

Clare Public Schools - News Release

February 22, 2010

Fall 2009 (MEAP) Michigan Educational Assessment Program

As mentioned in last month's article, the academic achievement of our students continues to soar. Each of the schools—the primary, the middle, and the high school all received high grades on their annual "Education Yes" report cards. The primary received their first ever "A". The middle school received their second consecutive "A" and the high school received a "B".

Local school districts recently received their preliminary (MEAP) Michigan Educational Assessment Program scores. The preliminary results show that once again, our students performed very well. The state averages have not yet been released. Both the primary and the middle school had some of their grade level scores in the 90's.

Semester Honor Roll

56% of the students in grades (5-8) earned semester honor roll status and 48% of the high school students made the semester honor roll.

School Funding Update

Governor Granholm released her proposed 2010/2011 budget on February 11th. In her budget proposal, the Governor vowed to veto any budget proposals that would further reduce the local schools' student foundation allowance. Michigan school districts experienced a cut, a \$165.00 reduction in their student foundation allowance last October and another \$268.00 per pupil cut has been projected for 2010/2011. That would mean Clare Public Schools could lose another \$400,000. Our school district continues to plan and be prepared for the worse case scenario.

Clare Education Boosters

The "Clare Education Boosters" meet the second Tuesday of each month in Mr. Koch's classroom, in the new wing of the Primary School. March's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th at 3:30 p.m. The organization is open to all K-12 parents and staff members.

Athletic Boosters

The Clare Athletic Boosters held their first annual "Winter Bash" on Saturday, January 16th, at the Doherty Hotel. A car sponsored by Ponderosa Restaurant and McGuire's Chevrolet/Pontiac was raffled off. A "Silent Auction" also occurred throughout the evening along with other giveaways. The Sports Boosters raised approximately \$20,000 for the school district's athletic department. The athletic department, the Board of Education, and the Sports Boosters would like to thank all the sponsors of the event as well as all those community members that came out to support the event.

Service Projects

Many of the clubs and school buildings hold drives and fundraisers each year to support community and worldwide charity initiatives. The high school's National Honor Society has been involved in the following projects:

- *Blood Drives*
- *Pennies for Patients Program-- for leukemia and lymphoma patients*
- *St. Jude Cancer Research Hospital*
- *Local Nursing Home Volunteers*

- *Big Brothers & Big Sisters Program*
- *Baby Bottles—Joshua’s House*
- *MMCAA Walk for Warmth*
- *Peer Tutoring*

The sixth grade student council participated in the Christmas “*adopt-a-family*” program through the department of Human Services. The students purchased and wrapped gifts for a Clare County family.

The high school’s student council held a “*canned food drive*” to be dispersed through Mid Michigan Community Action Agency. \$1,200 dollars worth of food items were collected. They also held a “*penny war*” to collect and raise money for charity. \$300 was raised. The “*penny war*” proceeds were combined with a “*Christmas Adopt a Family*” project to raise funds to purchase and distribute Christmas gifts to four area needy families.

This past week, Clare High School and Farwell High School joined together for the “*Clash for the Cure*” project. The joint project was aimed at collecting money to assist in cancer research. The event began with the Clare vs Farwell girls’ basketball game, at Clare, on Thursday evening and concluded with the boys’ game, at Farwell on Friday night.

February 15-20th-- School Principal’s Week Recognition

The Board of Education formally recognized the school district’s building principals—*Lee Turner, Michael Schubart, Steve Newkirk, Jeanie Mishler, and Lori Enos* for their dedication and hard work, at their February Board Meeting.

Surveillance System Enhancements

The school district will be installing additional surveillance cameras and equipment this summer. The primary school, middle school, and high school will be receiving additional cameras. The new Pioneer High School facility will receive the complete surveillance system once the new facility has been constructed and completed. The additional surveillance system equipment will be funded through a federal grant.

Richard Dean & Evelyn Fay Koontz Scholarships

This Spring, ten Clare High School seniors will be receiving ten, \$1,000 scholarships through the Richard Dean and Evelyn Fay Koontz endowment fund. The family placed over \$200,000 in the Midland Community Foundation to allow for the interest on the endowment to be used annually to provide the scholarships for Clare High School seniors.

CHS Prepares for North Central Accreditation Visitation Team

A (NCA) North Central Accreditation team made up of educators from across the state will be spending a few days at Clare High School during the month of March. The (NCA) team will be looking at the effectiveness of Clare High School’s programming, student achievement, curriculum, and practices. The high school has revised and updated their mission in preparation for the visitation. The mission statement for CHS is now: **CPS--Creating Personal Success.**

School Calendar

- *CMS Band Concert, March 2, 7:00 p.m.*

- *Gateway Community Band Concert, March 11th, 7:30 p.m., Clare High School Gymnasium*
- *Staff Professional Development Day and High School Juniors Michigan Merit Testing, Tuesday, March 9th. The high school juniors are the only students to report.*
- *Spring Break, March 29-April 2*
- *CHS Band Boosters Fundraiser, Ponderosa Restaurant, April 13th*
- *CHS Band Boosters Fundraiser, "Jazz Band Night of New Orleans", CHS Cafeteria, April 16th*