



Christopher Columbus Middle School Captain's Log

Dear Parents,

Now that we are well underway with the school year, there are so many things happening here for you and your children. Our students received their first progress reports and their NJASK scores. If your child failed to bring them home, please contact the Counseling Office at 973-470-2362. If you were with us on Wednesday, October 12, for the Gang Awareness Workshop, relevant information

about the state of gangs in our area was discussed by Det. Castellanos from the Passaic County Sheriff's office. In addition, you were given ideas and strategies for guiding your children through a very challenging topic. Det. Castellanos will be back with us on Wednesday, December 7th for a workshop on Cyberbullying. As parents it is essential that we moni-

tor **all** social networks that our children use, including video games, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter etc. All parents should not only know the pass codes their children use, but also know who their children are communicating with and what they are saying on the Internet.

-Ms. Peters

Parent Portal: Your Connection

All parents have access to their child's grades and attendance through the Parent Portal, available to them through the Clifton Board of Education web site www.cliftonschoools.k12.nj.us and click on Parent Portal. For those who need access codes or passwords, please contact the Data Processing Office at 973-470-2279 for more information.

Student Drop Off Dangers!!!

Parents please do not drop off your children on Rte 46. In haste to save time you could cause harm to your child, yourself or those you share the road with. As the winter weather approaches, you may want to adjust your travel time now and establish a new routine that will take bad weather and road conditions into consideration.

Veteran's Day: Flag Sale

Each year, Dominick D'Andrea, counselor and Vietnam Veteran, organizes a flag sale to recognize the family and friends of our students and staff who have served our country. The 8x12 flags are personalized with the branch of service and the name of the veteran. The flags are then proudly displayed in front of our

The proceeds of this sale will be donated to a local family of a soldier who has returned from Afghanistan and is recovering from catastrophic injuries at the Warrior Transition Battalion in Bethesda, Maryland.

A Few Helpful Hints for Parents

1. Remember there is a common goal for your child. All parties involved with your child's education want them to succeed. As parents we need to be supportive of the educational process encouraging our children to work hard and not give up.
2. Keep in touch with the teachers. Each staff member has an email account through clifton-schools.net and can also be contacted through the counseling office. To email a teacher simply type 1st initial of first name followed by last name @cliftonschoools.net . For example if trying to contact Mrs. Mary Jones...
mjones@cliftonschoools.net
3. Check your child's agenda and book bag every night for homework assignments and papers that were distributed that day. If you notice, no assignments are being recorded in the agenda, please contact the teachers or guidance immediately. If your child states they have no papers, please contact the homeroom teacher via email for a list of forms sent home.
4. Get involved! There are many events here at CCMS on a weekly basis. Even if you cannot come to each one, join HSA so you can be in contact with other parents for information on the happenings here at CCMS. The HSA meetings are once a month and discuss all the programs we have going on here at CCMS.

CCMS Spirit Days!!!

As you know, within the block schedule are days are identified as "A,B,C,D" days.

"C" Spirit Days are the first "C" day of each month and a day to celebrate CCMS School Spirit! Students are encouraged to wear Clifton Colors, CCMS shirts or Clifton Mustang Sports apparel. All clothes must be dress code appropriate. Staff members also participate on these school spirit days.

"C" Spirit Days

November 2

December 6

January 5

March 5

April 2

May 2

June 6



CCMS Calendar of Events

Please check out the CCMS web site for upcoming events.

<http://www.clifton.k12.nj.us/schools/columbus/calendar.asp>

Important Dates:

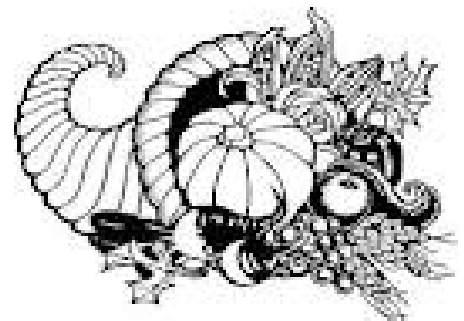
Nov. 28-Dec. 8: "Teddy Bear" Project

Dec. 5: CCMS Winter Concert from 7pm-9pm

Dec. 6: Student Book Fair

Dec. 7: Cyberbullying Workshop from 6pm-8pm.

Dec. 12-22: Winter Wishes Toy Drive.



Happy Thanksgiving!

News from the Media Center - Mrs. Huegel

With the fall holiday season here, schedules can get hectic, but please remember to keep your children reading!

The students will be using Accelerated Reader, a software program that tests reading comprehension. Students will be encouraged to read books from home, the public library, and the CCMS Media Center, and then take a quiz on that book. Look for quiz scores coming home and talk to your child about the book he/she is reading!

All of our CCMS students have begun to use Accelerated Reader and have taken a STAR Reading Test. Ask your child about his/her ZPD - a suggested reading level to be successful in improving reading comprehension.

We've also begun to use Destiny, a new online catalog in our school. Through Destiny, students can log in to view their own accounts, place holds on books, create reading lists, and even write book reviews for other students to view. In addition, students can use their ZPDs to find

books that fall into their own reading levels.



CCMS Media Center: Featured New Books

Hoffman, Nina Kiriki. Meeting. New York : Viking, 2011.

Middle school student Maya Andersen and her family move to Oregon, where the residents of the apartment building next to them have magical powers and the basement is a portal to other worlds, which Maya and her secret alien companion, Rimi, must use to track down aliens who snatched Rimi from her home

planet in an attempt to rule the universe.

Myklusch, Matt. The secret war. 1st Aladdin hardcover ed. New York : Aladdin, 2011.

Twelve-year-old Jack may be the Imagine Nation's only hope of fending off a new Rustov attack, with the help of his fellow superheroes-in-training, but the virus he carries, and Jonas's suspicions, provide new complications.

Walker, Richard, 1951-. 3-D human body. 1st American ed. London ; : DK, 2011.

Contains color illustrations and information about the human body, its systems, senses, and how it works.

Media Center Resources: A Great Tool

All of the following links are available to your children at school. Many can also be found on the Clifton Board of Education web site. You can access them at: <http://www.clifton.k12.nj.us>. Click on **Schools** on the left-hand side of the page.

Choose **CCMS** from the pull-down menu.

Click on School Information, and then choose Media Center.

When you scroll down, you'll see links to our district subscriptions and other helpful web resources.

BrainPop: Logon: cboe PW: cboe
United Streaming: UN: ccschool
PW: middle

New Jersey Clicks: Library Card
Number 23938

Noodle Tools: UN: clifton PW:
mustang

World Book Encyclopedia: UN:
cliftonnj PW: 07015



Gifts to give Year Round

A variety of gifts to give. For a son or daughter, husband or wife, or for another special someone in your life.

Browse the website, and then order from the online catalog sale. Gift wrap, candy and much more. <http://www.SallyFoster.com> has something for everyone. It's easy to support CCMS HSA!!!! 40% of all purchases will go directly to the CCMS HSA. All orders are shipped directly to your home. There is free shipping for orders over \$50.00; otherwise it is \$3.95 shipping for all others.

1. Browse the online store at <http://www.SallyFoster.com>
2. Select items you wish to purchase
3. Click on Support a fundraiser and enter code 1062117
4. The best part is it is easy to share this link with friends and family all of their purchases will support the CCMS HSA!!!!



Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools earn over \$400 million since 1996. You can earn cash for your child's school by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops also offers easy ways to earn even more cash for your school online.

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

CCMS Home School Association have started collecting Box Tops for their annual fundraiser. At the beginning of the year, they sent home a flyer with all of the participating brands. Please clip them and send them in with your children to their homerooms for the homeroom contest.

General Mills has teamed up with [Ford](#) to offer more ways to earn cash for CCMS. When you click the link with in the website for this sweepstakes, please enter CCMS zip code: 07011.

Also, you can register your grocery card and when you purchase one of these items it gets credited to CCMS link. Check out Shop-Rite's (<http://www.shoprite.com/Cnt/ShopOnceGiveTwice.html>)