

July 19, 2007

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

It's been a busy summer at the district with all that's going on with improving the grounds. Besides the evident construction with the high school work, we are trying to brighten up the campus by painting doors, gates, and handrails. We are also going to improve the looks of the old kindergarten building.

I appreciate those who have taken the time to make positive comments about how the high school is going to take face. We also appreciate those who have taken a slight tax increase on property taxes to help finance this. It's going to be a continuous process of maintaining our buildings and grounds before it becomes too costly to repair. We appreciate your support through all of this.

It's not long before another school year begins for the kids again. With that, we have set registration for Monday, Aug. 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Tue., Aug. 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Commons. Dates and times are also posted on www.northclayschools.com. Items that you will be asked to bring at particular grade levels will be posted as well. It is important that you bring these items in order to avoid being excluded from school on opening day.

An item that our Board of Education recently adopted will be emphasized for high school students at registration as well. As you know, we adopted a Random Student Drug Testing Policy last year. This year, we have added a new attachment to that policy. This coming year, a parent/guardian can choose to submit a form that allows their son or daughter into the random pool to possibly be drug tested. If a parent/guardian wants to have the opportunity to monitor their child by doing this, or if you support having your child in the pool to be tested, you may do so. The necessary form will be available at registration. This voluntary consent will be available at any time throughout the school year.

As I mentioned in the board report, we had a good financial year although we had many repairs and improvements to be made. I appreciate the work that the two ladies (Rosalie Wildbur & Cheryl Kuhlig) in the Unit Office do very well, along with our school treasurer, Judy Van Dyke. While we are spending lots of money to make building improvements, it helps to be financially responsible throughout the year. I also would extend a huge "thank you" to our custodian/maintenance crew (most are fairly new employees). They have taken care of many breakdowns, repairs and issues that we used to have to hire out. They are also really taking a great deal of pride in how our buildings are looking, and have put in bunches of hours to go the extra mile. That crew is Joe

Smith, JoAnn O'Dell, Toby O'Dell, Billy Coble, Terry McKnelly, Lucinda Wiegel, Gean Hembree, Mark Schletter and Bryan West. They're a fun crew to work with!

We still have vacancies to fill before school starts. We have two special education openings, one speech/language pathologist position, and openings for bus drivers and substitute bus drivers. If you would like to become a bus driver for North Clay, we can help out. Regular drivers work four hours or more each day. We have a great need for substitute bus drivers, and a person who could work part-time as needed would work several days. Again, if you have interest in this, we can get you started.

That's all for now. If you have any questions regarding the opening of school and/or your child's needs, don't hesitate to contact us at the school district.