



May 14, 2021 | claytonschools.net

Top Three Things in this Issue:

A Conversation with the Incoming Superintendent

GLN Students Inspired by New Mural from Local Artist

Focus On: AAPI Month

A Message from our Lead Learner:

Dear Clayton Community,

How many more days do you have left? I have been asked that question many times lately given my plans to retire at the end of this school year. I am not counting down the days. Instead, I am working to make the most of the time I have left in the District. I believe educators in general get asked this question during the month of May - as if the last day of school is the beginning of a long break for them. Yes, the summer schedule is different for educators. It is also a time when educators focus on their own professional learning, planning for the upcoming school year, writing curriculum, teaching summer programs and preparing classroom spaces. These remaining days of school and the summer will also be dedicated to the preparation of the 2021-2022 school year.

[Read the rest of Dr. Doherty's message on our website.](#)

A Conversation with the Incoming Superintendent

Be sure to check out the next installment of our video series featuring Clayton's incoming superintendent, Dr. Nisha Patel. In Episode Four, Dr. Patel talks about excellence and how everyone within an organization plays a part in providing a transformational experience for students.

Excellence in Education



Click on the image above to watch the full video.

GLN Students Inspired by New Mural from Local Artist

Glenridge Elementary School students were visited by local STL artist, Cbabi Bayoc, who created a new mural in their school. Bayoc painted a mural in Glenridge Elementary cafeteria over the course of a week. Students were able to ask Bayoc questions about the process of creating art and how much work it can take from beginning to end. The mural included important representation of students from different backgrounds, positive messaging and various animals. You can watch the video below to learn more about the mural and [read more on our website](#).



Click on the image above to watch the full video.

Honoring Dr. Sean Doherty's Contributions to the School District of Clayton

Since becoming superintendent in 2015, Dr. Sean Doherty worked tirelessly as our community's "lead learner." The Clayton Education Foundation has launched a campaign to honor and commemorate his contributions to the District.

Because he began his career as an elementary teacher and served as principal at Captain Elementary School, this campaign will fund a book collection for each of the District's three



elementary school libraries. Books for the Dr. Sean Doherty Collection will be selected by each school's librarian and identified by a custom bookplate picturing Dr. Doherty and his rescue dog, Gryff.

Dr. Doherty advocates unapologetically for students, always working to make decisions to empower them in their

learning. This library collection lets him continue making a positive impact on student learning long after he retires from the District.

The campaign will run from April 30 - May 31. Donate [online](#) or by mailing a check (made payable to the Clayton Education Foundation with "Doherty" written on the memo line) to the Clayton Education Foundation, #2 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, Missouri, 63105.

Help us honor Dr. Doherty, and enhance our elementary libraries, by donating today.

The Equity Corner

Critical Race Theory vs. Teaching Hard History

Per [dictionary.com](#), the definition of a theory is the following:

- *a coherent group of tested general propositions, commonly regarded as correct, that can be used as principles of explanation and prediction for a class of phenomena.*
- *a proposed explanation whose status is still conjectural and subject to experimentation.*

To put it plainly, a theory is an explanation or conclusion derived from a set of facts or outcomes. In society, there are certain truths. A theory serves as a well-researched explanation as to why those truths exist. For example, let's say that I am a police officer and my numbers for traffic stops are analyzed at the end of each year. Let's say that 75% of my traffic stops are Black and Latinx drivers, creating a disproportionate number of stops as compared to White drivers. Based on the numbers, one may theorize that my practices are racist when it comes to pulling over Black and Latinx drivers. If I deny that theory, and give the explanation that I had probable cause for each traffic stop, and it just happened to work out that way, then how can we definitively say that I in fact am racist toward Black and Latinx drivers? A case could certainly be built to say that my practices are indeed racist, but unless it can be proven that was the intention, it is a theory until proven beyond a reasonable doubt. This is an example of a critical race theory. If there was an admission of intentionality, a directive given by a superior, or policy that states to pull over more Black and Latinx drivers than White drivers, then it would switch from a theory to a truth.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Critical Race Theory and Hard History](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on Twitter [@CP_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!

[Cameron Poole](#)

Remaining Grab n' Go Meal Dates



The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Service remains available to all families of students who are Learning@Home. Meals are distributed from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. on Mondays at the front entrance of Clayton High School. Please note the remaining 2020-2021 meal service dates below:

- Monday, May 17
- Monday, May 24

Staff and Student Achievements

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the The Academy of Science St. Louis Science Fair. This fair is an initiative of the Academy of Science of St. Louis. You can view the results of the competition for [Captain, Glenridge, Meramec](#), and [Clayton High School](#) and the [Featured News article here](#).

Kaleb Jenkins, CHS Senior, is one of five students in the United States to be awarded the [2021 Knoll Diversity Advancement Design Scholarships for Black Students](#). This scholarship was created to "develop the next generation of Black architects, graphic designers, industrial and architectural engineers, interior designers and industrial designers," according to Knoll's website. Students who receive this award get a \$10,000 scholarship towards a two-year or four-year institution. Jenkins will be attending Louisiana State University in the fall.

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the May 12 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board received an update on the District's strategic plan with a focus on the work that is helping students and staff "grow as learners."

Following each meeting of the Board of Education, The Board Brief is your source for details on Board discussions, actions and items of interest to Clayton students, staff and residents.

The Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes the presentation of the 2021-2022 budget and the last of a three-part update on the District's strategic plan, which focuses on students growing "in head and heart."

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.



It's almost summer time, which means barbeques and outdoor gatherings are coming back. Salad is a perfect dish to bring along and is great to keep in your house for a quick lunch. The health benefits of lettuce vary across the different varieties depending on their nutritional composition, and there are many varieties to choose from! Lettuce is a great source of Vitamin K to

increase bone strength, is 95 percent water to improve hydration and is great to improve vision and sleep. Here are some varieties that you may not always think of and can be incorporated to increase the flavor and texture of your everyday salad.

- Butterhead lettuce is great for delicate salads, but their broad leaves make it ideal for lettuce wraps.
- Endive provides great color and can be served with dips in place of chips or other carbohydrates.
- Spinach is packed with nutritional benefits like Vitamins A and C and Iron. It is extremely versatile and can be used in cooking.
- Leaf lettuce is another high nutritional content choice. It comes in both green and purple which can add flavor. It is a great less-crispy alternative to crispier iceberg or romaine.
- Iceberg lettuce has the least nutritional value, but can be great when looking for an added crunch.

Focus On: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands),

Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced [House Joint Resolution 540](#) to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed [Public Law 101-283](#) which expanded the observance to a month for 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed [Public Law 102-450](#) which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. [Learn more about Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month online.](#)

Calendar

May 14 - Early Release Day: Professional Development

May 19 - BOE Meeting @ 7 p.m.

May 19 - CPT Fourth and Fifth Grade Strings Concert Outdoor @ 8:00 a.m.

May 21 - GLN Fourth and Fifth Grade Strings Concert Outdoor @ 8:00 a.m.

May 22 - GLN Fifth Grade Strings Celebration

May 27 - CHS Graduation

May 28 - Field Day

May 28 - Next issue of eNews

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