

Dear Clifton Community,

Please take note of the following updates.

2024 Symposium and Cultural Exchange

Please join us for our annual symposium. This year, we will line the halls with symposium boards showcasing learning in your children's classrooms.

- **Our Infants and Toddler I classes will participate in a sing-a-long led by Opus music.** Families are invited and encouraged to attend this in-person experience.
- **Toddler II and Preschool** will showcase some of the skills and dances they have learned during Kinder Dance with an in-person recital.

This year, we are also excited to welcome back our cultural potluck exchange. We invite all families, teachers, and staff to bring a dish representing their family's culture to share with the rest of the village. After your scheduled program, we will gather in the piazza to share a meal.

Please join us by dropping your dish off in the morning to share on your child's recital or sing-a-long day. **Please label your container/dishes with your child's name and classroom, list all ingredients and if it needs to be heated before serving. Please do not bring food that contains nuts.**

Please see the date and time for your site and village below.

Clairmont

Infants & Toddler I Tuesday, December 10, 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM

Toddler II Wednesday, December 11, 4:15-6:00 PM

Preschool and Pre-K December 12, 4:15-6:00 PM

Please park in the parking garage on the day of your event.

Clifton Road

Infants & Toddler I Monday, December 9, 4:30 PM - 5:45 PM

Toddler II Tuesday, December 10, 4:30 - 5:45 PM

Preschool and Pre-K Thursday, December 12, 4:30 -5:45 PM

Please park in the parking garage on the day of your event.

STAC Campaign

Message From The PTA About STAC

Hello Clifton School Families! We are wrapping up the FINAL week of the STAC campaign! Thank you to all who have already generously donated. We have already raised \$59,000 of our \$80,000 goal! This campaign allows us to give a meaningful monetary gift each year to the teachers and staff who work tirelessly to care for our children. We understand that the holidays are a costly time for most families. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Reminders:

- A donation of any amount is appreciated and counts toward the goal for 100% class participation for entry to the Delta Airlines gift card raffle
- A \$365 donation earns you one raffle ticket for the Delta Airlines Gift Card (\$1200 value)!

Click here to make your STAC donation:

<https://bit.ly/3B6pirY>

If you prefer to donate by check, there is a drop box in the lobby at each campus. We will also accept donations via Zelle. Please mark your donation with your child's name and classroom and make the check out to the Clifton School PTA.

Thank you to all those who have donated thus far!

Message From The Clifton School Team About STAC

We are grateful for your participation in The Clifton School's Staff and Teacher Appreciation Campaign sponsored by the PTA. Your involvement in this unique initiative truly sets The Clifton School apart from other childcare programs in our community. The overwhelming response from our families each year showcases the remarkable bond we share as a community that values and recognizes the dedicated efforts of our teachers and staff.

The Staff and Teacher Appreciation Campaign is not just a tradition; it is a celebration of the exceptional individuals who profoundly impact our children's lives every day.

In many childcare programs, the tireless work of teachers and staff often goes unnoticed or unacknowledged. However, at The Clifton School, your commitment to recognizing and appreciating our educators is one of the driving forces that keeps our team motivated and passionate about their work.

The joy and enthusiasm displayed by our teachers and staff during this annual campaign are a testament to its positive impact on their morale. Your kindness and thoughtfulness contribute significantly to creating a positive and nurturing environment for our educators and the children they care for. Thank you!

Home visits

We will resume our home visiting program in January. Home visits help create a strong bond that positively impacts the teacher's relationships with the child and family. Please know that home visits can also take place at your local public library if you prefer to have a visit outside of your home. We believe that childcare teachers play a pivotal role in children's development. When all of the caregivers in a child's life work together, the effects are positive and last a lifetime.

Professional Development

The Clifton School is committed to staying abreast of the current trends and research in early childhood education. Our teachers and staff participate in professional development locally and nationally annually.

- In October, teachers and staff from both sites attended The Clifton School's annual professional development conference at the Downtown Decatur Conference Center. They participated in engaging workshops and enthusiastic discussions about Developmentally Appropriate Practice. NAEYC updated its position statement in 2020. <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/developmentally-appropriate-practice>

"NAEYC defines "developmentally appropriate practice" as methods that promote each child's optimal development and learning through a strengths-based, play-based approach to joyful, engaged learning. Educators implement developmentally appropriate practice by recognizing the multiple assets all young children bring to the early learning program as unique individuals and as members of families and communities. Building on each child's strengths—and taking care to not harm any aspect of each child's physical, cognitive, social, or emotional well-being—educators design and implement learning environments to help all children achieve their full potential across all domains of development and across all content areas. Developmentally appropriate practice recognizes and supports each individual as a valued member of the learning community. As a result, to be developmentally appropriate, practices must also be culturally, linguistically, and ability appropriate for each child." <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/dap/definition>

- The site directors, assistant directors, executive director, and mentor teachers attended the 2024 National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference (NAEYC) in Anaheim, California.
- TCS was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Erikson Institute for the Facilitating Attuned Interaction Approach training, designed to support communication with families and staff. The training will begin in February 2025.

Parents Morning Out

We're excited to announce a special event for families! Parent's Morning Out is back, and it's on Saturday, December 14, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at our Clairmont site . This event is for families

from both sites and is for children 1 to 9 years old. For a fee of \$45 per child and an additional \$15 for each extra little one, you can enjoy some well-deserved "me time." Whether you choose to tackle your holiday shopping or savor a leisurely brunch with friends, we are hosting this event to provide you with a moment of respite. Please email Ms. Doris, drice@thecliftonschool.org at Clairmont or Ms. Anita, ahendley@thecliftonschool.org at Clifton Road to sign up for parent's morning out. You can also sign up at the front desk.

Important Dates

December 24-January 1, 2025 Closed for winter break

January 20, 2025 Closed for MLK Jr. Holiday

February 17, 2025 Closed for Professional Development Day

Best,

Natalie Feagin

Executive Director

www.thecliftonschool.org