



THE CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUARTERLY "Where Excellence is Our Tradition" CR REPORT

Your District-Wide Information Source

April-May 2014 Issue



Left: Team W.B. Simpson shows off their medals after placing first in the Odyssey of the Mind competition.
Right: Team Postlethwait stands tall as they celebrate their victory in the Odyssey of the Mind competition.



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DID YOU KNOW?

More than **9000** pictures of ceremonies, events, celebrations and everyday life in our schools can be found on the Caesar Rodney School District website at:
<http://www.cr.k12.de.us/photos/photos.htm>

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 (7:00 p.m.)

April 15: Postlethwait Middle School
May 20: Star Hill Elementary School
June 17: John S. Charlton School

Special Events:

May 7: Interim Reports Issued
May 26: Memorial Day-Schools Closed
June 4: McIlvaine ECC Graduation
June 7: CR High School Graduation



This image is a Quick Response Code (QR) for the Caesar Rodney School District website. If you have a Smartphone with a camera, just search for a QR "app" then use your phone to take a picture of this image. You will then be taken to the district website. Once you have installed the "app" on your phone, go to www.google.com and type in "QR Generator." You will then be able to create your own QR codes to share websites, videos or other information.



Message From the Superintendent

“Good morning, this is Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald from the Caesar Rodney School District—as a result of snow...” Yes, this has been an interesting winter and spring. We have ‘weathered’ quite a number of delays and closings due to winter storms, frigid temperatures and perilous road conditions. As a result of numerous State of Emergency declarations by Governor Jack Markell, the State Board of Education has forgiven five of the nine days we lost due to weather. With some modification to our calendar, I am happy to say that the last day of school for our students will remain June 12th.



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

This issue of the *CR Report* highlights 12 outstanding teachers who have been selected by their students, parents and peers as their building Teacher of the Year.” From those outstanding educators, we will soon select our ‘2014-15 District Teacher of the Year’ who will then represent our district in Delaware’s ‘State Teacher of the Year’ competition. Biographies of each “Building Teacher of the Year” can be found on pages 3-5 of this issue.

You will also find a full page of the *CR Report* dedicated to the different activities going on in our schools with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). From building robots, bridges and ramps to hatching chick eggs, our students are constantly engaged in STEM activities to help prepare them for a bright future.

Congratulations to Team Simpson and Team Postlethwait for taking first place in their divisions at the recent Odyssey Of The Mind competition. I wish them well in the OM Finals!

Once again, our CRHS AFJROTC program brought home the gold! The team captured their second straight military drill state championship, dominating every events entered.

And lastly, our hearts are heavy by the tragic loss of Taryn Martin, a student at W.B. Simpson Elementary. Taryn was a wonderful child and has left us too soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Martin family.”

Secretary of Education To Honor Four Caesar Rodney High School Seniors

Delaware’s Secretary of Education Mark Murphy will soon recognize four Caesar Rodney High School seniors as “Secretary of Education Scholars.”



Flanking CRHS principal Elvina Knight are the 2014 Secretary of Education Scholars from CRHS: Logan Paige, Connor Castellon, Madison Stark and Patrick Gallucci.

Since 1984, the Secretary of Education has honored top students from Delaware’s public high schools for their academic and school/community achievements. Principals were asked to nominate top seniors they considered to be exemplary scholars of the graduating Class of 2014 based on local criteria. The number of scholars from each school was calculated based on the school’s student enrollment. The principal completed the nomination for each scholar including a 100 word narrative citing the student’s qualification for this honor.

Magnolia Fire Company Receives the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Volunteer Award

The Magnolia Fire Company (MFC) was recently recognized by the CR School Board for their long standing relationship with the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center (MECC). MFC provides fire prevention instruction to all 500+ kindergarten students on an annual basis, including a field trip, giveaway bags, costumes for pictures and DVDs, the school’s annual food drive and holiday toy drive. MECC is very fortunate to have a community-based fire company as our neighbor.



Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

Lauren Bailey

Lauren Bailey is a third grade teacher at Allen Frear Elementary School. With eight years experience, Lauren earned a Bachelor of Science in Education (Elementary K-8) from the University of Delaware and a Master of Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University.

“From my earliest memories, I always wanted to be a teacher. I have vivid memories of playing ‘school’ with neighborhood friends in my basement. This desire for teaching was probably kindled by the excellent teachers who had such a positive impact on me during my school years. Those teachers not only taught me; they cared about me. It was their active approach to teaching that was so appealing and made teaching seem so exciting as a profession. I have always been the kind of person who strives on succeeding. Today I am driven by the passion to continue to educate. It’s passion that wakes me up in the middle of the night with new ideas for how to make my classroom better.”



Karen Corbett

Karen Corbett is a kindergarten teacher at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. With 12 years teaching experience, Karen received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education and Special



Education from the University of Delaware. When asked to describe the factors that influenced her to become a teacher, Karen stated, “My family was very important in influencing me to become a teacher. My parents were role models in how to treat others and how to always try to help people which taught me how to encourage, be fair, and be a positive teacher for my students. Both of my older sisters are kindergarten teachers; I learn from them every day. I have seen the impact they have on their students and I strive to do the same in my classroom. I was also very lucky to have wonderful teachers when I was in school who pushed me to always do my best. They showed me how good it felt to learn something new and encouraged me to work hard to achieve my goals. They helped me to believe anything was possible. I want to have this same impact on my students.”

Nelle Cox

Nelle Cox is a grade 7 and 8 English/Language Arts teacher at Dover Air Force Base Middle School. With 23 years teaching experience, Nelle earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

(K-8) from Delaware State University and a Master of Science in School Leadership from Wilmington University. “I am a fifth generation teacher on my mother’s side. I

never, ever wanted to be anything other than a teacher. Never. Ever. If you asked me when I was five what I wanted to be when I grew up, I’d have replied, ‘Teacher!’ If you asked me when I was in high school, I would have told you, ‘I want to be a teacher!’ And when I filled out the college paperwork to declare my major: Teacher! No regrets. I have seen many changes in education: some good, some not so good. My love of the job kept me in it for the long haul. If I had to do it all over again, my answer would still be, ‘Teacher!’”



Matthew Faircloth

Matthew Faircloth is a Physical Education teacher at Star Hill Elementary School. With 10 years teaching experience, Matthew earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and a Master of Science in Sports



Administration, both from Delaware State University. When asked to describe the rewards he finds in teaching, Matthew replied, “When I was preparing to become a teacher, my college professors talked about the ‘Ah Haa’ moment that occurs in students. It’s when that student has struggled with juggling and finally gets it. They coming running across the gym yelling with excitement because they got it; that is the ultimate reward in teaching. When students work hard to accomplish a task and struggle time and time again and then all the work turns into a successful jump rope, a beautiful song they sang, or score a 4 on a state test after previously scoring less. It’s the spontaneous joy a student experiences because they realized ‘I am able and all is possible!’”

Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

James Fennemore

James Fennemore is a Physical Education teacher at W. B. Simpson Elementary School. With 35 years teaching experience, James earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Salisbury State University and a Master of Science in Physical Education from the University of Delaware. When asked to describe the rewards he finds in teaching, Mr. Fennemore replied, "I still find it amazing when a former student comes back with a glint in his eye to share his accomplishments. Some of my students have become FBI agents, NFL players, professional lacrosse players and airline pilots. Others have grown up to fulfill service positions, such as teachers, doctors, and caregivers. Often, my former students stop by to thank me and tell me what they are doing in college, military service, or the work force. Recently, a former Unicycle Club member shared a presentation he made in his undergraduate Quantitative Physics class at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The subject of the presentation? The physics of riding a unicycle!"



Kimberly O'Hea

Kimberly O'Hea is a second grade teacher at W. Reily Brown Elementary School. With 21 years teaching experience, Kimberly earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Lock Haven University in PA., and a Master of Instruction from the University of Delaware. When asked to describe the rewards of being a teacher, Kimberly responded, "It is hard to express the joy felt when you see a student succeed. This student success could be when a low level student makes gains or a high level student challenges himself and shows growth. However, sometimes the rewards in teaching are unexpected: a parent that comes to you at the end of a school year to shake your hand to thank you for challenging his child, a chance meeting with a parent of a previous student in the community thanking you for preparing her child for the next grade level, the smile on a child's face when she understands a concept in which she was struggling, the hug of a previous student who seeks you out in the morning."



Kelly Parker

Kelly Parker is a Grades 7-8 Mathematics teacher at Fred Fifer III Middle School. With 14 years teaching experience, Kelly earned both a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Delaware and a Masters in School Counseling from Wilmington University. When asked what were the factors that influenced her to become a teacher, Kelly replied, "For years I was repeatedly told I wasn't smart enough to be in an advanced math class and that I wasn't as smart as my brother. As time progressed, I started to believe it. When I entered middle school, Mrs. Jamila Riser expressed her belief that all of her students could learn Algebra. She was very upbeat, positive, and her lessons were engaging every day. She pushed us to extend our learning and praised us for our hard work. In the two years she was my teacher, she instilled a sense of self confidence which I had lost along the way. This experience helped me to excel in math and I was able to go on to high school and take AP Calculus."



Tangey Rains

Tangey Rains is a Special Education teacher at the John S. Charlton School. With four years teaching experience, Tangey earned both a Bachelor's degree in General Studies and a Masters of Special Education from Wilmington University. When asked to describe the rewards she finds in teaching, Tangey replied, "My biggest reward in teaching is making a difference in a child's life. It doesn't matter if I teach him or her to wash his or her hands or count to ten, it is the fact that I have taught this child something that he or she was having trouble learning. I love seeing my students make any type of progress or discover new and exciting things. I love being that teacher to introduce a new sensory item for the first time. It allows me to see how the student is going to react so I can immediately try to figure out ways to get them to engage in the item more appropriately if needed. It is rewarding to me to try to help them figure out how to deal with situations that they are afraid of."



Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

Kathleen Swierzbinski

Kathleen Swierzbinski is a Pre-AP Literature, AP Literature teacher at Caesar Rodney High School. With eight years teaching experience, Kathleen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Delaware. When asked to describe the rewards in teaching, Kathleen replied, "Watching the progression of the students' accomplishments from the first day they walk into my classroom until the end is always amazing. Their writing, reading comprehension, and analyzing skills make huge strides that reflect all of the hard work we put in. It is also very rewarding to experience all of the excitement that comes with college applications and acceptances. We painstakingly worked on college essays and letters of recommendation, and getting those positive results has been very rewarding. Most of my seniors have been accepted into their first choice institution for next year, thanks to their efforts over the past four years. Having past students stop by before or after school just to say hi means a lot, or a student saying they really liked the reading or having a good class discussion is another way rewards can be found."



Megan Szabo

Megan Szabo is a Grade 7-12 Biology teacher at Postlethwait Middle School. 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 accomplishment in education, Megan replied: "The most important thing I bring to both my classroom 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."



Diane Walls

With 25 years of teaching experience, all in the Caesar Rodney School District, Diane Walls is a K-5 music teacher at George Welch Elementary School. Diane earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Indiana University in PA., and a Masters of Education in Instruction from Wilmington University. When asked what influenced her to become a teacher, Diane stated, "Music has always been a source of joy in my life. Being involved in school music programs gave me a sense of purpose, a safe and secure environment for self-expression and an environment where I found success. Those experiences led me to choose music as my path for higher education. During college, I realized that sharing my love of music by becoming a music teacher was really my calling. I have always enjoyed interacting with children, so when I began my music education methods courses I discovered that the best way for me to share my love of music with others is to teach children. By teaching music, I guide students to discover things that will enhance their experiences for the rest of their lives."



Laura Wright

Laura Wright is the librarian at Nellie Stokes Elementary School. With 19 years of library/teaching experience, Laura received a Bachelor of Arts and Science in History at the University of Delaware, a Masters of Elementary Education at Wilmington University and a Masters of Instruction at the University of Delaware. When asked to describe the rewards she finds in teaching, Laura replied, "Those little moments! When a struggling reader says, 'I really like this book you picked out. Do you have another one just like it?' Hearing those words makes my heart soar. I always love when I can catch an 'ah-ha' moment of a student bonding with a good book. I especially enjoy seeing former students and having them bring me up to date on their academic accomplishments. It really brings the old teaching adage to life: Students will remember how you made them feel. Abraham Lincoln once said, 'In the end, it's not the years in your life, but the life in your years that counts.' Coming to work every day and working side by side with the most amazing educators and all my Stokes 'kids' is the greatest joy and reward I could ask for."





CRHS Implements Global Connect Attendance Calling System

Recently, the Caesar Rodney High School implemented a Global Connect Automated Attendance Calling System to inform you when your child has a code of **AC** (absent from class), **NC** (not in class) or **UT** (unexcused tardy) to their first period class.

If you are aware your child is absent, please send a note upon their return to school. There is no need to call the school. The call system is intended to inform you as the parent/guardian that your child was either unexcused tardy or not in attendance in their first period. We ask that you have a conversation with your child regarding their attendance.

You may also continue to monitor attendance via our Home Access Center. Please call 697-2161 if you have any questions regarding this new system.

DECA Presents Administrator Award to CRHS Principal Knight

For the first time in Delaware DECA's history, the organization honored a special person with the Administrator of the Year award at their annual state conference.

CRHS principal Elvina Knight was presented with this award as a result of her



Mrs. Knight with DECA students.

support of DECA, students and the community as a whole. According to DECA representative Madison Stark, "Mrs. Knight always attends DECA awards ceremonies, dinners and functions, as well as other activities marketing students are involved in. Without her generous attitude, DECA and marketing in Caesar Rodney would not be as prevalent and successful." Added Stark, "Mrs. Knight continues this mentality outside of DECA, extending her support to the high school and community. Students and staff at CR all benefit from her selfless actions and benevolent spirit, and she is an inspiration to all of them. DECA chose to present this award to Mrs. Knight for all she has done for DECA and the community. This is an award she clearly deserves."

DAFB Middle School Students Perform at All State Chorus

In the last edition of the CR Report, we reported on talented musicians and singers of Postlethwait and Fifer Middle Schools being selected as members of the All State Chorus. However, three choral students from Dover Air Force Base Middle School were inadvertently omitted from the article. These students, along with the rest of the talented singers recently performed in Seaford at the annual gala event.



From left to right: Kate Witherell, Max Cox and Samuel Siebach practice before the All State Chorus performance.

Frear Students Raise \$1500 Through "Boxtop\$ For Education"

Allen Frear Elementary School recently held a "Pretty in Pink!" contest where students were asked to bring in boxtops from more than 200 different household



products. Each boxtop would then be sent to "BoxTop\$ For Education" where the school would then receive ten cents for each boxtop submitted. Girls were pitted against the boys and when the dust had settled and the dimes counted, the girls won raising \$780.40! Not far behind were the boys with \$745.60 collected. Because they had won, the girls wore pink and had their photo taken for the yearbook.

AFJROTC Records Second Straight State Championship

The Caesar Rodney High School Air Force Junior ROTC team has once again captured the state's Military Drill Championship with another great exhibition at the annual event held at Dover AFB.

With another dominant showing, the CRHS AFJROTC entered five of six scheduled events: (Colors, UnArmed Regulation, UnArmed Exhibition, Armed Regulation, and Armed Exhibition) and took first in every event they entered. As a result of their out-

standing performance, the Riders won their second consecutive state championship and third title in the last six years.



"This was the most dominant victory for any team in the history of the event," said MSgt (Ret.) Jon Wedel, Aerospace Program Instructor. "The competition across all six events was fierce, making it tough on the event's judges. The majority of the judges were members of the Presidential Air Force Honor Guard stationed in Washington D.C. while additional judges came from Dover AFB and the Delaware National Guard."

Speech and Debate Team Wins Honors

The Caesar Rodney High School Speech and Debate team recently participated in the University of Pennsylvania's Model Congress. More than 800 delegates from across the nation debated some of the nation's most challenging and pressing issues

The CRHS team, consisting of 16 students, competed in its first debate, winning two major awards. Named from a session with more than 100 delegates, senior Madison Stark was named Best Delegate in Full Session. This award is given to the delegate who is judged to have the highest pedigree of debate prowess.

CRHS senior Elizabeth Dorton received an Honorable Mention in full session. Like Madison, Elizabeth was one of five students to receive recognition from the chairs in a delegation of over one hundred students.

Congratulations to all of the delegates.

Simpson, Postlethwait Capture Titles at Odyssey Of The Mind

At the recent Odyssey of the Mind (OM) State Tournament, seven students from W. B. Simpson Elementary School captured first place in their com-



Team Simpson (L to R): Seth Deschenes, Za'an Burrell, Liam Bush. Back row: Ethan Pires, Mason Bush, Coach Eric Kraus, Mahlon Dyer, Seth Flaherty.

petition. Team Simpson will now advance to the World Finals OM Competition at Iowa State University in May. This is the first time a team from Simpson has advanced to the finals.

Over at Postlethwait Middle School, the OM team also worked hard to compete in the regional and state level competitions earning a trip to the international level competition in May.



Team Postlethwait (L to R): David Haynes, Jalen Rogers, Thomas McPoyle. Back row: Eryne Jenkins, OM Coach Bill McPoyle, Stephanie Horne, Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator Mike Statham, Kayla Koenig and Donald Mendoza.

Congratulations to both teams; we look forward to both teams bringing home the gold!

Rider Pride





Two Holocaust Survivors Speak at CRHS

For nearly two hours, you could hear a pin drop in the Large Group Instruction Room at Caesar Rodney High School. Michael Herskovitz, a survivor of three Nazi concentration camps and Ann Jaffe, a survivor of the Holocaust who escaped death twice and then hid in a forest for two nightmarish winters, came to CRHS to tell their stories to more than 50 sophomores.

Kendra Moritz Rosner, a special education teacher at CRHS, reached out to Michael and Ann after teaching her students about the Holocaust. Other students in tenth grade English were preparing to read Elie Weisel's memoir *Night* and were studying the



Holocaust survivor Ann Jaffe, CRHS teacher Kendra Moritz and survivor Michael Herskovitz in the school's LGI room.

Holocaust as part of the CRHS curriculum.

"I was surprised to learn that most students were not aware of the Holocaust," said Mrs. Rosner. "After reading, talking and studying about the Holocaust with them, I felt it would be essential to bring in someone who had lived through it. I had hoped my students would have a better understanding of the past and never forget what happened so many years ago."

Living in Botfalva, Czechoslovakia in 1944, then 15 year-old Michael noticed German soldiers in his village and soon learned that Germany had invaded his country. Forced to wear yellow Jewish stars on their clothing, Michael, his parents, and four siblings were transported to the Uzhorod ghetto for their "protection."

In April 1944, the Nazis placed Michael and his family on cattle cars to camps with "better facilities," but wound up in the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. After six months in Auschwitz, Michael was transferred to Mauthausen and Gunskirchen concentration camps in Austria, where the facilities and degradation were the

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worst he experienced.

In May, 1945, he awoke to find his German guards had disappeared and British troops were giving out food. He soon learned that the Nazis



Students and staff gather with Ann and Michael following their presentation on the Holocaust.

had murdered his parents and younger brother.

Michael moved to Israel where he lived, worked and fought for the Israeli Army, then moved to America in 1959 where he now resides.

"The Germans occupied my village in western Poland in 1941," said Ms. Jaffe. "There was no way to escape. Our horse, cow and bicycle were all taken away from us. There was no way we could outrun a mechanized Nazi army." She explained the horror of not knowing when she and her family would be taken away and killed.

Added Ms. Jaffe, "We were forced to wear yellow stars to indicate we were Jews. We were not allowed to walk on sidewalks. We had no police protection and curfew for the Jews was dusk. My dog was better off than me."

For nearly 15 months, she and her family lived in total fear. One day, in 1942, partisans entered her village, battling the Germans and local militia while creating an escape route for the few surviving villagers. Ms. Jaffe and her mother, father, infant brother and older brother and sister escaped into an "impenetrable" forest where they would live on potatoes and cabbage for the next 20 months! During that time, her older brother would be captured and killed.

On July 4, 1944, the villages and towns were liberated by the Russians. "Only then did we learn about the concentration camps. We realized we

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HOLOCAUST (continued)

were the 'lucky ones' who would be able to tell the world what had happened," she said.

In a follow up conversation with some of the students who listened to their presentations, their reaction was of complete sadness. "I tried to visualize Michael's story and wondered if I could have survived what he went through," said one student.

"There is no way I could have been able to live in those death camps," said another. "I'm really surprised he survived since it was so really bad there. It was very upsetting to me, I really wanted to cry."

When asked if they could forgive the Nazis for what they had done, all of the students stated they would find that very hard to do and that we must never forget the horror of the Holocaust.

Mrs. Rosner summed up the lecture by saying, "We visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., and have further explained to our students that they are the last generation that will be able to hear from a Holocaust survivor." Only 23 percent of Holocaust survivors are now living. "In years to come, my students' children will never have this opportunity."

"As an educator, I feel that it's extremely valuable to hear from firsthand witnesses," said Kathleen Swierzbinski, English teacher at CRHS. "We must hear and remember their stories and learn from the past. I think students can learn many lessons from the Holocaust, including the importance of tolerance and respect for all people and the danger of not speaking up when something is wrong."

Welch Students Collect Canned Goods

George Welch Elementary School first graders stand among the more than 500 cans and other non-perishable goods collected as part of a service project for the 100th day of school. With



help from the Army National Guard, the cans were donated to the Delaware Food Bank.

Congratulations to these "Little Riders" for their outstanding efforts to help others.

"Hoop Houses" Built by Students Help Support Plant Science

Two CRHS students have undertaken a project to create miniature greenhouses, or "Hoop Houses" to grow plants and vegetables that will be used in the culinary program at the high school.

Plant Science Independent Studies students Lien Nguyen and Kali Celio took on the project of making several of these hoop houses, made of thick plastic called polyethylene. The semi-circular "tunnel" shape is heated up by incoming solar radiation that warms plants and soil. Warmed air is released or trapped by opening or closing the ends.

Created in October behind CRHS's E wing, the students had to make sure the plant they would tend would survive the winter with enough sunlight and moisture. They decided to grow a plant called the collard green.

Between building, planning, and buying supplies, it took a month to get the hoop house ready for action. Despite the harsh winter, the collard greens survived. Some of the collard greens were then given to Family & Consumer Science teacher Krista Durbano, who made a delicious recipe that she shared with her classes.



This spring, the students plan to grow flowers and vegetables to replace the collard greens so they can contribute to the annual spring sale.

"I feel this project has given me a great opportunity to experience working in a plant science field," said Lien. "Being in this agricultural course has been a really good thing for me. It has helped me find purpose in my life and taught me the value of hard work."





Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and the Caesar Rodney School District

Team “TechJamerz” wins Tournament Championship

“TechJamerz,” a robotics team consisting of students from Caesar Rodney High School, Postlethwait Middle School and Selbyville Middle School (Indian River School District) recently captured the title “Tournament Champion” at the Delaware State VEX Robotics Competition.



CRHS students assemble their robot prior to the VEX Robotics competition

“TechJamerz” competed with and against ten other middle and high school teams from Delaware and Washington, DC. The action-packed day required teams to execute “Toss Up,” a game which involves teams working in alliances to score the most points in skirmishes using robots in autonomous and driver-controlled play.

To prepare for the competition, the group worked together to design and build a robot using the VEX Robotics Design System which could quickly and efficiently solve specific obstacles and challenges that come with playing “Toss Up.”



Team “TechJamerz” celebrates after being declared tournament champions.

Using Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in order to build the semi-autonomous machines, team “TechJamerz” also honed their skills in communication, project management, site management and the importance of composure, since students have to learn how to lose as much as they have to learn how to win.

The Postlethwait and Caesar Rodney teams have now qualified to compete in National Championships at the Middle and High School levels.

McIlvaine Students Engaged in Science

McIlvaine students work together to create a ramp as a part of the kindergarten science unit entitled “Push, Pull, Go.” The “Push, Pull, Go” science unit teaches simple physical science concepts such as force, motion and energy through the use of exploration with toys, Kinex and playground equipment.



Star Hill Students Build Bridges

At Star Hill Elementary, second grade students have been studying hard by reading, designing and building bridges. Students have studied different forces and how they act on buildings and bridges while looking at how engineers overcome those forces to make the structures stable.



Students planned then designed the bridge on paper, creating a blueprint. They then had to measure height and width conditions while working together to create a bridge prototype. As students were building, they had to keep in mind forces and motion and how to create a stable bridge that could hold weight and have cars move across it. It was a struggle at times and some bridges were successful while others had to be redesigned after they tested the bridge. This unit in engineering combined math, science and fun!

Eggs to Chicks

All classes at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center hatch chick eggs in partnership with the University of Delaware’s “Egg to Chick” program which allows students to observe the hatching process, write about their observations in a daily scientific journal, and discuss this process with their fellow students and teachers.



"Lexi" Prillaman Signs Letter of Intent

With her mother Sandy sitting at her right and father Derek sitting on her left, Caesar Rodney High School senior Alexis "Lexi" Prillaman signs a Letter of Intent to play soccer at the University of Richmond. In the rear, friend Sloan Barton,



CRHS principal Elvina Knight, sisters Jessie and Haley and soccer coach Darrell Gravatt look on. Lexi was selected as Delaware's "Gatorade Player of the Year" and the state's "Girls Soccer Player of the Year" for 2012-2013. Lexi was also selected as a high school "All American" by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and has received a full scholarship to attend Richmond.

Tyra Reid Signs Letter of Intent

Caesar Rodney High School senior Tyra Reid (third from left front row) prepares to sign a Letter of Intent with the University of Delaware to participate in Track and Field following her graduation in June. Tyra has received a full scholarship to attend the



University of Delaware. To Tyra's right is her stepbrother Shawn McDonald, also a senior at CRHS, who has signed to participate in Track and Field at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. With Tyra and Shawn are mom Montanè Reid-McDonald, father Calvin McDonald and grandparents EllaMae and Eddie McDonald.

Author Eric Litwin Visits McIlvaine

Eric Litwin, author of the first four "Pete the Cat" picture books, recently visited the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center and entertained more than 500 "Littlest Riders" through reading and music.

Mr. Litwin engaged two separate assemblies with the kindergarten students by singing, strumming a guitar and playing harmonica to his book *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*."



With an assist by Pete the Cat and McIlvaine teacher Michelle Pearson, author Eric Litwin entertains the children during his recent visit.

"Mr. Litwin's books are a huge hit with the McIlvaine students," said principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski. "You can find his works and several performances on YouTube which are very entertaining."



Art students from Caesar Rodney High School dress up the school's cafeteria windows.

Prior to the author's visit, art students from CRHS came over to McIlvaine and painted all 20 windows in the school's cafeteria with different scenes from Mr. Litwin's books.

You're In Rider Country!





Markell Visits CRHS To Promote Scholarship Program

Citing evidence that the opportunity to take a college-level class in high school helps students succeed in higher education, Governor Jack Markell outlined his proposal to ensure every senior with college potential has that chance before they graduate.

Markell was at Caesar Rodney HS to announce details of a scholarship fund that

makes college courses accessible to all high school seniors who have demonstrated college readiness, no matter their financial circumstances.

"First, experiencing college-level work while still in high school will help you transition to meeting the more rigorous academic expectations of higher education classes. Second, we can help you afford not only the expenses of earning college credit before

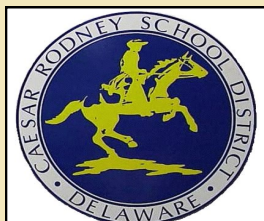


you leave here, but also the cost of college overall."

Starting next school year, the state Department of Education (DDOE) will provide funding for high school students from low-income backgrounds to take courses through one of Delaware's colleges or universities at no cost.

DDOE will work with districts to identify college-ready students who would benefit from taking a dual enrollment course through one of Delaware's higher education institutions. Dual enrollment courses will enable students to receive credit both on their high school transcript and college credit. By focusing on general education courses such as math, English, history, and science, students will receive college credit that is highly transferrable. Students can then enroll in college having accumulated credits without any financial burden, thus making college more affordable and increasing the likelihood they will graduate on time.

Funding will be prioritized for students from families of low economic status to ensure this opportunity is available to every college-ready student who may not be able to afford the cost.



Dual Enrollment Partnership Struck With Del Tech Community College



Caesar Rodney High School is pleased to announce a dual enrollment partnership with Delaware Technical and Community College for the 2014-2015 school year. Two courses will be offered in ELA including ENG 121 Composition and ENG 124 Oral Communications. In mathematics, MAT 153 College Math and Statistics will be offered. All three courses are for seniors and are 3 credit courses that will transfer to 2 year or 4 year colleges. For more information, please contact your students guidance counselor.

"King And I" a Huge Success

Once again, Caesar Rodney High School has outdone itself with a wonderful rendition of the King and I in five performances (two for the school and three for the community). More than 3000 people watched the show's incredible costumes, wonderful singing and terrific acting by a very talented staff.



Fifer Takes First at Kent County Fair

At the annual Kent County Fair, students from Fifer Middle School took first place in one category in Engineering (Helpful Hovercrafts) and another in Physics (Magnetic Levitation). Shown here are Fifer students with coaches wearing medals and holding their first place award. Congratulations to all the winners!

