

Bilateral Cochlear Implants Praised

“The latest research is definitively showing that bilateral implant users are realizing significant benefit in the areas of speech recognition, performance in noise and directional hearing. These benefits undoubtedly translate into improved academic performance and achievement. I find it a distinct privilege to have the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing advance in the field of hearing rehabilitation.”

—Theodore Mason, MD,
Otolologist with Ear, Nose and Throat
Associates of Springfield, MA

The CLARKE Professional Training Institute’s commitment to offering the best education and training to professionals was evident when Dr. Mason and CLARKE audiologist Jeanne Coburn discussed bilateral

implants at a workshop in the fall. Sixty teachers of the deaf, audiologists and speech/language pathologists gathered on the CLARKE Northampton campus to learn more about the anatomy of the ear, the latest findings on bilateral cochlear implants and how to troubleshoot cochlear implants.

Dr. Mason described the components of the inner ear using an interactive computer program he created for resident doctors. Ms. Coburn, who works with Dr. Mason in the Cochlear Implant Program based out of Baystate Medical Center, shared research

findings on the benefits of having two implants. Users who wear two implants, or bilateral implants, she said, have the same



Dr. Ted Mason and Clarke School student Jason Dion prepare for surgery. Jason was the first Clarke School student on the Northampton campus to receive a second cochlear implant. (K. Dion photo)

internal and external implant components as those who wear one implant, except they are worn behind both ears. Many with hearing loss who wear one implant are opting, she noted, to get a second implant because of the added benefits. In the future we will see more and more young children receiving both implants simultaneously. “Bilateral recipients are excited about the improved sound quality,” she said, “their
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CLARKE CHEFS COOK UP COMMUNICATION

Step aside Martha Stewart. Watch out Rachael Ray. A new group of chefs cooked up something tasty at Clarke School and entered “The Food Network Star” contest



Speech-language pathologist Lisa O'Malley and eighth-grader Vanessa Bacellar cook up a very wild berry fruit wrap in oral communication class to enter in a Food Cable Network contest. (S. Dugger photo)

on the Food Cable Network. “Cooking up Communication” features eighth grade students in teacher Nancy Martin’s class whipping up a delicious treat.

The students worked together with Mrs. Martin and Speech/Language Pathologist Lisa O'Malley to cook up a 3-minute video featuring their recipe for “A Very Wild Berry Fruit Wrap.” This recipe also introduced new vocabulary and ways for students to practice their speech and language. “Cooking is a great way to increase their language skills,” said O'Malley, “Wrap, whip and chill were a few of the words we discussed as having double meanings.”

After writing the recipe together as a class, the students worked as a team to create a one of a kind video for the contest. Whether it was behind the camera, doing hair and make-up or acting in the film, each student had a different responsibility.

“It was a lot of fun to cook,” said student participant Bobby Wild. “I’ve always wanted to be a chef.”

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Bulletin Board Spreads Good News

The bell is about to ring and students are pouring in through the front door. Before they even take off their coats, or put down their backpacks, the students are on a mission – to check the Good News Bulletin Board for the latest news.

Whether you have a new puppy, won an award, or have something you want to share with the Clarke School community, if it's good news, post it on the Good News Bulletin Board. Frequented by students and staff, the Board is "the place" to find out what's going on at CLARKE.

The Good News Bulletin Board began over ten years ago as another way to build students self-esteem explained Co-Principal Judy Sheldon. Ms. Sheldon thought it would bene-

fit students to be able to express their good news through writing. The Good News Bulletin Board was born!

"It has been a huge success for students, staff and parents," said Ms. Sheldon who started the project, "It gives the students an opportunity to practice written language, share good news and increase their self-esteem."

On a daily basis, short write-ups that may include births, engagements, weddings, field trips and news from alumni are often posted along with well written papers, projects and photos.

"Everyone knows about the Good News Bulletin Board," said Ms. Sheldon, "It has taken on a life of its own." ●

School
NEWS

Clarke
Jacksonville

Friends Support Children at Holiday Gathering

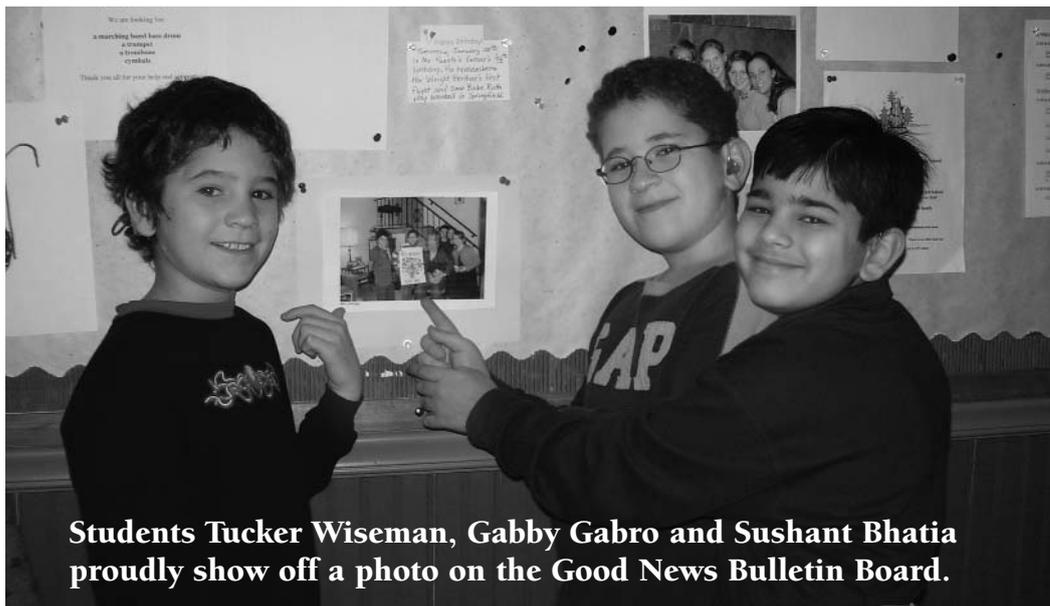
The sounds of tinkling silver bells and laughter floated throughout the home of Ray and Susannah Wolford during their holiday party to benefit Clarke Jacksonville children. Friends of this annual gathering raised a record-breaking \$12,400 in vital scholarship support.

The Wolfords, and their daughter Elizabeth Mehaffey, first began hosting their family and friends, as well as their CLARKE family in 1999. They saw the need for more scholarship funding at Clarke Jacksonville, and soon CLARKE became a priority for their family.

"Our granddaughter Abigail is our inspiration and the reason we are connected with CLARKE," said Ray Wolford

After learning about CLARKE's history and the role of Alexander Graham Bell as teacher and CLARKE trustee, Mrs. Wolford chose silver bells as a unique and fitting gift. The Wolfords personally thank each donor to the Clarke Jacksonville scholarship fund with an engraved silver bell.

"Each year, many children and families benefit from the generosity, dedication and hard work of the Wolfords," said School Director Susan G. Allen. "They give Clarke Jacksonville their time, and we are grateful that they share their home and their holiday spirit with all of us," she added. ●



Students Tucker Wiseman, Gabby Gabro and Sushant Bhatia proudly show off a photo on the Good News Bulletin Board.

(K. Kodadek photo)

Daughter Follows in Mother's Footsteps To Become A Teacher

When Katelyn Driscoll applied to the Smith College/CLARKE Graduate Teacher Education Program, many at Clarke School already knew her name. Her mother, Jane, is a well-known educator in the field. Katelyn never thought she would follow in her mother's footsteps. As the daughter of a teacher of the deaf, she saw the hard work and long hours her mother puts in. "I didn't think it was for me," said Katelyn.

In the early 1970s, Jane enrolled in the Smith College/CLARKE Graduate Teacher Education Program. Following graduation, Jane worked as teacher of the deaf in the oral program at a total communication school in the eastern part of Massachusetts. Jane realized the need for an auditory/oral program in the Boston area and went on to start SoundWorks for Children. Jane and her staff of eight teachers of the deaf currently serve between 50 and 60 deaf and hard-of-hearing children in eastern Massachusetts, in their mainstream schools and through consultation and in-service training. "She's a phenomenal

woman," said Katelyn. Throughout her career, Jane estimates she has touched hundreds and hundreds of lives, thanks in part to the impact of CLARKE's professional training.

When Katelyn took some time off from school at Colorado College, she returned to Massachusetts and began working for her mother. She realized she enjoyed being around children and liked to teach as well. Katelyn, like her mother, had found her calling. "This is something that interests me. I really like working with kids," said Katelyn, a blond-haired woman with a bubbly personality.

Katelyn went on to graduate from Salem State in 2003 with degrees in Psychology and Communication Disorders and is currently enrolled in the same graduate program her mother attended over thirty years ago. "I felt really grateful when she was accepted - she would have the kind of experience I had. I knew it would provide her with a solid background," said Jane, "It has been a real thrill to have Katie at CLARKE." In addition to doing individualized speech and language therapy,

Katelyn has learned from the CLARKE experts who perform educational evaluations. She has completed a teaching rotation in a 4th grade class and is currently teaching 8th grade government. Not only do they share similar experiences and professors, but Katelyn is living in the same apartment complex her mother did while in the program. "She always says it was one of the best years of her life," said Katelyn. ●



Jane and Katelyn Driscoll

CLARKE'S 10TH ANNUAL ALL-AMERICAN SPORTS & LEISURE AUCTION

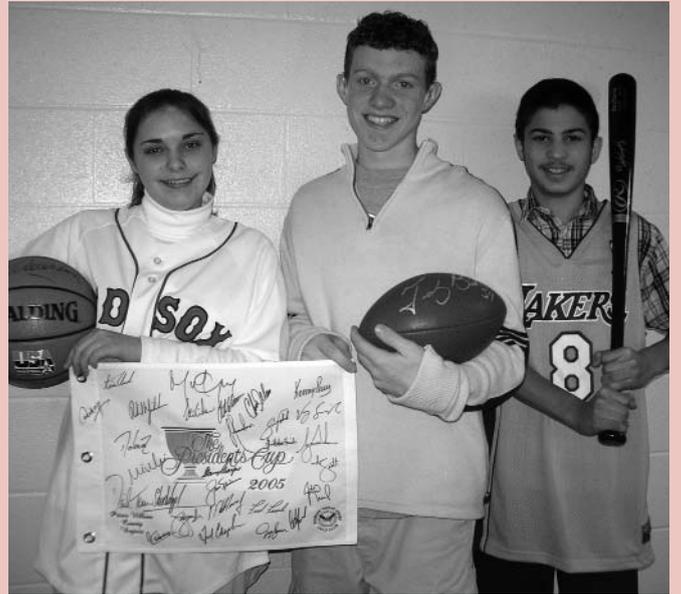
Join us for the 10th annual celebration of CLARKE's All-American Sports & Leisure Auction at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA, on Thursday, April 6th. Tip-off time for the two-hour silent auction is set for 6 p.m. A one-hour live auction will immediately follow at 8 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$25 and are \$30 at the door.

Sports items up for bid, such as photos, baseballs, jerseys, hockey sticks and footballs signed by professional athletes and sports celebrities, will compete with leisure items such as jewelry, restaurant gift certificates, theater tickets and weekend getaways.

Last year, the auction generated \$50,000 for the Clarke School Scholarship Fund and school programs thanks to the support of donors, guests, sponsors and volunteers.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Director of Business and Donor Relations, Greg Malynski, by phone (413) 582-1119, fax (413) 584-3358 or at develop@clarkeschool.org.

Students Stephanie Allen, Bobby Wild and Jovani Colon model items up for bid at CLARKE's 10th Annual Sports and Leisure Auction including a signed 2005 President's Cup Pin Flag, a jersey signed by Kobe Bryant and a baseball bat signed by David Ortiz. Tickets for the April 6th event are on sale now! (K. Kodadek photo)



Summer Adventure Focuses on What Makes A Hero

It's a bird. It's a plane. No – it's Book Blaster, a superhero of Clarke School, also known as Teacher Dianne Fanelli. Mrs. Fanelli shares her love of books with children and always talks about the importance of reading.

Students in Lower School are well on their way in their month-long winter unit discovering, "What is a Hero?" Whether it is George Washington, Helen Keller or a local firefighter, students will be discussing all different types of heroes and making accompanying projects in class and in speech/language lab. An interactive bulletin board in one hallway asks students and staff to post their thoughts on what makes someone a hero.

As an off shoot of the winter unit, CLARKE's Summer Adventure Program for hearing-impaired students ages 9-12 will offer a rich variety of hands-on activities exploring the question, "What is a Hero?" On CLARKE's Northampton campus from July 9-21, participants will gather to learn about famous figures in history and discover heroes in everyday life. "Attendees will learn to appreciate a wide range of heroes and will have opportunities to think about ways to become heroes themselves," said Co-Principal and Summer Program Director Michael O'Connell.

In addition to interesting, classroom-based activities, summer participants will have exciting opportunities to socialize and learn new skills through interactions with peers and mentors who are deaf and hard of hearing. For more information, contact CLARKE at info@clarkeschool.org or (413) 584-3450 (V/TTY) or visit our website at www.clarkeschool.org and look under School Programs. ●

School
NEWS

Clarke Pennsylvania

Toddler Time Does Double Duty at Clarke Pennsylvania

Two-year-old Michael explores the classroom with a toy broom in his hand showing his teacher, Jeana Novak, how he can sweep the floor. "It's time for painting," Ms. Novak gently explains, asking Michael if he would like to trade the broom for a paint brush. "Paint brush" said Michael who began seeing Ms. Novak, Clarke Pennsylvania's early intervention coordinator, in his home right after he was diagnosed with a hearing loss. Today, he joins his teacher in Clarke Pennsylvania's toddler classroom for his first day at school.

Michael and other children are benefiting from an expanded toddler program, with the additional class of two-year-olds. Twice a week, youngsters and their parents

attend the Toddler Program designed to integrate play and individual auditory, speech and language activities as families learn about the children's overall development. The Toddler Program also teaches important socialization skills.

"With newborn hearing screening being mandated in most states," said Ms. Novak, "children are being diagnosed earlier, implanted earlier and in need of this type of service." Clarke Pennsylvania recognized the need for an additional class, in part, because of demand. Ms. Novak said, "The combination of children receiving cochlear implants at an earlier age and needing an earlier start and the parents' willingness to participate in the Toddler

Program, is one of the reasons we added a class. We are also committed to maintaining a low child/teacher ratio to give as much individualized attention as possible."

The goal for Clarke Pennsylvania's Early Intervention and Toddler Program is to give children the communication skills, confidence and foundation for transition into their neighborhood schools. ●

Jeana Novak engages children in the new toddler group. (T. Henry photo)



CLARKE Remembers Long-Time Friends

Clarke School students, staff and alumni were saddened by the unexpected loss of long-time food service assistant Statia Szawlowski of Northampton, MA, who died in a car accident. Mrs. Szawlowski, 76, worked for 27 years preparing meals for Clarke School students. “No matter what Statia did – she took pride in it,” said co-worker Donna Streeter. As a testament to her warmth and caring nature, students and staff dedicated the January Poetry Café in Statia Szawlowski’s memory.

The CLARKE community also was saddened to lose former Trustee Franklin King III, who died in January. Mr. King served on the Board of Trustees from 1990-1997 and was a long-time friend of CLARKE. “We are grateful for his energy, enthusiasm and expertise. He did so much for the community and we will miss him,” said President Dennis Gjerdingen. ●

Mainstream Center Publishes Two New Books

Students with hearing loss must work hard to navigate a variety of communication situations that most of us with normal hearing handle with ease. They will come into contact with a number of people in their mainstream schools who know little about hearing loss. The Mainstream Center at CLARKE has published two new books to help both the oral deaf student and school staff communicate more effectively with one another.

Have You Heard? Welcoming a Student with Hearing Loss to your School Community, by teacher of the deaf Melissa Griswold, gives school staff crucial information about working with deaf children. Whether it is the school nurse, the bus driver or the music teacher, these people can make a difference in how students feel about their school. Designed to teach basic information about hearing loss and how to make a deaf child feel comfortable communicating, this resource is recommended for anyone who comes into contact with a deaf child in the school community.

The Mainstream Center has also published *What Works for Me: Young Adults With Hearing Loss Talk to Teens*, compiled by Author and Teacher Claire Blatchford. This book is a compilation of monologues from successful young adults with hearing loss – from a young lady studying for an MBA at Harvard University to a young man who competed in the Winter World Games for the Deaf. These adults reflect on strategies that helped them succeed in high school and that they continue to rely on today. This book provides inspiration and tips for students who are or will be entering mainstream schools.

Speaking of . . .

CLARKE’s Professional Training Institute welcomes Carol Flexer, Ph.D.

of the University of Akron as she presents, “How to Achieve Spoken Communication and Literacy Outcomes for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing” on Monday, March 27th from 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge Conference Center in nearby Florence, MA. For more information contact Lisa DiMaria at 413-587-7331 or visit www.clarkeschool.org.

Let’s go back to the 1940s as scores of “Guys and Dolls” in the Clarke School Drama Club will perform at the CLARKE Galbraith Center on Friday, March 17th, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. In an adapted version of this musical hit, students will act, sing and dance their way through a performance that is sure to be a sensation. “We have a lot more songs this year,” said student Michael Vescio who has the lead role of Sky Masterson. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Limited Edition signed GICLEE prints of Hubbard and Gawith Halls are available for purchase. Painted by Hatfield artist and Clarke School parent Linda Thiel Hewlings, the two prints capture CLARKE’s unique campus. All proceeds will benefit CLARKE. For more information, visit the News/Events page on our website at: www.clarkeschool.org.

As part of the “We Got Your Back” Hurricane Katrina fundraiser, Clarke School classes helped to fill new backpacks with school supplies to be given to children affected by the hurricane. The CLARKE community also came together to raise over \$700 for the Red Cross by organizing a Farmers’ Market and Tag Sale.

The Clarke Cougars Soccer team had a successful season with 7 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. “It was my first year playing soccer,” said Tiffany Gundler, “It was very exciting to win a lot of games.”

School NEWS

Clarke New York City

Documentary Features Clarke NYC

Dressed in frilly, pink and purple tutus, the girls listen to music and fill the room with laughter as they twirl. Their sweet voices rise and fall with the sound. This beautiful scene has taken lots of hard work.

Clarke NYC families and staff recently were featured in the documentary “Listen to Me,” produced by Clarke NYC parent Amy Cohen and Alexandra Loxton. In a poignant and honest look at being the parent of a child with hearing loss, Clarke NYC families and staff share their thoughts and feelings about the long process a child with hearing loss goes through to learn to listen and talk.

The 20-minute film follows three families with children who have received a cochlear implant. Mrs. Cohen wanted to educate people about the cochlear implant and show that the educational follow up is critical. The role that the family chooses to take, along with the support and guidance of Clarke NYC professionals, makes all the difference.

CLARKE President Dennis Gjerdingen said, “This was one of the most realistic portrayals of what it is like to raise a child with hearing loss. Many think that a cochlear implant alone is enough. It takes a lot of hard work from the child, the family and the school.” ●



Clarke NYC Teacher Jeanne Bradley works with Bea Cohen who was featured in the film “Listen to Me.” (J. Spirikis photo)

According to Mainstream Director David Manning, school staff members feel more relaxed and capable of working with a student with hearing loss when they are provided with basic strategies for communication. It is important to get that information out to all staff members, not just the classroom teacher. And, students need to know they are not

alone in their experience as a person with hearing loss in a mainstream school, that there are others who have found their way and grown to be successful, happy adults.

Each book costs \$15 and can be ordered by contacting The Mainstream Center at 413-582-1121 V/TTY. ●



(K. Kodadek photo)

My Awesome Life: An Autobiography by Joey Savarese

My name is Joseph Christopher Savarese, Jr. and everyone calls me Joey. I am 14 years old and I was born on August 20th, 1991 in Manchester, New Hampshire. I am cool, funny, athletic, calm, respectful, responsible, caring, helpful, thoughtful and sometimes silly.

I've attended Clarke School for the Deaf for more than 10 years and I have great friends here. They are Chris, Jovani, Michael, Bobby, Patrick, Stephanie and Tiffany. I also have more friends. I play basketball and soccer and I am enjoying it. I do after school activities and Drama Club. When I was a little boy, I went to preschool in New Hampshire. I'm going to Northampton High next year and I'm a little nervous.

My Grandpa (Don Sutliff) found out that I was born deaf because he was babysitting me when I was about 1 year old. My parents were in Ohio for my Uncle Chris and Aunt Molly's wedding. He sneezed loudly while I was doing something and I didn't move; that's how he found out I was deaf. I wore hearing aids when I was 14 months old and I got a cochlear implant in July, 1998. I love it! I have it right on my right ear and it works perfectly for me. My brother was also born deaf and he is wearing a cochlear implant on his right ear, too.

When I grow up, I would like to be a professional sports player like a baseball or basketball player. If I am not good enough to play professional sports, I will find a good job that I would like to do. I also want to be a good father. ●

ALUMNI ID

Ugo Ronghi, CS '85

Looking in a drawer at Ugo Ronghi's Long Island, NY home, a visitor would see an assortment of packs of batteries. His wife, three sons and he have cochlear implants or wear hearing aids.

Ugo knows the importance of communication, education and audition from his Clarke School days. Ugo was two years old when his parents were worried because he was not speaking. They took him to a specialist in Boston and the news shocked them. Not only was the Italian family in a foreign country and did not know any English, but now they had a son who was deaf. A doctor recommended they visit Clarke School. His parents were impressed with what they observed at Clarke School, and from their first visit, Ugo's parents knew this was the place for him.

Ugo came to Clarke School when he was three years old and lived in the School's residence hall. "The dormitory was probably the best part of my life at Clarke School," said Ugo. He has fond memories of Co-Principal Judy Sheldon who was his housemother and teacher and Bob Storm who got him interested in math and science. "There was not a thing I didn't like about Clarke School," said Ugo.

After graduating in 1985, Ugo was mainstreamed into his hometown high school in Agawam, MA. While it was a difficult adjustment, being one of only three deaf students in the high school, Ugo went on to graduate in the top ten percent of his graduating class.

Ugo attended the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Northeastern University and the University of Arizona where he graduat-



Ugo Ronghi and his family celebrate son AJ's Holy Communion at their home in Long Island, New York.

ed with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1995. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school and college. Shortly after graduating from college, Ugo married his college sweetheart, Jeanette.

Since Jeanette had grown up in Long Island, they moved from Arizona to New York. Ugo and Jeanette have three beautiful boys; AJ, 8, Michael, 6, and Giovanni, 5. AJ wears hearing aids and Ugo, Jeanette, Michael and Giovanni all have cochlear implants. All three boys are mainstreamed and doing excellent in school. "My kids can talk without looking at each other which is pretty amazing," said Ugo.

Ugo works for EDO Marine and Aircraft System as a Mechanical Design Engineer. He designs and works on projects for the military and aerospace industries. Ugo recently attended his 20th class reunion at Clarke School to visit friends, teachers and see how the campus has developed and changed. "I will always cherish those times," said Ugo. ●



Members of the Class of 1985 returned for their 20th reunion and found themselves back in Bob Storm's class. To their delight, their former teacher updated them on what's happening at Clarke School today. The day also included a campus tour, lunch with their former teachers (pictured here with alumni) and a talk from Alumni Association President Rodney Kunath. (S.Soderberg photo)

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

Memorial gifts offer ways to recognize special people in your life and in turn to assist the children of CLARKE. The names of those being remembered appear in bold print and are followed by the names of those who made the gift. In recent months (July 15, 2005-January 13, 2006) gifts have been received in memory of:

Ms. Jane M. Albert

Virginia S. Adams
Shirley Akerman
Mr. and Mrs. Ira Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Elliot R. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Allen
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R. Neil Dickman

Cathy Domzalski

Stella Wiernasz

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Everett Driscoll

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Robert Gilliland

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Simon

Margery and Marmaduke Grove

Margaret Grove

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ralph Guertin

Dr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Guertin

Herbert Hambro

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Bruce B. Hills

Rodney K. Kunath

Jesse Hocker

Georgia L. Hocker

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Captain and Mrs. Jack E. McQueston

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Betty Ann Kass

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Anna C. Goulet

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Patrick B. Lavelle, Jr.

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Barbara Richmond

Anonymous

Florence and Waldo Ries

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Preston Tyree Breunig

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Brunell

Lindsey Bryant

Marsha Bryant

Jonathan Burton

Virginia Stanton

Brittany Jean Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. Don Campbell

Dana and Kathy Carpenter

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gjerdingen

Florence and Jim Carroll

Mr. Robert Breunig and Ms. Karen Enyedy

Clarke School Food Services Department

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Bea Cohen

Mr. and Mrs. William Bagby

Shelia Coyne

Susan Duffield

Patrick deHahn

Mr. and Mrs. Waino Nurmi

Helen Desforges

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fanelli

Max Devon

Joan Devon

Mareo Fabozzi

Grace Tambasco

Susan Frost

Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Knittle

Dennis Gjerdingen

Teresa Reed

Sarah Goins

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Uller

Cara Gordan

John Ellsworth

Kenneth and Patti Goulston & Family

Ruth Goulston

The Gundler Family

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Christine Halvorsen

Mr. and Mrs. Trygve Halvorsen

Rebecca Hegstetter

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Novitt

Emily Jo Hewlings

Mr. and Mrs. William Hewlings

Ted Hubbard

Judge and Mrs. James Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Frost
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gjerdingen
Susan Holden
Peter S. Plumb
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Stone

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gjerdingen

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 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bowman
 Barbara Bronstrup
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Brunell
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 Everett Driscoll
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Students, staff and alumni surprised retired Speech Department Director Marjorie Wagner on her 85th birthday with cake, flowers and a card signed by her Clarke School friends. (S. Soderberg photo)

CREATING POETRY MOTIVATES STUDENTS

Their voices were strong and their delivery was confident as Middle School pupils at Clarke School for the Deaf took turns sitting on the colorful poetry chair to recite the poems they created themselves.

Celebration was the theme of a recent "Poetry Café" inside the school chapel. But poetry wasn't the only form of artistic expression that wowed the audience of family members, teachers and fellow pupils. There was also dancing, singing and a nearly show-stopping recreation of the recent wedding of Middle School Teacher Camilla Thompson.

"It's a great platform for them to perform," said Middle School Teacher Janet Bloom, who oversees the "Poetry Café" performances three times a year. "They're motivated to practice their speech and practice their vocabulary."

The students had to use similes in their poems, which describe their experiences at Clarke School.

"You had to think a lot because you had to use similes," said 12-year-old Emily J. Hewlings of Hatfield. "I think it's (Poetry Café) a really good idea. It gets everybody learning about poetry."

In one stanza she wrote, "When I arrive at school, I am like a slow cheetah, getting things ready before classes start."

Before reciting her poem, Hewlings donned a pink frilly bridesmaid's dress as a surprise performance for Mrs. Thompson, who was married in October. The "wedding party" walked down the aisle and then broke into song and dance performing "Chapel of Love."

"It's to celebrate for her," said 13-year-old Dion D. Diaz of Hatfield, who played the groom. "It was a surprise."

"We practiced for two months," said 12-year-old Kelley S. Flynn of Holyoke, who played the bride.

The middle school pupils have been participating in the "Poetry Café" for the past five years.

"Everybody can write a poem," Bloom said. "Poetry is the great leveler in terms of language."

The Jan. 6 "Poetry Café" was dedicated to the memory of Statia Szawlowski, who had worked in the school's kitchen for many years. She died in a car accident on Nov. 26. She was 76 years old.

Reprinted from the Republican by Holly D'Angelo



Students celebrate the recent marriage of Teacher Camilla Thompson during a rendition at the Poetry Café. (K. Szakalun photo)

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CLARKE's Center For Audiological Services Moves To New Family Center

CLARKE's Center for Audiological Services has a new home. In January, the Center moved into the Alexander Graham Bell Hall, a former residence hall, now redesigned to house CLARKE's emerging Family Center. Our Clinic professionals provide hearing evaluations and hearing aid services to more than 2,000 people annually. The relocation is the first step toward the development of the Family Center to reach people of all ages who experience hearing loss. It also is a major part of CLARKE's campus redesign for the future.

At the Center, five licensed and certified audiologists provide hearing services, including pediatric and adult diagnostic evaluations, digital hearing aids, FM systems, and cochlear implant demonstrations and consultations. CLARKE's Assistive Devices Center also has made the move.

"We are proud of the changes on our campus," said CLARKE President Dennis Gjerdingen. "Our new Family Center will be a comprehensive, state-of-the-art facility designed to help infants and parents, children and older citizens receive the help they need."

This spring, the Family Center will become home to CLARKE's early childhood and preschool programs, Educational Evaluations Program and the graduate students from the Smith College/CLARKE Graduate Teacher Education Program who are training to be teachers of the deaf.

"Our Board of Trustees has spent several years planning CLARKE's campus of the future. We are the leader in educating deaf children because we anticipate and embrace change. It is amazing how new technology has enhanced the work we have been doing for more than a century. We want our campus to reflect these changes," said President Gjerdingen. ●

IMPLANTS *continued from page 1*

ability to localize sound and better understanding of speech in a noisy environment."

William Green, a bilateral implant user, shared his personal experience and thoughts about wearing two implants. After lunch, participants divided into groups to get hands on cochlear implant training from representatives of Cochlear Americas and Advanced Bionics. Attendees also had the opportunity to watch a mapping session to learn what happens when a cochlear implant processor is programmed.

"This was a great opportunity for profes-

sionals in the community to learn more about bilateral implants and cutting edge technology in the field of deafness," said CLARKE audiologist and workshop coordinator Lisa DiMaria.

CLARKE has a unique collaboration with the Cochlear Implant Program at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. Ms. Coburn, who was one of the first audiologists in the country to be board-certified with a specialty in cochlear implants, splits her week working at CLARKE and at Baystate, teaching people of all ages how to use their implant device. ●

School NEWS

Clarke School East

Lesson On Giving Makes Pooches Happy

Kelly Lovell's preschool class made some furry friends happy and learned a lot in the process. The lesson on giving and sharing began in the school's kitchen when they made dog biscuits. Using a recipe for

dog treats, the children mixed together a concoction of peanut butter, oatmeal, oil and whole wheat flour. Then they rolled out the dough and used cookie cutters to make dog bone shaped cookies.

Hands-on learning is important for children at all of CLARKE's early childhood schools. "It helped the children learn sequencing – first we make the dough, then we cut out the biscuits, then we wrap them and take them to the shelter. Following directions while baking is a good language lesson that requires careful listening, and we also did a little math – counting the biscuits, measuring the ingredients and sorting small versus large biscuits," said Ms. Lovell.

The children took the wrapped biscuits to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Brockton. After placing them with other donations such as dog food, paper towels and animal toys, the children played with their animal friends. Joey Morel of Plainville, age 4, said "We brought the dog bones to the shelter and now they're all gone!" ●



Clarke School East student Joey Morel puts the finishing touches on the dog biscuits his class made for the MSPCA in Brockton, MA. (R. Crocker photo)

CLARKE admits students of any race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin to all its programs. CLARKE does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin in the administrations of all its programs.