

The Bear Facts
Clover Garden School
A school of Distinction
Wednesday, December 14, 2011



CALENDAR:

- TODAY Elementary FCA 3-4 pm;
Afterschool art program for
6-12 grade 3:00-4:00
- Dec 13-19 Midterm Exams
- Dec 16 Winter Formal Dance to
benefit Dance Team
K-5, 5:00-6:30 pm
MS/HS, 7:00-10:00 pm
- Dec 19 Band Concert at 7pm
Paramount Theatre
- Dec 20 Half Day for Students
12:00 pm dismissal
- Dec 21 Teacher Workday
- Dec 22-Jan 2 WINTER BREAK
- Jan 3 Students return;
SAC/PTT 7pm;
Title I Teacher will be here at
6:30 if parents would like to
talk with Mrs. Johnson.
- Jan 4 Afterschool art program for
6-12 grade 3:00-4:00
- Jan 6 Character Awards 8:15 am;
Report Cards
- Jan 9 BOD Meeting 6:30 pm
- Jan 11 Elementary FCA 3-4 pm;
Afterschool art program for
6-12 grade 3:00-4:00
- Jan 12 Texas Roadhouse to benefit
Middle School Field Trip
- Jan 13 Dance to benefit HS Field Trip
- Jan 16 Holiday No School
- Jan 18 Afterschool art program for
6-12 grade 3:00-4:00

- Jan 25 Elementary FCA 3-4 pm;
Afterschool art program for
6-12 grade 3:00-4:00

A Note From Mr. Finnigan

The holiday season is upon us and Clover Garden students are in the thick of mid-terms and Dibels testing. Through all of the festive events occurring in their lives, our students have the difficult task of being focused and diligent with their academic responsibilities. As parents and educators, we have to be especially cognizant of the pressures that our students encounter at this time of the year, provide the support and assistance they will need to be successful in school, and enjoy the holidays to their fullest extent. Please encourage your students to study and get plenty of rest this week.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who have completed their volunteer hours this month! We know how hectic schedules become during the holiday season, but you know how much we need your support to make our school GREAT!

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for Band performance on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 7 pm at the Paramount Theatre.

Christmas Vacation will begin on Tuesday, December 20th at 12 p.m. Students will return to school on January 3rd.

On behalf of the board of directors, teachers, and staff I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season! As always thank all of you for your support of Clover Garden!

Volunteer Spotlight

This week Clover Garden's Volunteer Spotlight is on two outstanding parent volunteers: Donna Paschal and Pat Clark. Donna is the mother to Trinity Paschal, a second grader in Mrs. Dickerson's room. Pat is the mother of Cody Clark, a seventh grader at Clover Garden. Pat and Donna can be found most any day volunteering at Clover Garden.

Pat Clark

Tonya Ribelin says, "To sum up Pat Clark into few words would be to say she is a person of many talents. She has been a true blessing to me on our PTT Board this year. There is no way I could even think of holding a position without her help. She helps carry out any ideas, thoughts, or tasks the committee agrees upon."

Ms. Ribelin continues, "Pat also serves on many committees. For Cafeteria she sews curtains and decorates creatively, bringing joy to each of us every day. She organizes and plans meals for the Hospitality committee to service our staff. She makes and organizes games for our spring fundraiser, along with

getting donated items for our auction. Pat has Clover Garden School at heart and always wants what is best for our students. Pat is a great asset to me and our School".

Donna Paschal

Mrs. Melton says, "I can't even begin to tell you how valuable Mrs. Paschal has been to me this year- some of the ways she helps me in the classroom are: reading bag books, checking homework, working individually with students, filing papers, and basically any and everything else I ask. Sometimes I don't even have to ask!"

Mrs. Melton adds, "Donna also helps Mrs. Straughan with bag books when needed. She also helps second grade teachers when they have a need. She loves the kids and is a tremendous help! She has definitely helped to 'lighten my load' this year!"

Volunteers help in classrooms, on field trips, and help create a wonderful environment for Clover Garden's students, faculty, and staff. We appreciate all of our volunteers!

Holiday Mail for Heroes

We wanted to let you know that the Student Council collected 600 cards for Holiday Mail for Heroes! Our goal was 300 cards, so we really crushed it! Thank you all for your efforts and support of this worthy cause.

~Sincerely, Lisa Wilson & Jeff Bostic

Box Tops News

The semester winners for Boxtops are:

K-5: Mrs. Melton, 1st grade

6-12: Mrs. Skilonger's homeroom

They will receive pizza treats in the cafeteria on Dec 19 after 1pm.

Congratulations

Two of our seniors have the honor of being selected as Governor Pages.

Cole Amoriello will serve for a week in January 2012, and Rebecca Yarbrough will serve for a week in April 2012. We are very proud of these two students!

Reporting Volunteer Hours

Participating in our children's education and developing the strong sense of community that comes from working with others toward a common goal are central to the mission and vision of Clover Garden School.

Having an accurate account of family volunteer hours is important:

(1) as an indicator of the school's success toward fulfilling our philosophy and

(2) as a qualifying factor for certain monetary grants.

(3) as an accurate way to ensure your families volunteer agreement

Each family is highly encouraged to provide at least 40 hours of volunteer service each school year. (The minimum requirement is the same, regardless of the number of children at the school.) Those hours can be in any interval, 4 hours a week, or any other increment that works for your family.

Family members who may volunteer are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and cousins over the age of 18.

How to Report Volunteer Hours:
We will continue to log volunteer hours at the front desk with Mrs. Walker. This allows you to log in and out right at the school without trying to keep track of your own hours.

YES—EVEN YOU!!

Every adult has something to offer, be it artistic or writing skills, travels or experiences that could enrich classroom studies, a love for reading and interacting with children, a gift for organizing and planning events, or simply the willingness to help the faculty and staff carry out the everyday tasks necessary to running our fine school. Please refer to the Volunteer Handbook that was given to each family in your packet presented at the beginning of the school year. It states which volunteer opportunities requires a Criminal Background Check.

We need you!!

Our success at Clover Garden is because of you! Please contact me immediately if you have been unable to fulfill your volunteer hours.

~Thanks, Mr. Finnigan

Ornaments for Sale!

PTT is selling ornaments until Friday, 12-16-11 to decorate the CGS tree located in the cafeteria. Blue or green ornament balls are \$3.00 and foam stockings are \$1.00. Students will place ornaments on the tree in recognition

of a special someone. They will be taken down and sent home on December 19, 2011.

Please send in a completed order form and money to the student's homeroom teacher. There is an order form attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Tonya Ribelin at 516-5622 or Pat Clark at 421-1621.

Toy Drive



Parents,

At this time of year we are so thankful for all of the gifts that we receive. The kindergarten classes would like you to help spread this joy to other families in the community.

We are asking that you send in a new, unwrapped toy to donate to those that are less fortunate. The toy need not be expensive, but must be new. Please send these items in by Thursday, December 15, so they can be delivered on the afternoon of the 16th.

They can be left with Mr. Wilson or in the front office. We are sure that the families that receive these gifts will be very grateful.

~Thank you, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Wilson, and the Kindergarten classes

Library: Santa Store

The Santa Store has been a huge success so far as a result of wonderful parents, teachers, and friends for their many donations. We started the store early, but it will run it through Dec 20 or until all items are sold out. The

proceeds will be used to help out with field trips for grades 3 through 5.

Anyone else interested in helping, please contact the school at 586-9440. Again, a HUGE thank you for all the donations to this endeavor. The students have had a wonderful shopping experience. We have sold over \$800 as of Tuesday the 13th.

Winter Formal Dance

The Winter Formal will be on December 16th. The K-5 dance is 5:00-6:30. The Middle/High dance is 7:00-10:00. The cost to attend dance is \$5.00 for students and \$6.00 for visitors.

In order to bring a visitor, you must fill out an information sheet and have it approved. Ms. Walker has those in the front office. There will also be the opportunity for pictures to be taken for a \$5.00 fee.

Attire:

Girls: Dresses, skirts with a nice shirt or dress pants.

Boys: Kakis or black slacks with a nice dress shirt.

We hope to see you all there!!!

FCA Food Drive Update

The need for food this time of year is HUGE. Please continue to bring in canned food items for the needy through the month of December.

The FCA also has an in-house pantry that we need to stock to help some of

our own families here at CGS. We will continue to keep a tally of your food items through Friday, December 16. The ice cream party for the class with the largest total will be on Monday, December 19.

~Thanks so much, FCA Advisors

Inclement Weather

Dear Parents, The winter months are here, and it is important to review our plan for closing or delaying the opening of school due to snow and inclement weather.

When we miss school on Monday, Tuesday and/or Wednesday we will attend school on Saturday of that week. Saturday school will dismiss at 12 p.m. (Noon). Makeup days for Thursdays or Fridays missed will be determined when the need arises. Parents will be notified, on the school website, of the dates for makeup days. Television announcements will be made early on mornings of inclement weather. Announcements will be given to the following stations just as soon as a decision made, generally no later than 6:00 a.m. on Channel 2 or Channel 8.

DELAYED OPENING: On days when there is a delayed opening, we will open at 10:00 a.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL: It is the responsibility of parents to be alert to possible early closings due to inclement weather and to provide for the prompt pick-up of their children when this occurs.

The decision to close school is always a difficult one. Every effort will be made to consider the safety of the students, the safety of the faculty, and the convenience to parents when making such decisions. Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated. It is always the parent or guardian's decision to determine the safety for their child during inclement weather.

~Thank you, Mr. Finnigan

Scrip News

Scrip has a \$100.00 Disney card that can be used at the Disney store or at the resorts. If anyone would like to purchase it before we send it back, please contact Anna Amoriello at (336) 516-0753.

Band News

Clover Garden Band is selling Chick-fil-A calendars beginning Monday, November 14. The calendars cost \$6.00 each and are full of great coupons. Please see a band member to buy one!

Athletic News

Athletics needs volunteers with CDL driver's license with a "P" endorsement to help with driving the bus to and from away games. Please contact Mr. L.

We are in need of a 4-wheeler or lawn tractor to help maintain our softball/baseball fields. If you or if someone you know may have one to donate, please contact Brandi Simmons at 336-421-5108 (leave a message) or bsimmons0610@gmail.com.

PTT News

The PTT would like everyone to start collecting items for the spring fundraiser on March 10. Once again, we will be having stew, hot dogs, games, and an auction. Each class is asked to collect auction items. This could be in a form of themed baskets or individual items. Now is the time to ask businesses for donations because they will be closing out their books for the year. Letters with our tax ID number will be available at the front office. Items can be sent into the front office, and we will have an area to lock these items up. *We need everyone's help to make this successful!*

Newsletter:

Please send all submissions to Jennifer Kelley (thekelleys@bellsouth.net). Word or PDF form preferred please.