



THE CR REPORT

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

Your District-Wide Information Source

June 2014 Issue



More than 1,000 students graduated from Caesar Rodney High School, McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, the Charlton School and Welch kindergarten



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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.

What's Happening?

Board Meetings

July 8: District Office 9:00 a.m.
July 8: District Office 6:00 p.m.
July 15: District Office 7:00 p.m.
August 19: District Office 7:00 p.m.

Special Events:

July 4: Independence Day
August 5: Success Academy, CRHS
August 25: First Student Day

We Are Now On Facebook!



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

Message From the Superintendent *To the Teachers and Staff Across CR*

As the 2013-2014 school year comes to a close, it is time to celebrate and reflect upon some of the many accomplishments of our students and staff.

On June 7th, 442 students walked across the field at Rider Stadium and received their high school diplomas; the



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

second largest graduating class in the history of the school district. More than \$2.1 million in scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2014.

While many of our students are planning on continuing with their college educations, there are others will make us proud by volunteering to serve our nation as members of all five branches of this country's armed services: the U.S. Army; U.S. Air Force; U.S. Marine Corps; U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard, while other students have plans to enter the local workforce. We are proud of all of our graduates and wish them success in whatever career they pursue.

In June, we also celebrated three other "graduations" in the district. At the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, 535 of Caesar Rodney School District's "Littlest Riders" graduated as did another 84 students from the George Welch kindergarten program on Dover AFB.

At the John S. Charlton School, 16 young men and women were recognized for their achievement and perseverance. These students attended classes at the Charlton School in Camden, on the campus of Wesley College and at the campus of Delaware State University. I wish these students all the best as they move on.

Next year will bring some changes to the District's administrative staff. Mr. Dave Perrington, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Human Resources, has been appointed as the Superintendent for the Seaford School District. I want to thank Dave for his commitment to our students and district and wish him well in his new position. At CRHS, Principal Elvina Knight has retired and is being replaced by Dr. Sherry Kijowski, former principal at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. Brook Castillo, who had served as assistant

(continued next column)

principal for the past five years at McIlvaine, has been appointed principal of the largest kindergarten program in Delaware.

The school year would not be complete with mentioning the success of our high school athletic programs. For the first time in the history of Caesar Rodney High School, every athletic team qualified for the state tournament. In spring sports, the Boys Golf team captured the Henlopen Conference Championship, the Boys Track team and the Boys Tennis team both won State Championships and HAC Champions while the Girls Tennis team repeated as HAC Champions.

Congratulations to each team member for their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence in attaining their championship dreams.

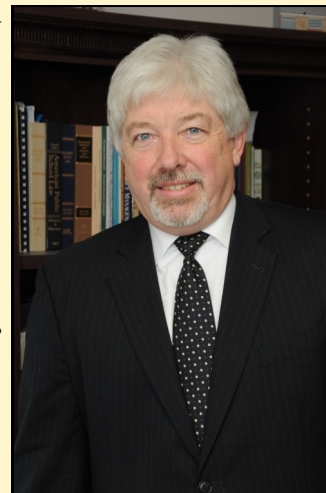
Once again, I want to thank our community, our parents, our students and our staff for making the 2013-2014 school year an exceptional year and for once again proving that the Caesar Rodney School District is the best in Delaware.

Have a great summer!

CR's Dave Perrington Accepts Superintendent Position at Seaford

Caesar Rodney School District Assistant Superintendent David Perrington has accepted the position of Superintendent with the Seaford School District.

With 29 years of education experience, Mr. Perrington worked 24 years with the Caesar Rodney School District as a junior high school and high school social studies teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Director of Human Resources and as Assistant Superintendent.



"I have been very fortunate to have worked with Dave for many years, both at the high school and in the district office," said Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. "He is the consummate professional and I personally wish him the best as he takes over the leadership of the Seaford School District." Good luck, Dave!

You're In Rider Country!

Megan Szabo Selected As Caesar Rodney School District's Teacher of the Year

Megan Szabo, a grade 7-12 Biology teacher at Postlethwait Middle School in Camden, has been selected as Caesar Rodney School District's Teacher of the Year for the 2014-2015 school year.

With 11 years teaching experience, Megan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology Education from the University of Delaware and a Masters of Education in Secondary School Counseling from Wilmington University.

When asked what she considers to be her contributions and accomplishments in education, Megan replied: "The most important thing I bring to both my class-

room and the staff at Postlethwait is my (almost) unbreakable positive attitude. I truly think there is always something to smile about. I feel like my students pick up on my attitude right away and knowing that Room 109 is exactly where I want to be each day makes them want to be there too. I also try to run my classroom in a way that fosters my students' confidence in science. They are all capable of pursuing science in the future. My students may not remember everything they've learned, but they leave my class as confident learners who are able to make observations, see connections, solve problems and think scientifically. I think producing students with these traits is one of my greatest accomplishments in education."

The process for determining the district's Teacher of the Year begins with recommendations from students, teachers, parents and administrators at each school building. Building teachers then vote to select the top five teachers. Those nominees are then reviewed and scored by a committee of parents, teachers and students from each school. From that process, one teacher in each building emerges as a district Teacher of the Year candidate.

An in-depth portfolio is then created by each candidate which contains information including: educational history and professional development; awards and recognition; philosophy of teaching; community service; and letters of support. These portfolios are then read and scored independently by administrators, teachers, parents and students. From this process, candidates emerge as finalists.

A team, consisting of the district superintendent, building principals, teachers and parents conduct classroom observations and interviews with the finalists. Again, working independently, each team member uses a rubric to award an overall score to each candidate.

Megan will now compete against 18 other school district Teacher of the Year nominees for the honor of becoming the State's 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year. That announcement will be made by Governor Jack Markell in October in Dover.



Megan Szabo with students in her Biology classroom





Sixteen Graduate From the Charlton School



Sixteen students from the class of 2014 have graduated from the John S. Charlton School. Opening ceremonies included the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance by Alex Brathwaite and Ray Griffin and the singing of "America The Beautiful" by Jordan Little. Guest speaker was Mr. Dave Manwiler who retired from the Charlton Program in 2012. Students from the Transition Partnership Project also performed a musical presentation to honor the graduates. We wish all of these students success in the future.



CRHS Cord Assembly Honors Seniors



Pictured after receiving their "Honor Cords" are CRHS seniors and members of the National Honor Society (NHS). Chartered on May 4, 1934, this is the 80th class to graduate NHS members. Each spring, the Board of Education, district superintendent and the CRHS principal recognize each graduating member of the NHS who has maintained an "A" grade point average and upholds the NHS tenets of Scholarships, Character, Service and Leadership. The Honor Cord, worn at commencement over the graduation gown, is a visible recognition of each senior's achievements. This year, we honor 90 seniors (54 female and 36 males) who will all attend college after graduation. Good luck to each in their academic journey and future success!

Welch Kindergarten Program Graduates 84



Principal Jason Payne presides over the commencement exercise of George Welch Elementary School's kindergarten program. Hosted for the first time by Dover Air Force Base's Youth Center, 84 of CR's "Littlest Riders" graduated from the base school and will now move on to the first grade.

You're In Rider Country!

POSTLETHWAIT BAND AND CHOIRS BRING HOME THE HARDWARE AT HERSHEY PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Postlethwait Middle School 8th grade Band, Mixed Choir, Men's Choir and Women's Choir recently participated in the school's sixth annual adjudicated music festival at Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The Men's Choir received an "Excellent" rating and placed first in their division. The Women's Choir, Mixed Choir and 8th grade Band all received the highest rating of "Superior" and placed first in their divisions. The Women's Choir received highest overall score of the seven performing choirs that day and was presented with the trophy for "Best Overall Chorus".

The 8th Grade Band was once again the only middle school band to receive a "Superior" rating for their performance and was presented with a trophy for "Best Overall Band" for the fifth year.



Postlethwait students show off their winnings following the competition at Hershey Park.



Caesar Rodney High School



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ool Graduates 442 Seniors



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“Littlest Riders” Graduate From M 535 Kindergarteners W



McIlvaine Early Childhood Center Walk Across Bridge of Learning



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DOVER AFB MIDDLE RANKED 35TH BEST

According to TheBestSchools.org., Dover Air Base Middle School (DAFBM) has been ranked 35th of the 50 best middle schools in the country.

TheBestSchools.org selected DAFBM based on several weighted factors including academic excellence, NAEP scores, state assessment scores, received awards and rankings, geographical diversity and reputation.

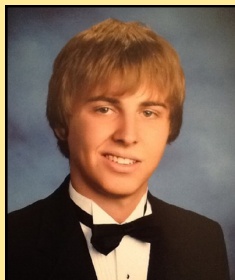
"Dover Air Base Middle is certainly proud to be named one of the best middle schools in the country," said Dr. David Santore, principal at DAFBM. "We continue to set very high standards for academics every day; it is an honor to be recognized nationally for these efforts. Our continual success is due to the outstanding hard work of our students and teachers at DABM, along with the tremendous support we receive from the military parents and community on a daily basis."

Congratulations to the students and staff of DAFBM on this prestigious honor!



CRHS Graduate to Attend National Youth Science Camp

Parker Kurlander, a graduate of the Class of 2014, has been selected to attend the National Youth Science Camp (NYSC), a West Virginia residential science education program for young scientists the summer after they graduate from high school. Students from around the country are challenged academically in exciting lectures and hands-on studies, and have voluntary opportunities to participate in an outdoor adventure program, gain a new and deep appreciation for the great outdoors and establish friendships that last a lifetime. More than 99% of NYSC alumni receive a bachelor's degree; more than 50% of NYSC alumni receive a doctorate. Many return to volunteer their time at the NYSC, the West Virginia Youth Science Camp, the Youth Science Discovery Experience and the West Virginia Governor's School for Mathematics and Science.



CASTILLO NAMED NEW MECC PRINCIPAL



Brook Castillo

The Caesar Rodney School Board recently approved the selection of Brook Castillo, assistant principal at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center (MECC) in Magnolia to become Principal, effective July 1st. Brook replaces Dr. Sherry Kijowski who is now the principal at Caesar Rodney High School following the retirement of Elvina Knight.

Brook, who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Delaware and a Masters of School Counseling from Wilmington University, began her education career in the Capital School District in 2002 before coming to Allen Frear Elementary School in 2005 as a teacher and then as a school counselor. In 2009, Brook moved over to MECC as a school counselor then as assistant principal.

As principal, Brook will be responsible for the largest kindergarten program in Delaware which recently graduated 535 of Caesar Rodney School District's "Littlest Riders."

CRHS Sophomore Finishes Second in Regional Competition

The Caesar Rodney High School Academic Bowl team recently competed in the Blue Hen Invitational at the University of Delaware in Newark. A regional tournament that attracts teams from throughout the mid-Atlantic region, 13 teams totaling 51 players competed against each other. With teams made up typically of juniors and seniors, CRHS sophomore Liam O'Conner placed second out of the entire field of players, with Team CR finishing fifth in the tournament.



Liam O'Connor

Congratulations to all!

AFJROTC INSTRUCTORS CHOSEN AS BEST OF BEST

United States Air Force Colonel (Ret.) Mitch Berger and MSgt. (Ret.) Jon Wedel, both Air Force Junior ROTC instructors at Caesar Rodney High School, have been chosen as Instructors of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year.

Of the 1,900 JROTC instructors in 850 units worldwide, less than 10% are selected for the award annually. Criteria for the award includes: instructor and cadet impact on the school and local community, the



CRHS AFJROTC instructors Mitch Berger and Jon Wedel are recognized by the Caesar Rodney School Board.

unit's grade on their HQ inspection, community service hours, cadet compliance with uniform wear and grooming standards and instructor's ability to bring a dynamic program to life in the classroom.

The CRHS drill team recently won their third State Drill Championship in four years, broke the unit record for community service with more than 3,000 hours, performed nearly 70 color teams at football and basketball games as well as events in the local community like Special Olympics, Kent County Heart Walk, Wyoming Park Tree planting and cleanup. The CRHS AFJROTC unit was also selected for the Distinguished Unit Award with Merit. Only 10% of the 850 units worldwide are selected.

CRHS Golf Team Captures Conference Championship

The Caesar Rodney High School Golf Team dominated the competition at the Sussex Pines Country Club in Georgetown.



With a season record of 15-0-1 (9 hole matches), the CR team captured the Henlopen Conference Championship, the Henlopen Conference Tournament Championship (18 holes) and placed fourth in the State Tournament (36 holes).

Team captain and CRHS senior Jerome Mangubat was a conference medalist, was first in the Conference Tournament and placed third in the State Tournament. Congratulations to all the members of the Rider golf team.

Living History Museum Showcased at Brown Elementary

Brown Elementary held a fifth grade "Living Wax Museum" in front of its school where Louis Armstrong, George Washington, Barack Obama, Babe Ruth, Bill Cosby, Anne Frank and many, many more famous personalities were portrayed by nearly one hundred students.



Earning Doctorates

Dr. Tawanda Morgan and Dr. Corey Miklus recently received tributes from the Caesar Rodney School Board for completing their doctoral programs. Dr. Morgan is a School Psychologist at Fred Fifer Middle School; Dr. Miklus is Supervisor of Instruction at the district office.





Dual Immersion Program Continues To Expand

Just two short years ago, at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center (MECC) implemented Caesar Rodney School District's Dual Chinese Immersion Program. One hundred kindergarten students received a half day instruction in English and the other half of the day was immersed in Chinese.



This past 2013-2014 school year, those 100 MECC students moved on to first grade at either Allen Frear Elementary or W.B. Simpson Elementary while 100 new students entered MECC for their first year in the dual immersion program.

For the upcoming 2014-2015 school year, another 100 students will enter MECC's Chinese immersion program, making a total of 300 students in the district now receiving dual English/Chinese instruction.



However, this year, the Caesar Rodney School District and MECC will also offer a Spanish Dual Immersion Program where 50 kindergarten students at MECC will receive half day instruction in English and the other half in Spanish.

"The Caesar Rodney School District prides itself on providing students with a variety of opportunities related to the four A's (Academics, Arts, Athletics and Atmosphere)," said Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. "Chinese and Spanish dual immersion instruction are examples of the district's commitment to continue to expand opportunities for our students."

CR Students Take Top Honors at 4-H and FFA Show

Students from CR schools recently displayed their project animals at the New Castle County 4-H and FFA show held at the State Fair Grounds. Students participated in showmanship and market classes for four different types of livestock: beef, sheep, goats, and swine. There were 109 contestants exhibiting close to 300 head of livestock.

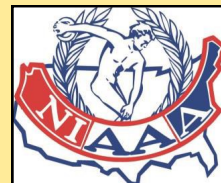


These projects serve as hands-on, STEM-based learning experiences for students. Students carefully weigh and measure feed, calculate weekly and monthly rates of gain and learn about the life cycles and production cycles of the livestock.

Some of the highlights of the day included Nellie Hughes Stokes fourth grader Dawson Mitchell winning Reserve Champion Beef showman & Reserve Champion Steer, Fifer Middle School's PJ Mitchell who won Reserve Champion Feeder Calf and Dylenn Cabbage winning Reserve Champion Swine showman.

Madison Cook was declared the overall showman in addition to winning Grand Champion Market hog and Grand Champion Feeder Calf. Other participants included Simpson's Rylee Ridgely, Postlethwait's McKenna Corbeil and Stokes' Olivia and Vanessa Gains. Caesar Rodney FFA participants and class winners included Lena Berry, Kristen Kemp, Molly Harris, Kristiana Stevens, Angela Denham, Peyton Ridgely and Mindy Cook.

CRHS Coach Attains National Certification



Robert Beron, Physical Education/Health/Driver Ed Teacher and Boys/Girls Soccer Coach at CRHS, has been designated as "Certified Master Athletic Administrator" (CMAA), administered by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. The program identifies athletic directors nationally who demonstrate exemplary knowledge, contributions and on-going professional development in the field of interscholastic athletic administration and includes an evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience and NIAAA coursework.