

The Bears Gazette

Clairton Characters Unite USA Television and NFL Films



Junior Carlton Dennis and Pittsburgh Steeler Hines Ward



First Graders with Dr. Diggy

Clairton has been working with The Consortium for Public Education for many years. Five years ago, they helped us bring a program called The Future is Mine (TFIM) to Clairton City School District, which is advised by Andrea Johnson. TFIM has led us to another program called Hear Me which helps students use video and audio tools to allow their voices to be heard. The USA network created a realm to their station called “Characters Unite.” One of their shows was a documentary featuring four NFL stars who each chose a different school across the United States.

Clairton was chosen as the school for Hines Ward to work with. This documentary focused on bullying and social injustice. On November 22, 2011, junior Carlton Dennis was chosen to sit down with Hines in a show which aired on February 10, 2012. He talked about the type of bullying he faced as a bi-racial kid growing up and constantly moving from school to school. Next, Carlton went to the library to surprise 20 students and introduce them to Hines. Together Hines and the students worked together to create a song about their community called “City of Prayer” which can be downloaded on iTunes.

The song was written by the students in Hear Me, lyrics sung by Carlton and chorus sung by Heidi Rojas. What they wanted to capture from our school was the need for community renewal. Carlton’s story fit so well with Hines in so many ways, that is why he was chosen by the network to be the focus interview. The hope is that this national exposure could guide us towards people who potentially could make a difference in Clairton.

Hines donated some signed items that were auctioned at the CHANCE dance to raise money for Make A Wish, which is an amazing group at school led by Maureen McGarvey. The CHANCE Dance (Creating Hope and Newfound Courage Everywhere), was held on April 20th, 2012.

Clairton Elementary has been working all year with UPMC’s Dignity and Respect Program. Dr. Diggy is one component of UPMC’s Dignity and Respect Campaign that promotes exercise and a healthy lifestyle. During his visit, students shared their views of dignity and respect, discussed the healthy fruit and vegetable snacks they receive every week, and followed Dr. Diggy’s lead stretching and exercising. UPMC and Clairton Elementary School are committed to fostering wellness both academically and physically hoping the healthy habits they are learning in childhood will be a lifelong practice.

www.dignityandrespect.org

Elementary Essentials



Sergeant Keith Zenkovich and Ike the K9 Dog teaching the Third Graders about safety. The third grade classroom's just finished reading, "Aero and Officer Mike."



Fourth Grader Eric Ewell receiving his Dignity and Respect Certificate from Ms. Iacoboni.



Mrs. Ohm, Mrs. Mignogna, Mrs Dooley, and Mrs. Demedio's Kindergarten classrooms Celebrated the Young Child. Also pictured Elementary Principal Dr. Berger.



Mrs. Dooley and students celebrating at the African American Feast.

Sport Shots



The mighty Clairton Bears Football team celebrating winning their 3rd consecutive PIAA Class "A" State Championship in Hershey, PA. The bears winning streak will continue when the 2012 season opens in August.



Junior Vincent Moody and the track and field team are currently preparing WPIAL Qualifiers and State competitions.



Brothers, Sophomore Zach Loera and Senior Tyler Loera, two members of Clairton Bear Baseball. The team broke a 48 game losing streak by winning 4 games this season.



Senior Captain Capri Thompson lettered in 3 sports this year. He plans to attend St. Francis in the Fall and major in Sports Medicine.

Club Corner



Have you visited the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (A.I.U.) lately?

If you haven't, you need to stop by their building to view the amazing mural that has been created by students from every school district in Allegheny County. Laura Jean McLaughlin is an accomplished artist who led this project that will remain a permanent fixture in the lobby's entrance. Four incredible high school students, who are members of The Future is Mine (TFIM), jumped at the opportunity to take part in this unique creation. Andrea Johnson (TFIM advisor) along with seniors Ashae Berry, Amanda Gillespie, Capri Thompson and sophomore Daija Patrick spent the morning of October 5th, 2011 assembling tiles to what is nothing short of a Masterpiece.

McLaughlin created an opportunity that allowed for students to be involved in almost all stages of the murals creation including visualization, conceptualization and assembly. Once the students have completed the project, Laura installed the mural on the far right wall inside the lobby. It no longer looks bare. It now represents a small piece of every school district to which the AIU supports. It represents the creativity and the heart of these wonderful schools and more importantly the vision of these wonderful students. The unveiling took place on Tuesday, October 18, 2011.

Pictured Left-Right Senior Capri Thompson, Junior Amanda Gillespie, Sophomore Daija Patrick, and Senior Ashae Berry.
Photo Courtesy of Andrea Johnson -TFIM



Students preparing to leave for South Allegheny High School, where all students developed multiple projects to promote teen dating violence awareness. Students created a video, prom promise activities, banners, and flyers to educate about dating violence and finding help if needed.

Womansplace worked with both schools to facilitate this collaboration.

High School Scene



Students enjoying the Beat Bob assembly.



Bob Holmes and Trenton Coles

Clairton High School and the National Character Education Foundation hosted Bob Holmes, a ONE MAN VOLLEYBALL TEAM. This is a unique assembly that engages students and the exciting presentation teaches students how they can beat the odds in life and overcome obstacles. Bob played a team of teachers and two teams of students. The program brings a message on how to deal with pressures people have to face in today's complicated world. He wants to help students avoid the tragedies of drugs, alcohol, suicide, violence, and peer pressure. For more info visit www.beatbob.com



2011 Homecoming Queen Ashae Berry is attending Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.



Senior Charles ShROUT receiving the Steel Center Top of the Shop Award.



Chorus and Band Girls preparing for the Annual Spring Concert.

Education Partnership

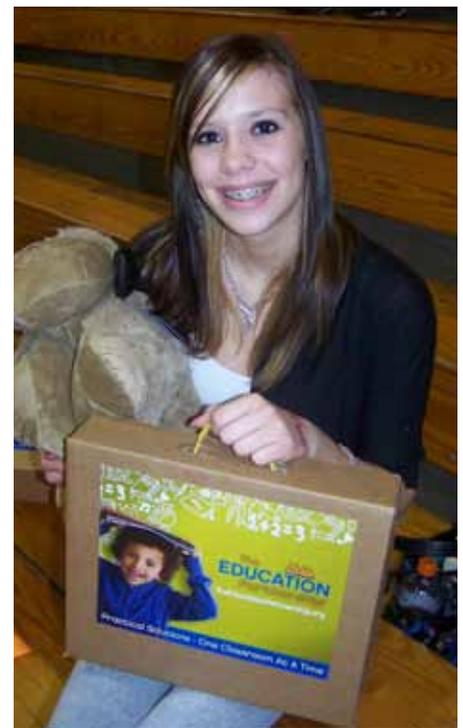


Princess Presto came along with The Education Partnership to visit the students. Pictured with Clairton Elementary Third Graders.

The Education Partnership is dedicated to addressing educational inequities by providing and enabling access to the tools and resources necessary to support teachers and enhance a student's ability to learn and succeed. Clairton Elementary, Middle and High School received over \$130,000 in school and classroom supplies. Education Partnership also came to the district and gave each and every student a box of school supplies. Supplies were grouped by grade, containing everything from pencils, paint, calculators, and more, they also provided every student with a Pillow Pet. Clairton School District is thankful to be part of the Education Partnership and proud to announce that we have been selected to participate in the 2012-2013 School Year with The Education Partnership!



Education Partnership representative, Second Grader Faith Howard and Paraprofessional Mrs. Hinkle.



Sophomore Danielle Malone receiving her box of supplies and pillow pet.

Welcome to The Bears Gazette!

First, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Herndon's 5th grade class for naming the new district newsletter. The class did a superb job, as did all the other classrooms that submitted names for the newsletter. You will see some of the other names in future newsletters and email blasts. In an effort to cut costs, Clairton City School District is moving to electronic editions of the newsletter, in full color. We will be posting the newsletter on our website and we will be sending it out via email. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please send a request to pr@clairton.k12.pa.us or register at Information Day in August. We will also be sending out an email blast once a month. This email blast is going to be one page of district events and upcoming reminders, as well as a great photo or two. Some changes with The Bears Gazette are that we want to concentrate on showing off our district and students. You will notice lots of pictures, which we hope you like. You can also see more pictures in photo albums at www.clairton.k12.pa.us. We hope you enjoy! Please email us with any questions .

pr@clairton.k12.pa.us



KILLMEYER'S KORNER

Dear Friends,

Although this is the first district newsletter of the school year, it comes at a time when I am looking toward the end of my first year of working, in service to your children, as the superintendent of the Clairton City School District. When I had the honor of accepting this post, I knew that there would be many challenges, and I have not been disappointed. There have, indeed, been more than I can count. What I did not know at that time, though, is the level of dedication that surrounded me and the support that I would receive from so many people who work in the district, in the community, and in the City of Clairton.

The students in this district are diligent, bright, polite, and pleasant to be around. The teachers and staff members in the school are hard-working and dedicated. I can't think of a single one who won't go above and beyond the call of their employment to help a child succeed to his or her maximum capacity. Many of the parents with whom I have dealt have had only one goal for their children, and that is that they should acquire as much education as they can, to prepare them for what lies ahead in life. I have had the opportunity to work hand in hand with people from the city government, who want to partner with the school to make our community a place of which we can all be proud. And last, but certainly not least, I am backed by a school board whose only goal is to do what's right for kids. They devote countless and thankless hours to a job that is fraught with controversy and misunderstanding. They do it happily, though, because they are dedicated to our children and to our community.

We all do our jobs and when people don't like our decisions, we sometimes take our lumps. But in the end, we can all sleep peacefully at night, knowing that we have done a service to this community and to society in general, by turning out educated young people, ready to face the next phase of their lives. And after that peaceful sleep, I can come back to work in the morning, renewed and refreshed, driving into town to see the sign that says, "Welcome to Clairton / City of Prayer." I know in my heart that the sign speaks the truth. I have truly been made to feel welcome here. I have truly seen the power of the faith displayed on all sides by almost everyone that I meet. And I look forward to each day of working with so many wonderful and dedicated people to make good things happen here. Thank you for your partnership with me in this adventure!

"Cooking with Cant!"
Mrs. Cant's 7th Grade Class made a special breakfast to welcome Dr. Killmeyer to the district.

The class prepared the food, cooked, and hosted the special breakfast.



Clairton Education Center

501 Waddell Ave.
Clairton, PA 15025

Directory

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Dr. Magi Berger, Elementary Principal
Deborah Marshall, Associate Principal-Discipline/Attendance
Debra Maurizio, Associate Principal -Cyber School

To Contact Clairton City School District

412-233-9200
Administration Office Ext. 2200
Elementary School Ext. 1050
Middle/High School Ext. 1250

Visit the district Web site for information on sports schedules, special events, pictures and more!
www.clairton.k12.pa.us

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/clairtonschool or @clairtonschool

Fan us on Facebook: "Clairton Elementary School" "Clairton Middle/High School"

Congratulations to the Girls & Boys Basketball Teams on Successful Seasons!

