THE CLARKE COURIER

SPRING 2026 EDITION

HIGHLIGHTS

- Service in Action
- NYS History Day
- No Place for Hate
- Superbowl LX
- Winter Wonderland Dance
- Shrek the Musical
- LISEF
- Hamilton Field Trip
- Famous Figures
- Badminton Tournament
- New Movies



NJHS students prepare and deliver over 750 lunches to community members in need.

Read more about these students and their efforts inside this issue!





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Service in Action

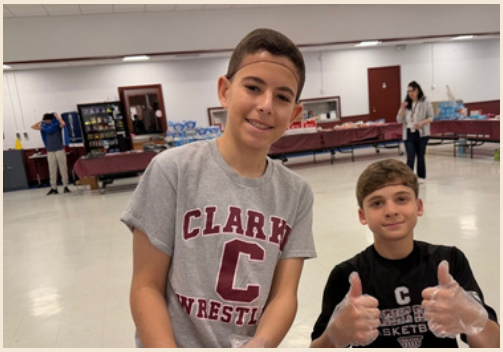
NJHS students prepare and deliver over 750 lunches to community members in need.











A spirit of service and leadership shone brightly at our school as one of our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) students took meaningful action to support the community. Under the guidance of Ms. Loewy and Ms. Giannotti, NJHS member Kyle Krauz was awarded an $800 grant to bring his community service vision to life.

Kyle's project focused on addressing food insecurity across Long Island. Working alongside fellow NJHS members and advisors, he helped organize and pack lunches for individuals and families in need. This effort was made possible through a collaboration with Rock Can Roll, an organization committed to fighting hunger through community-driven initiatives. Together, they aimed to make a real difference in the lives of local residents facing hardship.

On Friday, March 27, the project came to life as students gathered in the middle school cafeteria to prepare more than 750 lunches. These meals were delivered to veterans, shelters, and soup kitchens throughout the area. Our school community was incredibly proud of Kyle for his leadership and compassion, as well as the NJHS members who supported this effort. A special thank you to Ms. Loewy and Ms. Giannotti for their guidance in turning this inspiring idea into a reality.





CMS student competes in New York State History Day!

Janinne Bautista, an 8th grade student at Clarke Middle School, advanced to compete at the state level for her National History Day project. Janinne developed a website on *When Fear Went Viral: Government Propaganda and the First Red Scare*. On April 26, 2026 she presented her research at SUNY Oneonta and placed third!

National History Day is a year-long educational program that encourages students to conduct extensive research relating to an annual theme. They then analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history, and create final projects that present their work. These projects are entered into a series of competitions, from the local to the national level, where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators

With 15 categories (individual and group options for documentary, exhibit, performance, website, and individual papers) across junior and senior divisions, only a select number of students from New York qualify to compete at the state level. This year's theme was *Revolution, Reaction, Reform In History.*



"Competing in such a widespread competition was so exciting! SUNY Oneonta has a very nice campus, but presenting in front of judges was nerve-racking, as I was constantly thinking about what the judges thought of my website. Hours later at the awards ceremony, I didn't expect to receive any awards, but when they announced my name for third I was shocked and happy! Only first and second go to Nationals, but I didn't mind because I'm still bringing home a proud win!"

NO PLACE FOR HATE

CLARKE'S KINDEST COMMITTEE

No Place for Hate is a group of students and staff who spread kindness throughout the school as a team. Recently, this group has been going into 6th grade classrooms to inform CMS students about how we can together make Clarke an even more positive place.

This committee has a profound impact on our school. For instance, they show students how to be an upstander, how to fight bullying and bias, and how to be kind to everyone, despite their differences. They showed 6th grade classes clips from the movie "Wonder." This movie shows us how harmful bullying can be and how we can stand up for those being bullied.

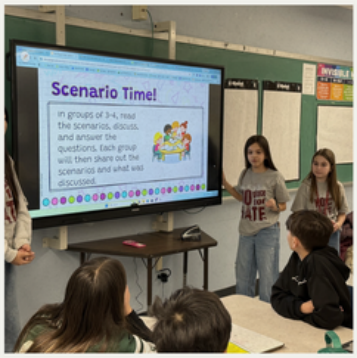
No Place for Hate and everyone who learned from them will become better versions of themselves because of this program.



LOOKING AHEAD

The committee plans to create mindfulness activities this spring!





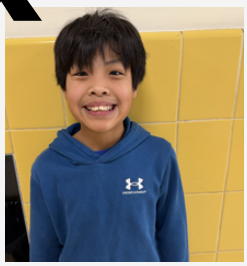




Written By: Kate McBrien

SUPERBOWL LX

SEAHAWKS VS. PATRIOTS



WRITTEN BY: CARTER LAM

60TH SUPERBOWL

The Seattle Seahawks played against the New England Patriots at Levi's Stadium located in Santa Clara California for Superbowl LX. This was the 60th Superbowl in NFL history.





SEAHAWKS WIN!

The Seattle Seahawks won this game! Kenneth Walker III took home the super bowl MVP with 135 rushing yards and was a notable player. Some other standout players from this year were Kenneth Walker III, Jason Meyers, Devon Witherspoon, Christian Gonzalez, Drake Maye and Sam Darnold.

POPULAR OPINION

Most people online call this the most boring Superbowl of all time due to the low scoring and minimal touchdowns. However, critics overlook the Seahawk's defensive execution. Overall, it was a great game of stopping the opponent more than lighting up the scoreboard.



Winter Wonderland Dance







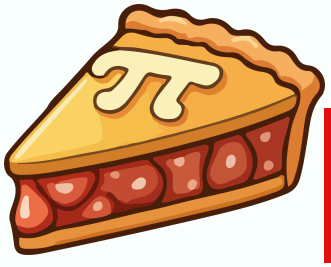












CLARKE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S

PI DAY

March 14th is Pi Day!



Students "pie" teachers for a cause!

This year's Pi Day celebration brought laughter, excitement, and a whole lot of whipped cream to our school!



In honor of March 14 (3.14), a day dedicated to the mathematical constant pi, students and staff came together for a memorable event that mixed math with fun and excitement.





Pi Day Fun!

On the big day, the atmosphere was full of anticipation as names were drawn and lucky students stepped up to take their shot. With cheers from classmates, whipped cream pies flew, and teachers took it all in stride—smiling, laughing, and sometimes getting completely covered!





A FAIRY TALE PERFORMANCE



SHREK

ON APRIL 24TH AND 25TH, CLARKE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORMED SHREK THE MUSICAL. THE PLAY MADE THE AUDIENCE LAUGH, SMILE, AND ENJOY EVERY MOMENT FROM BEGINNING TO END. SPECIAL EFFECTS LIKE A FOG MACHINE, A DRAGON PUPPET, AND PINNOCHIO'S NOSE GROWING MADE THE MUSICAL EVEN MORE EXCITING. A BIG THANK YOU TO MS. HARTMAN, MS. SHMUEL, MS. MONASTERO AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CREW FOR HELPING BRING THIS VISION TO LIFE!

"Being in Shrek Jr. was not just a fun experience for the cast, but a learning opportunity for everyone involved. We met many people in all different grades, which led to new friendships growing."

- Kate McBrien

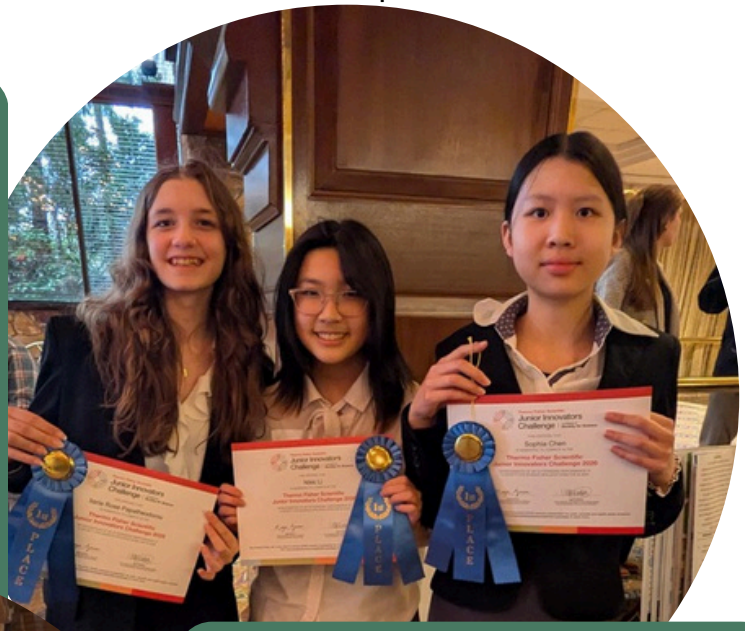




LISEF

Mrs. Frankel's 8th grade students shared their research projects and placed at the LISEF Research competition!

1st place



The Effect of Natural Barrier Patterns on Soil Erosion of Cropland

by Sophia Chen, Nikki Li, and Ilaria Papatheodorou

2nd place



The Effect of Seawall Shapes on Tsunami Flooding

by Ajooni Chandhok, Jeanamarie Otero, and Rosemary Palma

3rd place



The Effect of Building Structures on the Damage from High Wind Speeds

by Ireoluwatomi Adisa, Shreya Balaji, and Elizabeth Eze

Clarke Music Ensemble Field Trip

by Amitis Barzehkar

Hamilton Field Trip

Clarke's 8th grade Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Singers and Jazz Band took a trip to Manhattan to see Hamilton on Broadway. Students ate lunch at Planet Hollywood before the play. It was a great day!









FAMOUS FIGURES: Cleopatra

by Kate McBrien



Born in 69 BCE, Cleopatra VII Philopater was the last Pharaoh of ancient Egypt. At the young age of 17, after her father passed away, Cleopatra became the ruler of Egypt. She reigned over Egypt with her two brothers, Ptolemy XII and Ptolemy XIII.

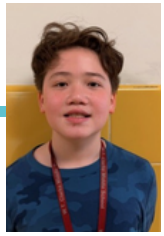
You might think that since she was the queen of Egypt, she would be Egyptian. No! She was actually Macedonian (Greek)! Another interesting fact is her connection with Julius Caesar. After Julius Caesar (The famous Roman General and statesman) came to Egypt, Caesar met Cleopatra and they ended up falling in love and having one child, Caesarion. Sadly, Julius Caesar got assassinated in 44 BCE. 12 years after Caesar got assassinated, Cleopatra met Mark Antony (A Roman general) in 41 BCE and got married in 32 BCE.

Together, Cleopatra and Antony ruled Egypt as a duo. In the meantime, they also raised three wonderful children. Alexander Helios, Cleopatra Selene, and Ptolemy Philadelphus.

Cleopatra was an amazing leader, scholar, and trendsetter. She not only kept her country from getting taken advantage of by Rome, she also strengthened the economy of Egypt. Additionally, she spoke at least 9 languages, including Greek, Egyptian Hebrew, Ethiopian, and Syrian. Remarkably, even in the midst of constant chaos, Cleopatra still found time to set fashion and beauty trends. She influenced the people of ancient Egypt by wearing bold eye make-up; her famous “cat-eye” is still worn today!

After losing a battle against Octavian (Caesar’s great nephew) in 31 BCE, she ended up passing away. Cleopatra’s time had come to an end after almost 21 years of being the Pharaoh. But Cleopatra's reign never really came to an end. She was an inquisitive, trendsetter for all of ancient Egypt, and her influence still lasts today.

STUDENT & TEACHER BADMINTON TOURNAMENT



by Liam Eng-Wind

CLARKE'S FIRST EVER BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

kicked off Wednesday, April 15th afterschool. Student - teacher teams competed in a bracket-style tournament, while CMS students and staff cheered them on. It was such a fun event showcasing not only athletic ability but teamwork, excitement, and Clarke spirit. Teacher student duo, Mrs. Pominski and Aiden Zheng, won the entire compeititon! The second place winning team was Mr. Catterson and Hayden Yu. This was such a fun event!





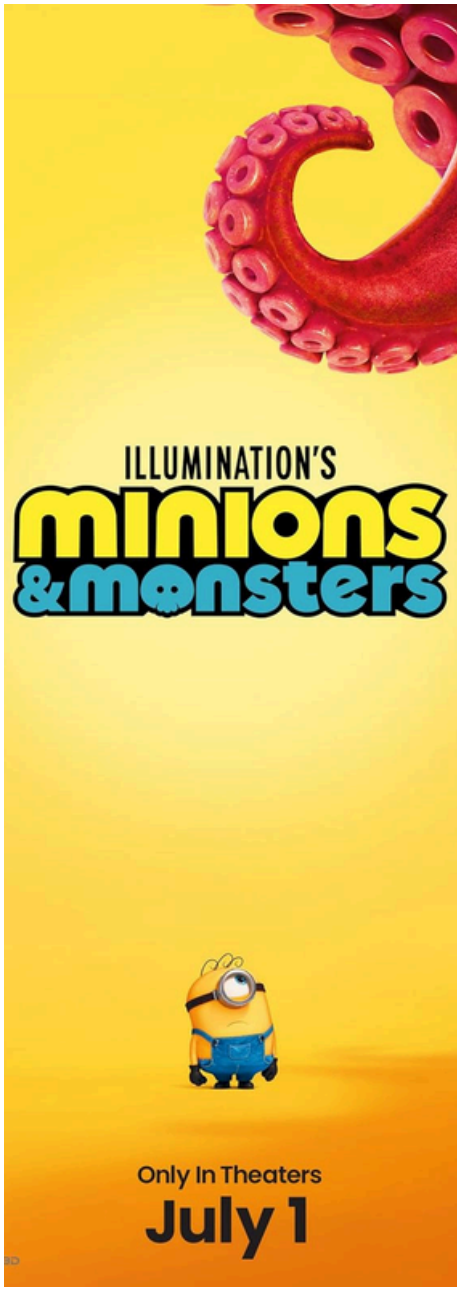




New Movies!

BY CLARKE COURIER STAFF

There are many new movies coming soon and in 2026. Some of them include Super Mario Galaxy and Moana (live Action). The courier staff is looking forward to Minions and Monsters, and Toy Story 5! Let's all plan to have a great summer and take a trip to the movies to enjoy these films!













THE CLARKE COURIER

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