

Exhibit Night at The Clifton School

Are you interested in learning more about what your child is learning in the classroom? Would you like to experience how the teachers use your child's interests to plan their lessons? Are you intrigued by the "Emergent Curriculum" and wonder where it emerges from? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please come to Exhibit Night at The Clifton School.

Exhibit at Clairmont: Infant and Toddler I, Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 4:30-6:00 PM
Toddler II and Preschool, Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 4:30 -6:00 PM

Exhibit at Clifton: Infant and Toddler I, Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 4:30-6:00 PM
Toddler II, Tuesday, August 29 at 4:30-6:00 PM
Preschool, Wednesday, August 30 at 4:40-6:00 PM

What is Emergent Curriculum?

The Clifton School utilizes the Emergent curriculum approach. Emergent curriculum describes the kind of curriculum that develops when exploring what is "socially relevant, intellectually engaging, and personally meaningful to children." The basic idea is that organic, whole learning evolves from the interaction of the classroom participants, both children and adults. "As caring adults, we make choices for children that reflect our values; at the same time we need to keep our plans open-ended and responsive to children" (Jones and Nimmo, 1994, p. 3). In emergent curriculum, both adults and children have initiative and make decisions. This power to impact curriculum decisions and directions means that sometimes curriculum is also negotiated between what interests children and what adults know is necessary for children's education and development. Ideas for curriculum emerge from responding to the interests, questions, and concerns generated within a particular environment, by a particular group of people, at a particular time (Cassady, 1993). Emergent curriculum is never built on children's interests alone; teachers and parents also have interests worth bringing into the curriculum. The values and concerns of all the adults involved help the classroom culture evolve. The curriculum is called emergent because it evolves, diverging along new paths as choices and connections are made, and it is always open to new possibilities that were not thought of during the initial planning process (Jones and Reynolds, 1992).

Extracurricular Activities

The Children at The Clifton School have been engaged in a variety of activities this summer. Our goal is to expose children to new and varying experiences as they are developing ideas about who they are and what type of things they enjoy doing. These activities have included: soccer, music, tumble bus, magic shows, bubbles, sensory, science activities and Chattahoochee Nature Center. All groups including infants will participate in music this fall. If you have any suggestions or ideas for extracurricular activities please let us know.

Solar Eclipse Party for Preschool

As you all know, on Monday, August 21st, there is going to be a total eclipse of the sun (for the Atlanta area it will be a partial eclipse!) This rare occasion is causing a lot of interest, questions and concerns. The fullest part of the eclipse will occur for us between 2:35 – 2:38 PM.

The eclipse is not safe to view with the naked eye, and it is too risky to assume that children this age will keep viewing glasses on for the event. In an effort to share this experience with the children we are planning a Solar Eclipse Party! During our Solar Eclipse Party we will have an art station, games, and solar snacks. We will live stream the eclipse from NASA onto a screen in the piazza. The children will

rest from 1 to 2 PM and then begin the party and live streaming. The Solar Eclipse viewing will begin at 2:00 PM.

The Clifton School will provide glasses for viewing the eclipse outside. Parents are invited to the viewing party and for safety purposes must be present if children go outside to view the eclipse. **Please note: We have a limited number of glasses for viewing the eclipse. If you plan to come to the party and view the eclipse with your child (preschool children only) please sign the sheet in your child's classroom. You may also bring your own glasses for viewing. Fernbank Museum will be giving away glasses for free on Monday beginning at 11:00 AM.** They will give away one per person. Families may also pick their child up early from school for viewing purposes. If you plan to pick you children up we ask that you do so before 11 AM. **For safety purposes we ask that no children are picked up between 11AM and 4 PM. There will be no charge for students not enrolled in GA Pre-K aftercare on that day provided they are picked up by 4PM**

Teacher/ Child Ratios at The Clifton School

In an effort to maintain quality, The Clifton School utilizes nationally (NAEYC) suggested ratios in the classroom. There are however a few times during the day that we utilize ratios at or below what is required by the state. Those times are: during morning drop-off and afternoon pick- up for about 1 hour and during the teacher's lunch break period which typically takes place during nap-time.

We are committed to best practices and utilizing nationally (NAEYC) suggested ratios during of the instructional periods of the day. Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions regarding ratios.

PTA Events

Welcome Back event at Leapin' Lizards: Sunday, August 27, 2017, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Following last year's wildly popular event, the PTA is excited to host another free, family-friendly afternoon at Leapin' Lizards located at 2050 Lawrenceville Highway in Decatur. We have reserved the entire facility and invite everyone to come out to meet fellow Clifton School parents while our kiddos bounce off the weekend!

First PTA Meeting of the Year: Wednesday, September 6, 2017

This is your opportunity to hear PTA and school updates, and ask questions. Save the date and we'll keep you posted on meeting logistics—we're assessing WebEx as an option so more parents can participate during the work day. Additional meetings dates are tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2017, January 17, 2018 and April 11, 2018.

Important Dates

August 21, 2017	Solar Eclipse Party
August 23, 24, 2017	Clairmont Exhibit Nights
August 23, 29, 30, 2017	Clifton Road Exhibit Nights
August 27, 2017	Leapin' Lizards Event
September 1, 2017	First Friday Coffee
September 4, 2017	School Closed for Labor Day
September 6, 2017	PTA Meeting
October 09, 2017	School Closed for Professional Development
October 28, 2017	Harvest Festival

Thank you for trusting us each day with your children. It is a privilege we do not take for granted.
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Best Regards,

Natalie Feagin, M.Ed.
Executive Director
www.thecliftonschoo.org