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Top Three Things in this Issue:

- Disability History and Awareness Series - Part Four
- The Globe Declared a Pacemaker Finalist
- Districtwide Food and Essentials Drive

From the Superintendent

Dear Clayton Family,

It is hard to believe that we finished the first quarter and started the second quarter of our school year this week. While it's not been without challenges, the hard work, dedication and commitment of our teachers, administrators and staff continues to provide our students nothing short of the best Clayton experience every day in school. The defining moments they are creating for our students will stay with them long after they finish their journey in Clayton.

We continue our work to ensure school is a safe and healthy place to work and learn. Even though our data supports that the mitigating factors we have in place are serving their purpose, we continue to look for places where we can add additional layers of protection for our students and staff. Vaccination and testing represent additional protective measures we can put in place throughout our schools. [Continue reading about the additional protective measures we are putting in place.](#)

BOE Approves Vaccination or Testing Plan for District Staff

On Oct. 27, the Board of Education [approved a resolution](#) requiring all District staff to either be fully vaccinated or participate in a weekly COVID-19 testing program. Starting on Nov. 15, unvaccinated staff will have the option to be tested weekly at their building by our health services staff or by an outside healthcare provider of their choice. The goal of this program is to add an additional layer of protection for students and staff as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disability History & Awareness Month Ep. 4: Transition



In the fourth segment of our Disability History and Awareness Month video series, we show the support that Special School District of St. Louis County students receive when making the transition to adult life after graduation. [You can find all of the videos in this series at the PAC.ED website here.](#)

CHS Theater Delivers Powerful Performance in “The Miracle Worker”



Clayton High School Theater presented “The Miracle Worker” on Oct. 14-16 as one of their fall productions at the Black Box Theater. The play centers around the life of Helen Keller who was deaf, blind and mute and how her life was transformed by her teacher, Annie Sullivan.

CHS Junior Holly Connor was the one of the reasons this production was chosen due to her remarkable performance skills and the fact that she is also blind. Connor explained her excitement to play the role of Helen Keller in a [recent video feature](#).

"My dream has finally come true. I always wanted to be Helen since I was in third grade," said Connor. "My goal is to spread awareness, acceptance and inclusion for people with all types of disabilities especially in the arts."

Congratulations to all those who participated and helped bring the show to life. [Learn more about the productions and see photos here.](#)

Live from the Library



Superintendent Nisha Patel was the "mystery reader" at Glenridge Elementary's Live from the Library event last week. Dr. Patel answered questions from the librarian and students covering everything from her favorite book genre to whether she likes fiction or nonfiction. Students also played reading games and learned about what books the library has to offer.

BOE Candidate Filing Timeline Changes; Opens Dec. 7

Filing for the Board of Education Election opened on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, at 8 a.m. and will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, at 5 p.m. The timeline for filing starts earlier and ends sooner based on the changes made to election laws in HB 271, which was signed into law in June 2021. Candidate filing will open one week earlier and close three weeks earlier than previous elections. The regular terms of BOE Secretary Stacey Siwak and Director Joe Miller will expire in April 2022. The appointed term of Director Steve Singer also expires in April 2022. Singer was appointed in June 2021 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of David Gulick. [Learn more about filing to run for the Board of Education.](#)

The Globe Declared a Pacemaker Finalist for the 2020-2021 School Year



The Globe has been named an [NSPA Pacemaker finalist](#) for the 2020-2021 school year.

The National Scholastic Press Association has named 65 scholastic student newspapers, newsmagazines and specialty magazines as finalists in its prestigious Pacemaker competition.

The Editors-in-Chief for the 2020-2021 school year were Angela Xiao, Sofia Erlin and Shane LaGesse. Congratulations to them and the staff on a job well done! [Learn more in our story here.](#)

WMS Students Chosen for the SLSMEA All-Suburban Honors Orchestra and Band



Fifteen Wydown Middle School students have been selected for the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association's All-Suburban Honors Middle School Orchestra and Band. Four students from the orchestra auditioned and were selected. WMS had more students selected for the band than any other middle school in the St. Louis area. In total, the 11 WMS band members

comprise more than 10 percent of the All-Suburban Middle School Band. [Learn more about the auditions here.](#)

CHS Orchestra to Perform at 2022 MMEA Conference



The CHS Symphonic Orchestra has been selected to perform at the 2022 Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) In-Service Workshop and Conference. Daniel Henderson is the Director of Orchestras at Clayton High School. The Symphonic Orchestra was one of only a few groups from across the state selected to perform at this year's conference. [Learn more about the conference here.](#)

Clayton Kid Zone Celebrates Lights On Afterschool



In honor of the 22nd annual #LightsOnAfterschool, Clayton Kid Zone celebrated this week by doing the #lightbulbchallenge to highlight the fun, safe and engaging activities and afterschool programming they offer everyday. They held an art show and family night at California Pizza Kitchen.

Students displayed their creativity through sculptures, paintings and collages. [To see photos from the event click here.](#)

Districtwide Food and Essentials Drive



This new District-wide event is sponsored by the PTO Council and the Clayton Education Foundation. By donating non-perishable food and household essentials, or making a cash contribution, you help stock each building's food pantry, provide holiday food support and fund other emergency assistance. Help support fellow School District of Clayton families in need by

donating to the Annual Food & Essentials Drive between Oct. 25 and Nov. 5. [Learn more about how you can donate here.](#)

PAC.ED Information



PAC.ED advocates for awareness, understanding, equity and inclusion of and for all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton. PAC.ED is a volunteer organization made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members. Check out the [Facebook](#) page to keep up-to-date on current PAC.ED events! Learn

more about what's happening below:

October is Missouri Disability History & Awareness Month. We continue to commemorate the month with our [Disability History and Awareness Month video series](#). The series takes a look at events more than 70 years in the past that left a powerful impact on education and the community. Schools and other public systems went through many major changes to give individuals with disabilities equal opportunities and access.

"Cents for Sensory" Challenge to Support "Project Sensory Box"

Do you have spare change you're not sure what to do with? Put your change to work and donate it to the "Cents for Sensory" change challenge. Clayton PAC.ED volunteers will be accepting change donations in front of each school during morning drop off on each



Tuesday in November leading up to Thanksgiving break. Dates include Nov. 9, 16, and 23. The change will be counted and the tallies shared with each of the school's principals and posted online. Tallies for each school will be posted by Friday of each week!

Project Sensory Box is a Clayton PAC.ED initiative to help meet the sensory and mental health needs of School District of

Clayton students with disabilities in need by providing sensory and self-regulation supports and tools for use at home. To learn more visit [PAC.ED / Project Sensory Box](#).

Equity Corner

The awesome gift and curse about this blog is finding what to talk about. We have so many positives happening right now, and great systems being built. We also have a lot of things that still need equitable attention. When I wrote last year, I often focused on mindset and thought process in regard to "thinking toward equity." I read and heard two things this week that forced me to challenge and improve my thought process in regard to individuals with disabilities.

Disability History and Awareness Month takes place during October to increase awareness, respect and acceptance for people with disabilities, and to bring a greater sense of pride to people with disabilities. The Parent Advisory Council of Children with Educational Diversity (PAC.ED) hosted a screening and discussion on the film "Intelligent Lives." Films like "Intelligent Lives" are important because they put us in a position to humanize those with disabilities. "Intelligent Lives" is powerful because it forces us out of the mindset of using a broad brushstroke to label those with disabilities, and it takes us through the experiences of those in the movie.

The first thing I heard this week that pushed my thought process was simple but powerful - different NOT deficient. Too often when we think of those with disabilities, we think and highlight the deficiencies rather than seeing gifts and talents. When we have a "deficient" mindset, it alters the way in which we treat individuals, and has a dehumanizing effect. When we think "different," we are more likely to engage and seek to humanize. We realize there are unanswered questions, so we seek those answers. Seeking the answers to those questions shows a desire to get to know the individual, thus leading us to humanization.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Different NOT Deficient](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on Twitter [@CP_EdEquity](#).

Take Care

Cameron Poole

From Picky to Pleasant Presentation



From Picky to Pleasant: Strategies to End Eating Struggles & Mealtime Stress

Feeding toddlers can present challenges that often make us dread meal planning, cooking and mealtime. Please join us for "From Picky to Pleasant: Strategies to End Eating Struggles & Mealtime Stress," a free and virtual presentation with Jen McDaniel. This event will take place on Nov. 4 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. McDaniel is a Registered Dietitian and owner of McDaniel Nutrition Therapy.

Learn strategies to make mealtimes with young children easier and more enjoyable. Set your child up for a healthy relationship with food. All parents and caregivers welcome! This program is sponsored by our School District of Clayton Parents as Teachers program.

[Register for the presentation here.](#)

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Oct. 27 Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education approved a resolution requiring all District staff to provide documentation that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or participate in a weekly testing program.

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, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. The tentative agenda includes a review of proposed policy changes and an update on the work related to the second goal of the District's strategic plan: growing as learners.

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey. Edited by Ali Lenger.



As the cold weather approaches, it is important to strengthen our immune systems to fight off illnesses like the common cold. It is important to eat a variety of healthy foods to help with this. Brightly colored fruits and vegetables give our bodies Vitamin A which supports the mucosal lining in the nose, mouth and lungs. Garlic and onions have antimicrobial properties

that help fight bacterial and viral infections. Dark leafy vegetables, peppers, broccoli and citrus fruit provide us with Vitamin C. Eggs, mushrooms and oily fish such as salmon provide Vitamin D that we may not get due to lack of sunlight during colder months. Overall, make sure that you are getting the variety of vitamins and minerals that need to be healthy.

Focus On: Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is an exciting time of year for all ages from little ones to teens. Make sure your celebrations are safe and fun this year by following these Halloween Safety tips:

Costumes:

- Bright and Reflective Costumes: Make your child more visible to cars and other passersby to protect them. Glow sticks are a great visibility tool as well!
- Move Your Feet: Wear comfortable shoes that fit well to prevent tripping or issues with costumes.
- Fire Protection: Check for the "flame resistant" label on any costumes, wigs or accessories.

Trick-or-Treating:

- The Buddy System: Make sure younger children are always accompanied by a trusted adult. Don't let older children go trick-or-treating alone.
- Lights On: Only approach homes that have porch light on and look safe.
- How to Call for Help: For older trick-or-treaters going with friends, make sure they have your phone number and know how to call 911 in case of an emergency.

Home Decorating:

- Clear Pathways: Make sure the path leading up to your home is clear of any tripping hazards if you are welcoming trick-or-treaters.
- Pet Safety: Put any furry friends or other pets in a safe place so they cannot approach trick-or-treaters when the door is opened.
- Pumpkins: Consider a safe alternative such as glow sticks or LED candles instead of open flame candles to light your pumpkins.

[Learn more from the AAP Parenting website about tips for Halloween Safety.](#)

Calendar

Nov. 2 - No School. Teacher Work Day: Professional Learning.

Nov. 4 - 6 - Second Fall Play @ 7 p.m.

Nov. 10 - BOE Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Nov. 12 - Next Issue of eNews

[View more events on our calendar here.](#)

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