

Clark Monthly NJ

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Issue 5 • January 2012

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JANUARY 25TH
8:30 am
Hosted by Superintendent of schools Ken Knops
A.L. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA ROOM

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CRUSADER ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IS FORMED

Submitted by Gus Kalikas, CAA, Supervisor of Athletics, Physical Education, and Health, Arthur L. Johnson H.S.

The Crusader Athletic Leadership Council is an organization that has been founded to help educate our student athletes on some of the expectations that we have for them as they compete interscholastically in a variety of athletics. We hope that by informing this council of some of our expectations, we will be able to foster an open and healthy relationship amongst our student athletes, the school culture, and the community of Clark.

The Crusader Athletic Leadership Council met on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at Arthur L. Johnson High School, where numerous members of Crusader Alumni discussed a variety of topics with the council. The Crusader Alumni Panel consisted of:

- Oliver Haney '07. First Team All State Football. School Record in Shot-put. 3 sport athlete. Syracuse Football.
- Matt Klimchack '09. All State & All American in Lacrosse as a senior.
- Cassandra Martin '09. Won 2011 DIII National Championship in Field Hockey for CNJ.
- Victoria Martin '11. Won 2011 DIII National Championship in Field Hockey for CNJ. First Team All County & All State Field Hockey.

- Brian Megill '09. All County in Football as a senior. All State & All American in Lacrosse as a senior. 3 sport athlete. Syracuse Lacrosse - 2nd Team All American.
- Alec Ochocki - '08. Three time Fencing State Champion in high school. 3 sport athlete. NCAA Team & Individual National Champion as a freshman at Penn State.
- Matt Poskay '02. First Team All State in Football. All State & All American in Lacrosse as a senior. 3 sport athlete. National High School Record Holder for most goals. Four year starter UVA (2 National Championships). 2010 MLL MVP. Won 2011 MLL Championship with the Boston Cannons. Recently named Head Coach at Wagner.
- Jessica Rusin '09. First Team All County & All State Field Hockey. Three sport athlete in high school. Was 2nd in scoring for Quinnipiac University Field Hockey.
- Shannon Syciarz '08. First Team All County & All State Field Hockey. 3 sport athlete. Four year starter who started every game of her collegiate career. Won 2011 DIII National Championship in Field Hockey for CNJ.
- Rob Smorol '09. First Team All County Baseball. Pitched as a true freshman for RU, making 27 relief appearances. Last year started 14 games for RU and had 66 strikeouts.



(above) Members of the 2011-2012 Crusader Athletic Leadership Council: Nicole Beyer, Karen Blacklock, Becky Brattole, Bianca Briscese, Nicole Brougham, Nick Buccarelli, John Caliguire, Nick Campione, Michael Cieslak, Joana Couto, Alexa Cupo, Jonathan Darpino, Sal Demarzo, Ali Dugan, Kevin Eipel, Tyler Faede, John Ferrentino, Taylor Foster, Jenna Fraser, Dan Hogan, Nicole Imbriaco, Samorri Johnson, Rich Krumphold, Taylor McSorley, Alison Meagher, Alexandra Melvin, John Messina, Kyle Mogensen, Brian Moran, Dan Mullin, Nick Mullery, Sean Myers, Lance Pecina, Sarah Panetta, Tara Roach, Samantha Rodrigues, Amanda Rusin, Jeff Siessel, Michele Smorol, John Stauffer, Michael Viera, Amanda Wnorowski, Adam Zalewski, Andrew Zub.

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SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB IN VITES NEW MEMBERS

The Senior Citizens Club of Clark welcomes residents and non-residents 55+ to join them at their weekly Wednesday meetings, September through June, at the Polish Cultural Foundation located at 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ from 11:30 to 1:30. At every meeting, members enjoy a social hour with refreshments, a formal meeting, and bingo. Special events and day trips are also planned throughout the year.

For information, contact Dorothy Grysko at 732-381-8526.

(right, l-r) The Senior Citizens Club of Clark recently enjoyed a visit from Santa at their weekly meeting. Louise Lipari, Josephine Vincenti, Santa and Santa's helper.



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ST AGNES DEDICATES NEW CENTER

St Agnes Parish, along with St Agnes School, in Clark will celebrate the feast of their patron Saint, St Agnes, with a dedication mass and celebration of the newly constructed Community Center on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

The Most Rev. Manuel A. Cruz, Regional Bishop for Union County will preside and preach the 12:00 noon Mass. Bishop Cruz will then lead the procession to the Community Center for a special blessing. The new Community Center also serves as a brand new gymnasium for the St Agnes School students. This center is designed to embrace the Church, School and the entire Parish community.

We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate this wonderful addition to our Parish. Athletes from both St Agnes School and the St. Agnes CYO Program will also attend and join in the festivities following the dedication. The Clark Knights of Columbus #5503 will host a free throw contest for children ages 10-14. A reception will follow in the Sister Claire Ouimet Auditorium.



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GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS PERFORM IN 'TRAVEL AMERICA' AT UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

Fourth Grade Students in Mrs. Cindy Tarello's Gifted and Talented Program from both Frank K. Hehnlly and Valley Road Elementary Schools in Clark attended the Union County Gifted and Talented Association's Convocation titled, "Travel America" at Union County College in Cranford. The students met and worked collaboratively with the gifted and talented students from Linden, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Cranford, Roselle, Roselle Park, Kenilworth, Mountainside, and Springfield elementary schools. The children worked in a

team effort to successfully complete the challenge of finding solutions to geography questions. The teams located the answers to these questions by using maps, almanacs, and atlases. Each time the teams completed a set of questions correctly, they filled out a 'Travel Pass' which indicated a National Park they visited on their imaginary trip across the United States. After that activity, the students continued to work with students from other districts on creating an original slogan and poster that encouraged tourism to the State of New Jersey.



(left, back row l-r) Clark Fourth Graders
Ryan LaRosa,
Matthew O'Connor,
Bobby Lukasiewicz,
and Christian Festa;
(middle row)
Jennifer Gannon,
Kaitlyn Greenhill,
Isabella Genova,
Jessica King,
and Julia Huff;
(back row)
Ryan LaRosa,
Matthew O'Connor,
Bobby Lukasiewicz,
and Christian Festa.

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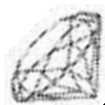
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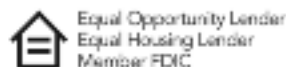
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CLARK POP WARNER CHEERLEADERS BRING HOME NATIONAL TROPHY

It's a proud time for Clark's "Silver, Blue and White" Crusader Cheerleaders. For the first time in Clark Pop Warner history, a Clark cheer squad, the Midget Large Novice team, earned the privilege of competing in the National Pop Warner Cheer Championships in Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida in December.

The Midget squad, consisting of 27 seventh and eighth graders, began preparing for competition in August, in addition to performing at the Clark Pop Warner Midget football games all season. En route to Nationals, the Midgets won first place in the local Raritan Valley competition in October. Moving on to the Metro Qualifiers in late October, the Midgets took second place. Finally, at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Championship in November, with stiffer competition and a larger pool of competitors from several states, the Clark Midget squad placed runner up to last year's 2010 National Champions, the Riverside Bulldogs. Only the top two Eastern Region winners in each division advances to Nationals.

"What an incredible moment it was to hear the Clark Crusader name announced at Regionals. These girls work so hard and have dreamed of that moment for years," said Coach Melissa Sapia.

Winning an opportunity to compete on the national stage was a thrilling high point for the girls, some of whom have cheered for Clark Pop Warner for eight years since age five. Then placing fourth Nationally in Walt Disney World was truly a dream come true. Some girls will be leaving the Pop Warner program after this season, as Clark's program ends after eighth

grade. This was a wonderful way to end their career with Pop Warner.

On the mat during the National Championship, the girls performed flawlessly. Despite many injuries and illnesses that plagued their season, the team really pulled together and gave it their all, executing a trophy-winning performance. "What a proud moment for these girls. This will be a memory of a lifetime for them," said Coach Kim Shriner.

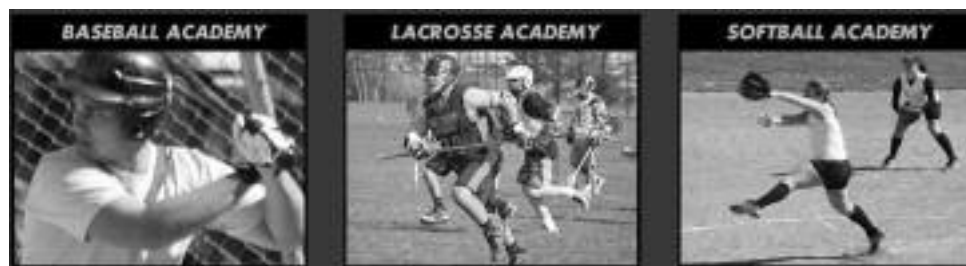
The Midgets brought home the fourth place trophy, beating the 2010 National Champions they had taken second place to at Eastern Regionals, and placing behind teams from Massachusetts, Florida and Connecticut. The point spread between second, third and fourth

place was 0.79 percent, an extremely tight margin.

This win is a rousing tribute not only to the girls who worked so hard, but also to Pop Warner Cheer Coordinators Justine Petronella and Melissa Sapia, Coach Kim Shriner, and Junior Coaches Carly Koppel, Ali Dugan and Amanda Ciccone. Their many volunteer hours of planning, practices and encouragement guided and challenged the girls to rise to their potential on the mats this year, leading them to the National stage. The Midgets have now set a precedent and left a legacy for the younger Clark Cheer squads, who will cheer with dreams of Disney in their hearts as they grow through the Pop Warner program.



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GIRL SCOUT TROOP BENEFIT FOOD PANTRY

On Monday, December 11th, Girl Scout Troop 249, from Frank K. Hehnly arrived at the St. John Food Pantry ready for thier task. The troop immediately got to work, opening boxes and organizing all the donated items. Within two hours, the girls finished assemblng over 200 Gift Bags, that were handed out to the Men, Women and children of the food pantry during the week of Christmas.

Director MaryAnn Fiorello could not thank

the girls enough! She gratefully stated "What a tremendous help to the pantry during this very busy time of year! An awesome job was done by all the girls: Leaders Christine Thornton, Alison Gull & Kelly Bowen. Jenna Thornton, Grace Gull, Lily Gull, Ally Bowen, Bella Venezia, Jackie Minniti, Krista Angelo, Samantha Hodovance, Marissa Feehan, Julia Schelhorn, Mary Nadolsky, Jessica King and Nicole Randazza."



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At the completion of her rehabilitation, Dorothy was discharged home to resume her active life there and in the community. She's climbing stairs, doing laundry, cooking and is independent again. Dorothy made her stay at Clark even more productive by designing and crafting earrings to donate to her church sale. Now at home, she is making more jewelry and creating decorative pillows as well. In addition to the Rehabilitation Team, Dorothy's recovery was aided by excellent care from our nursing, dietary and social work teams.

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(above) the Scipioni's of 17 Runnymedewon third prize for All Around Favorite.

HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Clark recreation held its Annual Holiday Home Decorating contest. There was an abundance of entries this year (29) homes entering the contest. After a record number of votes, the following homes were announced as the winners in three categories and received a lawn sign announcement, a \$50 gift certificate plus of course bragging rights. Because there were so many homes that entered and for the first time a tie in one category – four winners were selected.

Most outrageous went to 458 Madison Hill Rd – the Kosmoski's, Most traditional was a tie – so two winners were presented – 8 Gloria St – the Maloney's and 44 Runnymede – the Perez's.

The Passuth's at 17 Starlite Dr also had many votes but have already won last year in this category. The third prize for All Around Favorite went to 17 Runnymede – the Scipioni's.

We congratulate each of the winners and thank them for participating. "The idea behind this event is to bring unity to the township, create some fun and competition and above all allow families to drive around for a fun family night outing," said Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo.

Other honorable mentions that you won't want to miss with quite a few votes are 34 Skylark, 774 Featherbed Ln, 30 School St, 94 Jupiter St, and 46 Emerald Pl.

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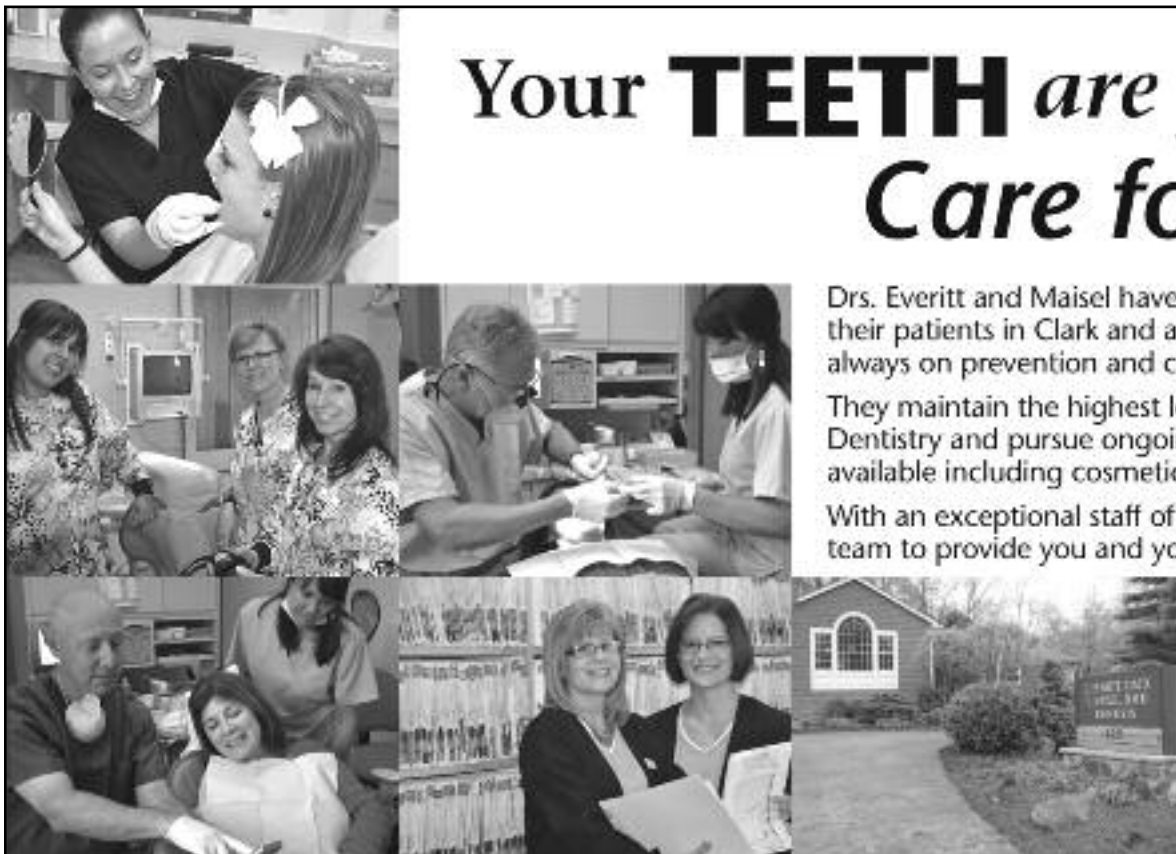



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2ND GRADERS DEMONSTRATE GENEROSITY

In the spirit of the Holidays, second grade students in Frank K. Hehny Elementary School in Clark, decided to donate their class gift money to charity rather than receive gifts themselves. Teacher Ellen Tamburino also chose to donate her holiday class gift. The class

decided to donate to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in memory of Nicole Marzano, a 19 year old Clark resident who was in a tragic car accident on October 30, 2011. Nicole was the salutatorian of the 2011 graduating class of Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark.



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The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of CM, photo albums, and advertisements.

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PETERSON IS STUDENT AMBASSADOR FOR TCNJ



Kenilworth native Jennifer Peterson, now living Clark was recently selected by the student body as a final five candidate for Homecoming Queen at The College of New Jersey. She was honored during the halftime ceremony at the football game vs. Montclair State University. Jennifer is currently a senior and is completing a dual major in Elementary Education and Math, Science, Technology. She is a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma national sorority and Kappa Delta Pi, the Education Honor Society. Jennifer also works as a student ambassador for the college. She is currently student teaching second grade in Hillsborough and will be graduating in May.

AMERICAN LEGION CHRISTMAS PARTY

Clark American Legion, Post #328, celebrated the 60th annual children's Christmas party at the post home on Westfield Ave. The children and grandchildren of the members, were treated to a balloon show, Christmas music, ice cream, hot dogs, gifts and of course Santa Claus.

AMERICAN LEGION WANTS YOU AS A MEMBER

Visit Clark American Legion Post #328, 78 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066
Supply a copy of your DD-214 or anything else that confirms your Military Duty.
Contact Bill Duffy: Cell (732) 259-5030,
Email: wduff48@hotmail.com,

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(above) Santa with 5 year old Cassidy Salway.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Come in from the cold and check out these free events at the Clark Public Library for people of all ages.

Sunday, February 5th at 2:30 p.m.
Author Jason Edwards presents StoryPlay for children ages 4 - 9.

This entertaining, interactive program is designed so that kids don't just watch and listen to the performance - they become a part of it!

Sunday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m.
Teen Yoga

Learn about the amazing benefits of yoga. Participants should wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat or large towel, and a bottle of water.

Friday, February 17th at 3:15 p.m.
The library Lego Cub
 For children in grades 1 - 6.

Saturday, February 18th at 3:00 p.m.
Family Concert with Patricia Shih
 For ages 4 and up.

Sunday, February 26th at 2:00 p.m.
Hollywood Musicals featuring Skip Ungar.
 Registration is required for all these programs

LIBRARY OFFERS CAREER RESOURCE TO HELP CITIZENS FIND EMPLOYMENT

Clark Public Library now offers Career Transitions, an online advanced career service tool from Gale, part of Cengage Learning. Career Transitions is designed to help public library patrons, even those who have no experience using technology, secure sustainable employment.

In an effort to assist in the economic recovery of the state, the New Jersey State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College, purchased the Career Transitions database for the Clark Public Library, after receiving a federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant.

“Every day more than 300,000 Americans get job-seeking help at their local public library, and they need efficient tools to help them find work,” said Patricia Anderson, Library Director. “With Career Transitions, Clark residents will be able to find the answers they need to improve their chances of finding sustainable employment.”

Career Transitions is a guided, self-paced program that walks users through the entire employment process – assessing strengths and interests, providing information on new opportunities and growing industries, preparing a resume and cover letter, finding educational opportunities and networking advice, performing a comprehensive job search and completing online job applications.

The program includes a guided resume and cover letter creator to help users find a quick and

efficient path to presenting their background and abilities in the best light. The resource also offers custom interview simulation, targeted tips and advice in the form of articles and more than 1,000 videos on job searching and applying, as well as “Day in the Life” interviews with people in different fields. Users can also search for training programs and new career opportunities based on their education level, or previous job or military experience.

To learn more about New Jersey State Library services for job seekers, www.njstatelib.org/ItsTime.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS SEVENTH GRADE STUDENT ACHIEVERS



(above) Superintendent Knops with students Meaghan Gallagher, Ryan King, Sailesh Prasad, and Eric Velasquez.

The Clark Board of Education honored four current seventh grade students who achieved a Top Scale Score of 300 on the Spring, 2011 administration of the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Assessment at the December Board of Education Meeting's Showcase of Success. The honored students were seventh graders Meaghan Gallagher, Ryan King, Sailesh Prasad, and Eric Velasquez.

Each Board of Education Meeting the Board and Administration honor student and/or staff members for achievement within the District. At the December Board Meeting, Superintendent of Kenneth Knops congratulated each of the four 300 scorers for their outstanding achievement, stating "You serve as wonderful ambassadors of the Clark School District, representing yourself, your families, and the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in the finest of fashions." Board of Education President Laura Caliguire then presented each student with a Certificate of Commendation.

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ST JOHN'S SCHOOL EARNS BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Saint John the Apostle School in Clark was recently presented with the 2011 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award by Aba Kumi, Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, at a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Approximately 304 schools were chosen nation-wide "based on their overall academic excellence or for their success in closing achievement gaps."

The two-day affair consisted of round table discussions about preparing the National Common Core Curriculum Standards, in addition to presentations given by the 2011 National Teacher of the Year and the United

States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan.

Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, Principal of Saint John the Apostle School and Mrs. Sharon Osnato, Language Arts Teacher represented their school, and were among those presented with this distinguished national recognition. In addition to these two educators, Father Robert McBride, Pastor of Saint John the Apostle Church, and Mrs. June Butchko, Mathematics Teacher, were also in attendance.

The school was previously recognized by a visit from Congressman Leonard Lance at a celebration held to commemorate this award.



(above, l-r) Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, Principal, Aba Kumi, Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, and Mrs. Sharon Osnato, Language Arts Teacher.

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