

# Family fun at El Día del Niño/El Día del Libro



*Young attendees enjoying a puppet show and story time at the 2015 event*

On Friday, April 26, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Clark College invites the community to participate in an evening of free, family-friendly activities that celebrate both Latino culture and the value of literacy.

“Celebración de Mi Gente: El Día del Niño/El Día del Libro” (“Celebration of My People: Day of the Child/Day of the Book”) is an annual event hosted by the college. It is free and open to the public. It is always held on or near the Mexican holiday of Día del Niño (April 30), which is also celebrated as Día del Libro by the American Library Association. The festival will feature

interactive

performances and activities, dancing, face-painting, bilingual games,

environmentally sustainable crafts, and delicious snacks.

Clark College's

mascot, Oswald the Penguin, will be on hand for photos with visiting children.

The event will be held in the Gaiser

Student Center on Clark College's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933

Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are

available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Anyone needing

accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event

should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at

360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP), prior to the event.

Photos from Clark's 2017 Celebración de Mi Gente are available on

Flickr at

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/clark\\_college/albums/72157683286542155](https://www.flickr.com/photos/clark_college/albums/72157683286542155). Video of

past celebrations can be viewed on Clark YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/gNxuROUfDdY>.

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## Helping student parents



Clark College recently received a \$496,800 grant to help low-income parents pursue higher education.

The grant, which will be disbursed over four years, comes from the U.S. Department of Education's CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) program. The bulk of it will be used to subsidize child care in the college's Child and Family Studies program for Pell Grant-eligible student-parents. About one-quarter of Clark students have dependent children, and 43 percent are low-income.

"We are thrilled to be able to take this step forward in serving our student-parents with the CCAMPIS Student Parent Support Program," said Clark College Child & Family Studies Director Michele Volk. "We know that child care can be a barrier for many people who would like to go to college, so having safe, high-quality, and affordable early-childhood care and education right here on campus can help these students succeed and create brighter futures for their whole families."

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, only 33 percent of students with children complete a degree or certificate within six years; for single mothers, the rate is 28 percent. One study showed that student-parents who used their college's on-campus child care services were more than three times as likely to graduate on time as those who did not. At a time when many colleges across the country are shutting down their child-care centers, this grant will allow Clark College to expand its services to more students.

Founded during World War II as a parents' cooperative, Clark College's Child & Family Studies program has evolved into a full-scale child care center providing care to children ages 12 months to 5 years. Serving more than 123 families per quarter, it also serves as a learning lab for the college's Early Childhood Education program.

Student parents can receive CCAMPIS-funded subsidies through an application process and could begin receiving subsidized child care as soon as the beginning of winter quarter on January 7. CFS hopes to serve 40 student families during the first year of the grant.

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## **Little patients, big smiles**



More than 100 children received care at the 2017 Children's Free Dental Health Day.

Some days, it's like the Tooth Fairy is trying to tell you something.

For instance, there's nothing like losing one of your baby teeth to remind you that you need to visit the dentist. Fortunately for Juliet Shiemke, age 7, students from the Clark College Dental Hygiene program had organized a Free Children's Dental Health Day just when she needed it most. Within hours of having another one of her front teeth pop out on Saturday, February 4, she was sitting in a dentist chair in the college's Firstenburg Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center making sure the rest of her teeth were clean and healthy.

"My wife saw a flier for this at Juliet's school, and it really came at the right time," said Juliet's father, Marc Shiemke, as he watched a Clark College Dental Hygiene student clean her teeth. "We moved up from Arizona six months ago and haven't gotten dental insurance yet."

Shiemke's wife, Dallas, was sitting in a nearby bay with their 3-year-old son, Brendan. Like his sister, Brendan left the dentist chair with a clean bill of health and a bag full of goodies.

"Dental hygiene is very important for our kids," Shiemke said. "I know I didn't have the greatest care when I was growing up and I kind of suffered for it in my adult life—needing some bridges and teeth pulled. I want to make sure my kids get the best care for their teeth so they don't have to go through the same stuff that I've gone through."

That's the idea behind this annual event, said Dr. Peter Lubisich, a pediatric dentist who serves on the college's Dental Hygiene Advisory Council and organizes the volunteer dentists who help make this day possible. "In a sense, we're a safety net for those who fall through the cracks" of the state's dental-insurance coverage, he said. "One of the main reasons kids miss school can be because of tooth decay."



Casey Hedeem takes notes on a patient at the Children's Free Dental Health Day.

While Children's Dental Health Day, now in its 11th year, is the largest free-care event held by the Dental Hygiene program, its students regularly contribute free or low-cost care in their community. Indeed, the two students who led this year's event originally became inspired to take on the mammoth

responsibility after participating last spring in a free dental day for adults through a local nonprofit.

“The first patient we had there, we had tears in our eyes from the reaction that she had,” recalled Casey Hedeem, who expects to receive her Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene this spring. “With the free clinic, she got what’s called a ‘partial’ so that she didn’t have a missing front tooth. She was in tears. At that moment, we knew this is what we wanted to do: We wanted to be part of something bringing that kind of change to people’s lives.”

Hedeem and her classmate Stephanie Pfeifer have been working on the event since September. With the help of many other student volunteers, they have publicized the event, organized appointments, and worked out the logistics of getting almost 130 children and their families in and out of the clinic smoothly.

“Even though we do it every year, we really want the students to plan their own event,” said Prof. Kristi Taylor, Interim Program Director of the Dental Hygiene program. “This gives them first-hand knowledge, not only to plan a public event and to actually see what it’s like and what that takes, but also to be one of the clinicians providing that care for the people who are coming here.”

As far as Marc Shiemke and his family are concerned, the students did a great job. “From the moment we walked in the door, the staff’s been super-friendly and super-efficient,” he said. “I thought it would take a long time, but we’ve probably been here half an hour and we’re almost done.”

Indeed, just minutes later, Juliet was sitting up in her chair. The Clark student who had been cleaning her teeth smiled and congratulated her on being a great patient, then held up her hand. And Juliet, flashing the brightest of gap-toothed smiles, returned the student’s high-five and got ready

to go home with her family.

*Photos and video: Clark College/Nick Bremer*

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# Backpack Project hits lucky 13



For the 13th year in a row, Clark College employees donated backpacks and supplies to 52 school-aged children of Clark College students.

Names of children are gathered and referred by Workforce Education Services, Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, Child & Family Services, and the Diversity Center. Each child is asked their favorite color and characters so the donors can find a backpack that is specific to that child.

This year, the Backpack Project provided 55 backpacks, adding to the grand total so far of over 730 backpacks collected throughout the years – thank you!



Here are some expressions of thanks from students and their children after receiving their backpack:



*“Just wanted to say THANK YOU!!!! for all you have done for me through my college life, along with helping me with school supplies and a backpack for my son for the last two years also. It helped us out so very much, I am off to my new educated life. Thank You All, You Will Be Missed.”*

*“Thank you for the backpacks. I loooooove them I can’t wait to go back to school.”*

*“Thank you for your kindness and for the school supplies. I hope that everyone that goes to school in Clark College does really good.”*

*This article was contributed by Cindy Heck*

*Photos: Clark College/Cindy Heck*

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## **Sharing the fun of reading**



Kindergartners at King Elementary explore copies of *The Cat in the Hat* donated through the Clark College Bookstore. Photo: Clark College Bookstore/Kaina Barba

On March 2, staff members from the Clark College Bookstore participated in Read Across America Day by reading the Dr. Seuss classic *The Cat in the Hat* to kindergartners at King Elementary. But these volunteers didn't just share a love of reading with the children: They also gave each student his or her own copy of the book to take home and keep.

The books—110 in all—were collected during the Bookstore's eighth annual Book Drive in February. Students, faculty and staff purchased and donated copies of *The Cat in the Hat* so that each kindergartner at King Elementary would have a brand-new book to take home and share with their families.

"This is a really big deal to the kids, because so many of them come from low-income homes where there's no money for non-essential items," says Bookstore buyer Marti Earhart, a

coordinator of the book drive. "When we hand each of the kids their own shiny new book, they get so excited!"

This year's goal of 80 books was easily met just a few days into the two-week book drive, so donors continued to buy and donate Dr. Seuss books for the school's library. The library at King Elementary received 30 various Dr. Seuss titles for students to check out and enjoy.

Donors of the books were asked to put their name on a nameplate that appeared on the inside front cover of each book. "At some point the kids will realize that the person whose name is in their book wanted to share their own love of reading with them," says Earhart. "Hopefully this book will give kids confidence to open more books on their own. "

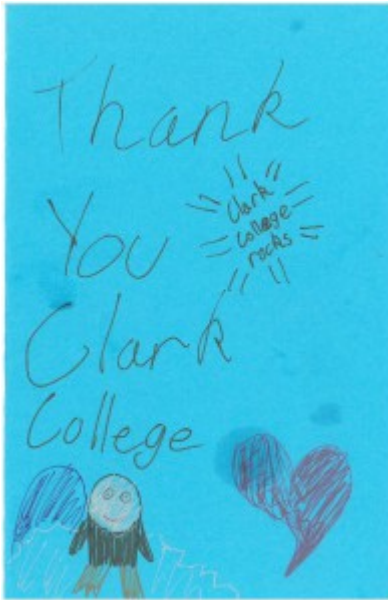
Read Across America Day commemorates the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss.

*Photos: Clark College Bookstore/Kaina Barba*

*This article was contributed by Marti Earhart.*

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## **Clark employees' generosity is always in style**



We are in the midst of change at Clark College. The STEM building is being built and people will begin moving next year. ctcLink has many of us reviewing our business processes and anticipating a modern ERP (enterprise resource planning) college-wide management software. The new Academic Plan is focusing us on developing academic pathways that will lead students to gainful employment and further education.

What hasn't changed is Clark College employees' willingness to go above and beyond to help students. This year, for the 12th annual Backpack Project, employees donated backpacks and supplies to 52 school-aged children of Clark College students. The support and generosity of employees has sustained this project through the years, and employees tell us that they always look forward to the announcement of the project.

Names of children are gathered and referred by Workforce Education Services, Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, Child & Family Services, and the Diversity Center. Each child is asked their favorite color and characters so the donors can find a backpack that is specific to that child. The characters from the children's movie *Frozen* were the favorite this year.

This year we received some wonderful drawings and heartfelt

thank-you notes we wanted to share with you



*"Hey, thank you for the backpack, it was very helpful for me. I know you guys didn't have to do it but I'm very thankful so thank you!"*

*"Thank you so much for the backpacks, you have no idea how much this helped out our family."*

*"I ♥ my backpack!"*

No matter how things change, we know we can count on Clark employees to keep helping our students and their families, year after year. Thank you!

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## **Fun for the Whole Familia**



Members of the Olincalli Ballet Folklórico perform at the 2014 Latino Festival.

On Friday, May 1, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Clark College invites the community to participate in an evening of free, family-friendly activities that celebrate both Latino culture and the value of literacy.

“Celebración de Mi Gente: El Día del Niño/El Día del Libro” (“Celebration of My People: Day of the Child/Day of the Book”) is an annual event hosted by the college. It is free and open to the public. It is always held on or near the Mexican holiday of Día del Niño (April 30), which is also celebrated as Día del Libro by the American Library Association. The festival will feature a bilingual puppet show, bilingual storytelling and book-reading, dancing, crafts, face-painting, bilingual games, crafts, and delicious snacks. Clark College’s mascot, Oswald the Penguin, will be on hand for photos with visiting children.

The event will be held in the Gaiser Student Center on Clark

College's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Anyone needing accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at (360) 992-2314 or (360) 991-0901 (VP), prior to the event.

See video about the puppet show and last year's festival:

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

*Video: Clark College/Nick Bremer-Korb*

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## Keeping Kids Healthy



Dental Hygiene students work in the new Firstenburg Family Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center.

The Clark College Dental Hygiene Program will hold a free children's dental clinic on Saturday, February 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the main campus of Clark College. The event will take place in the newly remodeled Firstenburg Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center in the Health Sciences Building.

Dental hygiene students from Clark College will provide care under the direct supervision of licensed dental hygienist and dentists. Services will include cleanings, sealants, x-rays, and fluoride for children ages 18 and under. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Dental Hygiene Business Office at 360-992-2158.



This has been an exciting time for the Dental Hygiene program. Its recently approved Bachelor of Applied Science degree—the college's first-ever baccalaureate degree—will begin taking students in fall 2015. The program also recently opened the Firstenburg Family Dental Hygiene Education and Care Center. The \$3.3 million facility renovation was funded by donations from a variety of entities including the Firstenburg Foundation, Roy and Virginia Andersen Endowment, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, John A. and Helen M. Cartales Foundation. Renovations of the space allow the program to serve more students and more patients—particularly children and underserved populations.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). If you need accommodation due



to a disability in order to fully participate in this event, contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at or (VP), or visit Penguin Union Building room 013 as soon as possible.

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## **Photo Album: Fun for the Whole Familia**

Not even an accidental fire alarm could stop the festivities at this year's Día del Niño/Día del Libro celebration, held in Gaiser Student Center on May 9. Approximately 225 guests enjoyed the evening-long celebration of Latino culture and literature, which included a bilingual puppet show performed by Clark Spanish language students, dance performances by Olincalli Ballet Folklórico, free food from Panadería Cinco de Mayo, and hands-on activities for children. Oswald the Penguin was on hand to greet children and pose for pictures—even when the party moved outdoors temporarily after an inquisitive toddler managed to pull a fire alarm. The celebration quickly moved back inside to continue the festivities, which are held each year around April 30, the date of Mexico's Día del Niño ("Day of the Child") and the American Library Association's Día del Libro ("Day of the Book").

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*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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# A Spanish Lesson with Strings Attached



Professor Betsy Ubierno takes a moment from putting the finishing touches on some of the puppets she helped create at the Olde World Puppet Theatre studios during her sabbatical.

In a strange way, Spanish professor Betsy Ubierno has the cruelty of children to thank for inspiring her sabbatical project, which will be unveiled at Clark College's Día del Niño/Día del Libro festival, held May 9 in Gaiser Student Center.

Ubierno and her Spanish-born husband are raising their daughter, Mar, to be bilingual in both English and Spanish.

But Mar began refusing to speak Spanish at home after classmates at her elementary school told her she was “too blonde to speak Spanish.”

“She’d come home from school and say, ‘Mom, I can’t speak Spanish,’” Ubiergo recalled. “But then she’d grab a doll and make the doll speak in Spanish. She’d relax once it wasn’t her on the spot. The doll would speak *great* Spanish.”

Ubiergo began wondering if this same technique could be used to help her students at Clark, who often seemed to forget their language skills as soon as they had to use them in front of other people. “There’s a lot of research going on right now regarding performance-based language learning,” said Ubiergo. “I thought, maybe if my students had something to hide behind, they could relax and get more from the experience.”



Steven Overton and Martin Richmond of the Olde World Puppet Theatre Studios said they designed the puppets to be both easy for students to use and respectful of the source material’s cultural aesthetics.

Ubiergo applied for and received a two-quarter sabbatical to spend creating a series of large puppets based on works of Spanish literature, as well as the training to be able to help

her students use them. To help craft the puppets, she turned to Steve Overton and Marty Richmond of Portland's Olde World Puppet Theatre Studios, who spent hundreds of hours working to design, craft, and coordinate the 33 puppets.

"We just really loved what Betsy was doing," said Overton. "It's promoting literacy, and language, and the classics. We were really happy to be part of it."

The puppets are based on three different children's stories, each by a major figure in Spanish-language literature: *El Elefante y Su Secreto* (*The Elephant and his Secret*) by Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral; *Platero y Yo*, by Spanish poet and writer Juan Ramón Jiménez; and *Jaco* by André Dahan, a French writer and illustrator whose children's books have been translated into numerous languages. Ubiergo has created scripts from each story; students in her spring quarter Spanish 123 class are currently learning the plays and will be performing them at Clark's annual Día del Niño/Día del Libro festival, an evening celebration of Latino culture that always includes food, music, dance and a host of other family-friendly activities.



Jaco the Bird is the star of one of the bilingual

puppet skits  
created by Spanish  
professor Betsy  
Ubierno.

“It will be nice because everyone can get something different from this,” said Ubierno. “For my students, they’ll have a chance to learn Spanish in a new and non-threatening way, and to interact with native Spanish speakers. For the children there who speak Spanish, this may introduce them to some important examples of Spanish-language literature that they may not have been familiar with—and because they’ll be able to help my students out if they forget a word, it validates their experiences as Spanish speakers. And for English-speaking children, the plays are bilingual, and the puppets make it engaging even when they don’t recognize the language.”

Ubierno added that since the puppets were part of her sabbatical project, they are now Clark College property and will be available for future productions and lessons. In fact, she made sure to request that Overton and Richmond make the puppets easy to disassemble and pack for traveling, because she already has plans to use them in a service learning project during the college’s next study abroad trip to Mexico during Spring Break 2015.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*