A Message From the Superintendent

Mr. Edward Grande, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Members of the Clark Schools Community,

The months of May and June have been extremely rewarding ones for our schools. Amidst the busyness of closing the school year, we have gotten to see many of our students receive awards and scholarships. These honors are obviously a result of their superior work in the classroom and on the field or stage. With that being said, the generosity of this great community of ours is what makes all of this possible. This outpouring that we are most appreciative of was beyond evident at the Senior Awards Ceremony on the evening of June 5. I must say that this event is one of my personal favorites throughout the course of the entire school year due to the warmth and joy that can be clearly felt throughout the room that night. ALJ Valedictorian George Visconti and Salutatorian Gregory Zukowski are deserving of a special acknowledgment for their extraordinary academic achievements. Although these honors are noteworthy in and of themselves, they give our students a definitive advantage as they embark on their post-secondary careers. Some of our noteworthy ALJ alumni were honored at the fifth annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the end of May. This honor is a most prestigious one that connects the rich history of ALJ with its future in the sense that the alumni association’s scholarship recipients who were also honored that evening will be beginning their collegiate careers in the fall.

The student bodies of our district’s schools displayed their facility in the fine arts in a variety of ways this spring. For instance, our school plays and musicals were of the highest quality. In addition, the school concerts and district-wide Band Bonanza proved to be highly effective means of showcasing our students’ musical talents while the various art shows were equally impressive. Each school’s art show clearly displayed our students’ creativity and artistic facility. The ALJ music students performed at Disney World and Universal Studios in Florida during the month of April. We also hosted the Jazz Band and Indoor Chapter Championships along with the TIA Chapter 10 Indoor Percussion and Color Guard Championship at the end of April.

Our athletic teams showed an equal level of greatness this past winter and spring. The ALJ bowling team, for example, received the honor of being named North II Group 1 Sectional State Champions while our cheerleaders earned the 2018 New Jersey - Group 2 State Championship. In addition, the ALJ softball team won the Watchung Division Championship and six of our track and field athletes advanced to the State Group Meet. Our student athletes are to be commended for helping facilitate our preschool’s Autism Awareness Day in April. They, along with other student and staff volunteers, are also to be acknowledged for assisting with our Special Olympics program that was held at our Recreation Center on Saturday mornings in April and May. Most recently, our Teachers of the Year, i.e., Joy Donaldson (ALJ), Flora Pollack (CHK), Jacqueline Caplette (FKH), and Kelly Cahill (VRS), were recognized at Kean University through a breakfast ceremony. They, along with our Educational Services Professionals of the Year, i.e., Aida Fuschetto (FKH), Gail Lombardi (VRS), and Eunice Pangiochi (CPA), deserve extra special thanks for all of their good, hard work with our students.

With the school year closing and summer break on the horizon, I would like to send my sincere thanks to all of you for the support of our district’s schools and programs. Speaking of summer, this most enjoyable season was informally introduced through the Memorial Day programs at FKH and VRS. At the VRS assembly, Mr. Robert Kastner, veteran and ALJ hall of fame member who passed this spring, was honored for always giving his time to the school. Principal Joseph Beltramba was also recognized for being named Educator of the Year by the New Jersey American Legion. William Duffy, Former Clark Police Department Captain, dedicated much of his life to researching our local heroes that gave their lives in defense of our great country. He recently spoke to our CHK students and his accompanying display is currently housed in the ALJ front foyer. We have an immense gratitude towards all of our veterans because it is due to them that we are able to enjoy our freedom as Americans. In these summer weeks that lie ahead, please make certain to take the time needed to recharge with family and friends. I hope to get to see many of you around and about and am looking forward to us all getting to reconnect in the fall.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Grande
Clark Public School District Earns Recognition as a 2018 Top New Jersey School District

The Clark Public School District was recently named one of New Jersey’s Top School Districts of 2018. Rankings were based on student performance, dropout rates, school funding, and poverty rates. Data was collected from a total of 9,577 school districts.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, “We are thrilled to see that the hard work of everyone who is a part of the Clark Schools in some way is being recognized and we are looking forward to even further growth moving forward.”

Backgroundchecks.org, who publishes the rankings, is a public safety focused organization committed to increasing public safety, community involvement, and education.

ALJ Competes in Science Olympiad

The ALJ Science Olympiad Team competed against 24 different teams from schools across New Jersey at the Union County College Tournament. For four months, the team led by ALJ teachers Anna Radcliffe, Suzanne Nagourney, and Tien-Nye Vaccari, prepared to use knowledge in multiple events involving science, technology, engineering, and math. Specific events included Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, Chemistry Lab, Disease Detectives, Fermi Questions, Forensics, Microbe Mission, Mousetrap Vehicle, Optics, Picture This, Protein Modeling, Rocks & Minerals, and Write it/DO it.

According to Radcliffe, “The teams were happy to compete. This year, we had our best result from the Mousetrap Vehicle, Forensics, and Picture This teams. Our team gave it their all and were excited to share their experience when returning from their events.”

Andre Resendiz, Yahiree Yoplac and Jenna Lipari Pazienza experienced the Science Olympiad competition for the first time. Resendiz and Yoplac competed in the Rocks and Minerals and the Microbe Mission events. Lipari Pazienza competed in the Write It, Do It event with Ema E. Santo and Disease Detectives with Dylan Mekovetz.

Cody Downing and Norberto Diaz competed in Anatomy and Physiology, where the duo put their knowledge of human biology to the test. Then, they participated in the Mousetrap Vehicle event, where the two enthusiasts demonstrated their knowledge of physics and mechanics through their building skills.

Dana Evelina and Diaz participated in the Fermi Questions, where they demonstrated their knowledge of estimation and scientific notation.

Evelina and Resendiz also competed in Picture This! Each student took turns drawing a picture while the other person guessed what it was.

Downing and William Shaughnessy competed in the Chemistry Lab. The group was complemented by judges for their performance.

According to Radcliffe, “The skills students learned by participating in these events can be applied throughout the rest of their lives.”

CHK ATOMS Team Makes it to Finals

The Carl H. Kumpf ATOMS (Academic Tournament Open to Middle Schools) Team qualified for a final competition against Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School on April 24th at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School. Following the competition, there was a banquet for both teams, coaches, principals, and parents.

Each week of the tournament, students played three rounds, similar to Jeopardy. Questions and topics vary from art to science to pop culture. Leading up to the tournaments, students met every other week to practice trivia questions.

Cristina Faro, advisor of the club, stated, “I’m beyond proud of the ATOMS team and their hard work.”
**ALJ Students Visit Pennsylvania Colleges**

On April 9th, Arthur L. Johnson students visited Haverford College, Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania on a bus tour of Philadelphia-area colleges organized by School Counselors Molly Cusick and Erica Stasio. Students visited each campus, toured buildings, learned about majors and programs and had the opportunity to ask current students questions about each school. Diverse in their own ways, each campus visit was a valuable experience. Haverford is a small liberal arts school, Villanova is a medium-sized, suburban university, and U Penn is a large, urban, Ivy League research institution. ALJ Student Patrick Brennan enjoyed the trip and said, “I found that visiting each school was really informative and helpful.”

**Arthur L. Johnson High School Holds Film Screening of Classroom Close-Up featuring Civics Unplugged**

On May 14, Arthur L. Johnson High School held a film screening of Classroom Close-up NJ, a fifteen-time Emmy® award-winning show, that recently shot a segment about the school’s Civics Unplugged program. ALJ’s segment aired on May 13th and will air again on June 10th. (Consult your local television guide for the NJTV channel). Classroom Close-up NJ airs on NJTV every Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

Civics Unplugged is a program designed to bring together students from diverse backgrounds to discuss a variety of civic-related topics. 72 students from New York and New Jersey convene once a month to engage in a dialogue about issues such as immigration, trade, and voting rights. According to Civics Unplugged, its goal is to “deepen and broaden civic capacity in students, schools, and society.” Students are encouraged to think deeply about complex issues impacting our society and engage in powerful conversations providing multiple perspectives.

In addition to the screening, the students who participated in the program as well as their advisor Franklin Stebbins were recognized for their hard work. Special guest speakers in attendance included Sanda Balaban, Program Director of Civics Unplugged, and Sean Spiller, NJEA Vice President and host of Classroom Close-Up.

“I was so impressed to see the deep thought and to see how the students learned to interact and come to decisions about important issues,” stated Sean Spiller NJEA Vice President and host of Classroom Close-Up.

According to Civics Unplugged Program Director Sanda Balaban, “Civics Unplugged is so pleased to have selected and worked with the Arthur L. Johnson community as an inaugural partner this year. As the only school from New Jersey, the ALJ Civic Fellows and their Civic Mentor Frank Stebbins represented both their school and the state beautifully. They exemplified the aims of CivicsU: to equip young people to understand their rights, roles, and responsibilities and strengthen their ability to engage with people from different backgrounds, appreciate multiple perspectives, and foster civic discourse. We look forward to continuing to work with ALJ to strengthen civil society.”

According to Civics Unplugged Advisor and ALJ Teacher Frank Stebbins, “Being featured in the Classroom Close-Up NJ episode highlighting the ‘Power of We’ was a tremendous honor. Many great events are held throughout the public schools of our State, so to be selected meant a lot to me professionally as well as personally. A program is only as good as the participating students, and I could not be prouder of this year’s six Civic Fellows. They went above and beyond all of my expectations! I look forward to hearing about the various contributions this year’s seniors will continue to make throughout their college careers and beyond.”

Now taping its twenty-fourth season, Classroom Close-up NJ, a co-production of the New Jersey Education Association and NJTV, features innovative programs occurring in public school classrooms. Each half-hour program shows how caring school professionals inspire and motivate students. Every week, the excitement of learning comes alive as teachers, education support professionals, children, and parents work together for success.
Third graders at Frank K. Hehnly and Valley Road Schools received a special treat when they were able to “get virtual” using Google Hangout. Sister teachers, Ms. Samantha McHugh and Ms. Caitlin McHugh’s classes have been writing back and forth as pen pals since September. The students write to each other about once a month. Learning about each other through their letters, they discuss interests and experiences.

On Wednesday, April 25th, the classes had the chance to “meet” through the program, Google Hangout. Each student was able to go up to the screen and “meet” their pen pal. They asked more questions over the video chat. “The students loved the experience and were so excited,” said Ms. Caitlin McHugh. “They asked questions such as ‘What is your favorite animal?’ and ‘What is your favorite school subject?’”

“I loved watching my students get so excited to chat with their buddies face to face!” said Ms. Samantha McHugh. Both teachers plan to do this again before the school year ends. This successful interaction fostered an appreciation for the ever-changing face of technology.

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**ALJ Student Recognized as Eisenhower Award Recipient**

On May 30th, West Point Society member, Joel Boroff, presented Arthur L. Johnson junior, Erin Heaning with a Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award.

Each year, The West Point Society of New Jersey selects a high school junior who exhibits exceptional performance and potential in the areas of academics, athletics, community service, good citizenship and leadership. In addition to taking a variety of challenging academic courses, Heaning is involved in many other activities including Student Council, Key Club, and ALJ’s Volleyball team. She also started the Hunger Awareness Club that addresses the issue of hunger in the local community.

According to The West Point Society of New Jersey, its goal includes “celebrating West Point’s Heritage, keeping communities abreast of West Point issues, supporting the needs and objectives of West Point, providing graduate networking opportunities, assisting in the admission and recruiting process, and assisting the Parents’ Clubs, Cadets, & USMAPS Cadet Candidates.”

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**Hehnly Earth Day Celebration**

To celebrate Earth Day, Frank K. Hehnly Elementary School students, teachers, and administrators met with special guests in the early hours of Friday, May 4th to prepare for a march to save the planet. According to Hehnly teacher AnnMarie Estevez, “Well, maybe not the whole planet, but by walking to school the group did cut down on the greenhouse gases typically emitted during the morning’s school rush. Even this small effort, if replicated elsewhere and repeated, would have a profound impact on our community’s air quality.” The students were joined by Superintendent Ed Grande, Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Councilman Pat O’Connor, and Councilman Bill Smith. The group was escorted safely during their walk via traffic control provided by the Clark Police Department. Upon arriving at school, the Hehnly Recycling Crusaders and Mrs. Estevez created a bottle cap flower garden to recognize the beauty of used items that otherwise end up in a landfill.

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Pictured are the Hehnly Recycling Crusaders.
Olympic Fever at Hehnly and Valley Road Schools

Students at Hehnly School learned about the history of the Olympics and the various events available to athletes in the Olympic games. Seven buddy teams worked together to create an event for the day. “This was a great opportunity for youngsters to learn about and emulate the hard work and spirit of the athletes who participate in the Olympics every two years,” explained Mrs. Bergin. Mrs. Pflug and Mrs. Mytrowitz were proud of how their students demonstrated good sportsmanship throughout the events. A great time was had by all!

At Valley Road School, second graders participated in Winter Olympic-themed STEAM activities. The students learned about specific events such as bobsledding, snowboarding, curling, and speed skating. Through the use of various household materials, the students were able to construct their own mini bobsleds to send their team of “counting bears” down the track to achieve the fastest time. The students also used these materials to send their bolt into the designated area for curling and create a snowboard to race down the mountain. According to Ms. Pinto, “These activities were a fun and creative way to learn about a great winter tradition.”

Hehnly Students Visit Provident Bank

Second grade students at Frank K. Hehny School enjoyed spending the morning at Provident Bank in Clark as part of their Career Day. Bank Manager Tracy Bara and her staff gave the students a tour of the branch and explained a banker’s day to day responsibilities. Students were eager to learn about the career of banking and learn how the drive up worked. The second graders went home with a bag of goodies including a blooming dollar seed to plant. It was a great visit for both the students and staff.

Carl H. Kumpf National Junior Honor Society Induction

The Carl H. Kumpf National Junior Honor Society inducted 50 new members into its chapter on Thursday, April 19th. In addition to achieving a cumulative weighted average of 4.0 students also had to demonstrate strong examples of leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Students participated in a candle lighting ceremony relaying the cardinal principles of Honor Society. New members also took a pledge promising to uphold the ideals of Honor Society in their school and community. The ceremony was led by the advisor, Ms. Mailloux and the NJHS officers. New inductees were awarded membership cards and medals, which they will wear at graduation.
Carl H. Kumpf Middle School
Student’s Painting Chosen for
the Union County Teen Arts
Touring Exhibit

Eighth grader Michael Shriner, along with fourteen other students from Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark, recently had artwork displayed at the 2018 Union County Teen Arts Festival. His painting was noted as “outstanding” and was selected to be part of the 2018 Union County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit.

The Touring Exhibit had a “Meet and Greet the Artist” reception at the Springfield Public Library on Wednesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.

ALJ Scholars George Visconti and Gregory Zukowski Honored
by Union County Superintendents’ Roundtable

Valedictorian George Visconti and Salutatorian Gregory Zukowski were honored at the thirty-third annual Recognition Breakfast for Outstanding Scholars of Union County held by the Union County Superintendents’ Roundtable. The students and their parents as well as Board of Education President Jill Curran, Superintendent Edward Grande, and Supervisor of Educational Initiatives Christine Casale Broski attended the event on June 1 at Embassy Suites in Berkeley Heights.

The students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement and presented with certificates. Visconti will be attending Swarthmore College majoring in Engineering, and Zukowski will be attending Villanova University majoring in Chemical Engineering.

The keynote speaker for the event, Christopher Weeks, a Governor Livingston graduate, provided the students with some insight into his first year at college. He encouraged students to work hard despite obstacles they may face. Students from throughout Union County were honored at the event.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, “We are extremely proud of George and Greg’s many accomplishments and are looking forward to seeing what lies ahead for them in the future.”

Crusaders Continuing Athletic Careers in College

| Dylan Bohm (Lacrosse – Union County College) |
| Michael Bruno (Lacrosse – Roger Williams College) |
| Sammy Burkhard (Soccer – TCNJ) |
| Nicole Cassano (Softball – Moravian College) |
| Victoria Gulbin (Volleyball – Kean University) |
| Lindsey Hofschneider (Cross Country & Track – Rowan University) |
| Tyler Moreira (Cross Country – Fairleigh Dickinson University) |
| Gennaro Nigro (Soccer – Cornell University) |
| Danielle Nugent (Field Hockey – Rowan University) |
| Sebastian Romano (Swimming – Fairleigh Dickenson University) |
| Jennifer Tinger (Softball – College of St. Elizabeth) |
| Yasmine Torres (Track & Field – NJIT) |
| George Visconti Jr. (Basketball – Swarthmore University) |
| Karol Wieczorek (Ice Hockey – Aurora University) |
Valley Road School Celebrates Read Across America Day

Students at Valley Road School in Clark celebrated Read Across America Day with a visit from author Marcie Aboff. Aboff is an author of fiction and nonfiction picture books, chapter books, activity books, and magazine stories for children from preschool to middle school. Her books include *The Giant Jelly Bean Jar* and *Pop’s Pets*.

Aboff shared several of her stories and discussed what it is like to be an author. She explained to students how she got the ideas for her books and the importance of revising your work.

Aboff shared that writing is something she always loved to do and her hope for the students was that they all find what they love to do when they grow up.

The assembly, organized by Trish Peitz, VRS teacher, and sponsored by the PTA, was part of the school’s reading program. As part of the reading program, every grade level is given a specific number of books to read and record in a log each month. Since the students met their goal, they were visited by the author. Students also earned other rewards including a dance party and a ticket to Great Adventure.

Valley Road Principal Joe Beltramba stated, “I would like to thank Mrs. Peitz and the Valley Road PTA for organizing this special event. We are so proud of our students for achieving their reading goals. A visit from an author was the perfect way to celebrate this achievement and commemorate Read Across America Day.”

According to the National Education Association, “Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.”

Turek and Wysocki Named Union County Scholar-Athletes

On Wednesday, May 23, 2018, two student athletes from Arthur L. Johnson High School were designated as the recipients of the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference’s Scholar Athlete Award. The UCIAC is an organization run by Executive Director Tom Lewis, who continued the tradition started by the late Frank J. Cicarell. Frank J. Cicarell was a teacher, coach, administrator, BOE member, and President of the Union County Athletic Conference. Most remembered for his impact on the student athletes, he was the driving force that made athletics in Union County what they are today. Union County Tournaments are still named after him to this day. The dinner, organized and run by Executive Director Tom Lewis, has grown in size and has given out hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship money.

These awards, which are presented to a male and female athlete from each school in the county, celebrate not only the athletic successes of our high school athletes on the fields, courts, and mats, but honor the countless hours that they spend in the classroom as well.

Arthur L. Johnson Senior Student Athletes Joe Turek and Amy Wysocki were honored as the recipients from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark. Joe Turek had a stellar career, participating in football and baseball. As a senior, Joe was named captain of both teams and broke the seasonal and career rushing records during his time on the gridiron. He recently captured his 100th hit on the baseball diamond as well. He will continue his education at the University of Delaware. Amy Wysocki participated in field hockey and basketball throughout her career at Arthur L. Johnson High School. She helped both programs compete for county and state sectional titles throughout her years of participation.

Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director at Arthur L. Johnson High School, commented, “Joe and Amy have been an integral part of the success of our athletic programs at Arthur L. Johnson High School, allowing us to have success on the fields in multiple sports. More importantly, they have been model student athletes that did things the right way both on the fields and in the classroom. They are truly deserving of being named our recipients of the UCIAC’s Scholar Athlete Awards. We wish them well.”
Students Participate in Kindergarten Hero Project

Carl H. Kumpf seventh graders visited the kindergarten classrooms at Valley Road and Hehnly Elementary Schools on March 28th for the Kindergarten Hero project. Each seventh grade student composed a personalized story for their individual kindergarten buddy in which the kindergartener was depicted as a hero who saves the day. According to Suzanne Hamilton, seventh grade teacher, “This trip was so rewarding for the kindergartener as well as the seventh graders. Our seventh grade students took advantage of the opportunity to be positive role models to the children in our community simply by being part of a project such as this. Everyone was a hero today!”

Prior to the visit, kindergarten teachers were asked to complete a Google Form with the children’s first names and special interests. Using that information, the middle schoolers created their stories. The seventh graders brought along their stories, coloring book pages, and certificates to award their kindergarten buddies for their acts of heroism.

“The experience was fantastic for both the kindergarteners and the 7th graders. Our middle schoolers took on a leadership role and showed genuine concern for some of the youngest in our Clark school community. We were so proud of our students,” stated Cheri Fabrizzio, seventh grade teacher.

Clark Board of Education’s Showcase of Success

The Clark Board of Education celebrated the achievements of students and teachers at its Showcase of Success.

This year’s Governor’s Educators of the Year were recognized for educational excellence and their commitment to student learning. The Governor’s Educators of the Year Program recognizes “educational innovation, student achievement, the rewards of teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success.”

Several students were also recognized for earning perfect PARCC scores on the 2017 Spring Assessment. The ALJ Bowling Team led by Coach Michele Zaleski was recognized as the North II Group 1 Sectional State Champions. The ALJ Cheerleaders, led by coaches Lindsey Lerner Barrett, Cristina Faro, and Suzanne Hamilton were recognized as Group 2 State Champions.

The district is extremely proud of the accomplishments of these students and staff members. Superintendent Edward Grande commented, “The evening was a great way to honor some of our more than deserving students, student athletes, and staff members. It is a night that we all look forward to each year.”

ALJ Cheerleaders

Perfect PARCC Score Recipients, Heidi Compton and Christopher Warnick

ALJ Bowling Team

Governor’s Educators of the Year
On Tuesday, May 15, 2018, the Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department held their 2018 Spring Athletic Awards. All the Spring Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while handing out letters and awards to the student athletes.

The program continued with the Student Athlete Award, which was presented by the Athletic Director of Arthur L. Johnson High School, Mr. Gus Kalikas. The Student Athlete Award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete that is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well. The 2018 Spring Student Athlete award recipient was Lindsey Hofschneider.

The Crusader G.P.A. Challenge is awarded each season to the team that finishes with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams seasonally. They will be presented with certificates, have their team memorialized on a plaque, and be invited for a “Breakfast with the A.D.” to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. I am happy to introduce the winner of the 2018 Spring Seasonal G.P.A. Challenge… The Girls’ Spring Track & Field Team with a G.P.A. of 4.0034. Members of the Girls’ Spring Track & Field Team include: Meagan Lambert, Carly Tarentino, Victoria Venezio, Emma Hilton, Julia Kalynchuk, Shailynn, Taylor Turek, Jenna Wiese, Paige Kelly, Kayla Kowalenko, Natalya Torres, Kylee Zawacki, Grace Duffy, Saga Elsekhely, Lindsey Hofschneider, Alyssa Keane, Jessica Knowles, and Yasmine Torres.


The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Baseball – Joe Turek, Golf – Christian Teixeira, Lacrosse – Brandon Hund, Softball – Nicole Cassano, Tennis – Matthew Vigliotti, Boys’ Spring Track & Field – Tyler Bohm, Girls’ Spring Track & Field – Lindsey Hofschneider.
VRS Students Raise Money for Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad

Students and staff at Valley Road School wanted to show their appreciation to the brave and selfless volunteers on the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad. On April 18th, the school ran their annual “Hats On” day to raise money for this group. Students and staff were invited to wear hats to school, and many contributed donations to the squad. Members of the squad visited the school to accept the donation and posed for a picture with some Valley Road students.

Mrs. Haney, who runs the “Hats On” donation drive each year, said, “I am very proud and humbled by the generosity of the Valley Road families. This is a wonderful way to thank the squad and show appreciation for their dedication to our community.”

ALJ Students’ Artwork Displayed at Union County Teen Arts Festival

Two Arthur L. Johnson students, Katlyn Ashley and Oliwia Szostek, were recently selected to have their art work displayed at the 2018 Union County Teen Arts Festival. Their art work was noted as “outstanding” and has become part of the 2018 Union County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit.

ALJ Art Teacher Chris Marcin stated, “The Union County Teen Arts exhibit is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their talents. The Art Department is proud of the work the students have created and their commitment to developing aesthetic and creative form through artistic media... a job well done!”

Students Use Magformers in STEAM Class at Valley Road School

Students at Valley Road School learn about engineering and math in Mrs. Scarola’s STEAM classes by using Magformers. Magformers are magnetic devices that allow students to learn about shapes and angles. During STEAM class, students use them to create 3-D objects like houses and cars. The Magformers were purchased through a grant from the Clark Education Fund that Ms. Scarola and Ms. Tarello, G&T teacher applied for earlier in the year. Scarola stated, “Using the Magformers is a great way for students to apply their STEAM skills. We are extremely thankful to the CEF for their funding.”

The Magformers were used to create various 3-D objects, such as houses and cars, during the STEAM class at Valley Road School.
What’s Happening at the Clark Preschool

The Clark Preschool opened the third quarter celebrating Autism Awareness Month. On April 11, the Clark Preschool “Lit it up BLUE” by wearing blue in celebration of the Clark School District’s Autism Awareness Day. Autism affects 1 in 68 children nationally.

Community Helper Month gives children an opportunity to recognize those who contribute to the communities in which they live. Throughout April, the children explored many professions, including pizza maker, firefighter, librarian and the Union County Sheriff’s K-9 Officer’s. The Clark UNICO Chapter member assisted the children in pizza making followed by a pizza lunch in the Clark Recreation kitchen. Firefighter Barry, Mr. Kaverick, presented on fire safety, including an overview of fire prevention, activating 911, identifying smoke alarms, changing batteries, executing fire drills, and showcasing his equipment and gear. The children learned about the role of the librarians, Deidre Morley and Stephanie Azzaro, on their field trip to the Clark Public Library. The children were engrossed in the librarian’s animated storytelling and each borrowed two books with their first library card. The Union County Sheriff’s K-9 Unit, Canine Police Officer Gialanella, Officer O’Grady and Officer Yasinski spoke about the K-9 Search and Rescue unit and their role as canine officers and handlers. All the community helpers kept the children riveted during their presentations and sparked their curiosity further with questions.

In May, the preschoolers boarded buses for a field trip to Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. The children took a short hike to find evidence of animal homes and hideouts in the Watchung Reservation. They saw a bird and squirrel nest, deer tracks, a woodpecker at work, and an owl, chipmunk and snake hideout. The center was filled with interactive environmental exhibits, providing the perfect classroom for students to learn about the environment and the natural world around us.

The special people in our lives are honored in the month of May as Clark Preschool children invite “one special person” for tea. Celebrating and honoring families serves as an important learning experience and provides the opportunity for students to acknowledge and appreciate the caring adults in their lives. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles joined their preschoolers for morning refreshments. The children crafted cards and presented them to their special person. Enclosed in the card was a tea bag with the sentiment “a cup of tea to say thank you for all the things you’ve done and wishes that today will bring you happiness and fun.” It was a time for the children, to let a special person in their life know, that they are loved and always appreciated!

Unified Sports Basketball Team Enjoyed Much Success in its First Season

ALJ’s Unified Sports Basketball team, sponsored by the Special Olympics, had a great inaugural season. According to the Special Olympics, the organization “aims to build a society of acceptance and inclusion for people with disabilities and, by extension, for everyone. We know that sports training and competition can help achieve that goal.”

Doreen Babis, Director of Student Support Services, stated, “This is one of the most exciting programs I have been a part of. I am very thankful to the coaches, Ms. Dilorio and Mrs. Rosenmeier, the ALJ PTA for their generous donation, Mr. Kalikas for his support, and to all of the students who have shown such amazing teamwork and sportsmanship. I could not be prouder to be a part of this high school program.”
BE SMART! GET YOUR SAT PREP DONE BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS!

SAT BOOTCAMP

The College Board Summer Test is August 25! ALJ is offering prep classes geared towards this test!

WHERE: ARTHUR L. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

WHEN: MONDAY, 8/20 - FRIDAY, 8/24 (3 HOURS/DAY)
MONDAY, 8/20 - THURSDAY, 8/23 3:00 PM - 6:15 PM
(1.5 HOURS EACH OF VERBAL AND MATH WITH 15 MIN BREAK)
FRIDAY, 8/24 9 AM - 12:30 PM
(FULL PRACTICE TEST WITH 30 MIN ANSWER REVIEW)

COST: $190/STUDENT
CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: CLARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

CLASSES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY EXPERIENCED ALJ TEACHERS IN FAMILIAR SCHOOL SURROUNDINGS.

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(732) 986-9910
x3391, Steve Kaelbien
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ALJ Main Office

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The motivated student will find this course beneficial and a way to get ahead on the college process.

Purpose: To assist our students with the college application essay process, we would like to offer an incoming seniors a mini-course with an English teacher. Students will receive meaningful college essay writing support: writing tips, what to avoid in writing the essay, critique and revision assistance. A highly qualified teacher will help you brainstorm to find "your story" so that you are able to write an essay that will stand out. Class size will be limited to 10 to 15 students so as to optimize individualized attention.

Summer 2018 Register Now:
If interested contact Ms. Diat at ydiat@clarkschools.org or (732) 574-9600 Ext. 3294. Please respond by June 30.

Dates: Monday, August 13 to Friday, August 17
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Location: ALJ Computer Lab (air conditioned)
Cost: $50 per student

* Payment should be submitted to Mrs. Flandry, Principal's Secretary