

# Clarkitoni<sup>ans</sup>

Clarkitoni<sup>ans</sup> - (clark-uh-tone-e-yuns) - The people of Clark Academy.

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## The History of Clark By: Sean Stricklin

Septima P. Clark Academy is an alternative academic program for CCSD High School students. Founded in 1990, it is currently located on James Island in what used to be the Gresham Meggett High School. Communities in Schools (CIS), a national dropout prevention non-profit organization actually helped found Clark Academy and is still very active in the school today.

CIS at Clark consists of student support specialists Miriam Bond and Steve Liverani. CIS provides discussion forums, community service activities, and education in life skills, among many other services, for Clark's students. The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. My father, who graduated from Clark, as well as others alumni, mentioned that Burger King also helped found Clark Academy. Miss Fipps, Clark's Data Clerk confirmed this to be true. In fact, if you look closely at the Clark Academy sign in the front of the school, you can still see Burger King mentioned there.



It's a beautiful day at Clark Academy.

**The mission of Clark has been, and still is, to help students graduate.**

Clark was first located in the Archer Alternative Building downtown, and began as a dropout prevention program. After a year at that location, Clark moved to The Cigar Factory in downtown Charleston, located on Easy Bay Street. The school originally offered 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, and then added the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in later years. Students generally took standard classes along with courses like wood shop, mechanics, and welding. In 1997, the school moved to its current location on James Island.

Clark has pulled together students from schools across the county, providing smaller classes and a calm, structured atmosphere in which to learn. The mission of Clark has been, and still is, to help students graduate. So far Clark has had approximately 560 students who have graduated. There are roughly 50 students that are expected to graduate this year.

Miss Fipps has been working at Clark Academy since it was founded. The staff here often refers to her as "Clark's Angel." She provided a lot of information in researching and writing this article.



Miss Fipps, Clark's Angel, has been with Clark for 21 years.



## Clark in the Community By: Marišo Smith

This spring, Clark will be sending interested students to volunteer at Crisis Ministries. I spoke with Mr. Liverani, Student Support Specialist for Communities in Schools at Clark Academy, about Crisis Ministries. He answered questions about what we plan to do there, and why we chose this organization to help serve.

**Marišo:** When do you plan to go to Crisis Ministries?

**Mr. Liverani:** We plan to take our first group at the end of January. Everyone who signs up will get to go at least once. We have six dates planned so far. We will go once every other week. The total number of groups depends on how many students sign up to go.

**Marišo:** What will students do there?

**Mr. Liverani:** We have a three hour shift. We will spend the first two hours preparing lunch starting at 9:30 a.m. The third hour will be used to serve lunch to the guests of Crisis Ministries.

**“There are always people in need, and it is our responsibility to help others.”**

**Marišo:** What kind of lesson do you plan to deliver to the students?

**Mr. Liverani:** The main lesson is the importance of giving back. The second lesson is being thankful for what we have.

**Marišo:** What made you choose to go to Crisis Ministries?

**Mr. Liverani:** There is a need in the community and we want the students to fulfill that need. When you extend yourself it makes you feel better about yourself. Crisis Ministries serves the homeless people throughout the community.

**Marišo:** Do you think Clark should participate in more activities like this one?

**Mr. Liverani:** Absolutely. There are always people in need, and it is our responsibility to help others.

## Student Government Association By: Jacquintis Washington

A study done by Teens Health Magazine in 2010 shows that in today’s society there has been a steady rise in the number of students getting involved in extracurricular activities. In these activities, students are able to explore their physical, creative, social, and career interests with like-minded people.



Clark’s 2011 Holiday Dinner.

Clark Academy’s Student Government Association (SGA) is an example of an extracurricular activity. SGA does not exist simply for its own sake. Its purpose is to improve student life. SGA gives students a means to effectively express their concerns. It is necessary that a student government exists in order to investigate concerns and assist with other events around the school. SGA at Clark Academy raises money by having candy, soda, and bake sales, with proceeds being given to different departments of the school. Another way SGA helps is by hosting Clark’s Holiday Dinner. The Holiday Dinner began in 2002 with the help of some teachers. The students and parents of Clark Academy bring a variety of dishes to the holiday dinner. The dinner is always held on the last day of school before winter break. This school year, that was Friday, December 16th. We at Clark look forward to this event to eat and be merry with the entire Clark community. SGA helped to plan and serve food at the Holiday Dinner. *SGA members: President Adam Brown, Vice President Aaliyah Blair, Secretary Sakia Harris, Treasurer Errol Chisolm, Derrick Brown, Tabitha Hayes, Robin Singleton, Ashlin Erving, Lamar Brisbane, Mickey Abdur-Rahiem, Jarrel Bailey, Kiara Hightower, and Gary Sumter.*

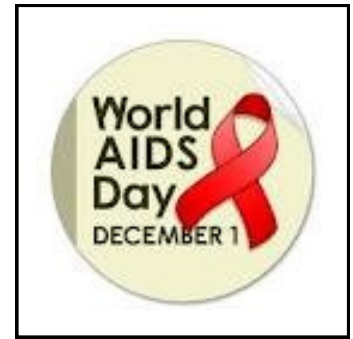
## World AIDS Day By: Samantha Bell

World AIDS Day was celebrated on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was founded by The World Health Organization to bring awareness to the issue of AIDS. World AIDS Day unites all survivors, supporters, and people who want to learn more about AIDS. About 17,000 people die from AIDS in the United States every year. World AIDS Day events take place across the country to raise awareness and show support for people living with HIV. In South Carolina on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> World AIDS Day Community and Fundraising Event at The Township Auditorium.

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) begins as HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). It starts as an infection that makes it difficult for the immune system to fight off bacteria and diseases. HIV is a viral disease that is transmitted through blood and sexual fluids. Some false claims that people believe today are that HIV is transmitted through saliva, sweat, and mosquitoes. These claims are not true. Prevention measures against contracting HIV include using a latex condom or not participating in sexual activities at all.

In Charleston, one can be tested for HIV/AIDS at the local teen clinic called The Point, on John's Island. Also you can go to your doctor or any Department of Health and Environmental Control office to get tested. In Charleston there are support groups called The Low Country AIDS Services that offer advice and some medical help for those that are affected by AIDS. Awareness in schools is very important because young people are the most likely population to be affected by AIDS.

At Clark, we recognized World AIDS Day by providing information and facts to students in support groups and to students who wanted to learn more.



An important day recognizing an important issue.

**In Charleston, one can be tested for HIV/AIDS at the local teen clinic, called The Point, on John's Island.**

## Design Stars By: Stephan Washington

Design Stars is an arts and crafts Activity Day group at Clark Academy led by Mrs. Caldwell and Mrs. Woodward. Mrs. Caldwell said she got the name for the activity from a design show on HGTV, based on creative indoor and outdoor art projects. Mrs. Caldwell said, "When I worked at School of the Arts, the students and faculty were continually engaged in making their building a more creative and engaging environment." Her goal is to encourage that enthusiasm and creative energy at Clark as well.

**The designers get a sense of pride from completing these projects.**

Last year's Design Stars group made a backdrop for the Black History Month Assembly and also decorated for the Holiday Dinner. The designers get a sense of pride from completing

these projects. This year, Design Stars have incorporated another HGTV concept, "Trash to Treasure," thanks to Mrs. Woodward. They also have made bulletin boards from salvaged ceiling tiles along with paper-Mache pumpkins, and they also created decorations for the annual Clark holiday dinner. We look forward to seeing what they will create for the school this year.



Mrs. Woodward works with students DeVante Middleton and Keionna Brisbane.

## Some Seniors Finish in January By: Samieka Major

Every year some of Clark's seniors leave our school in January. They are actually graduating with the rest of the seniors at the end of the school year, but they will be done with school earlier because they will be finished with their courses and will have earned all their credits. There are 12 seniors

**Clark wishes these seniors the best of luck in their life after graduation and that they are very successful.**

who will be leaving Clark this January. Last year 18 seniors finished in January. Some of the students say that the school will feel different when these 12 seniors leave, but it will also allow teachers and students to have more time working one on one together as some classes will have fewer students. These seniors are applying for jobs, planning to go to college, or hopefully, entering nursing and cosmetology programs as they plan for their futures. Clark wishes these seniors the best of luck in their life after graduation and hope that they are very successful. We also hope these seniors know they will be missed here. This school year, the graduation ceremony will be on May 31st. Hopefully, we will see our January graduates return for that event so they can let us know how they are doing.



Hats off to our seniors finishing in January!

## Senior Spotlight By: Marijo Smith

**Name:** Dakota Hale

**Birthday:** March 4, 1993

**Age:** 18

**Favorite Hobby:** Boxing

**Favorite Musicians:** lil Wayne, Drake, and Linkin Park

**Favorite Color:** Red

**Favorite Book:** The Bible

**Greatest Fear:** Failure

**Greatest Accomplishment:** Getting a Job

**What do you plan to do after you graduate?** Join the Military

**What do you think you will miss the most about Clark Academy?**

Talking to People

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** As a Fireman

**A quote or saying that has special meaning to you:**  
Hard work beats talent if talent doesn't work hard.



Senior Dakota Hale plans to become a fireman.

**~Hard work beats talent if talent doesn't work hard.~**

## Student Spotlight

By: Marišo Smith

**Name:** Aaliyah Blair

**Birthday:** December 23, 1994

**Age:** 17

**Favorite Hobby:** Dancing and Singing

**Favorite Musicians:** Aqua Times

**Favorite color(s):** Orange, Pink, and Green

**Favorite Book:** World Mythology

**Greatest Fear:** Failure

**Greatest Accomplishment:** Coming to Clark

**What do you want to do after you graduate?** Become a Psychologist

**What do you think you will miss about Clark Academy?** The Teachers

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Having a good job and a family.

**A quote or saying that has special meaning to you:** Something my dad says: "Don't let people take your joy away."

"Don't let people take  
your joy away."



Aaliyah Blair plans to become a psychologist.

## Showing School Spirit

By: Marišo Smith

Clark had Spirit Week the week of October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup>. Spirit week is held every year to get the students and teachers of Clark excited for Field Day, which happens at the end of the week. We also have Spirit Week to give students and teachers the opportunity to express their personalities with their costumes, which have a different theme every day. Monday was Halloween so some dressed up in their best Halloween costumes. This year Tuesday was Twin Day and friends dressed up as twins; Wednesday was Wacky Tacky Day; Thursday was Pajama Day; and Friday was Field Day when we wore our team colors and competed in a variety of events.

Although Field Day and Spirit Week sounds like it's all fun and games, there is also a lesson that is being taught.

Coach Runner, Mr. Reim, Mr. Williams, and Mrs. Cooper were in charge of Field Day.

They designed the events in which students

participated by thinking about the previous Field Days we have had. They chose ones they liked, and the ones that were most popular in the past. We normally have a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities, but this year we had to be inside because of the inclement weather. Everyone seemed to make the

best of it, although some were frustrated because they didn't get a chance to compete in some events. To address this issue in the future, Mr. Williams said, "Next year we will make more teams with fewer people so everyone will have a chance to participate, and if we have to sub people in, then we will." Although Field Day and Spirit Week sounds like it is all fun and games, there is also a lesson that is being taught: Have school spirit outside of just being here to learn. Spirit Week is an important part of Clark because we do not have sports teams here. It gives us the chance to compete in teams which is a big part of activities at other schools. These events give us all a chance to have fun while working together as a group and it fosters school spirit in the process.



Gabe Crampus and Aaliyah Blair get airborne.

## Turkey Shoot By: Quintin Frasier

Clark had a Turkey Shoot contest on November 22<sup>nd</sup> during the last hour of the school day to celebrate Thanksgiving. The Turkey Shoot is a contest based on who can shoot the most free throws in a row to win a free turkey to take home for Thanksgiving.

**Congrats to our turkey winners and to Mr. Hipp for his great attitude and dodge ball skills.**

Including this year, Clark has had a turkey shoot for three years now and has given away eight turkeys. This year, Sam Jones made ten free throws in a row to win the contest. We also held a raffle where every student had a chance to win a turkey. Jerricia Fields won the raffle with the number five.



Sam Jones made 10 free throws in a row to win a turkey.



Last teacher standing, Mr. Hipp.

After the contest the teachers and students had a dodge ball contest, Mr. Hipp was the last man standing for the teachers during one round while he faced several students at once. When asked how it felt to be there against those students on his own he said, "Well, obviously it was my teammates that helped me be the last man standing. Without them being hit and getting in the way of all the balls that were flung in my direction, I never could have done it. Seriously though, I thought it was a great time and a great way to spend the afternoon before a

holiday. Personally, I think we should do things like this more often, and I'm glad the students got into it and wanted to participate. I hope the next time we have a dodge ball game or any type of event like this, everyone will participate - either as player or fan." Congratulations to both of this year's turkey winners and to Mr. Hipp for his great attitude and dodge ball skills.

## Clark Academy Yearbook By: Stephfan Washington

Clark has not had a yearbook for the past 3 years. This year, as part of Activity Day, a group has formed as the Yearbook Committee. Led by Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Conner, they are working hard to get a yearbook done for the 2011-2012 school year. The yearbook is important because it gives Clark Academy a sense of community. It is also another way for the students to keep and celebrate some of their memories of their time at Clark Academy. The yearbook is scheduled to be completed before the end of the school year.

The yearbook will include pictures of school events like Spirit Week and Field Day, student superlatives, senior portraits, information and pictures about the various activities that are offered each semester, a history of Clark Academy, teacher information, and a few other topics related to our program. Thanks to Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Conner for leading the yearbook committee this year. We all look forward to seeing the finished product.

Students working on the yearbook this year are: Desmona Ramsey, Octavia Shepard, Samieka Major, Jasmine Manigault, Ashlin Erving, Keosha Cohen, Jalisa Washington, Marvin Fine, Raven Heyward, Denise Cohen, Toni Jones, ShaRaine McFadden, Justice Anderson, and Guadalupe Serapio. Thank you all for your hard work!



Marvin Fine shoots pictures for the 2012 yearbook.

## The Art of Clark By: DeVante' Middleton

Clark Academy has a lot of talented students who enter multiple art contests every year. Students participate in the CFADA (Charleston Fine Arts Dealers Association) Art in the Park – High School Competition. Desmona Ramsey and Jalisa Washington both entered self-portraits, and Jalisa placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of all the entries from Charleston County Schools. Their pieces are currently on display at Clark Academy in the front entrance display case. Jalisa said that she has always enjoyed art, from coloring to drawing, since she was young. Her favorite artist is Jonathan Green.



Jalisa Washington's winning art project.

**Jalisa said that she has always enjoyed art, from coloring to drawing.**

Students will also be entering a contest for the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in February. This year, students are entering a piece that will be a bird house that they will be

building out of clay. They also participated in James Island County Park Festival of Lights - Giant Christmas Card Completion. The best artwork by students from the Charleston County Schools' art classes will get their work selected by teachers and entered in the contests.

It is great to have talented artists recognized from Clark Academy and we are lucky to have Mrs. Trott, a talented artist herself, to help guide our students and foster participation in these competitions.

## Overcoming Obstacles By: Wesley Vanderhorst

Mr. Liverani, Communities in Schools Student Support Specialist at Clark Academy, organized a field trip for students from Clark to go to the James Island County Park climbing wall on November 8<sup>th</sup>. According to Mr. Liverani, the trip was a "tremendous success." He said everyone was well behaved; the weather was awesome; and everyone seemed to have a great time. Many students surprised each other, and themselves, with what they were able to accomplish.

All the students that went on the field trip earned the right to go by having no discipline referrals during the entire month of October. Mrs. Dausener, Mr. Halevi, Mr. Liverani, Mrs. Terrero, and Mr. Williams helped students on the climbing wall by belaying for them, which involves helping support students using a rope while they were on the climbing wall. There has to be an element

**The trip was a tremendous success.**

of trust between the climber and the person belaying for this to work.

Everyone worked well together on the

trip, helping each other do their best. It was a great lesson in teamwork.



Jacquintis Washington contemplates his next move.

Senior Jacquintus Washington reached the top of one of the more difficult sections of the climbing wall, which is no easy task. When asked about the entire experience he said, "I enjoyed it and it was challenging at the same time. It felt great to be the only one to reach the top of the second hardest climbing wall."

Congratulations to Jacquintis for reaching the top and to all the students who were able to go on the trip because of their hard work and excellent behavior.

## Clark Recognizes Success By: Samantha Bell

Clark Academy held an Honor Roll Assembly on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to recognize students who made the Principal's List (all A's), A/B Honor Roll, as well as those who had perfect attendance. Miss McDonald led the assembly and gifts were given out to students for their accomplishments. Teachers hope to have ten times the number of students on the Honor Roll List for the second nine weeks. After the assembly those students who had been recognized were invited to Student Support for refreshments and to celebrate their achievements.

**Clark is proud of all its honor roll students and wishes them continued success.**



This year, senior Sakai Washington made the A/B Honor Roll for the first time.

This year, senior Sakai Washington made the A/B Honor Roll for the first time. Sakai's parents were there to congratulate him and show him that they were proud of him. Sakai was excited when his name was called and to get his certificate and gift. He was also very happy and surprised that his parents came. He says that his goals are to stay on the honor roll and to get all A's the next nine weeks. Sakai's plans for the future are to become an electrical engineer. He hopes to attend Trident Tech and then complete his degree at the Citadel or USC. Clark is proud of all its honor roll students and wishes them continued success. Keep up the good work!

## Essay Contest Winner: Marijo Smith!

*Clark held an essay contest where students submitted entries about their dreams for the future. Senior Marijo Smith was selected as our winner and received the honor of having her essay published here. Congratulations to Marijo and we wish her the best in making her dreams a reality!*

### **My Dream** By: Marijo Smith

A poet named Langston Hughes asked a very good question when he wrote his poem "A Dream Deferred." He asked "What happens to a dream deferred?" Everyone has dreams in their lives. Some follow their dreams and some just push them aside. As for me, I have a lot of dreams and plan to follow them! I want to graduate and go to college. After college I want to open my own business. I am not sure what type of business yet, but I want to do it. I want to make enough money to help support charities for cancer patients, the homeless, and everything that has to do with child care and orphans. With the money I make I want to buy my momma and grandparents a nice house. I want to take care of them in every way. My dream is to take care of those in need. My dream is to help find a cure for cancer and AIDS. My dream is to help animals in need. My dream is to show everyone how important it is to help people, and to show how it touches people's lives. My dreams are real, and I plan to follow them and succeed. No dream should be deferred. So take a chance and live up to your dreams! All dreams are real, follow yours!



Marijo would like to encourage everyone to follow their dreams.



## Cooking With Quintin By: Quintin Frasier

There are a lot of good recipes for desserts, especially at this time of year. Because I love cooking, I wanted to share one of my favorite holiday recipes with everyone. I learned this simple but tasty recipe for Chocolate Chip Rice Crispy Treats from my Aunt Lorraine. Every year she makes these homemade Rice Krispies Treats when she comes to visit over the holidays. I hope everyone gets the chance to try these out for themselves.

### Chocolate Chip Rice Krispies Treats

#### Ingredients:

- 16- to 24-ounces of marshmallows (either bagged or jarred)
- 1 Family size box of Rice Krispies
- Half a stick of butter or margarine
- 1 20-ounce bag of chocolate chips

#### Directions:

- Pre-heat oven to 200 degrees F
- Heat marshmallows in a large pan over medium-low heat stirring regularly until smooth and creamy
- Spread butter or margarine on a baking pan
- Slowly pour Rice Krispies into the creamy marshmallows and stir until mixed thoroughly
- Add chocolate chips and continue to stir until everything is mixed evenly
- Bake 25 minutes at 200 degrees F
- Remove, let cool, cut, and serve



Try this holiday recipe at your house.

## Clark Academy Winter Dance By: De'Angelo Richardson

Clark will be having a winter dance on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 p.m.- 11:00p.m. The theme of the dance will be "Winter Wonderland." Tickets will be sold at the beginning of December through early January. The cost of the dance will be \$12 per ticket. The dance will be hosted by the 2012 Clark Academy Seniors and is open to all students in good standing with CCSD. Students are allowed to bring one guest. If guests are not students at Clark, then they must be at least high school age and cannot be over 20 years old. Guests must be registered with the school at least a week before the dance to gain admission. No exceptions.

DJ Kiki Cain will be in charge of laying down the beat. There will also be a senior Snow King and Snow Queen crowned during the dance as well as an underclassman Snow Prince and Snow Princess. Votes will be taken during first block classes for these honors. Candidates must be responsible for their own posters and flyers if they plan to run. They may post these around school and are also responsible for the removal before the dance. In order to attend the dance, students must be dressed in either suits or tuxedos (for males) and either long or short formalwear (for females). The dance will be held at Lance Hall, a ballroom located downtown behind the Circular Congregational Church, just off the corner of Meeting and Cumberland Street. Food and drinks will be available. For any questions or details about this event, please see Ms. Bannister.



The Winter Dance will be a festive event.



## Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Caldwell By: Mr. Singla, CTE Teacher

Every year the teachers at Clark Academy nominate and elect a Teacher of the Year. This individual exemplifies the qualities all of us as teachers hope to embody ourselves. This year, we proudly selected Mrs. Caldwell to be our 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Caldwell has spent her entire career dedicated to helping students achieve in the classroom, both as a teacher and as an administrator, at the middle and high school levels. As a teacher, Mrs. Caldwell has always taught English. About teaching English, she said, "I loved being a student, so school is a pleasant place for me. I love words, so English is a natural content area for me. Reading has always been my favorite recreational activity."



Mrs. Caldwell works with English student, Liz Shephard.

On a personal note, Mrs. Caldwell is serving as my mentor this year as I am beginning my career in education. She has been an amazing role model and has provided me with a lot of good advice and information about the trials, and also the joys, of teaching. I am incredibly grateful for her assistance so far this year and am so happy that Clark has chosen to honor her as our 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year. Speaking with students at Clark, it is clear that I am not alone in valuing her as a teacher, and as a friend. I spoke with several of Mrs. Caldwell's students, but senior Jacquintis Washington seemed to say it best when he told me, "Her actions inspire me to learn and do more to become a better person. A loving heart like hers is the truest wisdom."

I asked Mrs. Caldwell what she feels she has learned from her years of teaching and she said, "I have learned how my brain works. In looking at how students learn, I have learned about my own learning style. Teaching literature is a wonderful opportunity to look at how other people live their lives. If those lives are different from my own, then I have the opportunity to see life from another perspective. It's as if I am continually making Venn diagrams to see how my life experiences overlap with the experiences of others."

**"Mrs. Caldwell's actions inspire me to learn and do more to become a better person."**

She went on to say, in regard to her career in education, "I have loved every job I have ever had—truly. At this point in my life and my career, I think I have found the perfect place for myself at Clark Academy. I am less than 4 years away from retirement. How fortunate I am to end a career of over 40 years, loving the job I do."

Once again, congratulations to Mrs. Caldwell for her outstanding leadership and teaching skills. Her career in teaching is one that has touched lives and benefited more people than can be counted. Thank you, Mrs. Caldwell, for your continued service in this honorable profession.

## Thank You for Reading! From: Mr. Singla's 3rd Block



Dear Readers,

We hope you enjoyed the 2nd issue of Clarkitonians. We had a great time creating this newsletter. If you have any comments you would like to share with us, you may email them to [amol\\_singla@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:amol_singla@charleston.k12.sc.us).

**Pictured from Left to Right:** Sean Stricklin, Mr. Singla, Marijo Smith, Jacquintis Washington, Quintin Frasier, Samieka Major, Stephfan Washington, DeVante Middleton, Samantha Bell, and Deangelo Richardson.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Singla's 3rd Block Class