



# JCSA *Jonas Clarke School Association Newsletter*

Jonas Clarke Middle School  
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Online at [www.clarkenewsletter.org](http://www.clarkenewsletter.org)



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Jonas Clarke Community,

There has been so much going on in the Clarke Community during the past two months! It is my hope that the worst of the winter is behind us and we can now focus on spring. How time flies.

I would like to say thank you to all those who attended or contributed to our Clarke Night Out event sponsored by the JCSA. What a great community event and fundraiser. It was wonderful to see so many people there to support Clarke on a cold Friday night. The auction and fund-a-need wall were a great success and our teachers and staff were thrilled that so many of their innovative requests were funded. We can't thank you enough for supporting the staff and students at Clarke. I am enormously grateful to the Clarke Night Out planning committee of Stephanie Mitzenmacher, Colleen McAdam, Kristen La Fond, Anne Ghayour and Beth Briggs. Thank you ladies for planning a great event and getting the word out to so many families. I would also like to thank Tom Sveingy and Janice Williams for getting our live auction going even without the help of a working microphone or sound system.

In early February, we also had a lot going on at Clarke. The annual Clarke musical was a huge success and my congratulations goes out to Alyson Brown and all of the cast and crew members that made this year's production of *Willy Wonka Jr.* such a fantastic performance. Well done! That same week, we hosted nineteen students and two teachers from our partner school in China. The students from China stayed with Clarke host families who did an incredible job making them feel welcome and comfortable all week long. We even had a snow day in the middle of the week and the Chinese students and their host students had a great time playing in the snow and getting to know each other. We ended the week with a delicious potluck supper in the cafeteria followed by opening night of *Willy Wonka Jr.*

Right before February vacation week, we had our Blue Ribbon Celebration assemblies for the students. This was a great way to end the week, celebrate Valentine's Day, and let our students know how proud we are of their hard work and their sense of community. Superintendent, Dr. Ash and Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Carol Pilarski both spoke at the event and we also heard from 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who were chosen to read their poems and essays about Clarke. At the end of the assemblies, students were treated to a slide show and a very entertaining video made by Mrs. Welsh, Mrs. Manor and Mr. Schechner of the Clarke staff singing and dancing to "Blue Ribbon Baby" written and sung by Mrs. Welsh. Who knew we have so much talent here at Clarke? If you haven't yet seen the video, we have posted the link on our website headlines.

As we approach spring, we are looking forward to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC, international trips to Costa Rica, China and Quebec, and many other local field trips for all grades. I would like to once again thank all the members of our community who work to make Clarke a special middle school. For more information about what is going on, check on our website and follow us on Twitter @ClarkePrincipal.

Sincerely,

Anna W. Monaco

Principal

## NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The next newsletter is a combined *May/June issue*. Submission deadline is **Monday, April 28, 2014**. Please email your articles to [clarke.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:clarke.newsletter@gmail.com). Thanks! Grace Clackson and Irina Gritsevskaya

## FROM THE JCSA

We hope everyone has been keeping warm during this very long and snowy winter. Fortunately, the JCSA has been planning events to help keep our minds off of the cold weather, and we look forward to many more exciting events this spring.

In January, our annual Clarke Night Out was the best attended to date! Parents, teachers, staff and our wonderful Principal filled the lobby of the Aloft Hotel for Firday Night Lights: a sports-themed evening of food, drink and games, as well as super successful silent and live auctions and a raffle. Many, many thanks to all of the parents, friends, teachers and staff who attended, donated and bid. The evening raised funds to benefit all Clarke students. A very special thank you to event coordinators Coleen McAdam, Kristin La Fond and Stephanie Mitzenmacher.

Our February parent coffee was well attended and well received by parents. We were fortunate to have Clarke's wonderful social workers, Stacy Glickman and Elizabeth Murphy, present insights into Effective Communication with Middle Schoolers. Parents were given tools and resources to help us better understand our children during this dynamic time in their lives.

Please mark your calendars for our April 8 parent coffee focusing on Traffic Safety at Clarke. We are thrilled that Assistant Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools, Mary Ellen Dunn will be joining us to discuss traffic patterns and safety and Clarke. We encourage you to attend and voice your concerns.

We have many other events scheduled for the spring including our annual Clarke Wilson Farm Shopping Day on March 13 and the annual Clarke Talent Show on March 28.

Happy (almost) spring!

Diane Abe and Kathleen Lenihan

## 2014 CALENDAR

### MARCH

Tues	4	Explorer Team sponsored Staff Breakfast
W-F	12-21	8 <sup>th</sup> grade Costa Rica Trip
Thurs	13	Professional Development - ½ day 11:45 dismissal
	13	JCSA meeting - 3 <sup>rd</sup> CAFE 8:30-9:30am
Fri	28	Talent Show 7:00pm

### APRIL

Tues	1	Atlantis Team sponsored Staff Breakfast
Thurs	10	JCSA meeting - 3 <sup>rd</sup> CAFE 8:30-9:30am
Fri	18	Holiday - No School
M-F	21-25	Vacation Week No School
Mon	28	School resumes
Tues	29	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Orientation - ½ day 11:45am dismissal
W-Fri	30-2	Washington DC Trip (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade)

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

### ATLANTIS 6

Students on Atlantis Team answered questions about common 6<sup>th</sup> grade student issues.

**How do I keep my binder neat?**

**-Maze of Papers**

If your binder is not neat and many of your notes, homework, and projects are coming or falling out then I'd suggest a couple things for you. One good idea for you is to organize your binder with binder dividers to separate your different subjects. Also, it's a good idea to have a three hole puncher that can be fitted into the binder because some teachers may give you some papers that are not already hole punched and your papers are less likely to fall out if they are on a ring. A final suggestion that I recommend is to take out any unnecessary papers you have in your binder to maximize the amount of space you have in your binder.

-Student Helper

**ATLANTIS 6 continued**

**I never have time to eat breakfast, and I am always very hungry. What can I do?**

**-Hungry Student**

Dear Hungry Student,

1) It is super important to eat breakfast every morning since it gives you energy to take on the day. I suggest waking up at least 5-10 minutes earlier so you can chow down some fruit or whatever you have for breakfast before heading to school. Although, waking up early every single morning is a pain for many people, it's definitely better than being very hungry all the time.

2) I know it's hard to fit in breakfast in the morning on a school day. I also have this problem. You're going to have to get up a little earlier to fit it in. Also don't play on your phone or ipod before school because that is what also may distract you from eating. If you still get hungry at school and you're eating breakfast, bring a snack to eat in-between classes.

From, The Breakfast Man

**There is someone who keeps bothering me. I tell him to stop, but he won't. What should I do?**

**- Irritating Enemy**

Dear Irritating Enemy,

This happens to everyone. You can ignore them or don't come near them. Ignoring them will make them feel like you are not giving them your attention and they won't care about bothering you anymore. Not coming near them helps because they can't bother you if you are not near them. If they still are bothering you, tell a teacher or a trusted adult what is happening and they can help you with your problem. Hope this helps!

**How do you persuade your parents that a B- in math is good?**

**-B Convincing!**

B Convincing-

B- is not a bad grade at all! It means that you are developing your skills in Math. It indicates that you might struggle with some of the things you are learning, need some help in understanding difficult concepts and/or have a hard time turning in homework. Tell your parents that you need help, and ask them for support. With a few improvements in your troubled areas, your B- will blossom to a sure A+!

**-Miss Smarty Pants**

**VOYAGER 6**

Voyager science began the school year learning about the outermost reaches of the universe and has finally reached Earth! The current topic is sun-earth connections including seasons and weather and climate. While studying seasons, students collected data using solar panels, and 'discovered' exo-planets in the "Goldilocks zone". Currently, students have learned about the energy in the atmosphere and the greenhouse effect. We have already built barometer and have been collecting data for our next topic, weather.

Voyager math students are using visual models to represent fraction multiplication. Students portray one fraction with a vertical swipe of color that is contrasted with a horizontal stripe representing another fraction. The resulting overlap provides the "answer" or product. We used an example of a farm that had  $24 \frac{3}{4}$  acres of which  $\frac{2}{3}$  were irrigated. The question was then how many acres received irrigation.

Last Friday, to add additional context to our reading of *trouble don't last*, Voyager students traveled to the Berklee School of Music in Boston to see a live musical about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman titled "Freedom Train". We then went to the Prudential Center food court for lunch before heading to the Jackson Homestead in Newton. The Homestead was an actual "station" house on the Underground Railroad in the early 1860's. In English, Voyager students will now be preparing for the MCAS on March 20 and 25 as well as beginning a unit on non-fiction reading.

In Ancient Civilizations, we have been working on a research paper about Mesopotamia. Students are researching a specific research question, taking notes using databases and books in the IMC, writing an outline and eventually a three-paragraph essay.

## **QUEST 6**

Quest students of science, as I write this note, are silently working on their weather unit final test. It's the kind of silence usually reserved for sleep except during this "sleep" the concentration level is something to behold! Perhaps, the most exciting activities of the year will quickly follow our test. Students will learn how to operate Tirrell Burners then use them to create a right-angle glass bend that will be among the equipment necessary for the distillation lab that will quickly follow.

I'm sure you are aware by now that Quest Team will travel to Cambridge on March 12 to visit some of the outstanding museums at Harvard University. Specifically, we will go to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Mineralogical Museum and the Peabody Museum. It would be difficult to plan a trip that matches our curriculum any better than this one. And, with regard to planning, please know that teammates Jonathan Schechner, Jillian Smoragiewicz and Lucy Lockwood are the 'movers and shakers' that made this trip possible.

As we make our way through third quarter, Quest English classes will be finishing up our historical fiction unit by creating Dialogue Jackets. In the jackets, students will pick two characters from *Trouble Don't Last* to describe with details from the text. Then, they will create a fictional dialogue between these two characters, based on their personalities and motivations in the book. Following our historical fiction unit, we will begin our unit on nonfiction. Students will be reading a self-selected nonfiction book and creating a digital project about their book topic.

It is a bittersweet time for the Ancient Civilization students on Team Quest. While we are sad to leave behind our examination of early river civilizations in the Fertile Crescent, we are eager to learn about Egypt.

We will be leaving Mesopotamia on a high note. A mini research paper is our final project and I know that all the students are looking forward to putting the research skills they learned during their early human project back to work on a new and interesting topic!

The students will no doubt miss learning about the early civilization of Sumer, the first written language, and the always crowd-pleasing Hammurabi's Code, but their loss will be tempered by dreams of sugar cube pyramids and hands-on embalming. Egypt Awaits!

Quest math students are currently finishing up a unit on operations and diagrams of fractions. Our next unit, ratio & proportion, will incorporate many of the concepts learned during the study of fractions.

## **ADVENTURER 7**

In English, Adventurer students have just begun reading *Tangerine*, by Edward Bloor. Our focus is intentional close reading, where we are finding meaning by using all available evidence. Also, on display in the IMC are our Secret Room Books; as always, self-selected topics are fascinating. Topics range from saving the coral reef to the importance of team sports to a criticism of stereotypes portrayed in Disney movies. Please check them out and enjoy.

Students on Adventurer team are deep into their study of genetics. Do you remember how to solve a Punnett square? Did you know that eye color and hair color are polygenic traits? These and other topics are being discussed. Next we'll move on to a study of evolution. Did you know that there is an evolutionary advantage to having sickle cell anemia? We are looking forward to our field trip to the Museum of Science trip March 12, and our field trip to the intertidal zone in May. Also, we are looking forward to a visit from Dr. Stefan Sievert from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in April. He is the deep-sea scientist we SKYPED with while he was at sea off the coast of Mexico in January. At Clarke, Dr. Sievert will be talking about his research on microbes related to this recent oceanographic expedition (<http://www.divediscover.whoi.edu>). The "adventure" continues!

Mr. Miller's geography classes are beginning our investigation of the Middle East with an examination of its physical geography and populations. We will continue by looking at some of the roots of conflicts in the region as well as how access to specific natural resources (oil and water) can create unequal power balances between countries and their populations.

Students in seventh grade math are finishing up the Percent Unit. We have been focusing on percent increase and decrease. Students can practice at home by calculating tip at a restaurant or the sales price of an item. Our upcoming units are Rate of Change and 2D/3D Geometry. All seventh grade math students will be participating in completing an Hour of Code (a program which aims to inspire students to have an interest in computer programming). Also, mark your calendars: the math MCAS testing sessions are on May 6 and May 7. Students will need a scientific calculator for May 7th MCAS. Please note: graphing calculators cannot be used on the MCAS.

## **ENDEAVOR 7**

### **English**

Endeavor students did an amazing job with their final products for the Secret Room Book essay. All student work is being proudly displayed in the IMC along with projects from Adventurer and Explorer teams. Now that the essay is behind us, we are balancing a new class novel with MCAS preparation. All students are reading Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli and writing poetry in class. At home, students will continue to track progress with their Choice Book selections and polish their short answer open response skills. All seventh graders will have a chance to experience a simulated long composition practice within the next few weeks.

### **Math**

Students in seventh grade math are finishing up the Percent Unit. We have been focusing on percent increase and decrease. Students can practice at home by calculating tip at a restaurant or the sales price of an item. Our upcoming units are Rate of Change and 2D/3D Geometry. All seventh grade math students will be participating in completing an Hour of Code (a program which aims to inspire students to have an interest in computer programming). Also, mark your calendars: the math MCAS testing sessions are on May 6 and May 7. Students will need a scientific calculator for May 7th MCAS. Please note: graphing calculators cannot be used on the MCAS.

### **Science**

Students on Endeavor have just wrapped up their study of genetics. We began learning about the works of scientist and monk, Gregor Mendel, and how his experiments with pea plants formed the foundation of genetics. Throughout our exploration of genetics we researched the laws of dominant and recessive genes and how they control our traits such as eye color, ear lobe attachment, and tongue rolling. Be sure to ask your child if they have the gene to be able to taste the bitterness in the chemical PTC! We have now begun our study of evolution. We are also looking forward to our field trip to the Museum of Science on March 11th to explore the human body exhibit as well as view the human body IMAX film.

### **World Geography**

Students on Endeavor team are currently studying the geography, economy, government, history, and culture of the Middle East. They are improving their critical thinking skills by applying previously learned knowledge to new situations. We are exploring issues such as how physical geography affects settlement patterns, and the causes, effects, and possible solutions of dependency on oil from the Middle East. The students have exhibited impressive abilities to comprehend and evaluate these and other situations. We look forward to their continued development as we move on to future units including Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Oceania.

## **EXPLORER 7**

It has been a wild winter on the Explorer Team. Aside from dodging the never-ending snowflakes, and relaxing over vacation and several snow days, Explorer students have been very busy. Busy in science understanding the basics of genetics, busy in math finding percents, busy in English writing impressive Secret Room Book Essays, and busy in world geo exploring the great continent of Africa.

In addition to our usual class work we had the pleasure of having a guest speaker join us to talk about how pharmaceutical companies (specifically Pfizer) develop new medicines and the role that animals play in helping those companies develop and test their new discoveries.

Unfortunately, due to a late start, we missed our team breakfast in January. No need to fear, we have rescheduled it for the morning before our upcoming field trip to the Museum of Science on March 10th.

In addition, we have a field trip planned to the inter-tidal zone in May. More info on this one will soon to come. Explorer students can also look forward to a visit from Dr. Stefan Sievert from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He recently returned from a research trip aboard the ship RV Atlantis to the East Pacific Rise (off the coast of Mexico) where he studied deep-sea microbes. He'll be here in mid April to talk to us about his research.

We are sad to see winter go, but with so much going on, we are really looking forward to spring.

## **DISCOVERY 8**

In Mr. Owens' Algebra 1 classes we are starting a unit on Geometric Proofs. We will discover the Triangle Congruence Postulates through the use of hands-on activities as well as computer-based activities with Geogebra. We will then use what we learn to construct Two-Column Proofs, using a series of Statements and Reasons to prove that Triangles and their parts are congruent.

In Mr. Owens' Algebra 1A classes we just began a unit on Systems of Equations. We will learn how to solve a System of Equations using the Graphing, Substitution, and Elimination Methods. We will also be looking at how to represent their solutions graphically both with and without the aid of a Graphing Calculator. We will explore applications of how Systems of Equations can be used in a real world context.

In science, students have been investigating chemical bonds and chemical reactions, so they will be very active in laboratory investigations in the coming weeks. It is important for students to remember all the lab safety procedures. There are some extension links for further reading about chemistry in everyday life for students who are interested. Some student posts have been added to the "Did you know" blog also located on Mrs. Connard's website. Feel free to check out our blog.

In English we have been moving seamlessly from our unit on Argumentative Reading, which included learning about logical fallacies and how language can distort, to a unit on Allegory, Propaganda, and Irony, which involves reading Orwell's Animal Farm. We are continuing our study of vocabulary, but we also are learning about different types of dependent clauses (adjective, adverb and noun clauses), with an eye to how they allow greater complexity in written expression. MCAS season is upon us, too, so we are reviewing -- our mantra is to be "clear, complete, and accurate."

In United States History students are becoming familiar with the Federalist era and the birth of the two-party system. They are currently comparing/contrasting Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson's principles and the Louisiana Purchase.



## **CURIOSITY 8**

Curiosity Team students transitioned into the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the school year very well. Students have continued to work hard in all of their on team classes. In late January, Curiosity Team teachers and students travelled to Boston for an exciting field trip.

Students visited both the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library. At the Massachusetts Historical Society experts on the Revolutionary Era presented documents and artifacts from the Era of the American Revolution. Usually reserved for scholarly research, historical society personnel shared these American treasures to a selected audience, Curiosity Team. Following this presentation, students attended a book talk and Q & A session with author and political commentator Cokie Roberts. At the Leventhal Map Center, students interacted with a variety of maps from the Era of the American Revolution; students analyzed maps and worked to draw conclusions and inferences, with guidance from BPL map experts. This trip proved to be an outstanding educational experience.

8th grade English students on Curiosity Team are investigating allegory, irony, and parody. Building off of our argumentative writing unit, pupils are reading Animal Farm by George Orwell and examining how he attempts to persuade his audience to his point of view.

In U.S. History and Civics class, students completed their in class study of the United States Federal Government, the Government of Massachusetts, and several local governments; students then transitioned back to the study of American History with the study of George Washington's Presidency.

In Science, students have been studying how atoms come together to form compounds. Students have looked at how the structure of each atom determines how it bonds with other atoms, and are exploring covalent, ionic, and metallic bonds. Soon, students will be looking more closely at chemical reactions, and the differences between changes in matter that are purely physical versus those that are chemical.

In Mr. Lawrence's Math 1 class, students recently completed units on Geometric Constructions and Geometric Transformations. Classes are in the middle of a quick, intense exploration of the Pythagorean theorem, and will next introduce the students to formal geometry proofs, mostly concerning triangle congruence.

## APOLLO 8

Hello to Apollo students and families!

Spring has just about sprung and we are heading into some exciting territory here on Apollo.

In English, we are beginning Unit IV: Allegory, Satire and Irony. In this unit, we will use the text *Animal Farm* to realize how George Orwell represents the Russian Revolution through his characters, setting and plot. We will also be looking at his use of language to create tone. To culminate the unit, students will create their own allegories of historical events they have discussed in history class.

In Math, students are largely working on several aspects of Geometry including compass and straight edge constructions, transformational geometry, Pythagorean theorem, and triangle congruence. We are also working on systems of equations. Statistics will be coming soon, as well.

With high school course selection and our midterm test behind us, Apollo students are moving into the most exciting part of our chemistry unit - Chemical Reactions! Most students love to do the labs and see what will happen. After students use clues to identify whether a substance underwent a chemical change, we challenge them to apply learning from their bonding unit to try to figure out what reaction might have occurred. On the skills side, this is a great part of the year for trying out or cementing strategies that will help students be successful in high school. If your student has not felt successful this year in science, please encourage them to try something new - ask for help or work with a friend. It is never too late!

In U.S. History, Apollo students have recently ended their study of our Civics unit. Students have also written letters to appropriate government officials to recommend and request actions, which students believe will promote safe and more productive communities. Students are eagerly waiting for responses to their addressed issues. As of the second week of February, Apollo students returned to their study of U.S. History. Coursework includes learning about the history of establishing the new government, George Washington's presidency, Alexander Hamilton's and Thomas Jefferson's many debates to what they believed was the best pathway to securing a prosperous country (United States).

## CHALLENGE 8

Challenge Team English classes are full swing into allegorical literature. After delving into a brief history of the Russian Revolution and rise of the Soviet Union, students are currently reading George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Throughout the unit, they will also be studying the use and effects of propaganda, and examining real-world case studies. Also noteworthy is that students have added the adjective "Orwellian" to their ever-expanding vocabularies, leaving them free, when necessary, to evaluate the world around them with a more critical eye.

In US History, students recently wrapped up a unit on civics and government. They are now quite adept in many principles of government, and they look forward to fully exercising their rights in responsible ways in the future. In fact, rumor has it there's going to be a "right to petition the government for a redress of grievances" theme at the next 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance. Next up: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton, who might have been president, too, if he didn't get himself killed in a duel. Oh, the trials of defending one's honor!

In science classes, students have been studying chemical bonding. This unit provides students with answers on how the 110+ elements on the periodic table combine in order to create everything that is matter in our universe. Specifically, we studied ionic, covalent, and metallic bonds, and students did experiments to observe physical and chemical properties of some of these bonds. Our next unit is about chemical reactions; the focus will be how a scientist can identify a chemical reaction.

Algebra I has been working with geometric concepts such as constructions, transformations, and the Pythagorean theorem, and will be tackling proofs next. Algebra IA is still working with linear functions, but now looking at them in systems of equations. Math 8 has begun its exploration of linear functions with intercepts, rate of change, and slope.

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

### PE NEWS

PE classes have been actively involved in the fitness center and basketball rotation. Sixth and seventh grade students are currently being assessed on the major muscles of the body and the names of all the strength and cardiovascular machines in the fitness center. Eighth graders are finishing up a four-week STAR Goal Project they have been working on. Each student set a personal fitness goal, designed a tracking sheet, recorded their workouts for the past four weeks, and wrote a reflection paper on the experience. We are so fortunate to have the fitness center. It provides the ideal environment to teach the importance of physical fitness and how to properly achieve it.

We will be wrapping up the basketball unit with a fun team shooting game called the Alaskan Shootout. Despite the extreme cold temperatures, we were also able to sneak in a few days of snowshoeing, a great lifetime activity and an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the fresh air in the winter. A good time was had by all.

Next on the PE agenda is the use of pedometers and a volleyball unit. We just received pedometers from an LEF Community Grant so we will be incorporating the pedometers into our PE classes. The pedometers are a great way to give students instant feedback on their daily activity level. We will also be starting a volleyball unit. In all of our units, our goal is to provide lots of opportunity to be actively engaged and acquire skills for life-long fitness.

### JCSA PARENT COFFEE, APRIL 8<sup>th</sup>: TRAFFIC SAFETY AT CLARKE

Are you frustrated and worried about the crazy traffic at Clarke when school starts and ends? Can you imagine what the situation will be like in a couple of years when enrollment is much higher than it is now - if nothing changes? Luckily, there's a town-wide plan to address traffic challenges at our schools. You will want to know what is being done! You may want to learn how you can get involved!

Come to the next JCSA parent coffee on Tuesday, April 8, from 9:00 - 10:30 AM, in the Clarke cafeteria to find out!

Who'll be speaking and answering questions?

- Mrs. Monaco
- Judy Crocker, Coordinator for Lexington's Safe Routes to School Program since 2005
- Mary Ellen Dunn, LPS Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Operations and LPS point person for school traffic mitigation and the Safe Routes to School program

What will they be talking about?

- The Clarke traffic infrastructure study
- What kinds of changes might be made at Clarke
- The new LPS school grounds traffic policy and how the changes it will bring next year will impact YOU
- Changes in Lexington's Safe Routes to School program
- The potential of the Safe Routes to School program to support the process of change at Clarke

Want to find out more about the new traffic policy for school grounds? There's a draft available online.

- Follow [this link](#) to read the text that will be presented to the School Committee for approval this month.
- The LPS Main Office is collecting parent responses to this draft policy in order to share them with the School Committee. Contribute your comments by following [this link to the LPS School Traffic Safety and Mitigation Policy survey](#).

Your opinion is important - the goal is to collect a minimum of 2,500 responses or 40% of the households at each school by March 20!

In fact, there is an entire webpage with background and current information about school traffic safety and mitigation: <http://lps.lexingtonma.org/Page/3962> - check it out! And here is a short article about the general idea behind the efforts: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/x1803300626/Stop-and-start-Lexington-Public-Schools-look-for-options-to-decongest-roads>



## STOP & SHOP A+ REWARDS: EARNINGS CONTINUE TO RISE

The days are getting longer and brighter, spring is right around the corner, and with each month Clarke continues to earn money with the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program. We have a remarkable and truly dedicated group of participants this year who have been hard at work for Clarke. **As of January 31, 2014, we had 118 participants registered for Clarke, and we had earned a total of \$777.25!** We are so grateful to everyone who has enrolled in the program - thank you for making this possible. The results for February will be out shortly - please watch for the latest news in the JCSA weekly announcements.

The money earned from the A+ Rewards Program goes directly to the JCSA, which provides support to all students, teachers and staff at Clarke. These proceeds are used to fund a variety of fabulous enrichment programs such as teacher grants, additional classroom materials, assemblies, and speakers, just to name a few. **Participation in the A+ Program is a free, easy way to help make Clarke such a terrific learning environment for our children.**

Haven't signed up but wish to join in the fun? There is still time! The A+ Rewards shopping period continues through March 20, 2014. Simply go to [www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com), click on "Our Stores" that appears in the green bar at the top of the screen, and then click on "A+" when it appears. That will take you to the screen to register your Stop & Shop card. Have questions? Please contact Paige Sabine at [eppy567@gmail.com](mailto:eppy567@gmail.com) for assistance.

If you are registered for the program, be sure to check the bottom of your receipt to see the number of A+ points you earned for Clarke every time you shop. If there are no A+ points reflected, or if you have questions concerning the program, please contact Paige Sabine at [eppy567@gmail.com](mailto:eppy567@gmail.com) for assistance.

Thank you and Happy Shopping!!



## CLARKE NEWCOMER RECEPTION

On Monday March 3, we had over 40 people new-to-Clarke attend the JCSA Newcomer's Reception. These new families were appreciative of this event as it's tough to move to New England in the dead of winter--especially THIS winter--from places such as Mongolia, South Korea, China, Los Angeles and Oregon! It was a festive night with games, desserts and coffee, and lots of chatter. Connections to classmates, staff, parents and community groups were made--a success!

The reception was made more welcoming with food, drink and decorations contributed by generous Clarke parents. A special shout out to our local sponsors: E'S Bread (gluten, dairy, wheat and casein free breads & pastries); Sara Ran Away with the Spoon (custom-made baked goods), and A Pocket Full of Posies (gift store in town center).

Thank you very much,  
JCSA Welcome Committee  
Gali Diamant and Leslie Zales



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!

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