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Top Three Things in this Issue:

- BOE Candidate Filing Closes Dec. 28
- 2021 Hour of Code
- WMS and CHS Students Chosen for for the SLSMEA All-Suburban Honors Choirs

BOE Candidate Filing Closes Dec. 28

Filing for the Board of Education Election 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 Stacy 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.](#)

2021 Hour of Code

Students across the School District of Clayton participated in the Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 9-15. This annual global learning event allows students to participate in one hour of coding activities on or offline. The Hour of Code website provides an array of games and lessons that teach students about computer science in a fun and engaging way. [Click here to learn more.](#)



WMS and CHS Students Chosen for for the SLSMEA All-Suburban Honors Choirs



Eight Clayton High School students and 12 Wydown Middle School students have been selected for the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association's (SLSMEA) All-Suburban Honors Choir. Five CHS students from the Chamber Choir and three from the Concert Choir auditioned and were selected. Additionally, out of the five students from Chamber Choir, three qualified to audition and one

student qualified for the All-State Chorus.

Each year the SLSMEA organizes honors choir performances for students in seventh through twelfth grade. Students are selected to participate in these performance ensembles based on auditions consisting of solo performance and sight reading. The middle school honor choir performance will be Saturday, Jan. 22 at Ritenour High School with the 7/8 Treble Choir Performance at 3 p.m. and 7/8 Mixed Choir Performance at 4 p.m.

[See the list of students who qualified and more information 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 and our [webpages](#) to keep up-to-date on current PAC.ED events! Learn more about what's happening below:



Inclusive Schools Week 2021 Dec. 6-10!

We are seeking nominations in honor of Inclusive Schools Week. This year's theme is "Rebuilding Our Inclusive Community Together." Clayton PAC.ED will be once again honoring Clayton teachers and staff (including Special Education) who have demonstrated

outstanding efforts in the area of inclusion and for their dedication to providing a quality education and experience for our increasingly diverse student population and those students marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economics status, cultural heritage, language preference and other factors. The deadline to submit a nomination is 5 p.m. on Feb. 25. All parents, students, colleagues or administrators can submit a nomination. [Click here to learn more and create a nomination.](#)

The Winner is...Wydown Middle School!!!

During Inclusive Schools week we celebrated that a total of \$940 was raised for Clayton PAC.ED's Project Sensory Box initiative during the "Cents for Sensory" Change Challenge that was held prior to Thanksgiving break. This will translate to 26 sensory boxes being distributed to in need students with disabilities whose families do not have the resources to support them at home with these tools. A really BIG thank you to the following Clayton community members including principals, teachers, parents, District administrators, District departments and most of all the students. Last, but certainly not least, the wonderful parent volunteers who transported their own students to school and then stood in front of schools collecting change, putting up posters, getting the word out, dropping off collections and then counting thousands of pennies, nickels and dimes! Thank you for coming together as a community to support "Project Sensory Box" and for your very generous support! If you would like more information regarding Project Sensory Box or would like to make a donation, please visit [PAC.ED / Project Sensory Box](#).

PAC.ED Families

A survey will be going out to ask you for input regarding PAC.ED meeting dates and times, as well as programming for the rest of the school year. Please be on the lookout! We value your input and would appreciate your responsiveness.

Make a difference today by [clicking and donating](#) and/or [clicking and volunteering](#) to support the vital work of the PAC.ED!

Staff and Student Achievements

Congratulations to the Wydown sixth-grader **Riley Carter Adams** who will be performing in the production of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens and adapted by Michael Wilson



at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Riley will be in the role of Belinda Cratchit as well as other supporting roles as a part of one of two youth ensemble casts. This will be the first production that will become an annual holiday tradition for the theater.

Twelve Clayton High School students have been selected for the All-State

Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Lana Xu** - All-State Orchestra, violin
- **Hannah Moon** - All-State Orchestra, viola
- **Alex Pompian** - All-State Orchestra, viola
- **Ethan Sturmoski** - All-State Orchestra, viola
- **Rachel Chung** - 5th Chair Flute, All-State Band
- **Thomas Gustafson** - 2nd Chair Trombone, All-State Jazz Band and second chair All-State Orchestra
- **Enoch Lai** - Percussion, All-State Orchestra
- **Reed Gunn** - 1st Tenor Sax Alternate, Jazz Band
- **Scott McCary** - 2nd Timpani Alternate, Band
- **Taayan Khurana** - 4th Percussion Alternate, Band
- **Bek Handzic-Smith** - 12th Chair Clarinet, Honorable Mention
- **Jeremy Cohn** - 2nd Chair Alto Sax, Honorable Mention

Equity Corner

"The purpose of art is not the release of a momentary ejection of adrenaline but is, rather, the gradual, lifelong construction of a state of wonder and serenity." - Glenn Gould

"Inclusion is a mindset. It is a way of thinking. It is not a program that we run or a classroom in our school or a favor we do for someone. Inclusion is who we are. It's who we must strive to be." - Lisa Friedman

I really like these two quotes, because I think it sums up the vision for our quest humanizing all students, creating a sense of belonging for all students and maintaining an inclusive learning environment for all students. In regard to our equity work, internal Professional Learning has been the focal point for the year. Below, you will find a breakdown of what equity learning looks like from a district, building, and years in the district standpoint.

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

Take Care!

Cameron Poole

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Dec. 15 Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education approved a resolution recognizing Inclusive Schools Week, reviewed and approved the District's Annual Audit and received updates on the gifted program and the work of the calendar committee.

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, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. The tentative agenda includes an update on Goal Three (In Head and Heart) of the strategic plan, the career and technical education curriculum self-study and the first discussion about the development of the 2022-2023 budget.

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey and Ali Lenger.



It's important to celebrate the holiday season and enjoy all the great food there is to offer. You can have your favorite foods while still maintaining a balanced and healthy diet. Included below are a few tips to help with having a nutritious and healthy winter break:

- Engage in fun winter activities with friends and family such as sledding, ice skating, etc.
- Drink lots of water to keep your body hydrated!
- Find healthy snacks you can add into your holiday meals such as veggies with dip or tiny Santa hats made of strawberries, bananas and mini marshmallows.
- Take family walks around your neighborhood to see holiday lights and decorations.

Focus On: Finals Week Preparation

Finals week is upon us again! This can be a stressful time of year for students and their families, but you can make the process much easier with preparation. We've included some

tips below to help:

- **Prepare your Materials:** Flashcards, study guides and other materials are a great way to help retain information besides reading notes.
- **Study Schedule:** Building in time for studying, breaks and sleep helped keep your student organized and on track.
- **Group Study Sessions:** Find other students to form a study group. This can help students stay motivated and prepare for material they may not have otherwise known about.

[Find more tips from FastWeb here.](#)

Calendar

Dec. 20 - 22 - CHS Finals

Dec. 23 - Jan. 4 - Winter Break

Dec. 23 - 24 and Dec. 30 - 31 - District Closed

Jan. 7 - Next Issue of eNews

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

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