

# The Red Review

14-15 February Vol. 6

clarksonpublicschools.org

## From the Administrator's Desk

By Rich Lemburg

As we end the month of January, it has been nice to be blessed with some spring like weather to help shorten the winter season as we get to Ground Hogs Day and the month of February. This is the time of the year where basketball is starting to wind up as we go through the conference and sub-district tournaments for the high school teams and Jr. Hi and Youth teams are winding up there seasons with their final tournaments. Basketball season can be crazy and hectic but it is important to remember how extra-curricular activities such as basketball are great in teaching life lessons to our kids. They are able to learn about teamwork and working together to achieve team goals, time management, competition, dealing with disappointment and joy, goal setting and many other items. All of these are great life lessons and are important in becoming a successful and happy adult.

Speaking of extra-curricular activities this is the time of year in which the Clarkson Speech team is beginning their competition season. This year we have 20 students competing under the guidance of Troy Mach and Tiffany Baumert. This year's team is looking to continue to build on last year's great season and success and are off to a great start by bringing home 16 medals from the Boone Central meet. If you haven't gone to a speech meet or performance I would encourage you to attend. It is a great experience to watch students put themselves in situations where they step outside themselves to compete. You will find our speech meet events on our online calendar at [clarksonpublicschools.org](http://clarksonpublicschools.org)

Another major event in February is the State Dance Competition; the Patriot Dance Team will compete at the State Dance and Cheer Competition on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Grand Island. The members of the Patriot Dance Team are Kaitlyn Dlouhy, Hannah Hake, Shelby Fuhr, Rachel Rupprecht, Karmen Hake, and Kenzie Noonan. We wish them the best of luck as they compete against schools from across the state.

**There will be a change to the calendar on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. We will NOT be having elementary school, grades K-6, as our teachers will be gone for a Reading Workshop in Kearney. We will still have Pre-School and high school classes on that date.**

## Pop Tabs Contest For Elementary Students

It is that time of year again when the Clarkson Women's Club will be doing a pop tab contest for the elementary students. The contest helps raise money for the Ronald McDonald House and will run through the end of March. The club will give prizes to the classroom with the most weight in tabs. Please help out your elementary students collect the tabs and bring them to school! Good Luck to all grades!

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## PE News

By Jim Clarkson

Welcome to the cold dark winter. Sometimes it is hard to get motivated but we all must get up with some passion and enthusiasm and attack the day. That is exactly what we are doing each day in our PE classes. As I type this we are wrapping up our Jump Rope for Heart unit in the Elementary. I would like to thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause. Heart disease is a serious issue, even had a scare in my own family recently, so I appreciate anyone who helped make it a successful campaign for our school once again. In the High School we are kind of all over the place. With PE1 we are finishing up a Team Handball unit, here is a short video of some game play if you are interested in what the game looks like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8chluNRSbzQ>

We are also hitting the weights hard in strength training classes and we are doing some card games in lifetime activities. In the near future we have some badminton and archery. So it should be a fun few weeks. Have a great winter and remember to get out and do some physical activities and embrace the grind. Below is a link to some 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders jump roping. Go Pats!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKY2XC-qdro>

## Counselor's Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

### EducationQuest – College Planning Bulletin

#### It's FAFSA Time!

If you're a college-bound senior, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you wish to be considered for state, federal and college-based financial aid. Submit the form before your college's FAFSA priority date (typically between March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>) as some financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served. Check with your college to learn their specific date.

#### Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA:

- (1) Complete your taxes early as the FAFSA requires current tax information. Within three weeks after you and your parents file your tax forms, your IRS data should be available to retrieve and transfer into your

FAFSA through the IRS Data Retrieval process.

- (2) Gather these student and parent items:

- 2014 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2014 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding your home and retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate)
- 2014 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2014 Workers' Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2014 such as housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

- (3) Be prepared to answer the following FAFSA question:

Did you or anyone in your household receive any of the following federal benefits?

- Supplemental Security Income
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- Free or Reduced Price Lunch
- WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)

- (4) Complete and file the FAFSA at [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) The colleges you list on the application will receive the results and then determine awards.

If you are filing the FAFSA for the first time and would like free personal help, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to set up an appointment: Omaha 888-357-6300, Lincoln 800-303-3745, Kearney 800-666-3721, or Scottsbluff 800-303-3745 ext. 6654.

## Join EducationQuest for a FAFSA Completion Webinar

This free webinar will walk you through the FAFSA and help you complete the form. Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm central time. For sign up information go to [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org) and the password is college.

### Check out these FAFSA tools!

Visit the FAFSA Tools section at EducationQuest.org where you'll find:

- College Funding Estimator – estimates your FAFSA results
- FAFSA Demo – walks you through the online FAFSA
- FAFSA Checklist – provides a list of items you need to gather before you complete the FAFSA
- FAFSA Tutorial – explains each FAFSA question

### Apply for EducationQuest's Scavenger Hunt Scholarship!

Apply by March 31<sup>st</sup>, you could earn \$500 toward your college education! Here's how it works:

1. If you haven't already, complete a profile in ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org. ScholarshipQuest is a scholarship search tool with over 2,000 Nebraska-based awards.
2. If you are a Nebraska resident in grades 9-12, you will see the EducationQuest Scavenger Hunt Scholarship as one of the scholarships that will appear on your results page.
3. "Scavenge" around the EducationQuest website to find answers to questions in a survey.
4. EducationQuest will draw a winner from those who answer all questions correctly. The winner will receive \$500 to invest in a NEST 529 College Savings Plan.

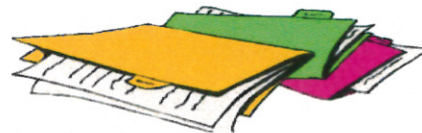
### February "To Do" List

#### Seniors:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete student and parent 2014 tax returns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to apply for scholarships.

#### Juniors:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Register by March 13<sup>th</sup> for the April 18<sup>th</sup> ACT.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take advantage of the John Baylor ACT test prep resources at Clarkson by talking to Mrs. Kappel.



## Business/Technology News

By Matt Murren

What a fantastic start we've had to the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the business and technology world! Classes are flying along and the seniors in Personal Finance are checking the stock market prices regularly. We've recently re-configured the access points here at school within the classrooms so student's computers should be flying with speed as they put them to use!

Web Design is working hard on maintaining and adding to the school website at [www.clarksonpublicschools.org](http://www.clarksonpublicschools.org). Be sure to check out any of the highlights on the main page or right side of the page as we continually update with school activities and highlights. Also, check out the "What's New At Clarkson" under the schools tab to watch videos of happenings throughout the school.

Multimedia just recently completed a commercial for the Clarkson Bakery that is up on the website and the students (Bradley Bunner, Cassie Harper, and Adam Przybylski) did a fantastic job, "If it's not Clarkson Bakery, don't eat it!" They are currently working on their script for the full-length film they will produce and we mix up it up with some Improv days occasionally that they really enjoy.

Accounting I and II have workbook papers flying everywhere with how hard they are working on their Application and Mastery Problems throughout the chapters. They are doing a great job of picking up content and mastering the work. Junior High computers are wrapping up here with two weeks left in the trimester but the 7<sup>th</sup> graders just completed their "How To" videos. Be sure to look them up on the website to watch and enjoy! Check out their group commercials as well.

Personal Finance is working on the investment portion of the class and is in the going through the Pre-Lesson Stock Market Game right now. All students were allotted \$50,000 of fake money to buy between 4-15 different stocks. They are enjoying watching these stocks grow or angry with them dropping. The pre-lesson game concludes on January 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a guest speaker, Luke Simons, from Thrivent Financial speaking to the class about investments on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

As always, hope all is well, and remember, "It's A Great Day To Be A Patriot!"

# English News

By Lynn Morfeld

The juniors have been focusing on American texts from the early 1800s - Romantic & Transcendental literature. No, not the lovey-dovey romantic stories with racy cover photos! Literature of the New England Renaissance focused on three key ideas: individualism, spirituality, and nature. Essays from Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson and short stories from Edgar Allen Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne have been analyzed.

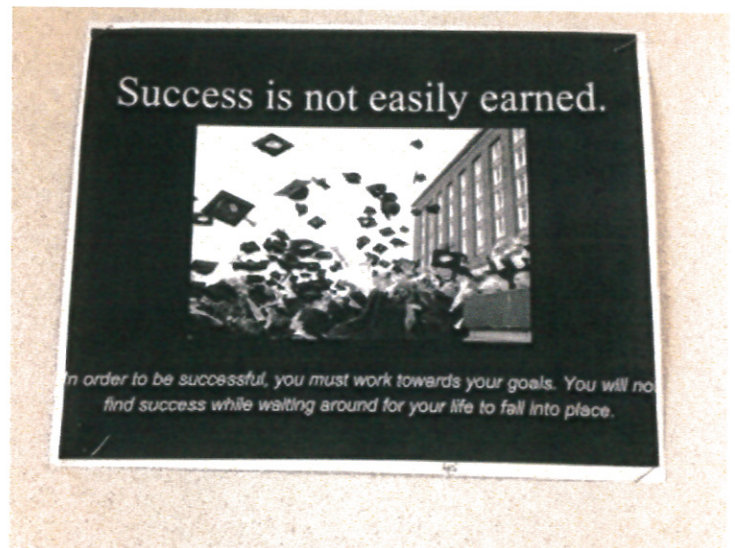
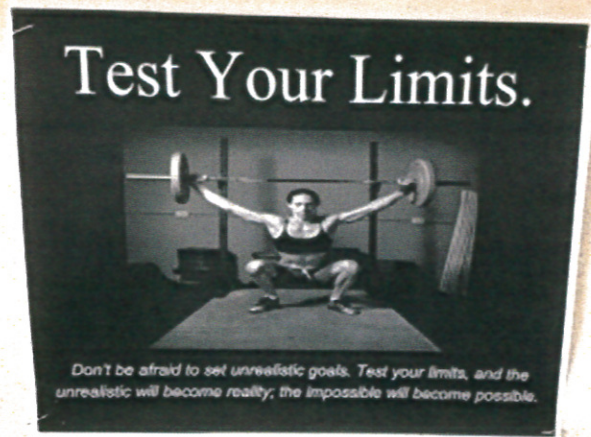
Despite some of the difficult language, this unit is an excellent way for high school students to start thinking about the BIG picture. Not just high school, or even college - but what their role is in society and the universe. The idea of individualism has been a major theme these past months. I really hope the students will take to heart what is read.

After reading Thoreau's *Walden*, students were asked to focus on the three following quotes. Some students created posters and some wrote short stories to exemplify their favorite. Thanks, Marissa Heins, for some "print-worthy" posters!

*"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with success unexpected in common hours."*

*"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."*

*"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far way."*





# Clarkson Public

## Schools Lunch Menu

Menu Subject to  
change.

# February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
	B-egg cheese bun L-popcorn chicken	B-bkf combo L-tacos	B-chicken patty L-meatball sub	B-sausage egg biscuit L-honey chicken drummies	B-Clarkson Bakery L-chicken tacos	
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
	B-bacon sausage pizza L-BBQ pork	B-omelet & sausage L-chicken patty	B-French toast & sausage L-sub sandwich	B-homemade burrito L-chicken tenders	NO SCHOOL	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	B-biscuits & gravy L-corn dogs	B-pancake sausage stick L-chicken fajita	B-ham egg biscuit L-quesadilla	B-pizza L-roasted chicken	B-Clarkson Bakery L-pizza	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	B-muffin L-hamburgers	B-burrito L-grilled chicken patty	B-ham egg croissant L-ribique	B-homemade bkf pizza L-chili	B-omelet & sausage L-chicken nuggets	
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14

# Calendar Events February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 JH Girls & Boys Basketball 1:30 St. Edward at Leigh EHC Conference Basketball Tournament, TBA C Team Boys Basketball 5:30 at Madison	3 EHC Conference Basketball Tournament, TBA	4	5 JV Wrestling Tourney 5:00 at York EHC Conference Basketball Tournament, TBA	6 High School Teacher Meeting 7:45 a.m. EHC Conference Basketball Tournament, TBA Wayne Honor Choir NHS Blood Drive 11:30-5:00	7 Conference Wrestling Tourney 9:00 a.m. at Crete FHA State Degree Interview & Proficiency Review ACT Test Date Speech meet at Windside EHC Conference Basketball Tournament, TBA JH Honor Band and Choir Day at Slanton
8	9 EHC Band Clinic School Board Meeting C Team Basketball 6:00 Madison at Leigh JH Girls and Boys Basketball 3:30 Humphrey St. Francis at Leigh	10 Parent/Teacher Conference 5:00-8:00 pm	11	12 PreK-12 teacher meeting 7:45 a.m. Marathon Basketball 4:30 at Stanton JH Boys Basketball 3:45 Madison at Leigh 1:00 Dismissal	13 Speech meet at Lindsay Holy Family NO SCHOOL Wrestling Districts, TBA	14 Speech meet at Humphrey JH Boys Basketball 9:30 Twin River at Monroe Wrestling Districts, TBA
15	16 Girls Basketball Subdistricts, TBA	17 Girls Basketball Subdistricts, TBA	18	19 Girls Basketball Subdistricts, TBA State Wrestling Tournament	20 Boys Basketball 5:30 Cedar Bluffs at Clarkson State Wrestling Tournament Newsletter article deadline	21 Speech meet at Wisner- Pijger C Team Boys Basketball Tourney 9:00 at Slanton State Wrestling Tournament State Dance/Cheer Competition
22	23 Boys Basketball Subdistricts, TBA 1:00 Dismissal (Teacher in- service)	24 Boys Basketball Subdistricts, TBA	25	26 Boys Basketball Subdistricts, TBA	27 Girls Basketball Districts, TBA NO ELEMENTARY - Preschool will still have Classes.	28 JH Honor Band at York C Team Boys Basketball Tourney 9:00 at Slanton

# It Matters: Motivation

## Motivation tools that work: goals, talks & teachers



People do their best work when they are self-motivated. That is, when the desire to achieve comes from within them, not because someone has threatened a punishment or even dangled a reward in front of them.

But many middle school students still need help becoming motivated when it comes to schoolwork. So be your child's partner in this effort. Here's how:

- **Create a list of goals.** Your child should list each of his classes, and next to each of them, a goal. What grade would he like to see on his next report card? Encourage him to aim high but be realistic.
- **Have a daily talk.** Use the goal list as a conversation starter. Ask your child questions such as, "Is there homework in the class? Did you turn in today's homework? When is the next test, quiz or project? Did you get any tests or quizzes back?"
- **Stay in touch with teachers.** Request their input on how your child is doing. Emphasize to your child that he, you and the school are in a three-way partnership. It is important for your child to know you and his teachers care deeply about his success. Having caring partners promotes motivation. Thinking no one cares promotes discouragement.

Source: M. Whitley, "Motivating students to improve achievement," CNN, [niscw.com/goals\\_talks](http://niscw.com/goals_talks).

## Inspire your middle schooler with a bit of guidance & love

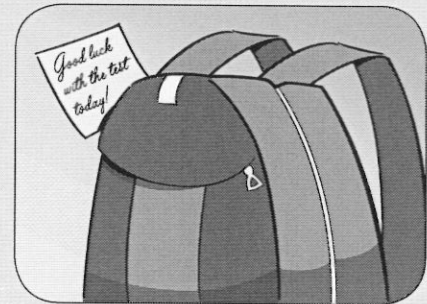
**W**ant to send your child to school ready and eager to learn each day? Let her know that you've got her back! In other words, make sure she feels loved and supported at home.

According to research, kids who enjoy strong relationships with adults:

- **Feel safer** and have a sunnier outlook than kids who don't.
- **Are less likely** than other kids to cheat on a test.
- **Feel healthier** and happier than other kids.
- **Believe they'll succeed** in the future.
- **Are nine times likelier** than other kids to earn straight A's in school.

What's the best way to show your child your love? When asked in a survey, students said they'd like their parents to:

- **Take an interest** in schoolwork.
- **Really listen** when they have something to say.



- **Meet their teachers** and learn about their classes.
- **Stop comparing** them to others.
- **Be good role models.**
- **Spend more time together** just having fun as a family.
- **Avoid lecturing** about mistakes.
- **Treat them with respect.**
- **Encourage them to do well** in school and elsewhere.
- **Set reasonable rules** and limits.
- **Notice when they do things right.**
- **Offer guidance.**

Source: A. Jackson and others, *Making the Most of Middle School: A Field Guide for Parents and Others*, Teachers College Press.

## Try turning to technology to motivate your middle schooler



Studies show that students are more motivated to learn when they are actively engaged in that learning.

And one of the best ways to engage them is by using technology.

When your child is studying, she can type vocabulary words and their definitions on a computer. When she has a reading assignment, she can use a tablet to type her notes.

And if your child has a project, she can head to the library and use the Internet to do research. When your child uses technology to gather data, experts say she:

- **Improves her ability** to analyze facts and predict outcomes.
- **Becomes a "real-world" learner.**
- **Sharpens problem-solving skills.**

Source: "Using Technology to Motivate Middle School Students," *Teaching Today*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, [niscw.com/technology\\_homework](http://niscw.com/technology_homework).