

The Tony Clement Times



December 2017

Tony Clement Center for Education • (518) 475-6525 • 395 Elk St.

Sophia Newell
Principal
snewell@albany.k12.ny.us

Teresa Adalian
Assistant Principal
tadalian@albany.k12.ny.us

Sentaria Depass-Murray
Home School Coordinator
sdepass-murray@albany.k12.ny.us



A message from the principal

Happy holidays to all Tony Clement Center for Education students, families and staff! We certainly have a lot to be thankful for. We are so proud to have our new name, we are starting our adult TASC program (this is the high school equivalency formerly known as the GED) in January and our Flying Classroom initiative is taking flight. Great things are on the horizon for our building in 2018, and by partnering with you as parents and our community, we can help our students achieve the successes we know them to be capable of. We have started this monthly newsletter as a way to keep you informed on some of

the great things happening here at Tony Clement, and I look forward to sharing them with you. Also, the holiday recess is just days away, and as a reminder the last day of school is Friday, December 22, and school will reopen on Tuesday, January 2. I hope all of our students, staff and families can enjoy a safe and relaxing break spent in the company of friends and loved ones. Lastly, if you have any questions about anything contained in this newsletter, or in general, please feel free to contact me at (518) 475-6525 or snewell@albany.k12.ny.us. Happy holidays!

Flying Classroom takes off at Tony Clement

We are all systems go at the Tony Clement Center for Education and our plane is taking off! We have launched the Flying Classroom initiative in the middle school, and students have been working very hard around the concept of a HALO jump. Our students were engaged by watching Felix Baumgartner fall from 24 miles above the earth's surface. Students were amazed (considering his height above the surface) that he did not just float off into space and that he made it out alive! Students explored what makes up the atmosphere of our earth as well as what each layer is responsible for. They were able to explore what kept him in our atmosphere and calculate the time, distance and speed of his drop. Finally, we challenged our students to innovate. Students were given a few

constraints and tools to design their own parachute that could safely bring an egg back to the ground from a height of 7 feet. If students were able to successfully complete this challenge, we asked them to participate in a super challenge which required them to tweak their design (if necessary) and carry an egg back to the ground from a height of 25 feet. We had several successes and the students felt very proud of themselves. We are going to continue to engage, explore and innovate at the middle school level here at Tony Clement and develop scientists, inventors and engineers of the future!



Spanish heritage project

Tony Clement celebrated diversity in full force earlier this fall during Hispanic Heritage Month. Every country from Argentina to Mexico and all the way across the Atlantic to Spain was recognized by at least one student. They researched the people, cuisine, customs and economics of their specific country and had to make a presentation. Each student then was asked to create their own passport and visit at least 5 other countries by exploring the various presentations. Once they gained first-hand experience of the world, they served as a travel agent and helped their peers plan (continued on page 2)



Heritage project (continued)

their ideal vacations to various Hispanic countries. The papel picado banners (pictured on page 1) were also made by the students, and brought the flair of the Latin culture to our floor. Parents and guest toured the exhibit on October 26th during our celebration and Open House.

A look at the Choice Program

Tony Clement's Choice Program offers students the opportunity to make up for lost time in high school by giving them a second chance to complete their course work in the core subjects of math, history, biology and ELA in one quarter. Successful students move on to tenth grade mid-year and are ready for eleventh grade by the end of the year. We are happy to announce that 21 Choice students have successfully completed their ninth-grade coursework and are now tenth-graders! We are very proud of their efforts. Our students are expressing high hopes for their futures, and their attitudes and grades show it. In addition to these 20 students, we anticipate that a number of additional students will join them in earning the credits needed to make it to eleventh grade next year. TCCE's Choice students are clearly on the path to graduation! To celebrate their terrific accomplishments, the Choice team went on an adventure at Camp Pinnacle in the Helderberg Mountains. We rode horses, met challenges on the ropes course, played basketball, pool and charades and enjoyed pizza and wings at lunch. A great time was had by all!

We want to hear from you!

The City School District of Albany is asking all families to take part in a survey that will help inform the district's school-improvement work. The Family Engagement Survey is open through Dec. 22. You can find a link at albanyschools.org in our From the Superintendent section. From that page, just click on the survey link and enter the password Albany. It's easy to complete. The survey has 50 questions rated on a five-part scale, plus three open questions for comments. We ask that there be one survey per household; all responses will remain anonymous. If there are questions or if you need clarification, please contact our Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (518) 475-6060.



Flying Classroom: viper expedition

High school students at the Tony Clement Center for Education have had the opportunity to not only engage in the Flying Classroom curriculum, but have also to meet the man behind the project, Captain Barrington Irving. Students were involved in the lesson about the preservation and monitoring of the lance-head viper snake. During this expedition lesson, students discovered the importance of food chains and food webs and the need for their stability in any habitat, but specifically in the Amazon. They investigated the food web/food chain by viewing the portion of an expedition lesson where Captain Irving caught a viper snake. The viper snake is the

king of the food chain in its areas, since it is highly venomous! Students were engaged while learning about the feeding relationships in the Amazon and then created their own versions as posters. The viper snake is also highly poached, so preserving the animal is an important aspect of the Amazon. Students became innovators as they developed, built and tested alarm systems to help monitor trespassers who entered into the viper snake's habitat. Many students were successful in their alarm systems and took great pride in camouflaging and testing them. Our high school students look forward to more STEM opportunities to engage, explore, and innovate!



Upcoming events

- 12/25-1/1: No school, Holiday Recess
- 1/8: TASC program begins
- 1/12: Camp Pinnacle trip for most improved point earner
- 1/15: No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/22-1/27: Regents week; middle school in session, high school reports for exams only
- 1/26: Middle school Camp Pinnacle trip