



Cleveland Gazette

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Grover Cleveland Elementary

A Holiday Message From The Administration...

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In this, the season of light and miracles, we hope that you cherish and enjoy the warmth of the holiday with your family and friends. We look forward to welcoming your children back on January 8th, 2007, to continue their rewarding and productive school year.

Yours truly,
Jack Rocklin, Principal



Holidays are about recalling the past and building the future. For most people, holiday memories are among their most vivid recollections. We remember special family traditions and times when life

seemed simpler and less stressful. While nothing in life is perfect, holidays can provide a kind of magic and spirit that we can try to keep alive all year. Our hopes for all Cleveland School community families are for finding time together to enjoy the season and having countless reasons for which to be happy and thankful.

Yours truly,
Debora Ward, Asst. Principal



Happy Holidays!



Dates to Remember:

- * Dec. 22—No Uniform
- * Dec.25—Winter Break
- * Jan. 8—School Reopens
- * Jan. 15—**No School** Martin Luther King Day
- * Jan. 16—Half Day Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
- * Jan. 19—Spelling Bee
- * Jan. 25—LSC Meeting 4pm.
- * Jan. 26—**No School**

Cleveland School Launches Website

Cleveland School is very excited to announce the launching of our school website. Our website is packed with lots of information that includes a complete teacher directory with e-mail addresses. You may also find an archive of

all our newsletters, announcements, and other important information.

Those parents interested in supporting our school by ordering from Marketday can do so directly from the website by clicking on the

Marketday link. We hope you enjoy our website and keep visiting for the latest updates.

www.clevelandschool.org

Computers For Schools Partners with Cleveland

Cleveland School is proud to form a partnership with Computers for Schools. As the internet expands and online communities proliferate, we all have an interest in the new ways generations are educated. Will they be capable employees and responsible citizens? Will they be prepared for life in the digital age? In



order to ensure that the answer is yes, Cleveland must continue to form partnerships with business, and other organizations. By working closely with these institutions, Cleveland can ensure that more students, teachers, and parents have easy access to technology and training.

As a result Cleveland

encourages all parents to take advantage of purchasing computer systems for their use at home. For as low as \$150 you may purchase a tested system that includes a monitor, CPU, keyboard, mouse, and speakers. This opportunity can help you explore all the benefits of the internet and more! These computers have been refurbished, upgraded, and warranted for a full three years by Computers for Schools. Further, you will receive telephone tech support for your needs. For more information visit our website or call Mr. Parra at 773.534.5130.

Full Day Kindergarten

Research shows that most full-day kindergarten students demonstrate higher academic and social achievement. As a result Cleveland School has implemented a full day kindergarten program that will provide cognitive, social, physical, and emotional benefits for our children. The majority of teachers and parents of kindergarten children favor full-day programs. Now that half of the nation's kinder-

gartners are in full-day programs, teachers have reported significantly greater progress for full-day children in literacy, math, general learning skills, and social skills.

"Teachers have reported significantly greater progress for full-day kindergarten children in literacy, math, general learning skills, and social skills"

Cleveland has implemented this change as part of our commitment to preparing our students to meet the challenges of society by providing excellent achievement opportunities, emphasizing reading and mathematics, that will prepare our students to become caring, capable, and responsible members of society.

Cleveland Cafe

Cleveland Café was proud to present the Rhythmuniversity Ensemble on December 14th. The show was a great success. The Rhythmuniversity Ensemble is comprised of master percussionists from all over the world, including Haiti, Senegal, Costa Rica, India and the US, who played traditional rhythms from the countries listed above and many more.

The show started from West Africa and traveled through the Middle East, to Haiti, to India, to Australia, to Cuba,

and to Brazil. The percussionists played and demonstrated instruments such as djembe, djun djun, mbira, riq, muzzar, rada drums, tabla, kanjeera, dijeridoo, congas, berimbau, guica, etc. Apart from the basic construction and playing technique, the ensemble shared with its audience unique stories that go with many indigenous instruments.

Working with organizations such as the International Music Foundation, the ensemble has performed for over 70,000

Chicago public school students, and has worked in the classroom with hundreds more. We were really proud to be able to bring this experience to our students, parents, and community members. Please look forward to our next Cleveland Café sometime in February. We will be honored to host the Hubbard Street Dance Company. Today, culturally diverse dancers represent Hubbard Street Dance Chicago throughout the world, performing annually for more than 100,000 people.

Cleveland Becomes AVID School

We are pleased to learn that our school has been selected as a recipient of the APIP (Advance Placement Incentive Program) Grant which includes the AVID program, College Ed, and Springboard.

AVID is a fifth- through twelfth-grade program to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students, and in closing the achievement gap. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. Students learn organizational and study

skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

A well-developed AVID program improves schoolwide standardized test scores, advanced rigorous course enrollments, and the number of students attending college. Since 1990, nearly 40,000 AVID students have graduated

from high school and gone on to college. 94.3% of AVID students report enrolling in college, 77.1% in four-year institutions and 17.2% in community colleges. The national average for four-year college enrollment is 35 percent.

We are very excited about implementing this program and look forward to great success. If you have questions about AVID or need more information please call Mr. Parra at 773-534.5130 or visit:

www.avidonline.org.

Fifth Grade Honors "Day of the Dead" - by Bella Pulido (5th Grade)

On Friday, November 10th rooms 208 and 204 went on a field trip to the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum. It is a museum about Mexican art. Ms. Shelley, Ms. Mechling, and Mr. Wittleder went too.

At the museum we learned about the Day of the Dead. We learned that in Mexico, when a person dies they make an altar for them called an *ofrenda*.

It's a table with three levels on it. The top one represents heaven, the middle one represents Earth, (It has to be the biggest) and the bottom one represents the underworld. On the altar you have to put things that represent wind, fire, water, and earth. They use special flags called *papel picado*, they represent the wind. They put candles for fire, a bowl or jug of water, and fruit or vegetables that

come from the earth. "It was really fun and interesting" says Ashley from room 208. I recommend going to the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum. You'll have a great time and learn a lot.

"We learned that in Mexico, when a person dies they make an altar for them called *ofrenda*"

The Cleveland Voice

Cleveland School is honored to launch the first ever edition of *The Cleveland Voice*. Under the direction of Ms. Julie Freeman students in the after-school newspaper club have worked very hard to produce an entertaining yet informative monthly school publication.

We are very excited to offer such opportunity to our students as it



The Cleveland Voice January Edition coming soon!

exposes them to basic journalism. *The Cleveland Voice* is put together by a staff of 14 students. The newspaper is packed with useful information such as a school news section, sports section,

around the world news, an advice column, comics, and much more. If you are interested in joining this dynamic staff or want more information please see Ms. Freeman in Room 309.



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Have a Happy Holiday Season!

We're on the Web Visit us at:
www.clevelandschool.org



Cleveland School would like to extend our warmest regards to two extraordinary teachers on our staff. Ms. Maura Ardam and Mrs. Sandra Niefert have recently completed their National Board Certification (NBC). NBC is a voluntary, advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. NBC has national standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. The National Board certifies teachers who successfully complete its rigorous certification process. Today nearly 50,000 teachers are National Board Certified. As leaders in their schools, they are in a unique position to transform teaching and learning. We are very proud of our teacher's accomplishments, dedication, and initiative to want to improve their teaching. Once again congratulations to Ms. Ardam and Mrs. Niefert we are very proud of you!

Ms. Tivers Nominated "Someone You Should Know"

What makes a great teacher? Teaching is one of the most complicated jobs today. It demands broad knowledge of subject matter, curriculum and standards; enthusiasm, a caring attitude and a love of learning; knowledge of discipline and classroom management techniques; and a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people. With all these qualities required, it's no wonder that it's sometimes difficult to find great teachers.

However, on September of 1997 Cleveland School was fortunate enough to add Ms. Pamela Tivers to their enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Not only does Ms. Tivers possess all of the mentioned qualities but her contagious personality brings energy to anyone who comes in contact with her.

As a result Ms. Tivers was nominated



by her colleagues as someone you should know. School counselor Kristen Costello describes Ms. Tivers as one of our "most valuable resources". Costello adds, "she often stays late at work and is constantly looking for new ways to help her students excel in

reading and math. She can identify students in her class that can benefit from extra help and is in constant contact with many of her parents on helping their children thrive at school. I have been in her classroom many times and I have seen with my own eyes how hard she works. She mentors student teachers with enthusiasm and gets them ready for when they have their own classes. She also helps fellow colleagues who need support in teaching strategies for reading and math. She is a team player and takes her job very seriously".

Ms. Tiver's work is recognized by parents, students, colleagues, and the administration, although she is very humble about her accomplishments we would like to take this opportunity to recognize her as "**Someone You Should Know**".