



THE CR REPORT

CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BI-MONTHLY
"WHERE EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION"

Your District-Wide Information Source

September-October 2014 Issue



Students arrive for their first day of class at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center in Magnolia. MECC is the largest full-day kindergarten program in the State of Delaware.



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What's Happening?

Board Meetings (7:00 p.m.)

September 16: Brown Elementary School

October 28: Frear Elementary School

November 18: Simpson Elementary School

Special Events:

September 26: In-Service Schools Closed

September 26: Homecoming Parade/Football

September 27: Rider Pride Day/Dance

October 1: Interim Reports Issued

DID YOU KNOW?

The new and improved Caesar Rodney School District website can be found at:

www.crk12.org

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community. For questions or comment, please contact Ron Gough at:
ronald.gough@cr.k12.de.us.

We Are On Facebook!



Go to your Facebook account and LIKE "Caesar Rodney School District" for the latest information in ALL of your Rider schools!

Message From the Superintendent

This past school year, 456 members of the Class of 2014 graduated from Caesar Rodney High School while another 16 students successfully completed our Charlton program. Of those students, many will attend college or enter the military and proudly serve our country. Others will join the work force, while for some, success will take the form of being able to live independent productive lives. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them.



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

As we enter our 99th year as a school district, we welcomed nearly 7700 students through the doors of our schools! As you are well aware, in education the future is now. It's each minute spent in a classroom; it's time spent on the playground, cafeteria or on the school bus. Our children face tests and challenges unlike ever before. These children will need guidance, support, encouragement and in some instances accommodations if they are to succeed. It will take the combined effort of this district, our parents and our entire community to ensure that each student has the type of education that places them at a level that allows them to compete in a global economy.

Last year, 200 students from both the McIlvaine ECC and Welch Elementary were part of the state's first Chinese immersion program. Students in our middle schools had the opportunity to take Spanish or Chinese online. Our high school students can choose more foreign language options than anyone in the state (Spanish, French, German, Latin, Chinese, Arabic and Italian).

This year we will expand our Chinese program into second grade at both Simpson and Frear. We will also welcome another 100 kindergarten students into the Chinese and for the first time will introduce 50 students into a Spanish immersion program.

We continue to refine our student enrichment programs and now have accelerated math and English courses for our 7th and 8th graders, Dual College Enrollment opportunities for our high school students and have increased

our Advanced Placement so that students can earn college credits in more than twenty courses.

Our goal continues to be simply this: our children will be prepared to compete worldwide in any job market. They will not only be prepared to enter a college or university in Delaware; they will be prepared to graduate from any college or university in the world.

Caesar Rodney is so much more than just a school district. We are Academics, We are the Arts, We are Athletics and we are a place where students can learn in a positive Atmosphere. We are a place that cares about our children, whether in our classrooms or at home.

We belong to a partnership; a partnership that exists between us and our students, their parents and our community; a partnership which has always been the foundation of this district for more than 99 years. At its core is the trust and belief that we will keep our children safe from harm, that they are cared for in a nurturing environment and that they will be challenged to the utmost of their ability.

We are committed to doing what it takes to help our children - but our success as a school district - our children's success - and ultimately our community's success - will only take place if our partnership continues to grow and our committed and all of us remain committed to providing each child's with a great education.

I wish each of our educators, all of our parents and every student a wonderful, successful school year.

Newest School Board Member Takes Oath of Office

Jessica Marelli is the newest member of the Caesar Rodney School Board. A graduate of Claremont High School in California, Mrs. Marelli received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physiological Sciences from the



Jessica Marelli takes the Oath of Office from Board President William Bush. Looking on is Jessica's husband, Daniel.

University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She and her husband Daniel have three children who all attend schools in the Caesar Rodney School District.

You're In Rider Country

Governor Visits Caesar Rodney School District to Push College Readiness and School Safety

Governor Jack Markell recently visited Caesar Rodney High School to urge the Class of 2015 to start now in pursuing post secondary opportunities since our country depends on them to strengthen our nation through college or trade education.

The Governor mentioned www.delawaregoestocollege.org which provides students and families guidelines for everything they will need in order to make wise decisions about college opportunities.

With Governor Markell were representatives of the Delaware Department of Education and Delaware Technical and Community College who also urged each member of the senior class to work hard, make the right decisions and explore education and trade opportunities following graduation now.

Later the same day, Governor Markell stopped by W. Reily Brown Elementary to sign HB 340 which will accelerate and enhance school safety efforts. Building on his 2013 pledge that all Delaware schools would

have a “state-of-the-art school safety plan” by the end of 2014, Governor Markell signed legislation at Brown that requires schools to have a comprehensive and up-to-date school safety plan by this month. Schools will also test their plans to identify any possible gaps, make adjustments and conduct exercises while allowing school faculty, staff, administrators and students to become more familiar with procedures and expectations so a response will be second nature.

“We are fortunate that Governor Markell, the state legislature and the Department of Safety and Homeland Security have made the safety of our students their number one priority in Delaware,” said Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. “We look forward to continuing our relationship with Homeland Security, local law enforcement agencies and fire companies to ensure all of our schools have valid and up-to-date school safety plans.”



Governor Markell addresses the Class of 2015 urging them to work hard now in order to succeed later once they graduate high school.



Brown Elementary students stand with Governor Markell following the signing of House Bill 340 which enhances school safety efforts.

Dual Immersion Program Continues Expansion



The Dual Immersion Program in the Caesar Rodney School District has entered its third year and continues to expand as projected. Approximately 350 students are now immersed in the program: 100 kindergarten students are now receiving instruction in Mandarin and English at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood



Center while another 50 students are receiving Spanish and English instruction. At Allen Frear and W. B. Simpson Elementary Schools, 50 students in grades 1 and 2 continue their dual language instruction.





New Principals For The 2014-2015 School Year



Dr. Sherry Kijowski, Principal
Caesar Rodney High School



Brian Smith, Principal
Fred Fifer III Middle School



Julie Lavender, Principal
Allen Frear Elementary School



Brook Castillo, Principal
J. Ralph McIlvaine ECC



Nicole Kurz-McDowell, Principal
Star Hill Elementary School



We welcome Jennifer Hallman as Assistant Principal at the John S. Charlton School and Brook Fuchs as Assistant Principal at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. At press time, the Caesar Rodney School District continues to interview candidates for assistant principal positions at the John S. Charlton School, Allen Frear Elementary, W.B. Simpson Elementary and Fred Fifer Middle Schools.

First Day of School Begins For 7800 Riders



Grandparents Day at Frear

At Allen Frear Elementary School's third annual Grandparents Day, more than 500 grandparents stopped by recently to visit and interact with their granddaughters and grandsons in grades 1-5.





New and Improved Website Launched Across School District

The Caesar Rodney School District has launched a new and improved website for all twelve Caesar Rodney schools and the district office. The URL to the new website is: www.crk12.org



Under construction since January, these new websites are mobile friendly, incorporate improved navigation options and will provide consistency across the district. Updated content and improvements of all aspects of the website continue daily as all schools continue to enter information into their websites.

On the new homepage, users can find a quick links box where often requested information such as the district/school calendars and lunch menus can easily be navigated. The district calendar can be personally customized for families who have children in multiple schools. Other quick links include the Home Access Center which allows parents and students to view student registration, scheduling, attendance, assignment, and grade information as well as a link to the district's Facebook page and daily photographs from around the district.

Students "Commit" To Graduate in 2018

More than 350 incoming freshman students who attended the week-long "Freshman Success Academy" signed a massive banner of commitment to graduate in 2018.



The banner will be showcased at their commencement exercise four years from now.



Go Riders

Students and Teachers Deploy in KUDOS/TUDOS Demonstration

Students and teachers at both the George Welch Elementary and Dover Air Force Base Middle Schools recently learned what goes into a military deployment, thanks to the KUDOS/TUDOS Kids/Teachers Understanding Deployment Operations demonstration at the base Youth Center. More than 200 students and teachers participated in the exercise, donning gas masks, applying first aid to "wounded" warriors, crawling and running through an obstacle course and learning what mobilized airmen go through when being deployed.



Dr. David Santore, principal at Dover Air Base Middle School, gears up during KUDOS/TUDOS.

Varsity Fall Sports Programs Now Underway

Remaining Soccer Schedule

Sept 20 **CHARTER**
 Sept 23 @ Seaford
 Sept 25 **LAUREL**
 Sept 30 @ Smyrna
 Oct 2 **CAPE HENLOPEN**
 Oct 7 **MILFORD**
 Oct 9 @ Lake Forest
 Oct 14 **GLASGOW**
 Oct 16 **DOVER**
 Oct 21 @ Middletown
 Oct 23 @ Sussex Central
 Oct 28 **APPOQUINIMINK**

Remaining Field Hockey Schedule

Sept 18 **SUSSEX CENTRAL**
 Sept 23 **INDIAN RIVER**
 Sept 30 **LAKE FOREST**
 Oct 2 @ Dover
 Oct 7 **LAUREL**
 Oct 9 @ Milford
 Oct 14 **SEAFORD**
 Oct 16 **CAPE HENLOPEN**
 Oct 21 @ Delmar
 Oct 23 @ Sussex Tech
 Oct 30 **CARAVEL**

Remaining Football Schedule

Sept 19 **HODGSON**
 Sept 26 **CAPE HENLOPEN**
 Oct 3 @ **POLYTECH**
 Oct 10 **SUSSEX CENTRAL**
 Oct 17 @ Sussex Tech
 Oct 24 @ St. Marks
 Oct 31 **SMYRNA**
 Nov 7 @ Dover

Remaining Volleyball Schedule

Sept 18 @ Smyrna
 Sept 22 **SANFORD**
 Sept 23 @ Sussex Central
 Sept 25 @ Seaford
 Sept 30 **INDIAN RIVER**
 Oct 2 **MILFORD**
 Oct 9 **LAKE FOREST**
 Oct 14 @ Woodbridge
 Oct 16 **POLYTECH**
 Oct 21 **CAPE HENLOPEN**
 Oct 23 **DOVER**

Go Riders



Fifty-five of Caesar Rodney School District's newest teachers take time out from meetings and briefings prior to the first day of school. These new teachers, some with prior experience in other school districts and states, are more than eager to begin the new 2014-2015 school year in Rider Country!

ALS Challenge "Flows" Through Caesar Rodney

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS, is a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement. It is also known as Lou Gehrig's



Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and CRHS Principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski receive a "chilly" reception from members of the football team.

disease. Former CR superintendent Dr. Harry Roberts was afflicted with the disease that took his life in 2008.

The "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge" has gone global and has since raised more than \$100 million for ALS research.



CRHS Administrative staff take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge after being called out by Dr. Kijowski.



Stokes Elementary school staff get a Camden-Wyoming Fire Company ALS hosing down!





Sixth Annual Rider Pride Weekend Approaching

Caesar Rodney School District's Rider Pride weekend is soon approaching as details and planning are all coming together for another spectacular weekend.

It all starts with the annual Homecoming Parade which begins on Friday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m., marching through Main Street in Camden-Wyoming and ending at Caesar Rodney High School. Floats, bands, squads, groups and community support apparatus are all part of the hugely popular parade.



Following the parade, the CRHS varsity football team takes on Cape Henlopen High School beginning at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, September 27th, the sixth annual "Rider Pride Day" at Caesar Rodney High School begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 2:00 p.m. More than thirty vendors are expected to attend along with student performances, petting zoo, face painting, displays



and emergency response vehicles.

Saturday evening, the Modern Maturity Center in Dover will be the site for the annual semi-formal "Homecoming Dance" which will run from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at these events showing "Rider Pride!"

Breast Cancer Awareness Drive Underway

The Caesar Rodney High School AFJROTC Program is conducting a Family Breast Cancer Awareness Drive to draw attention to the fight against Breast Cancer.

The program, now in its fourth year, raises awareness through the sale of hot pink CR Family Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts.



All proceeds from the sale of these shirts will be donated to members of the CR Family affected by cancer. Last year the drive raised in excess of \$5,400 for the families of students and staff within the district.

The sale of the new shirts will run from September 22nd through October 25th. Shirts can be purchased at any CRHS home football game or by contacting the AFJROTC Program at the high school. The cost of t-shirts are \$10 apiece for sizes XS thru XL; \$12 apiece for XXL & XXXL.

Anyone who purchases a shirt or has anything pink is asked to wear it to school on Friday, October 31st and to the "PINK OUT!" football game that evening at Caesar Rodney High School. Our goal is to completely fill the stands with pink and show support for all those affected by Breast Cancer. Tickets for the game can be purchased at the gate.

To place orders, contact Jay Wedel at jon.wedel@cr.k12.de.us or call 302-697-2161 ext. 1054 to submit an order. Checks should be made payable to: CRHS AFJROTC Program.



We thank you, the Caesar Rodney community, for your support of the Caesar Rodney School District Facebook page. To date, we are approaching 2,200 "Likes."

We will continue to provide you with up-to-date information regarding our schools and district.

"Like" [Caesar Rodney School District](#)