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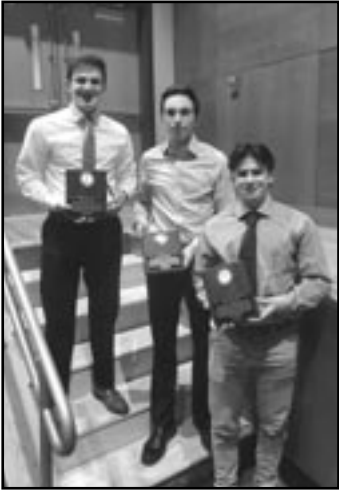
ALJ 2021 WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS

On Tuesday, March 23, 2021, the Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department held their 2020 – 2021 Winter Athletic Awards. The evening, sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club, was held in the Arthur L. Johnson Auditorium.

All the Winter Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while handing out letters and awards to the student athletes. Over 123 varsity athletic letters were handed out throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at Arthur L. Johnson High School continues to grow.

In addition, the Crusader G.P.A. Challenge was awarded to the team that finishes with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the winter season. The recipients were presented with certificates, had their team memorialized on a plaque, and will be invited for a "Breakfast with the A.D." to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields.

Athletic Director Gus Kalikas, had this to say about the event: "Once again, our Winter Awards Program was a successful evening as it allows the District, Administration, and Coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful Winter Sports Season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past winter athletic season."



(above) The Best Teammate Award Winners were: Boys' Basketball - Anthony Ferreira, Girls Basketball - Ashley Samsel, Ice Hockey - Michael DeGregorio, Boys' Winter Track & Field - Matthew Zukowski, Girls' Winter Track & Field - Carly Tarentino, Swimming - Emmalie Pikula, Bowling - Gary King, and Cheerleading - Katie Sapia.

(Additional photos on page 16.)

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The G.P.A. Challenge was for the winter season was awarded to the Crusader Girls' Basketball Team with a G.P.A. of 3.979: (above) Sophia Argenziano, Dominika Kosiek, Sarah Scepkowski, Maria Dante, Kourtney Dente, Sofia DiProfio, Vittoria Grady, Lauren Kolfenbach, Eva Puentes, Ashley Samsel, Gwen Cahill, Krista Labianca, Kaileigh Nettland, Madden Puerari, Madeline Tortorici, Lacey Vill and Kaeley Yurchak.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

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KUMPF STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO UNION COUNTY ARTS PROGRAM

Submitted by Christine Broski

Thirteen students from Carl H. Kumpf Middle School were admitted into the Arts High - Grades 6-8 - 2020-21 program in Union County. The program is designed for students who are gifted in the literary, performing and visual arts.

According to the website, "Arts High is a special release-time program for gifted and talented students, grades 6-12. Students interested in joining the program must audition to participate. It is administered by the Arts & Education Center which has been operating the program in Middlesex County since 1980. The program was expanded to include Monmouth County in 2004 and Union county in 2019. Due to COVID-19, the 2020-21 program will consist of live, interactive virtual classes and be open to students throughout the entire state. Those accepted into the program will receive classes in the literary, performing and visual arts, taught by distinguished teaching artists. The classes are taught at an advanced level, and provide a rigorous curriculum for developing artistic skills and creative expression in the art form of the student's choice. Arts High classes are held from

February to May, with each student scheduled to attend one afternoon per week for a twelve week term in grades 6 through 8."

For more information, go to
artsandedcenter.org/information.php.

Principal Rick Delmonaco stated, "The Middle School of the Arts is such a great opportunity for Kumpf students to expand their love of the arts. I am so happy so many students applied, were accepted and are participating. I am sure they will all enjoy and find this to be a worthwhile experience."

The following students were selected:

Gianna Bianchini, Creative Writing; Melissa Bloom, Visual Arts - Anime/Manga Drawing; Kevin Michael Brady, Musical Theatre; Olivia Reese Fabros, Vocal Music; Kaitlyn Gallagher, Creative Writing; Sebastian Krihak, Visual Arts (Drawing and Painting); Alesandra McFadden, Acting - Scene Study; Ana Oliveira, Vocal Music; Adriana Pereira, Visual Arts (Drawing and Painting); Isabella Rafoa, Acting - Scene Study; Madison Rappa, Visual Arts (Drawing and Painting); Sophia Riccio, The Art of Photography; and Owen Szarszewski, Visual Arts (Drawing and Painting).

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39 King St.	40 John St.	1119 Maurice Ave.	269 Willow Way
56 Lexington Blvd.	77 John St.	1 Longfellow Lane	18 Ginesi Dr.
13 Blake Dr.	17 Hillside Ave.	8 Wendell Place	7 Blake Dr.
213 East Lane	11 Avon Rd.	13 Blake Dr.	43 Willow way
1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4	81 New York Ave.	42 School St.	95 Briarheath Ln.
45 Wendell Pl.	42 Kenneth Pl.	29 Harvey Ct.	
501 Oak Ridge Rd.	303 West Ln.	18 Yorktown Dr.	UNDER CONTRACT
309 Oak Ridge Rd.	1 Kathryn St.	45 Starlite Dr.	1 Rose Ter.
29 Conger Way	29 Hillside Ave.	1538 Franklin St.	40 Ivy St.
13 Florence Dr.	9 Shetland Dr.	40 Conger Way	84 Wheatsheaf Rd.
	12 Yorktown Dr.	15 Ayers Lane	28 Gibson Blvd.

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RUTGERS SCIENCE EXPLORER BUS GOES VIRTUAL

Submitted by Christine Casale Broski

Each year, seventh grade students from Carl H. Kumpf Middle School have the opportunity to participate in a real-life STEM activity in cooperation with Rutgers University. The “Science Bus” usually comes to the Kumpf School each spring and students participate in a hands-on activity with graduate student fellows from Rutgers University. This year with the COVID-19 restrictions, the bus could not visit the school.

However, Rutgers University RSE Senior Program Coordinator, Dr. Patricia Irizarry and Program Assistant, Emmanuel Serrano-Perez, were able to create a virtual learning STEM activity for the middle school students. The activity was presented to the students by the graduate student fellows through a “Zoom” link during their individual class periods. Both remote and in-person students were able to participate in the program.

Kumpf Science teachers, Danielle Bihuniak and Ann Marie Lambertti coordinated the Zoom sessions with the Rutgers Fellows and the Kumpf students. The program presented focused on Stem Cellular Explorations and Genetics. The students were able to see how the information they have learned in class can be applied to real life scenarios and how cells work together in our

bodies. Students were able to ask questions to the Rutgers graduate students in real time. The classes also were given a follow-up board game on the main concepts of the day’s lesson to help reinforce what they learned.


According to Mr. Rick Delmonaco, the principal of Kumpf School, “Each year, the Kumpf students look forward to the Rutgers Science Bus visit. We were so grateful that Professor Irizarry and Mr. Serrano-Perez were able to adapt and come up with such a worthwhile experience for our students.”

For more information on the Rutgers Science Explorer program, go to sciencebus.rutgers.edu



(above) The Rutgers “Science Bus” usually comes to the Kumpf School each spring. This year, a STEM activity was presented by graduate student fellows virtually.

Photo by Clark Public Schools




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STUDENTS CONSTRUCT FULL SKELETON

Submitted by Christine Casale Broski

Mrs. Bernadette Jacobi's Anatomy & Physiology classes at Arthur L. Johnson High School recently participated in a re-articulation challenge activity, where the students had to construct a full skeleton from a pile of bones in the middle of the table. Each team had a full size articulated skeleton to use as a guide. The students used what they have learned about the anatomy of the human skeleton to build their skeleton. The teams delegated specific parts of the skeletons to each team member, so every student had an important job to do.

The winners of the contest were evaluated based upon the accuracy of the positioning of the bones as well as how much time it took each team to construct their skeleton. Each winning team member was awarded extra credit points on their next assessment.

According to Jacobi, "This activity was a fun and refreshing way to exhibit the skills and the knowledge the students have gained regarding the human skeleton, while fostering a healthy competitive atmosphere in the classroom."



(above) ALJ Anatomy & Physiology students Tatum Dobbins, Matthew Bellucci, Jess Derevanik, Brandon Costa, and Aidan Ford with their assignment.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Additions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

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- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

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THE SHOW MUST GO ON! ALJ STAGES ONLINE MUSICAL

“Covid cancelled Broadway!” Anyone who knows theater and the ongoing pandemic is familiar with this idea. There are few people more keenly aware of this than those individuals involved with Arthur L. Johnson’s Drama Department.

Unwilling to allow this to happen, Peter Nevargic reached out to ALJ alumni, Samantha Vargas and Rebecca Dias Pacella to produce the spring musical virtually.

“In this world, the show is still going on. I handed over the musical to former students whom I trust, and they ran with it!” said Nevargic.

The production team used social media outlets to promote the production to the school and town community. “The show must go on! People need theater now more than ever, especially a fun musical that is light and comedic - I think this past year has been serious enough,” explained director, Vargas.

Rehearsals took place virtually over zoom through the last few months. Students sang in cars, in their bedrooms, in their basements, etc. All recording was done remotely and then edited together.

“This production had its own challenges, including the music direction. The students did a fabulous job of rising above those challenges, and sound fantastic,” said musical director, Pacella.

Despite some technical difficulties like zoom crashes and internet connection lags, the cast persevered through recording the production remotely at a safe distance.

Freshman Isabel Cortese plays the leading role of Charlie Brown, who is a depressed, but lovable character. Throughout the show, Charlie Brown’s friends including Lucy played by Bianca Hernandez, Linus played by Gabe Snedecker, Sally played by Shannon Heaning, Schroeder played by Josh Moreira, and Snoopy played by Bella Manto, get into a series of shenanigans.

The ensemble features characters from the Peanuts Gang such as Peppermint Patty, Marcie, Franklin, and Woodstock played by Maya Soares, Danielle Archer, Sean Asgarelli, and Taylor Normann.

The musical is scheduled to run virtually April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at: <http://our.show/aljmusical>



(above) The cast of ‘The Show Must Go On!’ The musical is scheduled to run virtually April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at: <http://our.show/aljmusical>

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM SERVES 200 SNACKS

Submitted by Gus Kalikas

Although the season of giving has past, the Johnson Girls' Soccer Team continues to serve their community. Recently the Johnson Girls Soccer team worked together to create snack bags for Elijah's Promise, a food kitchen located in New Brunswick.

The organization serves hot meals and snack bags to a vast population, including veterans, homeless, and families who have struggled during the pandemic. JGS was able to create over 200 snack bags to help out this wonderful organization. Thanks to their hard work and warm heart, over 200 people can count out a hearty snack to get them through the day.



Photo by Clark Public Schools

VACCINE REGISTRATION FOR RESIDENTS AGE 75

In effort to assist Clark residents age 75 years and older, the Clark Health Department now has the ability to send a list to a designated State contact person for COVID 19 vaccine registration and scheduling.

To get on the list, please call Nancy Raymond, Health Officer at 732-428-8405. You must speak clearly and slowly and leave the following information:

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HEHNLY KINDERGARTEN 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Submitted by Christine Casale Broski

Students in Ms. Cherie Milevoi's kindergarten class recently completed projects highlighting the 100th day of school. Students used 100 items to make a project of their choosing. Projects ranged from 100 hair bows to 100 marshmallows making a snowman. They either sorted in the

items in 10 groups of 10 or they used the items to create a picture.

Ms. Milevoi stated, "The children worked so hard, and were so creative!" The 100th day of school is a great opportunity for students to reflect on their academic journey thus far this school year.

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) Students pose with their 100 Day projects.

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NATHALY PINEDA GAMEZ GRADUATES THE TRINITAS SCHOOL OF NURSING

One hundred and six students received their nursing diplomas from the Trinitas School of Nursing on January 21st, including Nathaly Pineda Gamez, of Clark.

“Trinitas School of Nursing is a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for the fourth time,” said Dr. Roseminda Santee, Dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, which is affiliated with Union County College, and also awards Associates in Science Degrees to the graduates. “I have data to show that the enrollment and applications to the School of Nursing have increased. And during the pandemic, it did not falter. It continued increasing. You would think that people would no longer be interested. Instead, they go forward. We are very proud of our class of January 2021, and our faculty and staff, for doing this professional work during a very challenging situation and practicing all precautions including screening, social distancing, handwashing, and masking.”

Trinitas School of Nursing, operated jointly by Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Union County College, currently holds full accreditation

from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. The National League for Nursing has awarded the School of Nursing a fourth designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education status for the years 2015 - 2024 for Creating Environments that

Enhance Student Learning and Professional Development. The School also holds a 20-year, 40-class national licensing examination (NCLEX) passage rate of 86.30% on first writing.

For more information about Trinitas School of Nursing, visit www.trinitasschoolofnursing.org.



(above) Although a typical ceremony was not held, 89 women and 17 men became eligible to sit for the registered nurse licensing exam.

Individual photos were taken by Grace Photography and edited to create the class photo.

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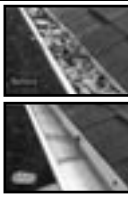
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THE CUB SCOUT PACK 145 PINWOOD DERBY WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Lions (ages 5-6):

First Place: Austin C.;

Second Place: Andrew R.;

Third Place: Kellan K.

Tigers (ages 6-7):

First Place: Liam R.;

Second Place: Regan G.;

Third Place: Matthew S.

Wolves: (ages 7-8):

First Place: Connor C.;

Second Place: Samuel D.;

Third Place: Maksim J.;

Most Cub Made Car: Sean H.;

Most Awesome Car: Christopher C.

Bears (ages 8-9):

First Place: Adrian T.; Second Place: James S.;

Third Place: Mauricio V.

Webelos (ages 9-10):

First Place: Liam B.

Arrow of Light (ages 10-11):

First Place: Ethan O.;

Second Place: Gabriel B.;

Third Place: Jonathan K.

Grand Final:

First Place: Connor C. (Wolves) Car #308

“Agent P”, Avg. 197.68 mph;

Second Place: Liam R. (Tigers) Car #201

“I Don’t Know” Avg. 197.13 mph;

Third Place: Ethan O. (AOL) Car # 605

“Delorean” Avg. 196.82 mph

The Girl Scout Powder Puff Derby event was run by Leigh Anne Jadro (Service Unit Delegate, Leader Troop 41248), and announced enthusiastically by Sheryl Gluck (Leader Troop 40626). Special thanks to student-volunteer track operators Joe Hovick (Eagle Scout, Troop 145), Julianna Cistaro (Girl Scout Senior, CGWGS), and Lauren Gluck (Girl Scout Junior, CGWGS). The Girl Scouts would also like to extend their gratitude to Andres Caballero (Troop Leader, 41248) for providing technology setup assistance.

THE CGWGS POWDER PUFF DERBY WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Daisies (ages 5-7):

First Place: Amaya G.;

Second Place: Rebecca S.;

Third Place: Abigail L.

Brownies (ages 7-9):

First Place: Juliette R.;

Second Place: Gabriella S.;

Third Place: Kayla R.

Juniors (ages 9-11):

First Place: Allison N.;

Second Place: Samantha S.;

Third Place: Noelle R.

Cadettes (ages 11-14):

First Place: Isabella S.;

Second Place: Kiersten M.;

Third Place: Kenzie S.

Grand Final:

First Place: Allison N. (Junior) Car #307,

“The Creeper Mobile” Avg. 200.93mph;

Second Place: Isabella S. (Cadette) Car #401,

““Dream” Car” Avg. 200.85 mph;

Third Place: Juliette R. (Brownie) Car #203,

“Fire Lightning” Avg 199.35 mph

SCOUT DERBY DAY IN CLARK

Submitted by Leigh Anne Jadro

Cub Scout Pack 145 of Clark, and Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Service Unit 53, which consists of Clark, Garwood, and Winfield Girl Scouts (CGWGS), worked together to host “Derby Day” for the second consecutive year. More than 80 Scouts, ranging in age from 5-14, came ready to race the gravity-powered wooden cars that they built and designed from scratch. The Cub Scout Pack 145 Pinewood Derby was held in the morning, with planning, set-up, and track assistance from the Girl Scouts. The CGWGS Powder Puff Derby was held in the afternoon with software, track assistance, and clean-up support provided by the Cub Scouts.

This year’s events were postponed from January until March 20, 2021, and held at Rahway River Park under the covered pavilions due to the constraints necessitated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Masks were required of all participants and social distancing rules were observed by all. The event was live streamed in a private Facebook group for family members who were not able to attend.

Many of the Scouts had learned about car design and construction at the second annual Car Construction Clinic, hosted jointly by both organizations two weeks prior on 3/6/21, also at

Rahway River Park. The clinic gave Scouts of all ages who were unfamiliar with the car-building process the chance to learn hands-on the ins and outs of building a derby car from scratch, and the physics of racing fast! Daisy, Brownie and Junior level Girl Scouts even had the opportunity to earn their Automotive Engineering badges by attending the clinic. Special thanks to Scout parent Wayne Raab (who has children in both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) for sharing his equipment and expertise, and to Girl Scout Cadette Sara Isabel Kaplan who provided valuable assistance at the Car Construction Clinic.

The Cub Scout Pinewood Derby event was run by Matthew Jadro (Assistant Cubmaster, Pack 145) and Bryan Hickman (Den Leader, Pack 145 Tigers). The pack is grateful to parent volunteers Bill Bellomo, Paul Mallick, and Danielle Caterino and Girl Scout Junior Lilijana Jadro who helped run the track on race day. Special thanks also go to Scout parents Mike Tomkowski, Peter Giovannielli, and Andrew Roesch for their assistance with weigh-in, and Andrew Rizkalla, Dave Kihm, and Jeremy Deitz who assisted with set-up. They would also like to thank Committee Chair Tom Klimuc for his consistent support with planning and conducting a successful event.



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ALJ 2021 WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS PHOTOS (continued from page 1)



(above) The Student Athlete Award recipient was Matthew Hartzler (Matthew currently has a 4.6491 G.P.A. and is Ranked #2 in his Senior Class).



Team Most Valuable Players: (above) The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Boys' Basketball – Augustine Puentes, Girls Basketball – Dominika Kosiek, Ice Hockey – Anthony Morreale, Boys' Winter Track & Field – Gregory Lordi, Girls' Winter Track & Field – Rai Goodman, Swimming – Kaitlyn O'Neill, Bowling – Matthew Hartzler, and Cheerleading – Darby Brown.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

LAUREN VELTRE HONORED AS OUTSTANDING FEMALE ATHLETE



(above) Lauren Veltre was Arthur L. Johnson High School's 2020-2021 NAGWS recipient.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

Submitted by Gus Kalikas

On February 3, 2021, Lauren Veltre, of Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, N.J., joined together with over 140 female student-athletes from New Jersey's high schools, colleges, and universities for a virtual celebration for National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NAGWS). NAGWS is one of the largest events in the state that recognizes women's athletics. Lauren was nominated by her coaches for her accomplishments as an outstanding high school female athlete in the sport of soccer.

Title IX was passed in 1972 with the result of increased opportunities for women and girls in

athletics as well as many other arenas. Since Title IX, the number of female student athletes has greatly increased. In past years, the number of females participating in NJ high schools was well over 120,000 and back in 1982, the NJSIAA number was 57,789. The number has increased threefold and continues to grow each year.

NAGWS is recognized in all 50 states to honor the success of female athletes and recognize the struggle for equality for women in sports. The Outstanding Athlete Awards were presented to one individual from each high school, junior college, and college in attendance.

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CLARK'S JACKIE RODRIGUEZ SWORN IN AS CASA VOL FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Nine community members ranging from age 22 to 63 make up the newest class of volunteer child advocates for CASA of Union County, the only nonprofit advocating for the best interests of Union County youth removed from home due to abuse or neglect, and placed in foster care. Among them is Jackie Rodriguez of Clark.

Said Rodriguez, "I wanted to become a CASA volunteer because I wanted to do something that was going to be rewarding but also impact someone else. I worked with kids for a long time many years ago and I miss that. When I heard about CASA and did my research, I felt this was the way to go. I want to be a voice to children who need it and hopefully make a positive change in their lives."

Superior Court Judge Marc R. Brown presided over the recent swearing-in ceremony via Zoom; each advocate will now be matched to a foster

youth or sibling set and begin putting their 30 hours of training into practice. This class includes both non-parents and parents, and such backgrounds as teaching, freelance, law and homemaking. In addition to Rodriguez, class members are Jacqui Lenner and Nicole Sandstedt of Westfield, Laurie Litterio of Cranford, Rebecca Muston and Amy Saunders of Summit, Sue Pangis of Berkeley Heights, Tamara Parraga-Sez of Newark, and Lydia Pernia of Linden.

Prior to administering the oath, the judge shared, "I find the value of CASA volunteers immeasurable. ... CASA is so significant; I always make a point of hearing from the CASA volunteer during the hearing." Acknowledging that COVID-19 requires the swearing-in and court hearings remain virtual for now, he added, "I so look forward to being able to shake your hand and congratulate you. The assistance you will provide is, again, immeasurable. Thank you

for doing this."

Currently, the organization serves just over 80 percent of all Union County foster youth in care. With a goal to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one, the organization has remained steadfast – despite the pandemic – in efforts to ensure its work continues. To that end, a fully online training and recruiting infrastructure was put into place, and protocols implemented to ensure advocates remained both connected to their youth and able to report to judges, and staff continued recruiting and training volunteers to help meet the need for youth still awaiting an advocate.

Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel said, "In the face of the challenging life circumstances we are all facing due to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, this tremendous group of women still made a decision to give of their time and energy, and train virtually to become advocates. I am so proud to welcome them to the CASA family and can't wait to see all of the ways in which they positively impact the youth to whom they will be assigned."

Upon being court-ordered to a case, the CASA volunteer has access to the youth as well as foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers in order to identify concerns and unmet needs, and protect best interests. For details on upcoming classes and how you can Change a Child's Story, contact Walia at wworrill@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above) Clark's Jackie Rodriguez was among nine CASA volunteers for foster youth who were recently sworn in during a ceremony held via Zoom. For details on upcoming classes and how you can Change a Child's Story, contact Walia at wworrill@casaoofunioncounty.org.

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RETIRED OFFICERS REMEMBERING THE PAST, BUILDING THE FUTURE

Submitted by Jerry Scaturro, Retired Clark Police Lieutenant

On Sunday, March 14, 2021, Retired Clark Police Officers gathered to say goodbye to their previous workplace, the soon to be demolished Clark Police Headquarters.

Twenty-three of the retired members met at headquarters to reminisce about the times spent working together on the Clark Police Department.

The retired officers were all happy to see each other again, especially two of the most senior retired members, Lt. Raymond Gulbin, who retired in 1996, and Sgt. George Sikora, who retired in 1991.

Whenever the senior members come together, especially those who were working at the time, William "Billy" Waterson's name is always mentioned. William lost his life, almost 50 years ago, while on duty on July 4, 1971 by gunfire at the old Howard Johnsons in Clark, which is currently the Clark Shop Rite. The monument placed to commemorate his memory is currently being relocated while the new Police Headquarters is under construction.

For many of the officers, entering the old building was the first time since their retirement. After a brief photo session, the members walked through the hallowed halls of the building. While walking through the empty building, the officers pointed out the offices that they had worked in, the old jail cells, communication desks, and the antiquated equipment that was used at that time. They all joked about how technology has changed police work since then, and laughed

about how the old police cars didn't even have an AM radio. Now they are equipped with computers. They spoke about the recent passing of Sgt. Arthur Wesley, retired in 1989, and Detective Michael Kutch, who retired in 1987, along with other retired members whom have also passed and were there in spirit.

Some of the members that attended drove for more than an hour, some less than two minutes to say their final goodbye to the building that served all of us, and the community as well. They were then invited to take a look at the new

facility, which as you can imagine, is very impressive. The new building will be of great service to the current Clark Police Department and the well-deserved officers along with the Clark community.

So many memories were shared, lives that we saved, arrests that were made, some happy days and some sad - working birthdays, holidays, weekends, and shifts away from family. To these officers, this was more than just a building- it was a place where many lasting friendships were made.

Photo by Jerry Scaturro Jr.



(above) Sergeant George Sikora, Lieutenant Raymond Gulbin, Chief Anton Danco, Chief Denis Connell, Sergeant Robert Clark, Captain James Cerasa, Captain James Zizza, Ptl. Robert Hartong Jr., Lieutenant Jeffery Joy, Lieutenant Jerry Scaturro, Captain Kevin White, Detective Victor DeMarzo, Lieutenant Mark Adamonis, Detective Dave Satkowski, Ptl. Tom Harrison, Sergeant Kevin Schackleton, Detective Keith Dunn, Ptl. John Ehling, Ptl. Glen Griffen, Detective Don DeAquino, Ptl. John Young, Ptl. John Ehling, and Sergeant Michael Pollock Jr. On duty: Chief Padro Matos, Lieutenant Acabou, Sergeant Oliveria, Ptl. Merios, and Ptl. Sosnowski.

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[Adult DIY Craft] Angel Wind Chime

Starting on April 1.

Pickup begins on Monday, April 12

Our April Adult DIY Craft is an angel wind chime. You will pick up an unfinished wood wind chime, acrylic paint, and Cricut vinyl. The take-out kit will include the instruction so that you can make it at home without a group Zoom class. Please reserve the kit through our online calendar. Open to adults while supplies last. *A library card is required to register for this program (any library in Union County) and Clark card holders will have priority.

[Virtual] Read to Sophie by Appointment

Sophie the therapy dog is available to listen to your child practice reading via Zoom! Email ReadToSophie@gmail.com to make an appointment.

[Virtual] Poetry Party for Kids

Monday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m.

April is National Poetry Month! We will celebrate poetry by reading some favorite poems, playing some online poetry games, creating our own poetry, and go on a rhyming hunt! Geared toward elementary students that are reading and writing. Please register to receive the Zoom link.

[Virtual] Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, April 6, 20, and 27 at 10:00 a.m. Baby Bookworms is virtual via Zoom! Babies and toddlers are invited to hear some books, and learn some songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and fingerplays! Please register to get the Zoom.

[Adult] Creativebug: Basic Line Drawing (Flowers & Geometrics)

Wednesdays, April 7 & April 14
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The library subscribes to Creativebug database, which provides thousands of arts & crafts video classes taught by artists. Using Creativebug, we will be hosting a 2-session stylized line drawing class "Basic Line Drawing by Lisa Congdon" in April. You will learn the line drawing of flowers and geometrics. We will also watch videos and practice drawing together via Zoom. After registering, you will be emailed when your materials are ready for pickup and you will be sent the Zoom link. Please register through our online calendar. *A library card is required to register for this program (any library in Union County) and Clark card holders will have priority.

[Virtual] Superhero Bingo for Kids

Wednesday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us via Zoom to play Superhero Bingo! This event is free and prizes will be awarded!

*Winners must live in Union County and be willing to pick up the prize in person. One prize per person.

[Virtual] Pajama Time

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in your pjs for an evening storytime session for the family on Zoom. Please register to get the Zoom link.

[Virtual] 8 Minute Lego Challenges

Thursday, April 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us via Zoom to express your creativity with our Timed Lego Building Challenge. Kids will get a prompt, such as a "piece of furniture" and then have 8 minutes to build it with Lego. There will be an hour filled with different prompts! If you do not have your own Lego, please contact the Children's Department of the library.

[Virtual] Preschool Story & Craft

Fridays, April 9, 16, 23, and 30
at 10:00 a.m.

Stories, rhymes, songs, and simple craft on Zoom. Please register to be provided most craft materials and the Zoom link.

[Virtual] Adult Coloring Club

Fridays April 9, 16, and 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Coloring is a great way to unwind and relieve some stress! Pick up coloring sheets and crayons at the library and meet up on Zoom for some soothing music and relaxation. Once you register, you'll be emailed when your supplies are ready to be picked up at the library.

Pick Up & Zoom

Tuesdays, April 13 and 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Every other week we will have a new craft project for elementary aged children. You may pick up the materials for the craft starting the Wednesday before and then join us via Zoom to make it together! Please register to be contacted for the supply list and for the Zoom login information. *Priority registration for Clark residents. Non-residents may be placed on the wait list until 6 days before the program to determine if there is space.

[Virtual] Family Game Night

Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Our monthly family game night will feature Bingo via Zoom! Children, parents, and grandparents are invited to play along! Please register to get the Zoom link. *Winners must live in Union County and be willing to pick up the prize in person. One prize per person.

Teen Take & Make:

DIY Crepe Paper Flower Magnets

Monday, April 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Learn how to make cute crepe paper flower magnets. A perfect decoration for Spring. Once you register, you'll be emailed when your supplies are ready to be picked up at the library. Join us for an optional online get-together as we make the cards together over Zoom. Open to teens in Grades 6-12.

[Adult] Poppy flower painting

Wednesday, April 21

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join us for an adult painting class via Zoom. We will draw and paint poppy flowers on acrylic paper. After registering, you will be emailed when your materials are ready for pickup and you will be sent the Zoom link to make it together. Please supply your own paint brushes. Register through our online calendar or email reference@clarklibrary.org. *A library card is required to register for this program (any library in Union County) and Clark card holders will have priority.

[Virtual] Who Was... Book Club for Kids

Wednesday, April 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Kids in 2nd-6th grade are invited to join us via Zoom for our re-ignited Who Was...book club! Each month we will read a book from this fun series focusing on a particular type of person, such as inventor, athlete, musician, etc. and then come together to discuss and share what we have learned and do a related activity. Please read about a musician or writer in April for International Guitar Month, National Poetry Month, and National Library Week! Please register to receive the Zoom link.

[Virtual] Earth Day Recycled Craft for Kids

Thursday, April 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day by making a craft with recycled materials via Zoom. Please register to receive the Zoom link and some materials in advance of the program. *Clark residents have priority for registration.

Clear Clutter Away with Jamie Novak

Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m.

If "getting organized" has been on your to-do list, then you won't want to miss this virtual program. Bestselling author and organizing humorist Jamie Novak will share what you need to know to finally tackle those lingering projects. She'll even guide you through a mini organizing session to help jump start your progress. Log on and lose the clutter!

Protect Yourself from Consumer Fraud

Thursday, April 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for this virtual program presented by the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. Learn about current consumer fraud scams and how to stay alert and safe during these trying times. The presentation will cover IRS scams, phone scams, lottery scams, grandparent scams, email scams, telemarketing scams, identity theft, phishing, and more.

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2020 FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department recently held their 2020 Fall Athletic Awards. The evening, sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club, was held virtually due to the pandemic.

All the Fall Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while all athletes received letters and awards that were delivered to them at a later date. Over 163 varsity athletic letters were awarded throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at Arthur L. Johnson High School continues to prosper.

The program culminated with the Student Athlete Award, which was presented by the Athletic Director of Arthur L. Johnson High School, Mr. Gus Kalikas. The Student Athlete Award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete that is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well. The 2020 Fall Student Athlete award recipient was Matthew Zukowski, with a 4.4283 G.P.A.

In addition, the Crusader G.P.A. Challenge was awarded to the team that finished with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the fall season. The recipients were presented with certificates and will have their team memorialized on a plaque to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The winner of the 2020 Fall Seasonal G.P.A. Challenge was the Field Hockey Team with a G.P.A. of 4.069. Members of the Field Hockey Team include: Devyn Calas, Gianna Caldiero, Gia Colicchio, Michelle Kukan, Courtney Marano, Victoria Venezio, Angela Aromando, Peyton Collings, Tatum Dobbins, Julia Skultety, Maria Dante, Jenna Grandal, Julia Ranski, Jenna Rieder, Georgia Sebok and Grace Warnick.

Athletic Director Gus Kalikas had this to say about the event: "Once again, our Fall Athletic Awards Program was a successful as it allows the District, Administration, and Coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful Fall Sports Season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."



(above) Matthew Zukowski was named the 2020 Fall Student Athlete Award Winner.

VALLEY ROAD STUDENT COUNCIL KEEPS BUSY

Submitted by Christine Casale Broski
The Student Council at Valley Road School has been busy this year with a variety of different activities. In December, they hosted a fundraiser to raise money for a scholarship given to an Arthur L. Johnson graduate that attended Valley Road.

Additionally, students were invited to create a snowflake with the theme, "Snow Many Things to Look Forward to in 2021." Students wrote what they most looked forward to in 2021 from vacations, to a cure for COVID, to seeing family, and hanging out with friends.

Another activity was the "Souper Bowl of Caring" where students were encouraged to bring in a can of soup. The soup was then donated to the Community Food Bank out of St. John's Church.

The group also hosted a School Spirit Poster Contest to highlight why Valley Road School is

such a great place to learn and grow. Students got creative and expressed their school spirit through colorful posters that will be displayed throughout school.

Student Council's biggest activity was a pajama day where they raised money for the nurses, doctors, and staff on the COVID floors at Overlook Hospital. Due to the generosity of the families, staff, and students of Valley Road School, Student Council raised \$632.00 which led to a Costco shopping trip. With the money raised, granola bars, oatmeal, a variety of other snacks, and drinks were purchased for the break rooms on the three COVID floors.

Sarah Badillo and Lauren Prost, advisors of Student Council, said that they could not be prouder of the members, because during these difficult times the students remained optimistic and wanted to spread positivity in school and out in the community.

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) Nurses at Overlook accepting our donations. Nurse on the right is Mrs. Sullivan, a parent at VRS.



(above) Student Council Activity Souper Bowl of Caring Student Council Advisor Mrs. Prost with Student Council Reps Jackson Susalis and Declan Mulcahy.

PEER MEDIATION AT VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL

Submitted by Christine Casale Broski
Students in grades three through five at Valley Road School recently had the opportunity to be trained in conflict resolution and peer mediation. Sarah Badillo, school counselor and program facilitator, is offering the program as a way to teach skills that can be utilized throughout elementary school and into adulthood.

Olivia Catarino, a fifth grade peer mediator stated, "I loved learning ways to keep friends glued together and learning ways to resolve conflicts are skills that I can use forever."

According to Badillo, this program consists of students working with their peers to manage conflicts and disagreements. Peer Mediators help uncover the root causes of disputes. They help create an atmosphere where both students feel comfortable expressing themselves and working toward a fair resolution to the conflict. Students spend twelve sessions learning various aspects of the mediation process and then put all their lessons into practice.

Gianna Gracia, fifth grader, commented that peer mediation is a valuable tool because it teaches you to resolve problems with words and not with violence.

Through these lessons, third grader Lila Stebbins, stated "We learned we could work

together even if we didn't know each other." Through their training, students are taught not to judge the individuals but help individuals reach an agreement. "I could not be prouder of those who completed the process of becoming a mediator. They did this on their own time, virtually and even though they are completely trained they still come back to practice the skills they developed," stated Badillo.



(above) Valley Road School Peer Mediators at their meeting. Pictured are Emma Takacs, Kayla Roselli, Kylie Mignone and Christina Nordstrom.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

CLARK REC BASKETBALL SEASON ENDS

Clark Recreation completed their winter rec basketball season on Saturday, February 27 and each team player was presented with their medal.

Clark Recreation was one of just a handful of towns that allowed a basketball season to take place. Recreation Director Ralph Bernardo was happy to say “Not one incident of COVID 19 was transmitted during the ten week program in our facility.” Safety precautions were taken each Saturday as players and 1 parent entered the building.

“We were happy to have a season during this difficult time,” said Bernardo



Photos by Clark Recreation Department



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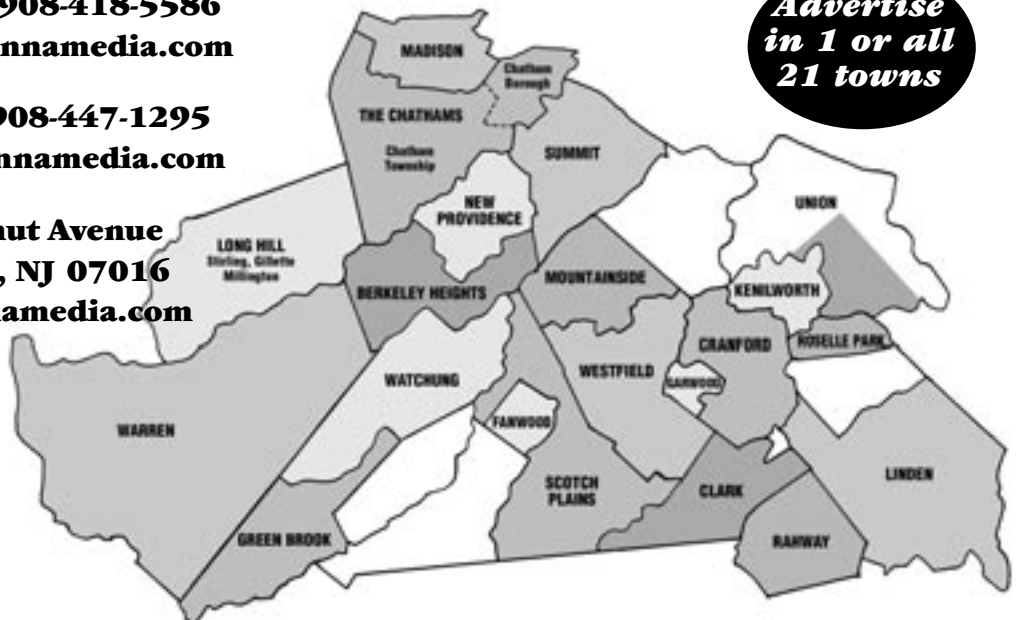
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
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