

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 21 NO. 45

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1987

USPS 115-760

25 CENTS



THE STUDENT COUNCIL of the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark recently sponsored the inaugural "Big Brother/Big Sister" orientation program in the school's auditorium. Pictured here are A.L.J. seniors (back row, from left): Denise Favor, Karen Bruno, Gia Marciano, Joanne Lee and Tracey Clark, with their "Little Brothers and Sisters," freshmen (front row): Nicole Jacobs, Carmen Strilacci, (front

Rodrigues, Carolyn Ghomik and Craig Rosko. The Johnson Regional "Big Brother/Big Sister" program which randomly matched each participating senior student with a freshman student, was formulated by the A.L.J. Student Council with the intention of fostering a sense of community in the school while de-emphasizing the concept of unfriendly class rivalry.

Students improve in proficiency testing

by Pat DiMaggio
David Hart, Principal of Carl Kumpf School, advised the Clark Board of Education of High School Proficiency Test (HSPT) results at a meeting held last week. The HSPT is a state-mandated test used as a graduation requirement. The test is given to ninth graders who must pass the test in order to graduate. If a student fails the test in ninth grade, he or she is given remedial education and is allowed to take it again in the tenth, eleventh

and twelfth grades until all three portions of the test receive a passing grade. Hart said results of the test given last spring impact on the township's elementary schools since the majority of students at Arthur L. Johnson High School taking the test are graduates of Clark's public schools. Ninth graders at Johnson and 24 tenth graders took the test last spring. 144 students out of 156 of the students taking the test graduated from Clark schools, he said.

Skills tested are primarily basic skills taught in the elementary schools. Students must receive a passing grade of at least 75 percent in reading, 61 percent in math and 77 percent in writing. Hart said 98.7 percent of the Kumpf ninth graders passed the reading portion, 89.7 percent passed the math portion and 90.4 percent passed the writing portion. There was a growth from 1985-86 to 1986-87 of 6.3 percent in reading, 5.5 percent in math and 6.2 percent in writing. Calling the reading por-

tion the "meat of the test," Hart said it was the highest scoring skill cluster. Math showed "a good substantial growth." "We are making every effort to push them up again," he said. Some areas that needed work were fractions, measurements and geometry. "We have to work especially hard on writing and some areas of math," said Hart. "We feel we made a superior effort last year to get results." Hart pointed to programs such as the grades 1 to 8 reading program, regrouping in math down to third grade and additional math

programs added to grade 6 stressing percentages, fractions and word problems as strengthening the academic programs in the elementary schools. The following goals will be implemented this year, according to Hart, to increase scores on the HSPT: Continue HSPT practice testing in reading, math and writing; limit pullouts from reading, math and writing programs; increase instructional attention to basic skills; improve test taking skills; attempt to instill a more serious attitude to test taking in students and parents.

Veterans Day activities are planned in Clark

The Clark Central Veterans Committee has announced the observance of Veterans Day will be held on Wednesday, November 11, at 7 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park on Broadway, Clark.

Spokesmen for the Clark Veterans Committee, Commander Don McArdle of the American Legion, Clark Post 328 and Commander Buddy Yates of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7363 invite the Clark community to participate in this year's observance, showing an expression of patriotism as part of the holiday celebration.

Commander McArdle states Veterans Day gives all Americans a special opportunity to pay tribute to

those men and women who, throughout our history, have left their home and loved ones to serve their country in time of war.

He also stated, "A veteran is every man grown up a little taller — a person who understands the awesome price of life's freedom, justice, and democracy. His motto is live and let live. But if he had to, if he had to choose between servitude and conflict, the veteran would once again answer a call to duty."

A special committee headed by James Kehoe and Ray Grimes of Clark Post 328, Norman Smink, Robert Clark and Ralph Whittle of Post 7363 have arranged this year's program.



The committee has asked the following groups and organization of Clark to participate with the veterans, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion Auxiliary, Clark Post 328, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Post 7363, Police Dept., Volunteer First Aid, Volunteer Fire Dept., Girls Scouts of Winfield-Clark, Boy Scouts, Elks Lodge, Knights of Columbus, senior citizens, Mayor George Nucera and the Municipal Council.

V.F.W. Commander Buddy Yates is asking all citizens of Clark to display the Flag of the United States at their homes and places of business.



A SPECIAL OCCASION. The first graduating class of Mother Selon Regional High School in Clark recently celebrated their twentieth reunion at the Mansion Hotel in Fanwood. To make the occasion special, the class presented Sr. Regina Marlin, school principal, with a gold chalice and vestments in memory of Rev. Thomas J. Doherty, former school chaplain. Presenting the chalice are (left to right) Ellen Rotolla, Janice Senese, MaryLee Massanzio, Sr. Regina Marlin, Patricia Novy of Clark, Lynn O'Connor, and Mary Majors.



HELPING CHILDREN DISCOVER NATURE. Museum display artist Dorothy Shoutdis of Clark recently completed authentic environmental murals to serve as backgrounds for animal habitat exhibits in the Children's Discovery Center at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. Shoutdis, a field naturalist, stands in the "forest" she created and shows how raccoons like to live in a hole in a dead tree. Hands-on exhibits (but not live animals) are featured in the Discovery Center, which is available for group tours by reservation and is appropriate for children grades K-6.

Education classes approved for 'below standard' students

by Pat DiMaggio
The Clark Board of Education approved for second reading a policy on Compensatory Education at their regular meeting held last week. The policy states that children whose proficiency level in basic communication and computational skills is below the established statewide standard shall be enrolled in the district's Compensatory Educational Program.

Parents will be notified by letter that their child has been enrolled and if a parent is dissatisfied with

the program, he or she will be given an opportunity to request a meeting with the building principal. If the parent and principal cannot reach a decision, the parent may appeal to the superintendent.

Students may be validated out of the program if they show marked improvement in the regular classroom work in the particular subject as judged by the classroom teacher, through samples of the work in the classroom and test results and by achievement at or above state

established minimum proficiency levels in the standardized test.

In other business the board:

— Accepted the retirement of Michael Walano, custodian and trusted employee for fifteen years and four months. Walano was a custodian at Helony and Kumpf schools.

— Appointed Joseph L. Wagner as a van driver for the 1987-88 school year.

— Appointed Patrick Healey as a substitute van driver.

— Accepted Pietro Colletti and Daniel Rosa as sophomore practicum students from Kean College from October to December for two hours per week in physical education and David Jones of Seton Hall University as a practicum teacher in music education from October to December for three hours per week.

— Accepted and approved the 1986-87 audit, recommendations and corrections as submitted by Amann, Fidler and Company.

Leaf collecting begins Nov. 16

Mayor George G. Nucera has announced that leaf collection will start Monday, November 16 by wards, starting with the First and Third wards.

Two crews of four men each will collect the leaves with one crew in each ward.

The Second and Fourth ward leaves will be picked up after the completion of the First and Third wards.

Leaves must be placed on the curb. Use of plastic bags is encouraged with no debris or branches mixed with the leaves.

Clark AARP lists fall activities

Clark Chapter #3733, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will meet on Friday, November 13, 7 p.m., at the Brewer Senior Citizen Center, Westfield Avenue, Clark, following a social hour at 12:30 p.m.

John N. Surmay, Director of Health, Welfare and Housing of the City of Elizabeth will speak to the group on medications and prescription drugs.

Mr. Surmay is a licensed New Jersey Public Health Officer and New Jersey Pharmacist and has an extensive background in related activities in these fields. The Retired Senior Volunteer Persons (R.S.V.P.) will present a skit on the program subject. Joanne Croteau is the Coordinator for R.S.V.P.

Members are reminded to collect old glasses for the "Glasses for the Needy"; small toilet articles for the "Holiday Packages for Shut-Ins"; layette or baby care items for "Project

Layette"; afghans and booties for nursing home residents; and labels from Gaines dog food cans.

Opportunities are open for volunteer services in the distribution of Mobile Meals to shut-ins. Day trips are planned for November 17 for luncheon and showtime at San Francisco, Swartwood, and December 14 to the Joys of Christmas spectacular, Lancaster, Pa.

The Christmas Holiday Party will be held on December 11 at the Coachman Inn, Cranford.

Membership in Clark Chapter #3733 is open to those 55 and over, retired or employed, and is open to all area residents. Call 388-2426 for further information.

Holiday closing

The Clark Municipal Offices will be closed Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Registration set for basketball in Clark Township

The Clark Youth Basketball League will be holding registration for boys and girls in grades 3-8 for the coming season.

Registration will be held at Valley Road School on Nov. 9, 11 and 16, from 7-8 p.m.

For further information call Paul Glover at 388-1809.

Scranton names Clark freshmen

The following Clark residents have enrolled in the University of Scranton, Pa., as freshmen: Robert G. Gilbert, Jr., Orchard Terrace, business; Sean J. Smith, Garside Place, accounting; and Ryan P. Wesley, Coldevin Rd., accounting.

Cadet Moraes enters AF Cadet Wing

Cadet Steven P. Moraes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alcides Moraes of Walnut Ave., Clark has been officially accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy's Cadet Wing as a member of the class of 1991 during the annual acceptance parade. The parade followed six weeks of rigorous basic cadet training at the Col-

orado Springs, Colo., academy. Training in military customs and courtesies, drill and physical conditioning, tactical exercises and the firing of weapons, introduced the basic cadets to military life under the program.

The academy is a four-year educational institution graduating men and women to serve as career Air Force

officers. In addition to military training, the academy offers athletics and an academic curriculum which includes basic and engineering sciences, social sciences and the humanities.

He is a 1987 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, Clark.



COMPUTER VIEWS. Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, Principal of St. John the Apostle School, Clark, explains her office computer to kindergarten students, Brian Quinn, Kevin Trella, Michael Bellas, and Melissa Ruth. The kindergarten class was given a tour of the school to welcome them to the world of education.

