinations are coming along nicely, and soon students will be able to take home their very own bean or corn plants. We are currently working on a research project to prepare us for our field trip to Nahant, where students will be able to explore the ecology of the rocky intertidal zone. Stay tuned for our exciting dissections that will be happening in June during our human body unit!

Endeavor team has just finished exploring East and Southeast Asia. In addition to studying the political and physical geography of those regions, we compared and contrasted the Korean and Vietnam Wars, which lent itself to a fruitful discussion on the role of the United States in various foreign entanglements. We are currently "traveling" throughout Oceania, and the students are putting the finishing touches on their project-based unit. For the project, they have created postcards of places in the region they have "visited," analyzed the standard of living in the major countries in the region, and compared and contrasted one aspect of life in Australia with that in the United States. Our next endeavor will take us to South Asia, where we will study the unique physical geography including mountains, rivers, and monsoons, and the significant role of Gandhi in the region.

## CHALLENGE 8

The Challenge team continues to both work hard and have fun as the year begins to wind down. Science classes recently built fantastic roller coasters, the likes of which caused their marble passengers to tremble with trepidation as they tumbled to their final destination below - all with a little help from good old gravity. There is a link on Ms. Kaw's TeacherWeb page for those who would like to see these marvelous contraptions in action. Next project on the agenda: building a working solar car. After that: making the big bucks selling these designs to Honda.

In English, students pored over historical documents and secondary sources alike in an effort to produce a research paper on a topic of their choice. Never was thesis writing so inspiring, and with this task now "under their belts," they get ready to enter high school armed with the skills they learned from this valuable experience. Math classes continue to chip away at challenging problems, learning key computations and methods that would make Copernicus proud. Meanwhile, Civil War is not far off for the Challenge Team. That's because U.S. History students are delving into the early-to-mid 1800's, an era full of progress, innovation, boldness of spirit, and examples of awful bloodshed. They will be exploring the fascinating way in which a young country could split apart and then *heal again* afterwards, which was no small feat considering the many complex issues of the time period.

Clearly, though summer may be still on its way, the action is already hot hot hot in Challenge Team classrooms.

## DISCOVERY 8

Discovery students will be attending the House of Blues Schoolhouse Program on June 14<sup>th</sup>. This field trip will provide them with an opportunity to reflect upon African-American history and culture from its beginnings in Africa through today. Some key events that influenced the art include the forced migration of Africans to America, slavery, the Civil War, emancipation, the Great Migration, and the Civil Rights movement.

In English, we are discussing allegory and satire as we read Orwell's *Animal Farm* and get to know its characters and their historical connections. We will soon shift into *To Kill a Mockingbird* and begin exploring, among other things, how characters' points of view and perspectives create tension and conflict. We will also finish the year with a grammar project involving phrase and clause patterns. For examples, you can visit this webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/influencesandaspirations/phrase-and-clause-patterns-dc-trip>.

In Discovery Science, we are building roller coasters! Students have been divided up into teams of three or four students to design and build paper roller coasters. Now that their roller coasters are completed, we will use them to explore coaster physics. We will take careful measurements and observations to determine the coaster's speed, acceleration, potential energy, kinetic energy, and momentum, as well as studying all of the forces that influence the coaster's motion. Students will share their coasters and their research at Paper Roller Coaster Night on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, in the Clarke Cafeteria. Parents and family are cordially invited! Please RSVP at [http://bit.ly/coaster\\_rsvp](http://bit.ly/coaster_rsvp). For more information, visit [http://www.misterlawrence.com/coaster\\_night](http://www.misterlawrence.com/coaster_night).

In Mr. Owens' Algebra 1 classes, we are beginning a new unit on geometric proofs. We will be doing some hands-on activities to explore the triangle congruency postulates, as well as some computer-based explorations using Geometer's Sketchpad. We will be using two-column proofs to logically prove geometric properties and theorems, by giving a series of statements with their corresponding justifications.

In Mr. Owens' Algebra 1A classes, we are beginning a unit on systems of equations. We will look at solving systems of equations using a variety of methods including solving by graphing, substitution, and elimination.

## \*\*ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER NEWS\*\*

### FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Welcome, Students!

The nurses at Clarke would like to welcome everyone and extend our wishes to you all for a successful, healthy 2013-2014 school year!

The Nurse's Office is staffed by a full-time nurse, Michele Mosher, RN, and a part-time nurse, Robin Spencer, RN. We provide a variety of services, with the goal of maintaining a state of physical and emotional health for all students. We are committed to keeping your children healthy and safe throughout the school year. Even though most students visit us with an injury or illness, we welcome all types of visits, including just dropping by to say, "Hi." For those students and families new to the Clarke community, the Nurse's Office is located near the Main Office. We are open Monday to Friday, from 7:45 AM to 3:00 PM.

#### Physical Examination Requirements:

Here in the Nurse's Office, we are busy processing physical examination forms for sixth graders and fall athletes. We very much appreciate all those who have already sent their exams our way. All sixth-grade students and athletes are required to have physical examinations within the past 13 months, and to have a copy of the exam on file in the Nurse's Office. Copies can be dropped off at the Nurse's Office, faxed to our confidential fax at 781-861-2337, or mailed to the attention of Michele Mosher, BSN, at Clarke, 17 Stedman Road, Lexington, MA, 02421.

### STOP & SHOP A+ REWARDS PROGRAM TOTAL EARNINGS ARE HERE!

Great news!!!! The program for this school year concluded on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and the earnings for Clarke are terrific. For the month of March, we earned \$304.11, bringing our total earnings for this school year to..... \$1,931.53! This is the largest amount we have ever earned for this program!

Thank you to all of our loyal and dedicated participants for making this possible! We could not have done this without your tremendous help and support. All of the earnings from this program will be used to support students and staff at Clarke, helping to make our school such a fabulous place for our children to learn and grow.

Until we start again this fall, best wishes to all, and thank you so much.



### DR. COOLEY EDUCATES CLARKE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the seventh graders at Clarke were privileged to hear Dr. Sarah Cooley speak about climate change and ocean acidification. Dr. Cooley is a research scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her research involves using data about the ocean and coastal human communities to look at the consequences of human-driven changes in marine chemistry, specifically ocean acidification. She has spoken all over the world about her findings, including to the United Nations and in India.

During the assembly at Clarke, Dr. Cooley explained to students how the ocean is absorbing carbon dioxide emissions, and how this is affecting some shell- and skeleton-producing organisms in the ocean, and indirectly, people. The assembly concluded with a question-and-answer session, which allowed students to connect what is happening in the world with their own lives.

That evening, families of seventh graders were encouraged to participate in "Clarke Unplugged," to show their concern for the planet. [This was similar to "Earth Hour," which was celebrated worldwide on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.] Households were encouraged to turn off all lights and electrical devices for an hour to help reduce our carbon "footprint."

Following her visit to Clarke, Dr. Cooley wrote, "I really enjoyed my visit, and the students' interest was very gratifying. It's days like this that make me optimistic that future generations will indeed achieve better and more clever uses of the Earth's resources, since they're already clearly thinking creatively about global change. They asked great questions!"

The assembly was a great opportunity for students to hear from a prominent scientist currently active in climate change research focused on our oceans. Thank you to the JCSA for their support of this speaker.

For more information, see <http://www.whoj.edu/main/topic/ocean-acidification>. (If you click on the presentation video on the right side of this page, Dr. Cooley is the third presenter.)

### From The Lexington Education Foundation (LEF)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the school year winds down, many of us are looking for ways that we can recognize and thank our children's teachers and school personnel. **Consider a STAR (Staff Teacher Appreciation and Recognition) award from the Lexington Education Foundation!** STAR awards not only provide meaningful recognition to the educators that have made a difference to your child, they also help to further support the Lexington Public schools. When you purchase a STAR Award, your donation helps to fund LEF grant programs, providing new technology, innovative instruction and professional development opportunities to all nine of Lexington's public schools. What's more, teachers love receiving and LEF STAR:

***"It was such an honor to receive an LEF STAR Award. I was humbled and delighted that parents felt I'd made a difference in their child's life." - 2011 STAR Recipient***

STAR Awards are handsome certificates that include your name and an optional personal message. Individual Awards are \$25 per educator, and Team or Group Awards (such as middle school team or school administrative staff) are \$50 per team. **Order your STAR Awards by June 13th, to ensure teachers will receive their certificates before the last day of classes!** Visit <http://www.lexedfoundation.org/donate-stars.htm> to order yours today!

*\*Lexington Education Foundation is an independent, charitable organization and is not affiliated with the Lexington Public Schools*

## 2013-2014 Clarke Middle School JCSA Membership & Directory Listing

The JCSA supports the students, staff and parents at Clarke. We depend on membership dues, donations and only two major fundraisers (magazine drive and Clarke Night Out) to fund the budget. We aim for 100% Clarke JCSA Membership amongst our parent community. You will receive one copy of the Clarke Directory as a benefit of your membership. Thank you for your generous support!

### Part 1: JCSA Membership

I would like to join the Clarke JCSA & get a copy of the directory [Member Name(s)]: \_\_\_\_\_  
 JCSA dues and one copy of directory: \$ 25.00

Additional directories: \_\_\_ x \$5 ea     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution to the JCSA: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Suggested amount is \$25 for each additional student at Clarke. JCSA spends approximately \$65/student each year and relies on additional contributions as well as fundraising to support a wide variety of resources and activities, including students' daily planners, ACT, scholarships, teacher grants and more)

Total Check Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to JCSA Corp, with your student's name on the memo line. JCSA Corp is an IRC §501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your contribution (less the cost of \$5/directory) qualifies as a tax deduction to the extent allowed by law.*

I do not wish to join the JCSA/receive a copy of the directory (your information can still be listed in the directory).

Please sign me up for the **free** 2013-2014 Stop & Shop A+ program to donate money to Clarke while I shop!

By providing your Stop & Shop rewards card number, **Stop & Shop donates cash to Clarke automatically** every time you use your card. The A+ program does not affect your gas or other shopping rewards in any way. (Even if you gave us the number last year, Stop & Shop requires that it must be re-entered each year.)

Stop & Shop Card # (13 digits): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2: Directory Information

All contact information is for the personal use of those within the Clarke community and is not to be used for any type of solicitation. If your child was in the directory last year, they will automatically be included this year. **If you don't want your child to be listed in the directory, leave this section blank.**

My child/children are new to Clarke for the 2013-2014 school year; OR, my children were not in the directory last year, but I want them to be included this year. Please complete your child's name and contact info below **exactly** as you want it to appear.

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>2012 - 13 Grade</u>	<u>Name on School Records (if different)</u>
Student 1: _____			
Student 2: _____			

*More than 2 students? Add them to the reverse side.*

**Primary Residence:**

**Secondary Residence (where applicable):**

Parent/Guardian 1 (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian 1 (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2 (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian 2 (Last, First) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 3: Clarke Listserv

Please **DO NOT** add us to the Clarke Listserv. (Note: Important bulletins and announcements are communicated via the listserv. Most, but not all, information is also available by visiting the Clarke Web site.)

**Please return completed form to the Clarke Main Office,  
 ATTN: JCSA MEMBERSHIP, 17 Stedman Road, Lexington, MA 02421**  
*(Make checks payable to JCSA Corp. and include your child's name in the memo field.)*



As we strive to produce an informative and interesting newsletter, it would help us to get your feedback and ideas regarding the content. Please email your suggestions and comments to

[clarke.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:clarke.newsletter@gmail.com)

Many thanks!

Jonas Clarke Middle School  
17 Stedman Road  
Lexington, MA 02421-7210  
Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BOSTON, MA  
PERMIT NO.172