

## CLAYMONT: BEHIND THE SCENES - Care Team

Last month, I shared with you a behind-the-scenes look at some of the extensive data analysis that is regularly conducted by our faculty using common assessments and trend sheets. Those are tools and processes that we use on *all* of our students in both communication arts (reading and writing) and mathematics.

Sometimes, those and other indicators suggest that we need to take a closer look at an individual student to try to identify and diagnose barriers to learning. One avenue we use for an individual child study is the "Care Team."

Our Care Team meets before school one day every week to discuss the needs of individual students. Imagine 10 to 15 professionals sitting around a conference table studying the needs of a single child. It is quite impressive to see the classroom teacher, the counselors, a resource teacher, administrators, a social worker, a diagnostician, the school nurse, a language specialist, a reading specialist, a special class teacher, sometimes parents, and sometimes even more experts all working together to help meet the social or academic needs of a single Claymont student.

The Care Team brings together so many years of experience and areas of expertise—all with the common goal of improving the school experience for an individual child. By the end of the Care Team meeting, the team has studied the existing data and has offered ideas for additional strategies or new methods for working with the child. Sometimes, the team requests additional evaluations in order to gather more data, and always, the teachers and assistants who work with the child are informed of the new strategies or procedures so that the improved program can be implemented immediately.

We care so much about each child at Claymont. The Care Team is just one more tool we use to ensure that we are doing everything we can to help each child grow to his or her potential.

Aaron Wills, Principal

## CLAYMONT CALENDAR

Nov. 5	Hearing Screenings
Nov. 6	NO SCHOOL – State Teachers' Meetings
Nov. 10	Special Connections Meeting – 2:00
Nov. 12	Picture Re-take Day
Nov. 13	NO SCHOOL – Records Day for Teachers
Nov. 16	Book Fair Begins
Nov. 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 19	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 20	Claymont Spirit Wear Day
Nov. 25	Begin Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1	PTO Meeting 6:30pm

To those who served our country,  
past and present, Claymont says,

# Thank you.

**Veterans' Day**  
November 11, 2009



## Claymont Cares

Claymont Cares projects give students and families opportunities to share with others in need. Our next project will be sponsored by fifth graders. They will be collecting clothing and food items for Operation Food Search. Additional information (including the dates and the items needed) can be found later in this newsletter.

## CLICK AND EAT

Parents of Claymont students can now go online and check the itemized list of what their children have purchased in the school cafeteria. Parents can also make payments online or choose to have an automatic withdrawal to cover lunch purchases. Pretty cool, huh? Instructions will be emailed home soon!

**YOUR LUNCH JUST WENT DIGITAL.**



# Get Out Your Beakers!

The **Claymont Science Fair** will take place on January 26. All students are invited to participate. More information coming soon to the Claymont website!

Claymont Science Night

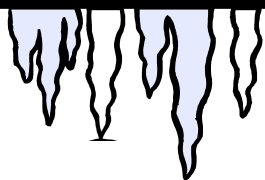
Jan. 26,

Parkway Science Fair

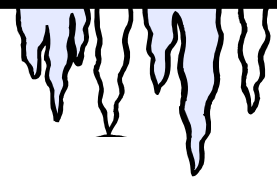
Feb. 26-28.

Greater St. Louis Science Fair

May 4-8.



## BUNDLE UP!



Cold weather is on the way! Please know that even when it is cold, we typically have **outdoor recess**. Please be sure your child has hats, gloves, and other clothing appropriate for the weather.

(And if you don't want to spend hours looking through the Lost and Found or make weekly trips to Kohls, go ahead and put your child's name on gloves, hats, jackets, and coats right now while you're thinking about it.)

## Spotlight on the Web by Patty Roe, Librarian

There's a great source available on PANDA for our Claymont kids to use. It's NetTrekker!!! This is a search engine for child-appropriate websites. It's similar to Yahoo!igans but returns many, many more sites. You can set it to give you websites for elementary, middle, or high school students. Plus, once you find a list of websites, you can "tell" it to show only websites with pictures of your subject or websites with learning games. To use it at home, your child needs a user name and password that they can get from the library. Wow, it doesn't get any better than this!

We also have another plus for those parents who are tired of scouring the house looking for a missing library book only to find out it was returned three days ago. You can check your child's library account through PANDA to find out how many books he or she has and what the titles are. From the PANDA page, click on "Search." On the screen that appears, click on "My Account." The next screen will ask for a user name and password. The user name is your child's library barcode number which you can get by contacting Patty Roe in the Claymont library. The password is the last 4 digits of your home phone number. A screen will appear showing you all you could ever want to know about what your child has checked out from the library. It's almost like standing in front of the library shelves.

Technology is our friend!!

St. Louis Post Dispatch

# Spelling Bee!

All Claymont Elementary Students in **grades 3, 4, and 5** are receiving a **FREE SpellCheck (formerly Spell It)** study guide for the annual St. Louis Post Dispatch Spelling Bee contest. This is your invitation to join in on a great event!

If you are interested in participating in the Spelling Bee, you'll want to keep the **SpellCheck** study guide and review the words. All the words used in both the Claymont written and oral Spelling Bee are included in the **SpellCheck** guide.

Mark your calendars with the following dates:

## Wednesday, January 6, 2010

A written spelling test will be given at Claymont on this date.

## Friday, January 8, 2010

Students who qualify for the oral spelling bee will be notified.

## Friday, January 15, 2010

The Claymont Oral Spelling Bee will be held in the PIT.



HAVE FUN STUDYING!

## *Claymont Enrichment Program*

This month we wanted to tell you a little about our school-wide performances for this school year. As part of our collaboration with *Springboard to Learning* here in St. Louis, we are fortunate to be able to bring professional artists into our building to perform for Claymont students.

### "Tales Worth Telling" with Bobby Norfolk - September 25, 2009:

Students have already been wowed by Bobby Norfolk as he shared his storytelling talents. Bobby shared several fairy tales with students that taught the lessons of responsibility and cooperation. His excitement and ability to make the stories come to life created laughter and brought smiles to students' faces.

### "American Music Songbook" with Jubilee Jazz - May 11, 2010:

Students will join two of St. Louis' top jazz entertainers, Jeanner Trevor and Arvell Keithley, in this exciting program exploring American music from the 1920s to the present. From blues to jazz to musical theater to swing, Jubilee Jazz will highlight the works of various American music greats. Students will participate in an impromptu scat singing session using improvisation skills they have learned in music this year.

## *Physical Education*

In November, fourth- and fifth-grade students will begin playing floor hockey. And how about a big shout out to all the parents who helped get all the rollerblading equipment to school! The kids got a lot of exercise and, judging by all the smiles, had a lot of fun.

Kindergarten, first, second, and third grades are playing games that practice ball-body-target overhand throws. Any home practice will be helpful! Please emphasize keeping the eye on the ball for catching skills. The extra practice will build confidence for class.

## From the Parkway Food Service Department...

We are pleased to add *The Allergy Project* to our website offerings. Ingredient lists from our cafeteria menu items are now available online. We hope this will help parents of children with food allergies make decisions about planning meals.

### How to Get There:

1. Go to the Parkway School District website
2. Click "Lunch Menus"
3. Click "The Allergy Project" and follow the instructions listed.

## DISTRICT NEWS

There are several news items from the Parkway School District including information about Project Parkway which is a major study initiative to set the direction for the future of the school district.

We encourage you to get all the latest news from Parkway online.

Visit: [www.pkwy.k12.mo.us](http://www.pkwy.k12.mo.us)



## Fifth Grade Annual Food and Winter Clothing Drive

Beginning on November 2, fifth graders are conducting a food and winter clothing collection for Operation Food Search, the largest distributor of food in the bi-state region. They distribute more than one million pounds of food and household items each month to local agencies.

Claymont children and their families are asked to support this effort by thinking of the needs of those less fortunate. A donation schedule of items allows each family to lend a hand throughout the month.

November 2-30	New winter clothing such as gloves, hats, scarves, socks, sweaters, and gently worn winter coats for adults and children.
November 2-6	Nonperishable breakfast foods (cereal, Pop Tarts, etc.)
November 9-13	Nonperishable lunch foods in unbreakable containers (peanut butter, tuna, soup, etc.)
November 16-20	Nonperishable diner foods in unbreakable containers (boxed dinners, Hamburger helper, dried beans, canned ham, pasta, etc.)
November 23-30	Nonperishable desserts or snack foods (cake mixes, pudding, Pringles, pie filling, etc.)

If your family could use assistance this holiday season, please feel free to contact one of our school counselors or principals. We may be able to find some agencies or other donors who can help. All information will be kept confidential of course.

Likewise, if you would like to help out when there is a need, please let us know that as well.

# Claymont Staff Trivia

## Last Month's Question

**Q:** Which Claymont teacher taught in the Philippine Islands for 5 years?  
(And also in Japan for 3 more!)

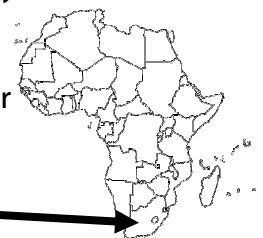
**A:** First-grade teacher,  
**Mrs. Rovin!**



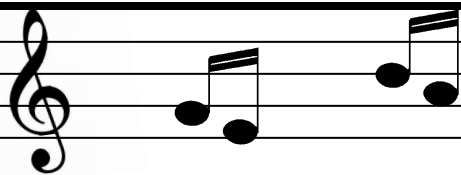
## This Month's Question

This geography category is fun! How about another one!

**Q:** Which Claymont teacher was born and raised in South Africa?



Answer in next month's newsletter.



## News from the Music Room

Kindergarten students have been having fun as they sing and move to the beat of the music. Through movement, students have been learning to feel the beat of the music. The focus will now shift to hearing the rhythm of the music and the differences between beat and rhythm. The concepts of fast vs. slow and high vs. low will be a focus in the coming weeks as well.

First grade students have been aurally identifying the beat and rhythm of music. Much of our focus will be on recognition of the long and shorts sounds within a rhythm. We will reinforce our work with rhythm as we work in the computer lab with our Music Ace software. As we move into the new year we will be adding many instruments as we work on identifying the timbre or tone color of the music. Many of the songs that we use in class will be performed at our winter concert to be held on **Tuesday, February 9** at 7:00 p.m. in the Claymont gym.

Students in second grade have just finished working in the computer lab as they have begun working with rhythm notation. Ask your child what quarter notes and eighth notes are. During the next couple of months students will be spending time with rhythm percussion instruments as they reinforce their playing of these new and challenging rhythms.

Third-grade students have been working with rhythm and form in music. They have been reading and playing rhythms on percussion instruments. The rhythmic work continues to get more challenging as we move through third grade. Students have also learned several folk dances that have helped in our study of music and its form.

The fourth-grade class will be presenting their World Folk Demonstration on **Tuesday, December 15** at 7:00 p.m. Classes have danced, played instruments and been singing folk songs passed down from generations before them. Throughout the study of these folksongs and dances students have learned that music has shape to it. We call this "form" and the fourth-grade students have become excellent listeners when it comes to determining the form of a piece of music. Students will share their folksongs and dances with their parents at their December presentation. Don't be surprised if we have a little audience participation.

Fifth grade started the year by focusing on music reading skills. This will prepare students for their middle school music curriculum. Much of our time in fifth grade is spent combining all the concepts that have been acquired since kindergarten to create quality music. Students will begin studying the human voice and learning why each of us has a very unique voice quality. Much time will be spent working with harmony in the coming months to prepare students who may be participating in a musical ensemble setting in the sixth grade.

Have you heard your child talk about special Fridays in music class? If not, then ask them about it. All students in grades K-5 are learning about jazz when they have music on a Friday. These Fridays are spent learning how to feel the jazz beat and then move, play and create jazz music. Students have enjoyed moving to our swing music.

-Kim Cowell

Are You Looking for Extra

# Math

Practice for Your Young Children?

The Parkway Math Department is strongly endorsing the concepts behind a new web application, Dreambox Math. The concepts and activities presented are based upon the same developmental math theories as Parkway's adopted math curriculum. Dreambox is subscription-based and costs around \$14 per month. It is appropriate for students in **grades K-2**. (Or even as a head start for younger siblings!)

Take a look at [www.Dreambox.com](http://www.Dreambox.com) to see if this program might be right for your child.

Please keep in mind that there are other free math sites on the web, but most do not necessarily follow the developmentally-appropriate methodologies found at Dreambox.