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Clinton City Chronicles

Commissioner of Education Visits CES

Dr. Candace McQueen, Commissioner of Education for the state of Tennessee, visited Clinton Elementary School on Monday, March 27 as part of her “Classroom Chronicles” tour. Clinton City Schools was slated on her first day of spring school tours focusing on early literacy in elementary schools. Our system is a recipient of a state grant called “Read to Be Ready.” The professional development and instructional materials provided in this grant are part of the state vision of achieving a 75% proficiency rate in Reading by 3rd grade.

During her visit, Dr. McQueen visited several classrooms including Kindergarten, First Grade, Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade. She

observed shared reading, interactive read alouds, writing, vocabulary, and student engagement through Chrome Books. Afterwards, she met with school and district leadership in the library to discuss the CCS literacy framework and asked what supports schools needed from Tennessee State Department of Education to continue moving the needle in literacy. While talking to a reporter, Dr. McQueen stated, “It is exactly what we had hoped would be happening. Most impressive, is how the school district has created their own vision of the state’s vision

with a local group of talented educational leaders that have already bought into the state’s goals and laid the foundation for building better reading proficiency in schools. There has to be a foundation or framework in place for best practices and



changes to occur. Clinton City Schools already has that framework in place.” While exiting the door, Dr. McQueen stated that she would like to come

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back and highlight some of the best practices that she observed in her visit.

Dr. McQueen has been Commissioner of Education for approximately a year and a half. During this time, she has made a conscious effort to listen to a variety of stakeholders and use relevant data to make decisions for education in Tennessee. Her focus on



children is evident by her interactions during classroom visits. Talking with the students is her main priority in school visits, and she is often seen kneeling down smiling and laughing with children. She has made early literacy one of her priorities, and Clinton City Schools appreciates her taking the time to see our practices in action.



2017 Read Across America Day



Each year, schools across America celebrate Read Across America Day. This day is associated with Dr. Seuss' birthday, and Clinton City Schools makes it a day to focus on instilling a love of reading in all

students.

At South Clinton Elementary, students spent time listening to a variety of different guest readers throughout the day, such as

former SCES teachers, central office staff members, pageant queens, and radio personalities. Guest readers could bring their own favorite books or choose from a selection of teacher favorites located in the school's foyer.



Students and staff were invited to dress as their favorite book characters. Teachers and students in all grades had a fun day representing some of their literary favorites. Each homeroom voted for their favorite costume. In the afternoon, all students and staff members went to the gym for an assembly. Costume winners walked around the

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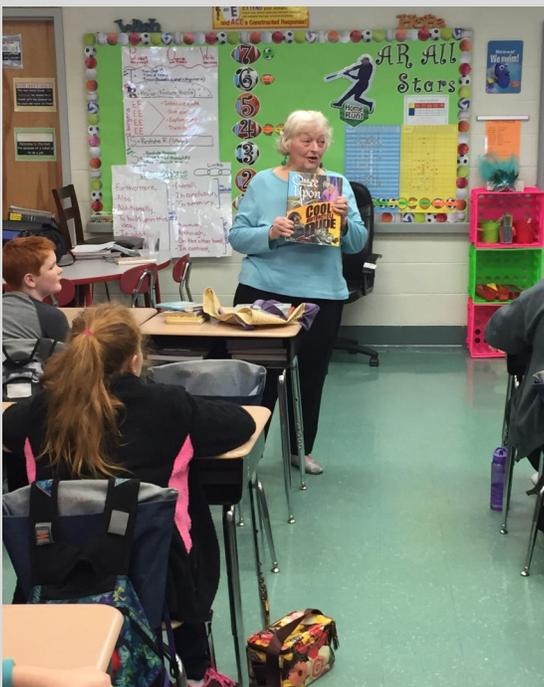
gym so students could see their costumes. From these finalists, a special panel of judges voted on winners for the top 5 costumes. Our first place costume went to 3rd grader Izzy Woods, who was dressed as Willy Wonka! Other costumes included characters from Pippi Longstocking, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, The Cat in the Hat, Wizard of Oz, Where's Waldo, Fancy Nancy, and Junie B. Jones.

Read Day at Clinton Elementary included a variety of activities as well. Students were able to bring their favorite stuffed animal to read to and got to pick out cozy places throughout the school to read with friends. CES had guest readers, including student athletes from Clinton High School, come to read their favorite books to each class. A member of the Clinton City Schools School Board, Mr. Joey Smith, came to read to the 4th grade students in Mrs. Bible's class. Mr. Smith himself was once a student at Clinton Elementary School and is passionate about ensuring that students develop a love for reading. Another reader on this day was Mrs. Murphy, who is the grandmother of our own



6th grade teacher, Ms. Murphy, and a member of the Teacher Hall of Fame. Mrs. Murphy enjoyed reading to current CES students and their teachers, some of whom were her former students.

This was a great day to have fun and celebrate some of our favorite books! Celebrating this day helps our students remember that reading is fun, and fosters a love for reading that will stay with students long after they leave Clinton City Schools!



CCS Receives Fitness Grant from Education Foundation

The Education Foundation for Clinton City and Anderson County Schools awarded two grants to Clinton City Schools to support Physical Education programs in all three schools. The competitive grants were funded from the proceeds of the Clinton 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run on October 22, 2016. A total of approximately \$4,428 in grants were awarded in Clinton City and Anderson County Schools. The purpose of these grants is to initiate, maintain, or continue health and wellness activities for students. Terri Kerley, PE teacher at Clinton Elementary, won a set of Math and Movement mats for addition and subtraction. Leslie Tumblin, PE teacher at North and South Clinton Elementary Schools, won an American Ninja Obstacle Course. The Education Foundation recognized the recipients at the



Annual Teacher of the Year Banquet.

The Education Foundation began sponsoring the Clinton 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run with the intent of developing a funding source, through competitive grants, for schools to directly impact the health and wellness programs and activities in our community schools. The 6th Annual Clinton 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run is scheduled for October 21, 2017 in downtown Clinton. All proceeds from the race will be utilized for the Education Foundation competitive grants. For more information, please visit www.theeducationfoundation.info or www.clinton5k.com.

Bear Stephenson Makes Digital Sign at SCES a Reality



Clinton City Schools is very proud of the various community partners that support our system. Bear Stephenson has adopted South Clinton Elementary School and has been a fan

of the SCES "Bears" for several years! Whenever PTO approaches him with a need, he is always willing to lend a helping hand. In March, he made a generous donation toward purchasing a new digital school sign. During his visit to SCES, he made several comments about how important it is to leave a legacy through impacting the community for many years to come. His passion for young children is easily seen as he walks throughout the school. We hope to have the sign in place before the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. Thank you, Bear, for your contribution and support! We appreciate all that you do for SCES and the Clinton community!

Edible Moons

If you visit Mrs. Tammy Pack’s 4th grade class at NCES, you will see students integrating Science and Social Studies into their reading class. Recently, students were working to analyze the patterns, relative movements, and relationships among the sun, moon, and Earth. The learning outcome of the lesson was for students to organize the phases of the moon in the correct sequence and infer that the moon’s phases are caused by the revolution of



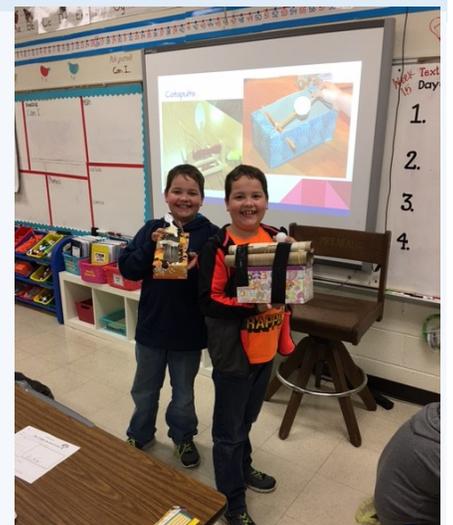
the moon and Earth around the sun. Students rotated through 7 learning centers which included creating their own moon phase flash cards, chalk drawings of the moon phase cycle, moon phase flap books, moon phase “motion” booklet,



a discovery basket, and a teacher table. The culminating activity was edible!!! The students used Oreo cookies to construct the phases of the moon. In order for this activity to be considered a success, students had to place the phases in the correct order, describe the phase, and the cause of the various phases. Afterwards, the students were rewarded by eating all their hard work! Who would want to pass up such a “treat” to learn about moon phases! CCS makes learning fun!!!

SCES STEM Night

Thursday, March 2nd marked the very first STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) family night at South Clinton Elementary. Students and families were invited to come for dinner in the cafeteria to begin the evening. All SCES students were invited to eat for free, and family members could get a hot dog, chips, a drink, and a dessert for \$1.00. The Clinton High School robotics team was set up in the gym where they had



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Homeland Security Keeping Kids Safe

On Thursday, March 16, Clinton City Schools welcomed Ted Fransisco, a Department of Homeland Security Agent, who delivered a program called “Internet Crimes: Keeping Our Children Safe.” He provided a wealth of information to parents, teachers, and community members about the potential dangers of social media and the internet. Parents learned special texting codes that are popular with the younger generation today. Warning signs were discussed about the potential dangers of specific social media apps, gaming systems, and the “dark web.”

The main defense for parents regarding appropriate and safe internet use is to create a two-way communication system with their

children. Adults are responsible for maintaining open communication with children, monitoring their activity and setting clear

expectations and boundaries. It is easy for children to get caught up in dangerous situations through very innocent means.

Ted stayed after the program to answer specific parent questions and concerns. We appreciate him taking the time to come share this pertinent information with our parents.



SCES Teacher Shelter

When there is a need at SCES, Derek Roesner is there to answer the call! After noticing teachers standing in the rain calling cars during dismissal, Derek decided that he could use his gifts and talents to build a shelter for them to use in inclement weather.

When driving up the hill, you will notice a beautiful brown shed with a window in the back. Teachers are now able to stand inside the shelter during rain or snow and call cars coming in both directions.



SCES have been so thankful for this generous gift! Derek Roesner is the owner of Trowel Trades, a concrete contractor. He has completed several other

projects for Clinton City Schools including various sidewalks, a basketball court, and a playground pergola. His gifts of service are deeply appreciated in CCS!



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several different stations set up for students. They also reserved an area of the gym for demonstrations with robots and invited students to play a game. Many of the students on the robotics team are Clinton City Schools alumni!

Each grade level had two different sessions where families could come in and complete a STEM activity. The first session took place from 6:00-6:30, and the second session was from 6:30-7:00. Each grade level team of teachers researched and planned their own unique STEM activity. Some of the activities included building catapults, building nests, finding the perfect amount of water to flip a water bottle using fractions, finding the best strategy for building a structure using plastic cups, and many more fun activities!

Mrs. Schlandt also had the book fair open during STEM night. Students and families had the opportunity to come in and browse the selection of books, posters, and accessories in between STEM sessions. Many families headed home with new books to read



together as a family. The participation in our first STEM Family Night was exceptional. It is our goal this annual opportunity will spark students' interest in the various STEM careers.



It's Testing Time at Clinton City Schools

Beginning Wednesday, April 19th, Clinton City Schools' students in grades 3-6 will be participating in the TN Ready reading and math assessments and TCAP science and social studies assessments. The new TN Ready assessments will be much more rigorous in assessing students' understanding of the Tennessee State Standards in an effort to help students become more prepared for college and career.

Clinton City Schools testing window falls within the state assessment window, and testing will take place from April 19th to April 28th. The assessments will begin each morning at 8:00, so it is very important that students arrive to school early so they can take advantage of the free breakfast program prior to testing. All of the assessments will be administered using paper and pencil this year, and there will be significant reductions (between 25-30%) in the amount of time that students will spend testing. The testing will take place in shorter increments across more days with instruction continuing once daily assessments are completed.

The state assessments are broken into four subject areas:

reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. The TN Ready reading and math assessments are broken into subparts to reduce the length of administration times providing more flexibility and breaks for students. The reading portion contains 4 subparts and includes writing. The mathematics section includes three subparts with both calculator and non calculator portions. The science assessment is a regular TCAP assessment, and the social studies assessment will be a state field test.

Each school will be having rewards and drawings for students that arrive on time, stay all day, and try their best on the assessments. Parents can support their child's success by ensuring that they get plenty of rest, eat breakfast, and arrive on time for school. Also, parents can talk to their children about doing their best and to help calm any worries that may arise.



Testing Times and Time Reductions on TN Ready

Grades	Reading	Mathematics
3rd-5th	4 subparts including writing 195 minutes	3 subparts 115 minutes
6th	4 subparts including writing 230 minutes (90 minute reduction)	3 subparts 125 minutes (25 minute reduction)