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Volume 3, Issue 5

# Clinton City Chronicles

## CCS To Host The Empty Bowls Night Project

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 23! Meet the CCS staff and students at First Baptist Church of Clinton Family Life Center for Empty Bowls Night! The Empty Bowls Night project was designed to give back to Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest donates more than \$12,000



a year of food for our students to take home for weekend/holiday feeding through the

Backpack Program.

Mrs. Swanner and Mrs. Webb, the two art teachers at CCS, thought it was only appropriate to use the time and talents of CCS students and teachers to give back. Teachers and students have created their own unique pottery bowl. The students will be reading the book *Stone Soup* in their library class prior to the event. On the night of Empty Bowls, stone soup will be served. Parents and the public will be able to purchase



the students' bowls for \$5.00 each. The teachers' bowls will be sold via silent auction. All of the proceeds will go towards Second Harvest.



It has been amazing to see the wonderful talents of both our students and teachers. Please come have a bowl of soup for only \$1.00, and place a bid on a beautiful pottery bowl.

What a wonderful way to give back to an organization that provides our system such great support!





**Above: Students at Clinton Elementary shake hands with Lieutenant Campbell with Clinton City Police Department**

**Right: CCS students confidently greet local officials!**

**Middle: Lieutenant Campbell is all smiles, knowing that the students of CCS are making strong, effective first impressions.**



## Ace of Shakes Graduation

**“A good first impression can work wonders.”**

**-J.K. Rowling**

the system participated in a 6-week program, learning how to effectively make a first impression using the following elements: eye contact, smile, strong voice, and effective hand shake. Lieutenant Campbell, with Clinton Police Department, began the program by teaching students effective strategies for shaking hands and making a first impression. He came back for graduation to see how much the students had grown. He was amazed at how each student’s confidence had grown –

The inaugural group has successfully completed the Ace of Shakes Program at CCS! Fourth grade students across

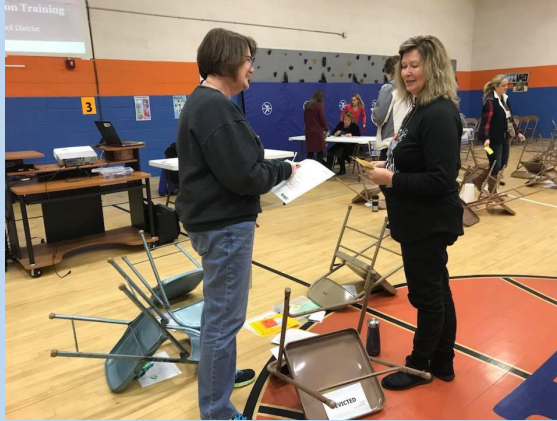
**FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT** ▶▶

handshakes were stronger, eye contact was more direct, and smiles were beaming!

Several students even commented that they were sad to see the program end because they had so much fun! All participants received a backpack tag stating “I Aced the Shake!” as a reward of their completion. Several teachers reported that student participation in class had been positively impacted by this program. Students spoke more confidently and maintained better eye contact as a result of this program. Many thanks to Y-12 for their efforts in helping make this program a reality for Clinton City Schools!

# CCS Staff Teachers Focus on a Better Understanding of Poverty

On January 3, Clinton City Schools teachers were told to enter the Clinton Elementary gym and find a seat. The perimeter of the gym was lined with support staff at various locations: school, bank, grocery store, medical facility, utility board, day care, workplace, social services, pawn shop, jail, and fast cash. CCS teachers were given an identity within a family unit, each unique in size and circumstances. The entire staff lived one month under the identity given,



maneuvering transportation passes, day care, work, school, health care, groceries, rent, utilities. By week three of the simulation, many family units encountered utilities being turned off, unemployment, and even eviction. Families were left making tough decisions to sell prized possessions to pay rent or buy groceries for their children.

This three-hour simulation was sponsored by the Tennessee State Department of Education. The purpose of this training was to provide an in-depth look into the vicious cycle of both generational and situational poverty. During the debrief, staff members agreed that this simulation was both physically and emotionally exhausting. Most of their efforts went towards meeting the basic needs of the family. Many

families went periods of time without eating, and some even resorted to committing crimes to take care of their children. Some children were forced to skip school to take care of essential family needs. Families that were evicted were left homeless with no shelter for their family. Many misconceptions around poverty were squelched as the simulation unfolded.

As educators, it is important that we understand how students' personal situations impact the classroom. It is often said, "Until you have walked in my shoes, you don't understand." Staff members were given the opportunity to walk in the shoes of poverty to better understand the outside dynamics that make their way into our schools each day.



## Clinton City Schools Partners with ORAU

NEW SCIENCE STANDARDS ARE COMING!! During the 2018-19 school year, classrooms across the state of TN will be implementing new science standards. These new standards require significant instructional shifts in the classroom as the focus becomes 3 dimensional: practices, core ideas, and cross cutting concepts. As with any new standards implementation, teacher training is essential to the success of the roll-out. An abundance of planning and preparation must occur when standards change to this level of significance. Oak Ridge Associated Universities is an excellent resource in Anderson County that was willing to answer our call for assistance. Being such a strong supporter of education, they didn't hesitate to enter a partnership with our system to assist in the training and implementation of the new standards. CCS has identified a Science Teacher Lead at each grade level to collaborate with ORAU, plan and implement trainings, gather resources, and serve as a support to grade level teachers through this transition. Specific grade level training will occur in May, and ORAU will continue to support teachers throughout next year as implementation begins. CCS will participate in the ORAU grant program in order to gain needed supplies and materials for the new standards. We appreciate our partnership with ORAU as they are true friends to education!



## A Different Approach to Stem in the Classroom: Elf on the Shelf



We have all heard of Elf on the Shelf! He makes his way into our homes every holiday season and does mischievous things throughout our homes for several weeks in December. What a better character to use as the basis of a STEM activity in a first-grade classroom at SCES! Students were asked to design their own shelf

using only a ruler, playdough, and toothpicks!!! Students worked hard as they used their knowledge of engineering and creativity to create the tallest shelf possible! Not only did the shelf have to stand on its

own, but it also had to hold the paper elf! As you can see, this was a fabulous way to engage students and support thinking analytically and creatively! There is no doubt that CCS Elves on the Shelves had a sturdy place to rest!



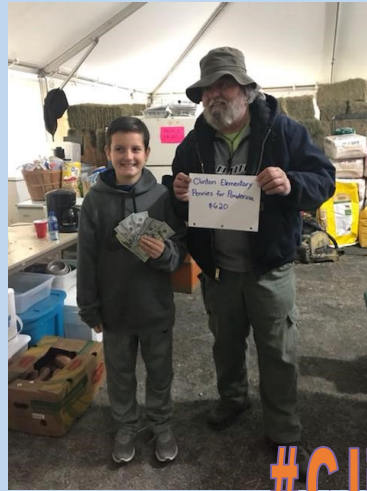
## CCS is Clinton Strong: Pennies for Ponderosa

The Clinton Strong Project is a lasting legacy project that gives each Clinton Elementary 6th grade student the opportunity to do something they've never done before, explore new interests, make positive changes, and lead the way for future 6th graders. Students choose an activity that interests them, organize/ implement the project, and then share with their classmates the overall impact of the project.



When tragedy struck The Little Ponderosa Zoo, Braden Hensley knew exactly what he wanted to do for his

project. He organized and implemented “Pennies for Ponderosa.” Students brought in pennies, and Braden spent time personally counting each one! Clinton



Elementary students really responded to this effort! Last week, Braden presented The Little Ponderosa Zoo with \$620 – all from pennies!!! He can definitely say that his project made Clinton a bit stronger!

# #ClintonStrong

## Coding With CCS

Each year, all students in Clinton City Schools participate in the Hour of Code. This is the four-year anniversary of this event which introduces students of all ages to the world of coding. This global event was held from December 4-10. This year, over 500,000 MILLION students participated in this event – including our students!

The founders of this event state, “The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify ‘code’ to show that anybody can learn the basics and to broaden participation in the field of computer science.”

Coding not only allows students to explore concepts in computer science, it also helps build problem solving skills, logic, and creativity.

CCS students have already had an introduction to coding in technology classes. Participating in this event allows us to expand on this concept and continue providing an awareness to the various computer science careers available.



The Hour of Code has a coalition of partners, including Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, College Board, and Boys and Girls Club of America. Clinton City Schools is proud to be a part of this global event!

## Principal for a Day

Many thanks to our business leaders who participated in Principal for a Day! Ronnie Fox, from Fox Toyota, spent the morning with Clinton Elementary School. Trey McAdams, State Farm Agent, spent the day at North Clinton Elementary School. They both were very complimentary of the instructional initiatives happening in Clinton City Schools! We appreciate the support of both of these individuals! We enjoyed having you!



## One Director's Perspective: The Great Equalizer

**“Education is something that can never be taken from you.”**

I come from a family of educators - my Mom was a teacher, and my Dad was a preacher. They both taught different content, but taught nonetheless. Both came from challenging upbringings in their own way. My Dad was raised in poverty, and Mom was raised working in tobacco fields. Through very creative means, my Dad managed to work and pay his way through college without a car. He knew that education was the key to breaking a cycle of poverty. I was raised with the foundational belief that "Education is something that can never be taken from you." School was always a priority in our house. Upon reflection, that is probably why I made my life's passion about working to provide a solid elementary education to children. Every morning, a variety of situations and backgrounds accompany students who walk through public school doors across our nation. Education is "the great equalizer." A solid education and the ability to think critically/analytically opens doors for success - no matter an individual's background or situation.

***What does it take to make this a successful equalizer? High expectations with an abundance of support from everyone. Schools. Teachers. Administrators. Parents. Community members.***

***Politicians. And yes....even students.***

Clinton City Schools is a very unique place. It is a small, personal learning community that believes all students are capable of great things. Rarely, do you find a system where the schools, parents, community, School Board, and City Council all work towards the same goals. We have something special here. We are striving to equalize the playing field for our students daily, giving them a solid foundational knowledge to set them up for subsequent years of success.

What an awesome gift we are ALL giving the students in our community - the gift of education that no one will ever be able to take from them. As we begin this new year, I am thankful for our parents, teachers, and community who also make education with high expectations a priority for our kids. Happy New Year!

*Kelly D. Johnson*

*Director of Clinton City Schools*