

*PTA Scholarship, Implicit Bias, 2021-22 BOE Budget, Anti-Racist Parenting, and more...*



## **March 2021 Newsletter ([Spanish Version](#))**

### **A Message from PTA Board Members Christine Randi and Erica Clough**



Hello and happy March!

My name is Christine Lozano Randi. I have been a Clinton resident for 11 years and while I have been a member of the PTA in the past, this is my first year on the board in an “at large” role, which basically means, I’m learning! But wow, what an enthusiastic motivated group of folks! It is an honor to be part of something that truly makes a difference in our children’s lives. I have 4th and 7th graders in the CPS and I can honestly say my husband and I have not been disappointed with the town where we chose to raise our boys.

I myself have been on the faculty of the Yale School of Medicine for 20 years, and I work for the Veterans’ Hospital for the past 14 years as a clinical psychologist. I am passionate about serving our nation’s veterans and don’t consider what I do a job. It’s a calling.

As a community and as a nation we are experiencing trying times. Don’t forget to be kind to yourself and check out Mental Health Mondays or Feel Good Fridays on Clinton PTA social media. And if you’d like to join us or just help us fund PTA events, please consider joining for \$15 a year! Stay well!



Happy March!

Hello, my name is Erica Clough and I am a newer PTA board member. I have a 12 year old son at Eliot, and my family and I have lived in Clinton for the past 8 years.

I felt compelled to join the PTA during such a challenging time in our society with mental health being of primary concern since I have had experience in the mental health field since 2001. As a Master's level clinician with a license in alcohol and drug counseling, I have been adding my knowledge to the board whenever possible. In addition, I have been sharing self-care tips for parents on Clinton PTA social media.

It has always been my belief that if one is not caring for themselves, it is nearly impossible to care for others. Since this is a primary function as a parent, it is important to employ self-care and do it consistently. My hope is that the tips and resources I share will inspire and help parents, which in turn will benefit all of our children.

## What Is Implicit Bias?

*Parenting Discussion Group*  
Virtual Event: Thurs. 3/11 @ 7 PM



**Elijah Manning**  
Owner of Inclusive Education LLC

How can we, as caregivers and students, identify and correct implicit bias? Join **Inclusive Education Activist Elijah Manning** for a guided discussion online.

*Registration required.*  
To sign up, email:  
[ahwatrous@gmail.com](mailto:ahwatrous@gmail.com)

**Clinton PTA**      **THE Henry Carter Hull LIBRARY**

## Parenting Discussion Group: What Is Implicit Bias?

“In each of our subconscious minds there is implicit bias that can contribute to unwarranted attitudes, beliefs, and associations about groups or people. These stereotypes or “blind spots” can lead to actions based on racism, sexism, and other inaccurate beliefs” Sarah Borgnis-Tobin, HCH Library.

But what causes implicit bias to occur, and what can we do about it? What role do we play, as parents, caregivers, and students, in identifying and correcting implicit biases within our community?

Join the Clinton PTA and Henry Carter Hull Library online for an engaging discussion led by Elijah Manning, education activist and owner of Inclusive Education LLC, on the topic of implicit bias in our schools. Registration is required for this free program for adults and teens on Thurs. 3/11 at 7 PM.

A series of short videos relating to the discussion topic will be shared with guests upon registration. **To sign up and receive the meeting link, email [Abby Roccapriore](mailto:Abby.Roccapriore@hchlibrary.org).**

More about our Guest Speaker:

Elijah Manning is an activist dedicated to bringing a more inclusive teaching (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and women) to the school curricula. He has started his own company, Inclusive Education LLC, to help further this work by doing anti-racism/racism awareness workshops in schools. He has been involved in conversations with his city BOE in Norwalk as well as been on panel discussions with the city and helped facilitate conversations with Artreach Inc. out of Norwich, CT. Having grown up on the shoreline of CT (Old Saybrook) he is honored to work with cities and towns along that shoreline.



**Clinton PTA \$500 Scholarship**

To be awarded to one graduating Senior of The Morgan School!

Applicant Eligibility:

Student or parent/guardian is a member of the Clinton PTA

A Clinton resident

A graduating senior

Planning to attend a two or four-year program in higher education, including trade or technical schools

Award will be based on the following criteria:

Academic Merit

Essay/Personal Qualities

Community Service

Extracurricular Involvement

Financial Need

Judges are independent of The Morgan School and do not know Morgan students

Application Deadline: April 20, 2021

Download [application](#) and [membership](#) forms, or pick them up from Guidance. Questions?

Email [info@clintonpta.org](mailto:info@clintonpta.org)

Past Scholarship Recipients:

Heidi Gaudet, 2020

Ella Franzoni and Grace Roman, 2019

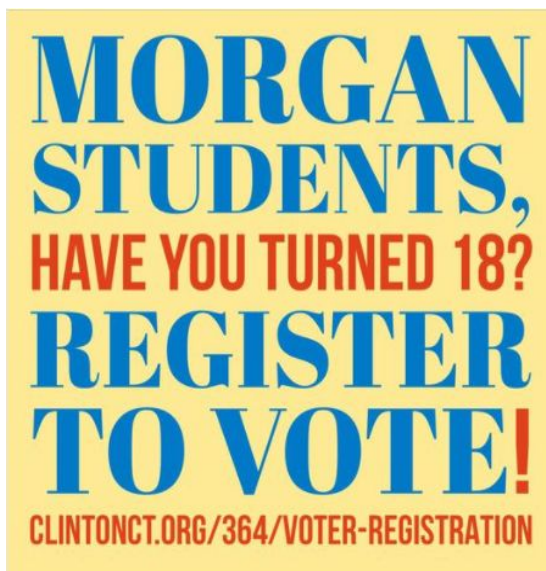


It's Budget Time! Are you informed? We encourage you to get the facts! Timeline below. Mark your calendars!

- **February 3rd** the Board of Education approved the 2021-2022 budget. The video from this meeting can be viewed [here](#). A copy of the budget book can be viewed [here](#). Currently the Clinton Town Council is reviewing it at their budget workshops.
- **April 7th 6-8:30 pm Town Council Public Hearing** will be held virtually. Please join to voice your support! Look for meeting link on PTA Facebook & Instagram pages
- **May 12th 6 am-8 pm Town Referendum** - Town and Education budgets, Please VOTE and remind your friends and family to vote too!

Have questions? Let us know or email BOE Chair Erica Gelven [egelven@clintonpublic.net](mailto:egelven@clintonpublic.net)

Do you have a high school or college student who is eligible to vote but not registered yet? They can [REGISTER NOW!](#)







### **Anti-Racist Parenting**

PTA Vice President Abby Roccapriore recently attended a webinar on anti-racist parenting presented at Arizona State University by Project Humanities. Abby has shared the following take-aways from the presentation:

**Racism**-we think of behaviors and attitudes-an individual flaw

- Really it is more institutional and systemic

**To be anti racist - Dr. Ibram Kendi's definition**

"One who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea." (p. 13, *How to Be an Antiracist*)

**Anti racist parent** - it is important to share with your children your ancestry

- Were they the oppressor? The oppressed?
- Important to foster positive racial identity while not forgetting the past

**Color blindness**

- Keeps people from seeing injustices
- Complicates matters when children have very different world views
- Dr Kendi talks about racism as a type of cancer. When we deny color and race you deny their experience and the growing cancer of their institutional issues. Color blindness is a way to reinforce racism.
- Kids and families of color learn to survive in a system that reminds them that they are not enough.
- Panelists reminded participants that you do **NOT** have to be a traditional parent to parent kids in your life or community.
- Our actions and behaviors are what children see and learn from.

**Home** is where kids get their first feeling of hierarchy and power dynamics in certain areas

- We "settle" most of our lives at home but are told not to do that out in the world.

- Dad or male is highest, mother or women are lower.
- Then we are told to shatter the glass ceiling, etc. in our jobs, schools, etc.

If you would like to view a recording of the panel discussion, [click here](#).

**Sponsors:**  
PTA  
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*"If you think manufacturing is a low-skilled, low-paid industry, think again."  
- Forbes Magazine*

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24TH, 7 PM (VIA ZOOM\*)**

**DYNAMIC CAREERS IN STEM & MANUFACTURING**

**PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING:**

- COLIN COOPER: CT CHIEF MANUFACTURING OFFICER
- OLIVER BAUSCH: BAUSCH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES
- PHIL WILLIAMS: KENYON INTL
- GUS KELLOGG: ROPER THERMALS
- MARK RICHARDS: PREFERRED FOAM PRODUCTS
- AN EMPLOYED MORGAN GRADUATE

- Company video tours
- Job shadows, internships, apprenticeships, high paying careers
- Jobs that don't require college degrees
- Opportunities for college-bound students
- Q & A

**MODERATED BY MARCO FAMIGLIETTI, CPS ASST. SUPT.**

**For ZOOM Link:**  
<https://cutt.ly/vkD6JBs>

**For more information, contact  
Laura Colebank: [Lcolebank@gmail.com](mailto:Lcolebank@gmail.com)**

Did you miss this amazing PTA sponsored event? No problem, it was recorded and we will post the recording soon on our [website](#), and [Facebook page](#).

In the meantime, take a peak into videos from [Bausch Advanced Technologies](#) and [Kenyon International](#). Two great Clinton manufacturing companies!

And check out this terrific article highlighting [8 Reasons It's Great to Work in Manufacturing!](#)



In search of Clinton fathers to be part of Clinton PTA! We are a board of 100% women and would like to change that. Only prerequisite is you need to be interested in your child's education and well being!

Please reach out to [Heather Moore](#) for details.

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**MARCH EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Monday, March 1:** Board of Education meeting at 7:00 PM (click [here](#) for details)

**Monday, March 15:** Board of Education meeting at 7:00 PM (click [here](#) for details)

**Thursday, March 18:** PD (Eliot/Morgan), Parent Conferences (Joel)

**Thursday, March 18:** PTA meeting at 7:00 PM (Zoom link to be posted on social media)

**Thursday, March 25:** PD (Joel), Parent Conferences (Eliot/Morgan)



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# You're Invited!

## **ALL are welcome at PTA meetings!**

Please come join in the conversation! Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18 from 7:00-8:30 PM. Zoom link will be posted on social media.

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**Join us!**

## **PTA Board Openings**

Clinton PTA still has openings for two important roles: Membership Chair and Programming Chair. Please contact [Heather](#) if you would like more information about these positions!

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## **Have you renewed your membership yet?**

Your membership helps us provide important programming and speakers. Membership runs 7/1-6/30 and is only \$15-\$25 (\$5.50 for students and teachers). Options to join/renew can be found here: <http://www.clintonpta.org/membership/>.

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**Thank you to Clinton PTA's generous sponsors!**



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**Help us reach more parents and teachers!**

**Please share this newsletter on Facebook or forward to your friends via email.**

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