

New Alternative High School At Cleary School Promotes Independence With Life Skills Based Academics



Everyone learns and everyone benefits.



"C-Shop" Teaches Budget And Money Skills

The Cleary Store, "The C-Shop" is up and running! The Alternative High School is working hard to operate the store. The students purchase and stock items as well as run the store.

Students come to our shop and select items; we take and count their Cleary Currency, put their merchandise into our C-Shop bags and thank them for their business.

Students in the school work hard to earn Cleary Currency. They receive currency for doing good work, good behavior and kind deeds. Some of the older student save their Cleary Currency for larger items (they are learning to use "lay away") while other children buy small things almost every week. The C-Shop is open on Fridays. Be sure to ask your child about it.

'Babble From The Crib' News From The Parent Infant Program



The Infant Program welcomed our own Cleary School audiologist Barbara Dreyfus to the classroom. She presented a great workshop on understanding hearing loss and reading audiograms. Many families attended this valuable presentation.

Our Family Music Program continues to support our speech goals while providing a great deal of enjoyment for all. We began the newest collection called "Bells". Our families benefit from sharing music with their little ones while encouraging speech and language development.

Dr. Frank Perry, a pediatric dentist, visited the Infant Program to share some "teeth fun and facts" with our families. He gave us some helpful information about their child's dental hygiene. Congratulations to Kristen Reilly, the Infant Program's speech pathologist, who had a baby girl, Ava Grace, on Dec. 30! Welcome to Mi-



Cleary School for the Deaf

Cochlear Implant Support Group meets at St. Joseph's College Patchogue, on Tuesday, April 28 @ 7pm in Shea Conference Center. All welcome. Please go to www.sjcnj.edu for directions to the college.

Cleary School's Golf Classic is Monday, June 1st at the Island Hills Country Club in Sayville. This year the event will honor John T. Adams from New York Community Bank and a Board Member of Cleary School. Call (631) 588-0530 for information or download the brochure at www.clearyschool.org.

Dinner, prizes and a great day of golf to be enjoyed by everyone!



Important Dates To Remember:

- Spring Vacation April 6-10
- Memorial Day May 25
- Spring Show May 29
- Elementary School Graduation June 19
- Last Day for the Elementary School June 23
- High School Graduation June 26

Summer School July 1-August 11

Please send articles and/or pictures to Nancy Tenure, Editor, at NATenure@aol.com. Contributors to this issue are: Carolyn Maretsky, Mary Neyssen, Ken Morseon, Nancy Tenure, Richard Stelle and Warren King. Thank you!

Cleary Newsletter

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Cleary Secondary Program Students Set For Success At Gallaudet Academic Bowl

For the fourth consecutive year, the Cleary School Secondary Program competed in the annual Gallaudet Academic Bowl. This Bowl Program is sponsored by the Gallaudet College Regional Center at Ohlone College in Fremont, California and is held across the nation. Teams participate regionally and winners progress to the national play offs. At the competition, teams representing schools and programs for the deaf compete against each other to answer questions on a wide variety of academic subjects. The Academic Bowl is a competition similar to

Jeopardy. It consists of three rounds of questions based on these curriculum areas: Current Events; Arts; Deaf



Members of the Cleary Academic Bowl Team meet regularly with their coaches to develop strategies, gain skill and practice for competition at Mill Neck.

Culture; and Science and Technology. The five students selected to represent Cleary after a fierce competition were: David Bruno, Alexander Hall, Jose Morales, Kristina Muszynski and Darwin Velasquez. Faculty members Julia Budka and PJ Snarski are the coaches and advisors. Practices were held after school during the year in preparation for the Bowl. This year the Cleary Academic Team welcomed two new members, David Bruno and Kristina Muszynski, who are replacing graduates. This year the regional competition was held at Mill Neck.

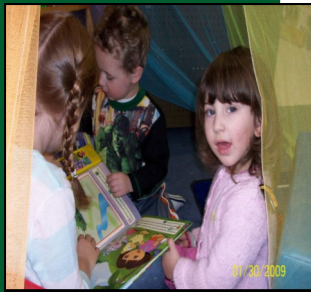
A Word From Cleary's Superintendent... Ken Morseon

Finally! Winter seems to be coming to an end! While not a big snow year (except for March 1), this winter had multiple days of annoying "mini-storms" that caused a few early dismissals or delayed openings. We regret the inconvenience these days caused, but our primary concern is the safety of your children.

Cleary recently invited Matthew (Magic) Morgan, a Deaf magician, to Cleary to perform magic shows for our students during the day and for the community in the evening. These were wonderful events. Not only because Magic Morgan is a gifted and entertaining magician, or from the responses of the audiences, but also for the adaptability and flexibility of our staff to meet the needs of our students to ensure the show was accessible. From providing signed or voice interpreting, improvising a light system when our floor lights inexplicably failed, even something as simple as bringing appropriate chairs from the cafeteria for children with cochlear implants, this show encapsulated the best qualities of Cleary-to work as hard as necessary to meet the needs of these special children.

Enjoy the beauty of the season!

Auditory Verbal Therapy In-Service Programming Supports Success With Children



Ongoing training allows Cleary to continue to fine tune educational techniques.

Auditory-verbal therapist Pam Talbot teaches on-going workshops for faculty and staff in order to increase everyone's skills as well as develop greater auditory verbal strategies. Literacy is very important and Pam recently addressed this issue in a workshop emphasizing that speech success is interconnected with reading. Parents can and should read aloud to their child as much as possible to promote and support listening skills. When

children hear their parents reading, a child experiences the rhythm of language. It contributes to the child's sense that all speech is related. Words are not voiced in isolation but are linked to a group of sounds such as in a sentence. It is essential that our students use literacy not only to improve reading, writing and language skills but to also access sound. "Working together is a major key to success" states Pam. "We can be successful."

Pam suggests that reading books together at home, going to the library for books, making books, discussing books and using books all contribute to speech development and success. Research shows that reading at home plays a significant role in literacy as well as developing a love for reading in a child. By using books at home, your child benefits. Studies demonstrate that ownership of books is important to reading success.

Drama Projects Inspire, Teach, Support and Enhance Self Esteem, Literacy and Communication Skills



A summer class performs "Gingerbread Baby".



Mark believes "theater is a vehicle for communication".

Teacher Mark Ingrassia's long time devotion to childrens' theater is well known at Cleary. Theater is a wonderful opportunity and device for children to study and to practice the art of communication using theater acting techniques as a vehicle. For example, there are many practical applications for students to better express

their ideas. This impacts the classroom with potentially better literacy skills. Through creative arts and theater, Mark believes children develop a different way of looking at and experiencing the world. "Students become aware and a more global vision can take root", he says. Mark assists the students in presenting and clarifying

their ideas in dramatic form. The Drama Club and Spring Show promote creative expression, growth of self esteem, teamwork and commitment to a project. A lot of work and creative thinking on Mark's part contribute to a valuable program for our students. The Spring Show is May 29th.

New ASL film "Legend Of The Mountain Man" Local Premier At Cleary On April 3

"The Legend of the Mountain Man", a film wholly in ASL, will be presented on Friday evening, April 3 @ 7:30 pm at Cleary's Nesconset campus. ASL Films, who produced this feature length film to the professional standards of the

film industry, created a compelling story about three children who are sent to live at their grandparents' ranch in Montana. While there, they have an encounter with a mysterious mountain creature, and through this unique association, have

an opportunity to unite their whole family again. According to critics, it is "heartwarming, family fare that has been warmly accepted by the Deaf Community". The admissions is \$10 and the net proceeds from the event support Cleary School.

ASL Films is an independent, deaf owned and operated production company that also produced "Forget Me Not".

Helping Your Child Develop Literacy Skills At Home

By Ken Morseon, Superintendent of Cleary School

Regardless of the language modality parents use with their child who is Deaf (either sign or speech) the love of reading can be developed early. All research shows that early exposure to print helps set the stage for the development of reading skills and that children who are good readers are more likely to become life-long learners.

"Be a reader yourself. Children learn from modeling adults!"

How can parents help? First, teach the names and shapes of the letters of the alphabet. Second, read everyday! Not only read, talk about what you see in the pictures. Ask questions, especially about what your child thinks will happen

next. Third, teach the sounds of language and have your child listen for those sounds. Finally, be a reader yourself! Children learn from modeling adults!

(Note: This information is taken from a pamphlet from the National Institute for Literacy titled "Put Reading First: Helping Your Child Learn to Read". The entire document can be downloaded at www.nifl.gov.)



"Magic Morgan" Enchants Everyone With Illusions,

March 6th proved to be an extra special day at Cleary School! That's because our old friend and great magician "Magic Morgan" returned to entertain and astound our students with wonderments of magic. Magic Morgan visited here about five years ago but this time he came with his new assistant, Liliana, who is his wife!

The day began with three "workshops" for our preschool,

elementary school and high school students. They were introduced to the world of magic and afterwards, everyone was delighted to show you the "tricks" they learned. The evening performance, complete with live animals, was open to the community. An overflowing crowd including numerous Cleary School alumni attended and enjoyed the performance.

Cleary is committed to providing ongoing events for the Deaf Community. It is a wonderful thing to provide opportunities for this community to gather and to enjoy events presented in American Sign Language. Magic Morgan's unique presentation was an exceptional event garnering much positive feedback. Many thanks to Warren King for work in setting up this terrific event.

"Magic Morgan astounded our students with wonderments of magic"



Our students loved watching a magic show with "Magic Morgan" and Liliana! Mr. Morgan showed everyone the secret behind several illusions as well as teaching the students some interesting tricks. We all enjoyed the three workshops during the day and the evening show.