



*Building a Legacy of Greatness!*

For the parents, students, staff, and community of Clay Middle School

# CLAY NATION NEWS

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

It is hard to believe that we have completed nearly 12 weeks of school and we just ended the month of October. As this year has been anything but normal, I have been so impressed with the resilience our students, staff, parents and our community has shown. The life lessons that our youth are receiving during this pandemic is challenging and difficult, yet we are learning each and every day how to make the best of our situation.

**TEAMWORK  
MAKES THE  
DREAM WORK**

What we have learned since the beginning of this global pandemic:

- **We have learned that “heroes” are everyday people doing extraordinary things.**
- **We have learned and continue to be reminded that we can only control what we can control.**
- **We have never lived, lead and educated students through a global pandemic - we are learning TOGETHER.**
- **We still need your support as parents to create the best partnership we can to ensure your child is successful.**
- **We are all working as hard as we can each and every day.**
- **We will get through this by working together and taking care of each other.**

*...continued on the next page*

### ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, Principal  
Brooke Cole, Assistant Principal  
Mark Smith, Assistant Principal  
John Corcoran, Athletic/Activities Director

BUILDING A LEGACY OF GREATNESS  
FINDING THE POWER OF OUR...  
OUR STUDENTS  
OUR STAFF  
OUR COMMUNITY



WE WANT TO BE THE BEST  
AT GETTING BETTER

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

I want to thank all of our parents and guardians who have been doing a great job of communicating with the school about your child when they do not feel well, keeping your child home when they are sick or letting us know of any situations as it relates to COVID19. These actions really help mitigate the effects on our students, teachers and staff and please know we appreciate it. Our students have done a tremendous job at adapting to this "new normal". Staff and students continue to wear mask and facial coverings, social distance as much as we can, routinely clean and disinfect desks and chairs and sanitize their hands as much as possible. All of these efforts have helped to ensure that our facility and classrooms stay safe. From last month to this month I continue to see students, staff, parents and our school community showing great resilience and the ability to adapt to our current situation. I would like all families to know that we are here to support you and if you should need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact our school and also continue to communicate with your child's team of teachers in the event you have questions.



#### **THE CLAY WAY** **October - Clay "Shout Outs"**

The following staff members received Carmel Clay Schools KUDOS this past month.

#### **THE DREAM TEAM!**

**Aletta Nowlin** – Clay Middle School Treasurer /  
Principal's Administrative Assistant

**Amy Glover** – Clay Middle School Cafeteria Manager

**Jennifer Pletcher** – Clay Middle School Front Office  
Administrative Assistant

**Brett Bateman** – Clay Middle School Head Custodian

**Julie Collings** – Clay Middle School Nurse

**Kaleesha Thompson** - Clay Middle School Student  
Services Administrative Assistant

**Jennifer Mann** – Clay Middle School Front Office  
Administrative Assistant

Along with Clay's teachers, these are Clay staff members that are heroes behind the scenes. Due to their commitment these first two to three months of school, we have had a successful first quarter of school. They should be recognized for the amazing job they are all doing. Each of these people do a great deal for our school and always do it with a smile. They are CCS employees that take great pride in their work and their attention to the care for our students and our families is a top priority. Each of these people, are TEAM PLAYERS and throughout this entire process with school reopening and the current COVID 19 global pandemic, they have taken on anything that has come their way with a very positive and "we got this" attitude. As principal, I realize it take all of us working together to make things happen. I have been so impressed with how they always do their job in such a kind, thorough and professional manner. I hope as a Clay Nation you will join me in thanking each of them for all the great work they do here at Clay Middle School. **Congratulations on your CCS KUDOS!!**

As principal, I believe it is my position to help provide vision, leadership, oversight, safety, and the best instruction to every student that attends Clay Middle School. I truly realize that success cannot be accomplished without a dedicated staff of teachers and support staff that all believe every student can and will achieve at the highest level. More importantly, it takes all of us as an active school community to continue to take Clay Middle School in the direction of continuous success and excellence.

I challenge all of the Clay Nation to continue to help us **Build a Legacy of Greatness** that we can all be proud of. Once again, I thank you for everything you have done since we have started and please know that we are here to take care of your child. Take care of yourself and your family.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby  
Principal





## IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES

- November 6-19 . . . . . Clay Virtual Book Fair
- November 16-20 . . . . . Instructional Assistant (IA) Appreciation Week
- November 18 . . . . . Late Start
- November 20 . . . . . Clay PTO Meeting
- November 25-29 . . . . . Thanksgiving Break

**For more information on Clay Athletic dates and schedules, please refer to the following link:**

<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics>



## FROM THE CAFETERIA

Since the amazing waiver from the USDA has been in place the students are really learning what makes a “complete” lunch! It’s wonderful to see the kids making sure they have all the necessary components for a complete lunch on their tray. Please continue to encourage them to choose a complete meal every day... we love preparing so many fruits and veggies! As a reminder, Clay also serves breakfast every day which is also covered by the USDA waiver!

The Cafeteria staff remains diligently determined to provide the safest meal service possible each and every day. Making sure the students are masked and distanced through the lunch line is something we take seriously along with making sure hands are sanitized before entering their lunch line. Keeping our staff and students healthy is a daily goal!

As always, please don’t hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concerns!

Amy Glover, *Café Manager*  
(317)844-7251 x6755 | [aglover@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:aglover@ccs.k12.in.us)

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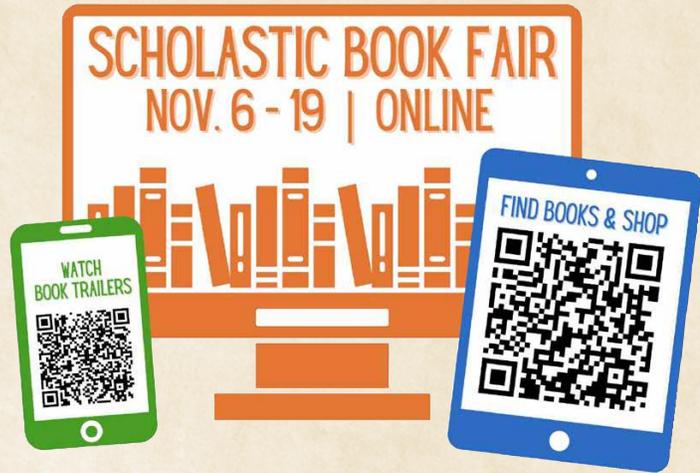
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FINDING THE POWER OF OUR... STUDENTS... STAFF... & COMMUNITY

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## OUR SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Dear Parents and Families,

Join your kids in exploring titles and plots and discovering inspiring characters. Empower them by letting them choose the books to purchase—and bring on the joy of reading!

REMEMBER, EVERY DOLLAR YOU SPEND WILL BENEFIT OUR SCHOOL DIRECTLY (25% BACK IN REWARDS!).

Be sure to visit the [BOOK FAIR](#) during our allotted dates:

November 6 - November 19

**Some amazing features of our online store:**

- Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs
- All orders ship direct to home
- FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25

We can't wait to "see" you at the Fair!

Stephanie Swartzendruber, *Clay Media Specialist*



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# PARENTS & STUDENTS

Tutoring Help By Phone!



## THE PROBLEM

Indiana's students are continuing the school year with remote learning. But many students don't have internet access.

## THE SOLUTION

**CALL & LEARN** is here for YOU. Students can call **1-877-45-STUDY** toll-free Tues-Thurs from 1pm-5pm. K-6 graders are paired with a general teacher. Students grade 7-12 get a mentor with expertise in math, science, language arts, and social studies.



- The volunteers are retired teachers, ready to help students with their specific school questions.
- Students get the help they need while still maintaining stay-at-home directives.
- To ensure the student's safety, all phone calls are anonymous and recorded.

**CALL & LEARN is ready to help.**  
**Call 1-877-45-STUDY**



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

**Mrs. Coats and Mrs. Potter**

Dear Parents and Families,

We want to ensure all students have the necessary resources to inspire greatness. If your family is in need of assistance throughout the year please contact your child's School Social Worker or complete our Family Resource Assessment <https://goo.gl/forms/QN5wQQCNI6iKxYa43>

Holiday assistance is offered through the Good Samaritan Network. Please call (317) 842 - 2603, x200, or visit <https://www.gsnlive.org/holiday-assistance> for more information and to apply. Deadline is November 8th for Thanksgiving assistance, and November 29th for Christmas assistance.



## 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

The 21st Century Scholars Program provides income-eligible students the opportunity to earn a scholarship that covers up to four years of tuition and regularly assessed fees. 21st Century Scholars supports eligible students and parents with the tools they need to prepare for college, graduate on time and begin a successful career.



Indiana's 7th and 8th grade students can apply for the 21st Century Scholars Program if their families meet the eligibility guidelines. All students must apply by June 30 of their 8th grade year. Please visit <http://scholars.in.gov/> to learn more and apply!

If you have any questions please contact Gina Potter, LSW, MSW at [gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us).

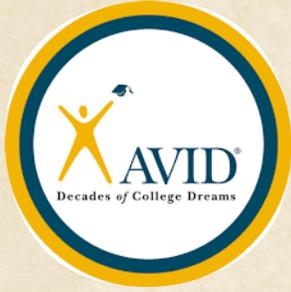


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### AVID SPOTLIGHT

AVID students at Clay are off and running with tutorials! Tutorials are a collaborative study group that uses the process of inquiry to guide students through problems they are struggling with in their core classes. The AVID program at Clay also continues to teach students the process of taking focused notes and using their notes

as a study method to perform their very best in class. The AVID program at Clay is strong and supports students in overcoming obstacles and achieving success! We will begin accepting applications for 7th and 8th grade students interested in taking part in the AVID program in the 2021-2022 school year.

### NEW FAMILIES

If you have not submitted your second proof of residence (a GAS or ELECTRIC bill) please bring in a current copy to the office, or scan and email Kaleesha Thompson at [kthompso@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:kthompso@ccs.k12.in.us).

### ATTENDANCE

Please remember to call the school's Main Office line (317-844-7251) or our Attendance Line (317-571-4450) for **ALL** attendance issues before 8:30am on the day of the occurrence:

#### Full Day Absences    Late Arrivals

If you are picking up your child early, please call the Main Office (317-844-7251) when you are on your way and we will call for your child to meet you in the office for you to sign out.

### MEDIA CENTER

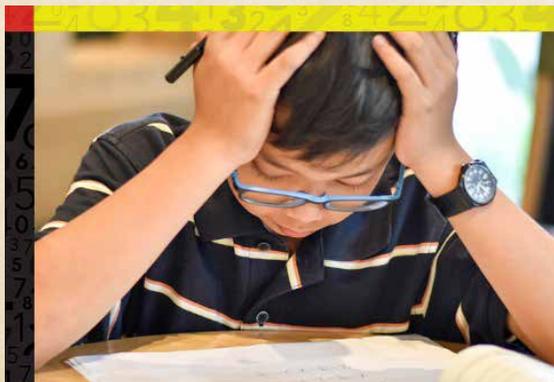
**MEDIA CENTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Please contact Angela Frazier at [claymediavolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:claymediavolunteer@gmail.com) for more info and available dates/times. Hybrid flexibility available!



### STUDENT SERVICES CANVAS PAGE

Clay Middle School's Student Services Canvas page serves to provide social emotional lessons, resources, and department contact information. Students wishing to sign up to meet with a counselor or social worker should do so through the [CONTACT US](#) link. Lessons can be found under [MODULES](#) including [VIRTUAL STUDENT EXPECTATIONS](#) geared toward providing tips to help students navigate online learning. Finally, we provide links to [RESOURCES](#) including a variety of community links under [FAMILY RESOURCES](#).

Students should have accepted an invitation to the Clay Student Services Canvas page at the start of the year. Parents set to be observers can then view the page. If a student needs a new invitation, please email Mrs. Naas at [enaas@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:enaas@ccs.k12.in.us).



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## CHAMPIONS OF CLAY FUNDRAISER

### Champions of Clay



- Provides Team enrichment funds
- Helps fund Clay Challenge, After School Study Hall, Technology for Teachers, 8<sup>th</sup> grade special events
- Funds the many after school student clubs
- Provides added support for Nurses Office, Media Center & Guidance/Student services
- Support of Professional Development
- Provides teacher & staff appreciation
- Funding teacher grant requests.... and more!

**Annual Fundraiser for Clay Middle:**  
**100% of your donation goes straight to school,**  
**every student directly benefits!**

Donate today at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/pto-clm/fundraising>  
 Thank you!





THANK YOU for your generous donations to our Champions of Clay fundraiser. **We are 50% of the way to our goal** and could still use help to be able to give our students and teachers some extra love this year. Your donations support things like clubs, virtual after school study hall, new technologies for improved learning, and fun celebrations for all students and staff. Please consider helping today!

To donate online, please visit the Clay PTO website at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/pto-clm/fundraising>. Select the Donate button under the PayPal link to secure your donation. You may also send a check to school with your child addressed to "Clay PTO". Suggested amount is \$50 per family, or any amount you can donate - Thank you!

## FREE & EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL, TEACHERS & STUDENTS!



**FREE and EASY way to raise money for our school:** By signing up with the following link, Kroger will donate a portion of your shopping trips (when you use your Kroger Rewards card) directly to Clay Middle.

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>  
**School code is #RK877 for 'Clay Middle School'. Sign up now!**



Clay Middle participates in AmazonSmile donation program! A portion of your purchases will be directly donated back to Clay Middle at no cost to you. Please click on the unique link below to be taken to smile. amazon.com where you will be automatically asked to support "Clay Middle School PTO". Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/>.



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FINDING THE POWER OF OUR... STUDENTS... STAFF... & COMMUNITY



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## GHOSTS & GOBLINS GO INITIATIVE

Clay staff participated in a number of spooky fitness activities to benefit Carmel Education Foundation's Ghosts and Goblins Go initiative. Special shout-out to German teacher, Joy Gieschen, for leading a "SPOOKTACULAR" Pilates workout.



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### Holiday Pops

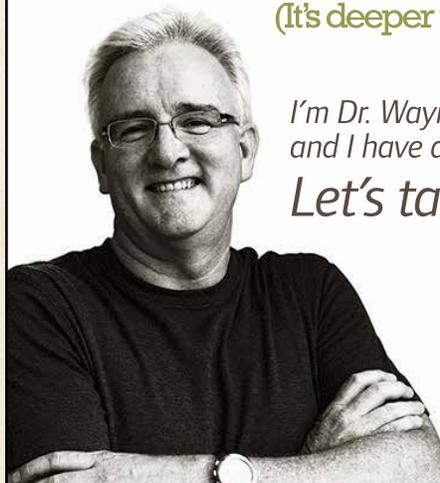
presented by IU Health  
Saturday, December 12  
3:00pm & 7:30 pm

Since many traditional holiday performances are canceled this year, make the CSO Holiday Pops Concert with Heather Bays a new holiday tradition for your family.

For tickets call 317-843-3800 or visit [carmelsymphony.org](http://carmelsymphony.org).

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# CALL OUT



**Carmel JV Color Guard**  
**Parent/Student Call Out Meeting!**  
 Tuesday Nov. 10, 2020 @ 6:30pm  
 CHS Band Room (Entrance 29)  
**MASK REQUIRED**

- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!**
- Do you love to perform to an audience?
  - Join us to make new friends while learning to dance, spin flag, and rifle!
  - Open to all girls and boys in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the CCS School system!

For more info please contact:  
[guard@carmelbands.org](mailto:guard@carmelbands.org)  
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# 10 Building a Legacy of Greatness!

FINDING THE POWER OF OUR... STUDENTS... STAFF... & COMMUNITY

## CLAY ATHLETICS

Clay families, on behalf of the athletics department at Clay, we can't thank you enough for your continued support as we all navigate these unprecedented times. Due to everyone's incredible efforts we successfully completed our fall sporting season. Highlights from the fall season include an undefeated girls' tennis season (10-0), Carmel City Championship for the boys' & girls' tennis teams, Carmel City Championship for the boys' & girls' cross country teams, a second place team finish for the girls' cross country team at the Hamilton County meet, amazing performances from our 7th and 8th grade cheer squads, hard fought football season and a great volleyball season. A special thank you to all the coaches for their time and dedication to our student-athletes.



The winter sporting season is off and running with 7/8 cheerleading and 7/8 boys' basketball. As we look ahead to starting 7th & 8th grade girls' basketball and 6th, 7th & 8th grade wrestling seasons on Monday, November, 30th, it is extremely helpful that we have an estimated number of students who plan on participating. If your student is interested in participating in girls' basketball or wrestling please be sure to complete the google form linked below. We will funnel all future communication regarding these sports to the email addresses provided on the google form listed below. If you have already completed this form there is no need to duplicate your efforts.

### 7th & 8th Girls Basketball

<https://forms.gle/F5Snqhu7Qgdzz5ag8>

- **7th grade Head Coach** - Jeff Carter - [jcarter2@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:jcarter2@ccs.k12.in.us)
- **8th grade Head Coach** - Travis Ramsey - [tramsey@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:tramsey@ccs.k12.in.us)

### 6th, 7th & 8th Wrestling

<https://forms.gle/zB1cVMwgtQzvu7VB9>

**Head Coach** - Damian Funke - [dfunke@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:dfunke@ccs.k12.in.us)

## CCS COMMUNITY

### Carmel Fire Department SAFE SITTER Classes

Middle school students can take a class to learn safety skills to be good babysitters!

<https://www.carmel.in.gov/home/showdocument?id=17067>

**DRIVE-IN THEATRE** actors theatre of Indiana

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**CELEBRATE THE Holidays WITH ATII!**

**Friday, November 27 | 7-9PM**  
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Bring your hot cocoa, eggnog or spiced cider and join Actors Theatre of Indiana as we celebrate the Holiday Season! Come hear the music we all know and love from *White Christmas* to *Run Run Rudolph* sung by the gang at ATII, plus Broadway sensations Michele McConnell & Duane McDevitt, Carmel High School's own *Select Sound* and of course, an appearance by Santa! So, whether you're naughty or nice, grab the family and don't miss this Drive-In Concert! It's a sure way to enjoy "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" Please visit [atistage.org](http://atistage.org) for more information and to purchase tickets for this performance.

actors theatre of Indiana **BROADWAY** in your backyard!

**SAFESITTER**

Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.

The Instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use manikins to practice rescue skills like choking rescue and CPR!



## AVID RECRUITMENT TIMELINE APPROACHING

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college preparatory program which provides increased rigor in a collaborative and supportive atmosphere. The AVID program at Clay Middle is a year-long elective offered for students entering 7th and 8th grades. AVID teaches students who already have the potential for success the skills necessary to excel in middle school and beyond.

If your child meets a few of the following characteristics, consider AVID:

- Achieves high marks on standardized tests such as ILEARN
- Works well in a collaborative environment
- Self-motivation; has the desire for advanced coursework
- Could benefit from additional study skills and organization
- Desire for development of leadership skills and increased confidence

The benefits of AVID extend into every classroom. Students learn:

- How to overcome points of confusion
- How to build an understanding for higher order questioning
- Strategies for critical reading and writing
- Public speaking skills
- Self-advocating skills in school
- What it takes to be prepared for college



If your **current 6th or 7th grade student** would like to be considered for the AVID program at Clay Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year, scan the QR code or follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y56b52rd>



Parents of current **8th grade students** interested in the AVID program at Carmel High School should reach out to Jamie Newcomer, CHS AVID coordinator, at [jnewcome@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:jnewcome@ccs.k12.in.us).

**In addition, please make note of the following AVID recruitment dates:**

CLAY AVID RECRUITMENT (Current 6th and 7th graders)	CARMEL HS AVID RECRUITMENT (Current 8th graders)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mid- November</b>- Student AVID information meetings during Core +</li> <li>• <b>Early December</b>- AVID Recruitment Information video sent via School Messenger and Interested students apply for AVID during Core +</li> <li>• <b>Mid- January</b>- AVID Interviews of potential candidates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday, November 17th</b>- AVID Recruitment Information meetings for parents of current 8th graders on Zoom ◊ 12-1 p.m. <b>OR</b> 6-7 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>Mid- November - Mid-December</b> - AVID application window (Google form link will be emailed by AVID coordinator)</li> <li>• <b>Mid- January</b>- AVID Interviews of potential candidates</li> </ul>

Please direct questions to the Clay AVID Site Team Coordinator, at [cgahl@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:cgahl@ccs.k12.in.us).

## VETERANS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Clay Middle School proudly announces that 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students at Clay have again swept the City of Carmel's Veterans essay contest!

This year, middle school students were asked to consider the theme "thank you for always being there". All students who participated are appreciated and special congratulations goes to the three finalists who will read their essay for the virtual event on November 10th, on CARMEL TV. The event can be watched on [FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFCARMEL](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcarmel) and [YOUTUBE.COM/CITYOFCARMEL](https://www.youtube.com/cityofcarmel). Each of the winners will be given a certificate from the City of Carmel and a \$100 gift card, courtesy of Indiana Members Credit Union.

Alynn D., 6th grade (Team Avengers)

Claire W., 7th grade (Team Apollo)

Cartin M., 8th grade (Team Visionaries)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE THREE STUDENTS!**

## TUESDAY TREATS

Please join us in treating the Teachers & Staff of Clay Middle! Sign up slots are available for November & December dates:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e49adac23a13-clay11>



## IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER

- November 6-9 .....Scholastic Book Fair
- November 10 .....Tuesday Treats
- November 12-14 .....Spell Bowl Competition
- November 14 .....Tuesday Treats
- November 18 .....Education Support Professionals Day
- November 25-27 .....Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER

- December 18, .....Winter Break
- End of 2nd Quarter

## STAY UP TO DATE

For up to date information, announcements, events and school happenings, please view the Weekly Announcements on our website or at the link below. Also, follow us on twitter @claytrojans.

[Weekly Announcements](#)

## TOP OF THE NEWS

### Clay Virtual Book Fair!

Support your child's love of reading and our school by purchasing books from our online Scholastic Book Fair November 6th - 19th! **SHOP**

**ONLINE** starting Nov. 6 All orders ship to your home. Free Shipping for all **book** orders over \$25.



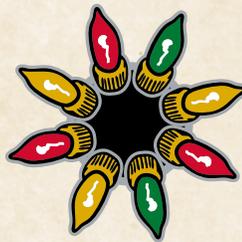
## COMMUNICATIONS

Please forward this email to other parents you know and encourage them to sign up for PTO email updates at <https://goo.gl/FQ5ue6/>.

Also, follow us on Facebook at 'Clay Middle PTO' and on Twitter at '@ClayPTO'.

More information about Clay Middle PTO can be found at <http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/pto/>.

## THE GREEN SCENE



### Holiday Lights Recycling Drive

**It's that time of year again!** The 9th Annual CCS Holiday Lights Recycling Drive will run from November 30th to January 7th.

Please bring in your old holiday lights and place them in the collection boxes outside of the main office.

The lights will be delivered to the high school where they will be picked up by Technology Recyclers.

Thanks for your participation. Let the decorating begin!

## VIRTUAL HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

Virtual homework assistance is available to all students who have a Carmel Clay library card through the Carmel Clay Public Library website: <https://carmelclaylibrary.org/>

Students should go to the "Teens" tab where they then can access Tutor.com for free with their library card.