



February 12, 2021 | claytonschools.net

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Superintendent Message - Feb. 12, 2021

Dear Clayton Community,

When we developed our strategic plan, we were intentional about using the word learner rather than student in our goals. Using the term learner means every stakeholder in the District, which includes not only students, but also our teachers, staff and parents. On Feb. 11, we held one of our [Parent Education](#) events focused on resiliency during turbulent times, which allowed our parents to come together as learners. Our speaker, [Dr. Tim Bono](#), spoke about strategies for coping with adversity and growing from difficult times. (We will make his presentation available soon). While he talked about the importance of [relatedness, competence and autonomy](#) for the well-being of our children, I felt his suggestions could apply to the adult learners as well. It is important for us to be conscientious of our own well-being so we can be good models for our children and so we can be better equipped to take care of them. I encourage you to focus on your own well-being and to be intentional about it each day.

[Read Dr. Doherty's entire message here.](#)

Legislators Update BOE on Potential Damaging Legislation

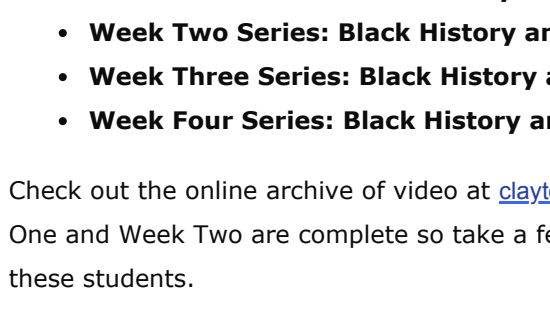


State Senator Brian Williams and Representative Ian Mackey met with the Board of Education on Wednesday, Feb. 10 to provide an update on legislation that would expand charter schools and allow school vouchers in Missouri. The legislation is generally seen as harmful to public schools, especially districts like Clayton.

[Watch the video of Williams and Mackey's update](#)

from Wednesday's BOE meeting. The update is the first item on the agenda.

District Fifth Graders Showcase Black History Month Video



Clayton fifth graders are two weeks into celebrating Black History Month through a unique video project. **Captain, Glenridge** and **Meramec Elementary** students created a month-long video series highlighting the theme "Black History is Essential."

Each series consists runs for one week and consists of a daily video that is promoted on the District's social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)). The schedule for each weekly series is outlined below:

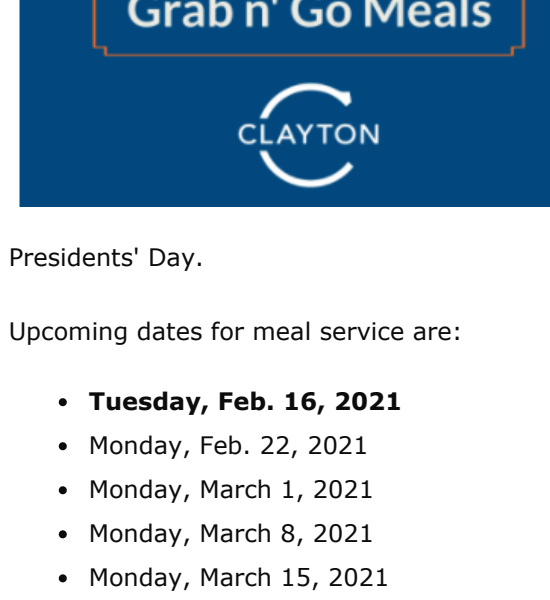
- **Week One Series: Black History and Healthcare**
- **Week Two Series: Black History and Essential Workers**
- **Week Three Series: Black History and Community Leaders**
- **Week Four Series: Black History and Black Educators**

Check out the online archive of video at claytonschools.net/blackhistoryisessential. Week One and Week Two are complete so take a few minutes to watch the great work done by these students.

District Staff to Participate in 14-Day Racial Equity Challenge

Today, Friday, Feb. 12, staff in the School District of Clayton will begin a 14-Day Racial Equity Challenge. This challenge involves engaging in cohorted learning about racial equity, justice and systems through reading, watching, listening and connecting to a variety of resources related to racial literacy. For 14 days straight (Feb. 12 - Feb. 25), cohorts of teachers and staff in the District will choose one source a day and engage by reading, listening, watching, or connecting.

Clayton Alumnae to Appear on "All That Glitters"



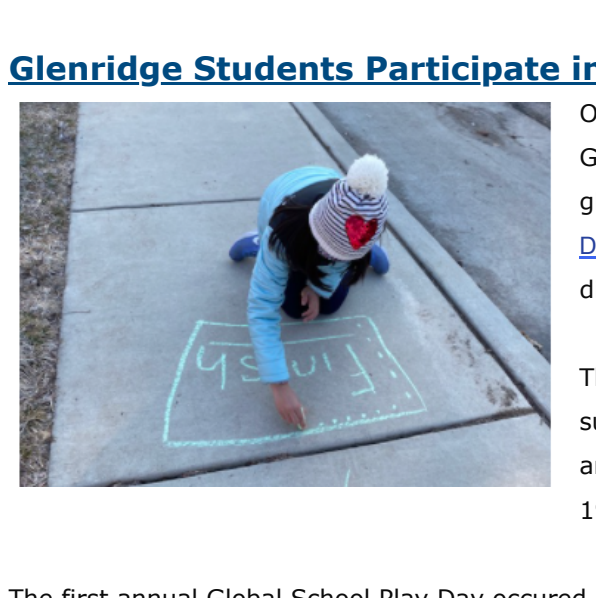
On Wednesday, Feb. 24, Clayton alumnae, **Claire Saffitz** will appear on [All That Glitters: CCF At Home with Claire Saffitz](#).

The Ralph Clayton Society of the Clayton Community Foundation (CCF) and KMOX will host this virtual event, moderated by Charlie Brennan of KMOX and KETC's Donnybrook.

Born and raised in Clayton, Claire Saffitz is a pastry chef, food writer and media star. Her first cookbook [Dessert Person](#) is a New York Times Best Seller celebrating baking, pastry and all things sweet. Previously, she was the Senior Food Editor at Bon Appétit magazine. She hosted the series Gourmet Makes on the Bon Appétit YouTube channel where she used her classical pastry knowledge to reverse engineer popular snack foods and candy.

This event is complimentary but [registration is required](#). All registered participants will receive Zoom information prior to the event.

Grab n' Go Meal Services - 2021 Dates



The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Service is still available to all families of students who are Learning@Home.

Meals are distributed from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. on Mondays at the front entrance of Clayton High School. Next week's distribution is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 16**, in observance of

Presidents' Day.

Upcoming dates for meal service are:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021**
- Monday, Feb. 22, 2021
- Monday, March 1, 2021
- Monday, March 8, 2021
- Monday, March 15, 2021

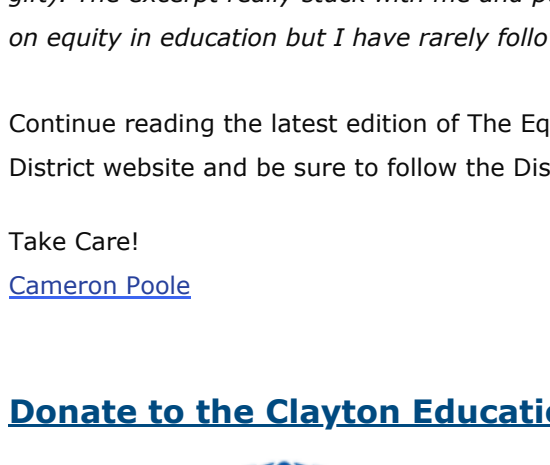
District Students Excel in Virtual Chess Tournament

On Saturday, Jan. 30, District secondary students competed virtually in the Chris Bollinger Memorial Chess Tournament.

Wydown seventh grader **Dante Zou** forked, trapped and mated his way to a first place finish and captured the top trophy in this historical 20th edition of the tournament. The victory was particularly meaningful because the tournament is held in honor of a former Wydown and CHS student.

During the competition, Wydown sixth grader **Agastya Diwan** earned a trophy for a second place finish while sixth grader **Jocelyn Zou** and seventh grader **Rafael Rodriguez** earned medals for outstanding play. CHS award winners included junior **Shane LeGessee**, earning a trophy in the High School Section. [Click here for the full list of District participants.](#)

Glenridge Students Participate in Global School Play Day



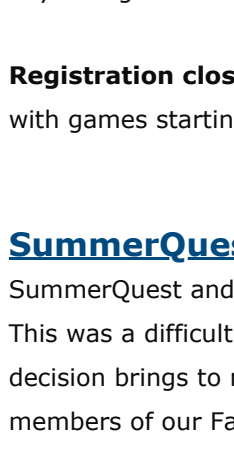
On Wednesday, Feb. 3, students at Glenridge Elementary participated in a global play event called [Global School Play Day](#), while staying safe and socially-distanced.

This effort was created by educators in support of structured playtime for students around the world - even through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first annual Global School Play Day occurred around the world on Feb. 4, 2015. In just the first year over 65,000 students participated and many more followed suit.

Students were given the opportunity to just play! No screens and no structure. Other than taking a few pictures/videos, educators tried to be invisible and just let the kids enjoy some unstructured play, instead of playful, teacher-led lessons. Take a look at just a [few of the photos from this amazing event](#).

Medical Marijuana Virtual Seminar - Feb. 23



Have questions about medical marijuana? We have answers. Please plan to attend a **free** interactive virtual seminar for Clayton parents, businesses and community members on **Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 6 - 7 p.m.** The event is sponsored by All In Clayton Coalition, supported by Chapman & Co. Leadership Institute.

A panel of experts in medicine, workplace law and community health will answer questions - providing you with valuable information to make your own informed decisions.

Event registration is required, [please click here](#) to sign up. All registered participants will receive Zoom information prior to the event. [Click here to view an informational flyer.](#)

The Equity Corner

This "achievement era" intensified the focus on access as the critical issue in the work of creating fair and just schools... Hence the "achievement gap".... Schools routinely offer our students on the margins (e.g., impoverished and minoritized) inferior academic experiences to students of affluence and cultural dominance. This holds true even when they attend the same schools (Lewis & Diamond, 2015). The so-called "achievement gap" is more accurately a "curricular gap."... Brown v. Board of Education [did not] require educators to prioritize a sense of belonging for students racialized as Black (or otherwise) who were displaced and had to leave the safety and belonging of home schools and move into often unwelcoming cultures that were exclusively White. Thus, a "belonging gap" emerged within racially integrated schools.

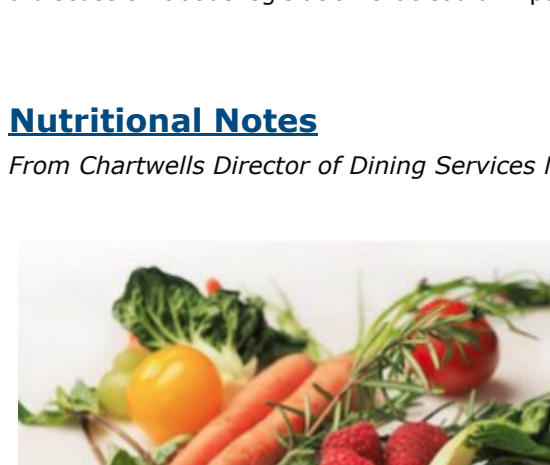
-- Source: *Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity* (Floyd Cobb and John Krownapple)

Above is an excerpt from a book I am currently reading (shout out to Dr. Doherty for the gift). The excerpt really stuck with me and put into perspective a thought I've always had on equity in education but I have rarely followed through on.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Solving the Belonging Gap](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on [Twitter @CP_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!
[Cameron Poole](#)

Donate to the Clayton Education Foundation



The Clayton Education Foundation (CEF) advances the School District of Clayton's culture of academic excellence. The CEF helps students reach their full potential by funding classroom innovations, increasing access to educational opportunities and promoting lifelong connections for alumni.

Since its inception, the Foundation has been supporting innovative learning opportunities for Clayton students by awarding more than \$242,000 in grants to Clayton teachers and the Foundation has been instrumental in providing funding for classroom initiatives that have turned into building-wide and District-wide initiatives. [Help fulfill the CEF's mission and donate today!](#)

Youth Baseball/Softball Leagues: Deadline Approaching

Registration is open for the Clayton Parks and Recreation's spring 2021 Youth Baseball and Softball Leagues for grades K-8.

The league will follow all youth sports guidance offered by the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and will notify parents of all modifications before the first practice and as any changes occur.

Registration closes on Friday, Feb. 19. Practices will begin the weekend of March 13 with games starting the weekend of April 3. [Click here for forms and additional information.](#)

SummerQuest and Family Center Summer Camp Canceled

SummerQuest and Family Center Summer Camp have been canceled for summer 2021.

This was a difficult decision as we understand the disappointment and hardship this decision brings to many of our families and staff members who have been long-time members of our Family Center and SummerQuest community.

Plans for summer academic programming (Elementary Summer Academy, Wydown Summer Academy and Clayton Summer Academy) are underway and more details are forthcoming. We encourage families to [visit the Center of Clayton's website](#) for future recreational opportunities in 2021.

Staff and Student Achievements

Wydown student Vivian Wang received recognition for two pieces of artwork she submitted to the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. One of the pieces received an Honorable Mention while the other earned a Gold Key award, advancing it to the national competition.

Congrats to **CHS students Seraphina Corbo, Sofia Erlin** and **Anisha Jarang**. The three won awards in the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for the Missouri region. Their winning pieces will appear in Missouri Youth Write, an online publication available in June 2021.

Captain Elementary Librarian Tom Bober released a new book, Building News Literacy: Lessons for Teaching Critical Thinking Skills in Elementary and Middle Schools. The title, published by Libraries Unlimited, is his second book for educators.

Wydown sixth grade Chess team members **Charlie Balestra, Vimal Buckley, Yijia Mao, Rafael Rodriguez, Andrew Wolpert** and **Dante Zou** claimed the title of top chess team in their division at 2020 Gateway Chess League Middle School Chess Championship. Due to COVID-19, the results were unable to be published until now.

CHS students Brooklyn Hicks, Moriah Lotsoff, Ivy Reed and **Ayden Simckes** have been selected to join Cultural Leadership, a unique year-long educational leadership program where they'll be developed into civic leaders and social justice change-makers through the lenses of the Black and Jewish experiences.

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Feb. 10 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education received an update about charter school and voucher legislation from legislators who represent the District, learned about the District's 14-day Equity Challenge and reviewed a number of proposed policy revisions.

Following each meeting of the Board of Education, The Board Brief is your source for details on Board discussions, actions and items of interest to Clayton students, staff and residents.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda will include a review Policy GCL - Professional Staff Development Opportunities and a discussion about legislation that could impact public school districts.

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.

Fat often gets a bad reputation but in reality, fat is a nutrient just like protein and carbohydrates that your body needs for energy, to absorb vitamins and protect your heart and brain health.

Choosing "good" fats over "bad" fats is key in keeping your waistline trim and increasing your energy. The good fats are monounsaturated, polyunsaturated

fats and Omega-3s. These can be found in olive oils, avocados, olives, nuts, various seeds, fatty fish, soymilk and tofu. Trans fat is considered the bad fat and, although some is naturally found in meat and dairy products, it's the artificial trans fat that should be avoided. It is usually found in commercially processed baked and snack items. Saturated fat should not be eliminated completely but limited in your diet to about 10-percent of your caloric intake. It is often found in red meat, whole-fat dairy products, butter and ice cream.

Focus On: Maintaining Good Heart Health

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. When people talk about heart disease, they are often talking about coronary heart disease - also called coronary artery disease. Everyone is at risk for heart disease but you are at

higher risk based on a number of genetic factors and personal health choices. There are ways to [keep your heart at its healthiest](#) including:

- Eat foods that are **low in saturated and trans fats**, added sugars and salt.
- Eating a **nutritious breakfast** every day can help you maintain a healthy diet and weight.
- **Manage stress** through deep breathing or meditation.
- **Get active** with at least 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate aerobic activity each week.

Calendar

Feb. 12 - No School PK-12 / Professional Learning Day

Feb. 16 - No School PK-12 / District Closed / Presidents' Day

Feb. 24 - Electronic Board of Education Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Feb. 26 - Next issue of eNews

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