

January 29, 2021 | [claytonschools.net](http://claytonschools.net)

## Top Three Things in this Issue:

[A Letter from the Incoming Superintendent](#)  
[Board of Education Election Update](#)  
[SummerQuest and Summer Camp News](#)

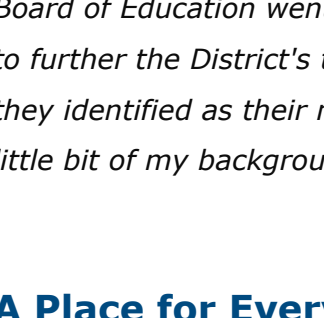
## Important COVID-19 Reminders

**Daily Health Checks** - Parents and guardians are some of our most important partners in keeping students and teachers safe and healthy. Our first line of defense in preventing the spread of coronavirus is performing a wellness check every morning before leaving your house. First, take your child's temperature. If it's higher than 100.4° degrees they should stay home. If their temperature is normal, ask if they are experiencing any of the symptoms listed in the [daily health checks for students and staff](#).

**COVID-19: What To Do When** - Many parents, students and staff have questions about what to do when they learn they are connected in some way to a positive case of COVID-19, whether it's at school, at work or at home. The District has [developed this helpful guide](#) to help understand what you should do when you, your family or a classmate/coworker are exposed or around someone who tested positive for COVID-19. The three most important things to keep in mind are:

- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms.
- Stay home if you have been exposed to (or live with) someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Stay home if someone in your home has symptoms **AND** is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.

## ICYMI...A Letter from the Incoming Superintendent



Last week, the Board announced they had selected Dr. Nisha Patel to serve as the District's next superintendent. You can read the [announcement](#) and [learn more about Dr. Patel](#). The announcement also included a letter to the Clayton community from Dr. Patel. Here it is in case you missed it.

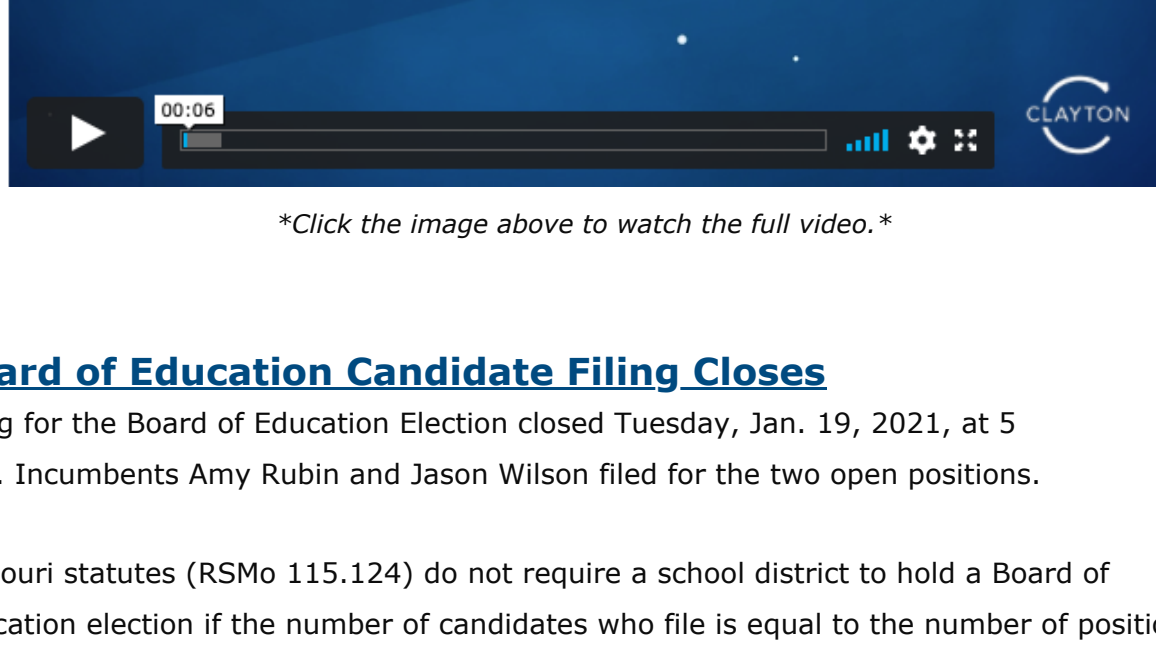
*Dear Clayton Community,*

*It is an honor to be able to introduce myself to you as the next Superintendent of The School District of Clayton. The Clayton Board of Education went through an extensive process to find the right person to continue to further the District's tradition of excellence and I am incredibly humbled to be the one they identified as their next superintendent. I want to take a moment to share with you a little bit of my background. [Continue reading here](#).*

## A Place for Everyone to Grow as Learners in Head and Heart

During the Professional Learning day on Jan. 15, teachers, staff and administrators took some time to focus their learning on the District's new strategic plan. The plan, which was approved by the Board of Education last November, strives to create "a place for everyone to grow as learners in head and heart." But what exactly does it mean to create a place for everyone to grow as learners in head and heart? We asked leaders across the District to talk about what that looks like in their building or their area. Even though it's about nine minutes long, this video provides an inside look into the work being done to take Clayton on a journey from excellent to transformational.

Learn more about the District's strategic plan at [claytonschools.net/strategicplan](http://claytonschools.net/strategicplan).



*\*Click the image above to watch the full video.\**

## Board of Education Candidate Filing Closes

Filing for the Board of Education Election closed Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021, at 5 p.m. Incumbents Amy Rubin and Jason Wilson filed for the two open positions.

Missouri statutes (RSMo 115.124) do not require a school district to hold a Board of Education election if the number of candidates who file is equal to the number of positions to be filled by the election. **No election will be held** and Rubin and Wilson will be sworn in for their new terms in April 2021.

## 2021-2022 District Calendar Approved

At the Jan. 27 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the District calendar for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The proposed calendar mirrors the District's current academic calendar. [Use this link to download a copy of the 2021-2022 calendar](#).

## Parent Speaker Night - Feb. 11

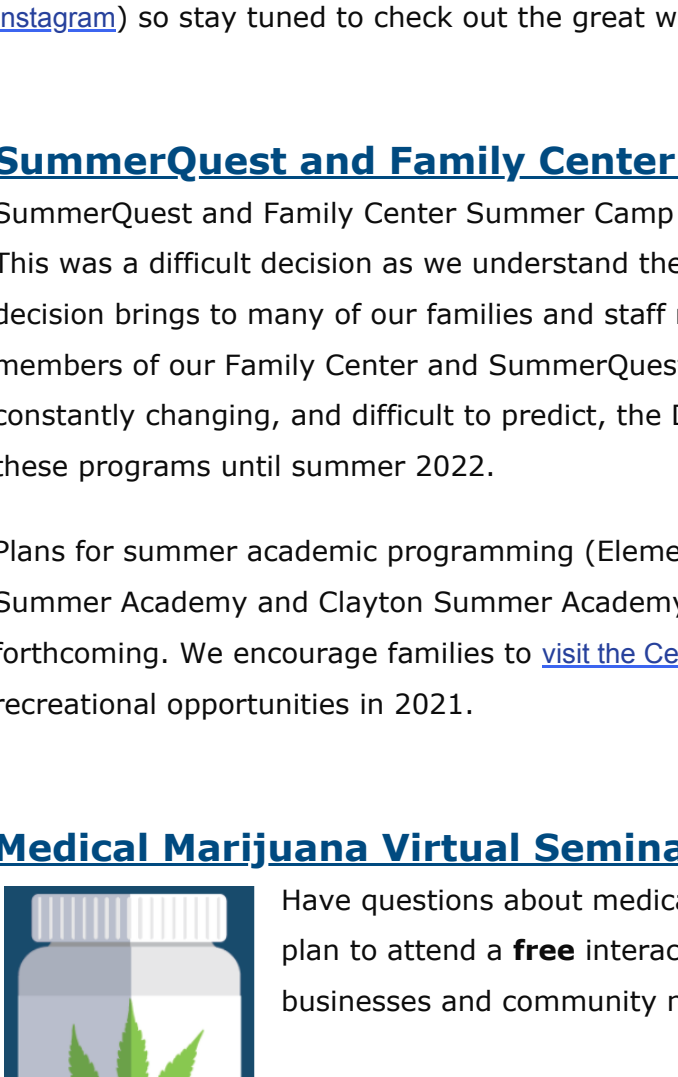


Mark your calendars for **Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.** Dr. Tim Bono, a dynamic speaker and WASHU Psychology professor, will be joining the District again this year for its Parent Speaker Series (sponsored by the District's Parent Education Program).

Dr. Bono will speak virtually for this parent night event, titled *Tools for Resilient Families in Turbulent Times*. He will share new tools from his research about what helps families stay resilient and growing through the turbulent times we are living in.

This virtual event is free but [registration is required](#). Any questions can be [emailed to Jani Holyan](#).

## District Fifth Graders Begin Black History Month Video Project



Starting next week, Clayton students will be celebrating Black History Month. This year Captain, Glenridge and Meramec Elementary fifth graders have been collaborating to create a weekly series of videos highlighting the theme "Black History is Essential."

Each series will consist of one video per day, each week during the month of February **beginning on Monday, Feb.**

1. The series schedule is outlined below:

- Week 1 Series: Black History and Healthcare
- Week 2 Series: Black History and Essential Workers
- Week 3 Series: Black History and Community Leaders
- Week 4 Series: Black History and Black Educators

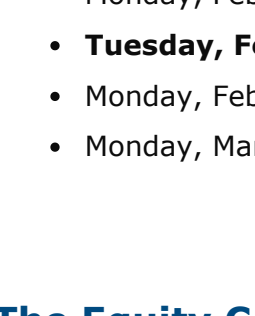
All videos will be promoted on the District's social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)) so stay tuned to check out the great work done by these students.

## SummerQuest and Family Center Summer Camp Canceled

SummerQuest and Family Center Summer Camp have been canceled for summer 2021. This was a difficult decision as we understand the disappointment and hardship this decision brings to many of our families and staff members who have been long-time members of our Family Center and SummerQuest community. With public health guidance constantly changing, and difficult to predict, the District is planning to delay the return of these programs until summer 2022.

Plans for summer academic programming (Elementary Summer Academy, Wydown Summer Academy and Clayton Summer Academy) are underway and more details are forthcoming. We encourage families to [visit the Center of Clayton's website](#) for future recreational opportunities in 2021.

## Medical Marijuana Virtual Seminar - Feb. 23



Have questions about medical marijuana? We have answers. Please plan to attend a **free** interactive virtual seminar for Clayton parents, businesses and community members to discuss.

This Clayton Chamber of Commerce virtual event is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 6 - 7 p.m.** and is sponsored by All In Clayton Coalition, supported by Chapman & Co. Leadership Institute.

A panel of experts in medicine, workplace law and community health will answer questions - providing you with valuable information to make your own informed decisions.

Event registration is required, [please click here](#) to sign up. Zoom information will be emailed to registered participants prior to the event.

[Click here to view an informational flyer](#).

## Grab n' Go Meal Service - 2021 Dates



The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Service is still available to all families of students who are Learn@Home.

Meals are distributed from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the front entrance of Clayton High School.

Distribution takes place on Mondays but is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents' Day**.

Upcoming dates for meal service are:

- Monday, Feb. 1, 2021
- Monday, Feb. 8, 2021
- **Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021**
- Monday, Feb. 22, 2021
- Monday, Mar. 1, 2021

## The Equity Corner

*Lately I have been thinking - what does it look like when we finally have achieved equity? We all have the goal of creating an equitable society and equitable systems. If you had to paint that picture, what would it look like? Can we envision it? Reaching Equity could be like reaching Nirvana. Merriam-Webster gave the following definitions for Nirvana:*

- *The final beatitude that transcends suffering, karma, and samsara and is sought especially in Buddhism through the extinction of desire and individual consciousness.*
- *A place or state of oblivion to care, pain, or external reality.*
- *A goal hoped for but apparently unattainable; a dream.*

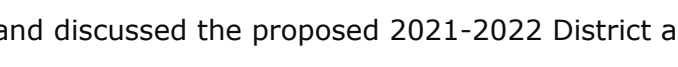
*Nirvana is a place of perfect peace and happiness, like heaven. In Hinduism and Buddhism, nirvana is the highest state that someone can attain, a state of enlightenment, meaning a person's individual desires and suffering go away. Achieving Nirvana is to make earthly feelings like suffering and desire disappear.*

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Equity = Nirvana](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on [Twitter @CP\\_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!

[Cameron Poole](#)

## PAC.ED News



PAC.ED's Inclusive Schools Week contest deadlines have been extended.

All contests and award nominations have been extended **until Friday, Feb. 19**. A date for the awards ceremony date will be set soon. Click the links below to learn more about the Inclusion Awards and for contest submissions.

- [Inclusion Awards](#)
- [Poster Contests](#)
- [Essay Contests](#)

Check out this month's [PAC.ED Events & Information](#). Register for the next Parent Networking Social, the next PAC.ED meeting and more.

## Spring Youth Baseball/Softball Leagues Forming

Registration is open for the Clayton Parks and Recreation's spring 2021 Youth Baseball and Softball Leagues for grades K-8.

The league will follow all youth sports guidance offered by the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and will notify parents of all modifications before the first practice and as any changes occur.

**Registration closes on Friday, Feb. 19.** Practices will begin the weekend of Mar. 13 with games starting the weekend of Apr. 3. [Click here for forms and additional information](#).

## Staff and Student Achievements

WMS eighth grader **Vivian Wang** received an Honorable Mention and a Gold Key award for two art pieces she entered into the prestigious Scholastic Writing and Art Awards. The piece that earned the Gold Key award will advance to the national competition.

**Chris Hwande**, science specialist at Captain Elementary, has been recognized by the Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis with a 2021 Inspiring Teacher Award. She was nominated by a student from a former district whom she inspired to pursue a career in a STEM field.

**Daniel Henderson**, orchestra teacher at Captain Elementary, Wydown Middle School and CHS, has been named as an Outstanding Secondary Educator of the Year for 20-21 by the Missouri American String Teachers Association.

## Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Jan. 27 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education received an equity update, reviewed a number of policies and discussed the proposed 2021-2022 District academic calendar.



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 meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes a review of proposed policy revisions and an update on the District's strategic plan.

**Nutritional Notes**

*From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.*



Oftentimes when we think of our health, we might think of things like cholesterol, blood pressure, weight, etc. But what about brain health?

In addition to vitamins and supplements, there are foods that can help with boosting memory and focus. Keeping your brain in peak working condition is essential since it is the

control center for your body.

Here are a few top foods you can consume to help keep your brain in good shape:

- **Fatty fish** such as salmon, trout and sardines are great because of their Omega-3s.
- **Blueberries** and other deep colored berries contain anthocyanins that have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects.
- **Tumeric** has been shown to boost memory function.
- **Broccoli** is an excellent source for Vitamin K.

**Focus On: Habits to Improve in 2021**

With the new year in full swing, resolutions may begin to fade. Instead of making a "New Year's resolution," try to think of improving old habits for 2021. There are numerous habits to think of and choose from and improving even just a few is super easy.

- Aim to eat one **extra vegetable** per week.
- Park your vehicle further away to **increase your steps**.
- Set aside time for **quiet meditation**.
- Start taking a **daily multivitamin**.
- **Prioritize your sleep** to get as close to 8-hours as possible.

[Click here to read more.](#)

**Calendar**

Jan. 30 - Captain PTO Virtual Bingo Night @ 6 p.m.

**Feb. 10 - Electronic Board of Education Meeting @ 7 p.m.**

Feb. 12 - No School PK-12 / Professional Learning Day

**Feb. 12 - Next issue of eNews**

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