

# Clinton Public School News



Glen Gardner, December 2013

*The mission of Clinton Public School is to inspire our students to become contributing members of society who are independent, innovative, life-time learners equipped with the necessary skills to meet the demands of our ever-changing world.*

## Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education

Bob Pyle, Margaret Layding, Patty Cooper, Brendan McIsaac, Bob Moul

### Update on Superintendent Search

After 6 years at CPS, Dr. Richard Katz took another role this past summer. The Clinton-Glen Gardner Board of Education hired Mrs. Judy Burd as our Interim Superintendent effective August 1. We are pleased to have Mrs. Burd join us, she brings a wealth of experience, with 30+ years in Lebanon Township Schools from which she retired in 2011.

The Board is now actively searching for a permanent Superintendent/Principal. The role has been advertised and we expect to interview candidates in January and February. As required by state law, we are seeking candidates with Superintendent certification, though we did combine the role of Superintendent and Principal several years ago to help manage costs effectively for our one-building district.

As part of the replacement search process, the Board is also seeking input from parents, staff and community members about qualities you value in a school leader.

**We would appreciate your participation in our survey to get your input**, please visit the school website at [www.cpsnj.org](http://www.cpsnj.org) and click the survey link on our home page to provide your feedback. The survey will be available through January.

### CPS Facility Plan and March 2014 Referendum

Over the last year, the Board has been updating the school's facility plan. Clinton Public School was built in many sections. Parts of the building are still original from 1923; we also did major additions in the 1960s, 1996 and in 2001.

While we always budget for ongoing maintenance, there are 3 important projects coming which need to be funded through a bond issue: 1) replacing the large 1996 section of roof which is near the end of its useful life, 2) upgrading the 1996 heating/cooling system for better energy efficiency, and 3) replacing the 1969 fire alarm system which is difficult and expensive to repair due to obsolete parts.

About 35% of the project cost will be covered by state funding. The remainder would be split between our sending communities via a bond issue; for Clinton estimated costs are \$29 per \$100,000 valuation, for Glen-Gardner \$32 per \$100,000. (The slight difference is driven by state requirements on budget splits.)

In Clinton, there is a net tax savings from this work because these bonds would **replace** the more expensive 1996 bonds which are already part of current taxes. The net tax savings between old and new bonds is (-\$68) per \$100,000

In Glen Gardner, the final net impact to taxes is still to be determined. Glen Gardner was a separate school district until the 2009 merger, so did not vote on or pay taxes on previous bond referendums.

We will have an Open House meeting at school in early 2014 (date to be scheduled) to address any questions about the building and referendum. Please join us then for more information! The public vote will be in March.

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## Full-Day Kindergarten

Judith Burd, Interim Superintendent/Principal

This school year, Clinton Public School joined the majority (now over 80%) of Hunterdon County districts offering full-day kindergarten. The state's adoption of the Core Curriculum State Standards has increased the expectations that kindergarten students are expected to meet. The kindergarten program begun this year at CPS has doubled the amount of instructional time that kindergarten students receive, thus providing more time to focus on important content and achieve these increased demands.

Students have responded favorably to a full-day program. Teachers have seen an improvement in the development of students' social skills; students are learning the skills needed to be part of a community such as taking turns, listening to their peers, and caring for materials. Academic progress has been accelerated when compared to previous (half-day) programs because students have been able to explore ideas and topics more fully with the increased time of a full day program. Teachers have also been able to work more closely with their students both in small groups and individually. Our kindergarten students are working hard and becoming an important part of the CPS community of learners.



Veterans' Day was celebrated early at Clinton Public School. On Wednesday, November 6, 14 veterans were recognized at an all-school assembly. The kindergarten classes led the Pledge of Allegiance. Third grade classes led their peers in patriotic songs. Sixth grade students partnered with first graders to create centerpieces and second graders made patriotic decorations for a reception. Christine Steiner, Assistant Principal, read *America's White Table*, a book by Margot Theis Raven, that recognizes all POWs and MIAs. Veterans attending represented the Army, Navy, Marines, Merchant Marines, Army/National Guard, and Naval Reserve.

*Pictured left: Col. Wright are his wife, daughter, and grandsons Aiden & Liam Casey who are students at the school.*

## Volleyball District Champions

Congratulations Clinton Public School Volleyball Team for an outstanding season! The volleyball team led by co-captains Sarah Khan and Kadie Davis, steamrolled their way through the season to an impressive 10-0 record. The team had an impressive out of district record of 2-1. Bulldogs were seeded #1 in the District Tournament on October 23 at North Hunterdon High School. They defeated both Bethlehem Township and Clinton Township to win the District Tournament. Caroline Layding was named MVP of the District Tournament. Congratulations Bulldogs! We are proud of you.

Clinton Public School's annual Halloween parade through downtown Clinton was a great success! The weather held and students were warmly greeted by parents and community members along the route.



10 School Street, Clinton, New Jersey 08809 • 908-735-8512  
Judith Burd, Interim Superintendent / Principal • Lisa Craft, Business Administrator  
Christine Steiner, Assistant Principal • Jenine Kastner, Supervisor of Special Services  
[www.cpsnj.org](http://www.cpsnj.org)