



# CLARA BARTON NEWS

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@WestMifflinArea



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- A Note from the Principal
- Counselor's Corner
- Save the Date
- Little Titans Camp
- PBIS Kickoff

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Written by: Dr. Hanna

Welcome to Clara Barton Elementary and to a new school year! I cannot believe September is already here! Although the days flew by, we hope that you were able to spend some time with loved ones and enjoy the beautiful summer weather. We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and a sincere thank you to returning families. We are all very excited and ready to get the school year started with your children.

During the summer, an enormous amount of work has been accomplished in preparation for the start of school. Thank you to the secretary, technology staff and the custodial crew for their hard work in making the beginning of the year a HUGE success.

As educators, we look forward to a GREAT 23-24 school year with the support of parents and the community!

Dear Clara Barton Family,

I cannot express how excited I am to be the principal of Clara Barton Elementary School. Mrs. Haney and I have been colleagues and friends for more than 15 years. She was my first elementary principal when I joined the West Mifflin Area School District faculty, and then became my mentor and role model. We have worked side-by-side for twelve years as elementary principals. I first started my career at New Emerson Elementary School in 2012 and then moved to Homeville Elementary School in 2018, a year prior to the New Emerson Elementary merger.

Among my district accomplishments of which I am the most proud, we attained Tier III School-wide Positive Behaviors and Supports (SWPBIS) at New Emerson Elementary and were well on our way at Homeville Elementary School. New Emerson was given the Title I School Excellence Award for outstanding achievement and we were able to close the learning gap with all of our students prior to my transfer. I am committed to academic excellence and the highest academic achievement attainable for your child. The team at Clara Barton Elementary School has proven their commitment to education having a ranking of the 24th best elementary school in Pennsylvania. Everyone should be very proud of the school's accomplishments. We certainly will be focused on the most effective practices that create the atmosphere for excellence.

On a personal note, I live north of the city and our family includes my spouse and our two dogs, Andie our English Cream Golden Retriever and Kenni, our Old English Sheepdog. They have quite a bit of energy. We live in a rural area. We have quite a menagerie of animals on the property, squirrels and raccoons in the trees, fish and frogs in the ponds, a family of deer, a bobcat, and a black bear with two cubs roaming the woods. I am not thrilled with the bobcat or black bears. You just never know what you are going to see out on the deck. My favorite activity is mowing the lawn and taking care of the yard. Anything that keeps me outdoors is really a favorite activity. That is enough about me. I have to save something for the PTA meetings.

I look forward to the start of the new school year and your children in the building every day. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Christopher Hanna

# Counselor's Corner



Terry Whalen, School Counselor  
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Starting a new school year can be such an exciting time! This is true for most students, but for some children, starting school brings on feelings of dread and extreme stress. We would like to share some Back-to-School tips for students and parents facing the challenges of school anxiety or refusal.

- \*Foster familiarity: Make certain your child knows what to respect.
- \*Be positive: Remind your child about what makes going to school great!
- \*Assure them that they are NOT alone: Remind your child that e is not the only one who may be nervous.
- \*Make an effort to be present: Try to be home during back-to-school time, if possible.
- \*Promote Healthy Living: Make sure your child gets enough sleep, and eats a balanced diet.
- \*Know when to get outside help: Talk with your child's teacher or the school counselor.

## SEPTEMBER



- 9/11 Red, White and Blue Day
- 9/12 PTA Meeting at 7pm in the library
- 9/12 Picture Day
- 9/18 Steeler Day
- 9/26 PBIS Kickoff

hello  
FALL



## Little Titans Kindergarten Camp

Little Titans Kindergarten Camp was a huge success! The students had the opportunity to visit the classrooms, learn about bus safety and our PBIS program, receive their laptop & much more. Thank you to all who helped our Kindergartners feel welcome and ready for school!

## PBIS KICKOFF

Clara Barton will be kicking off our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program on September 26, 2023. The students will learn about our 3 R's: Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn. Students will receive Super Mario cards for their exceptional academics and behavior. Starting in October, we will list the Students of the Month for each homeroom.



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