



THE CR REPORT

CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUARTERLY
"Where Excellence is Our Tradition"

Your District-Wide Information Source

December 2011 Issue



Fourth Annual Rider Pride Day A Huge Success!



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What's Happening?

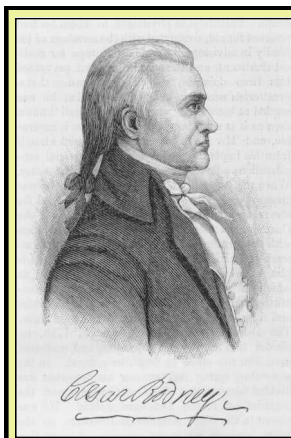
Board Meetings (7:00 p.m.):

December 20: Nellie Stokes Elementary School

January 17: Star Hill Elementary School

Upcoming Events:

Winter Vacation—Schools Closed December 23, 2011 through January 2, 2012.



Famous Quote ...

"As I believe the voice of my constituents and of all sensible and honest men is in favor of independence, my judgement concurs with them. I vote for independence."

Caesar Rodney
July 3 & 4, 1776



Teacher Tobi Paige and principal Mike Kijowski accept an original watercolor of W.B. Simpson Elementary School, painted by Sandra Ridgley, on behalf of the Knarr Family in memory of Robert E. Knarr, Sr., principal at Simpson from 1985-1989.



Message From the Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent

The past two months in the Caesar Rodney School District have been extremely busy, filled with school and community activities. Our annual Homecoming Parade filled the streets of Camden and Wyoming as it continues to grow larger and larger each year. With the Rider Marching Band leading the way for our Homecoming Court, class floats, cheerleaders, school floats, activity floats and fire departments from around the district, this year's parade was the largest and best ever. Topping the evening was a resounding victory over Sussex Tech. The next day brought our fourth annual Rider Pride Day activities to the high school and our newly-renovated W.B. Simpson Elementary School. More than 5,000 people attended the indoor and outdoor displays, making this Rider Pride Day the largest ever.



The month of October ended with the rededication of W.B. Simpson Elementary School. The proud students of Simpson, along with invited guests including Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, Secretary of Education Dr. Lillian Lowery and members of the Simpson family, cut a 400 foot yellow ribbon to rededicate this beautiful school.

Our National Blue Ribbon School—Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School—was visited by Senator Tom Carper, who congratulated students and staff on their achievement.

November is truly a month to express thanks. I would first like to personally thank all of our veterans who work in our school district. From administrators to teachers, custodians and nutrition personnel, more than 60 of our employees have served in one or more branches of our nation's armed forces, ranging from three years to thirty years. Their dedication, knowledge and sacrifice is an inspiration to us all. We are honored that they are now helping to prepare our children to become good citizens.

I also want to thank the men and women of Dover Air Force Base. The Caesar Rodney School District is proud of our relationship with the base and is dedicated to providing the best education for our military children. As Thanksgiving approaches, I ask that we all take time to give thanks for what we have and to remember all in our district who may be less fortunate and to reach out a helping hand to those in need.

Vocational Program Provides Opportunities to Special Needs Students

For more than 15 years, vocational programs at the John S. Charlton School have helped many special needs students with skills that have helped them succeed in employment opportunities. "The Charlton Program is tasked with making children independent by exposing them to different community-based job sites," said Paula Coleman, a teacher at the John S. Charlton School, who works with autistic children. "This vocational program helps identify where a child's skills are as well as acclimate them to a community setting," said Coleman. "Some students need to learn to work in a group or with others, and to also be able to work for an extended period of time. We also look for student input as to what types of jobs they would like to perform such as working in a clerical setting, in food services or in a warehouse. These students could also prefer outdoor activities either in a small or large group setting. We then take all of this information to hopefully help us place them into the right job setting." Added Coleman, "The overall goal is to get students into proper placement for employment."

The program, which has about 45-50 students enrolled, begins with vocational exposure in grades 6-8. At the high school level, the vocational setting is changed every semester so students have exposure to a wide variety of opportunities. Students can also work in CR schools and soon, Charlton students could be placed in state agencies where they can work and be productive members of the community. "Students have been hired directly from our program at many of our local businesses," said Coleman. "They are productive and contributing citizens and are obtaining a very high level of independence."



Paula Coleman supervises the clerical tasks assigned to Charlton students Chase Hosier and Alex Brathwaite.

Saluting Our Armed Forces Veterans Working Within The Caesar Rodney School District—Thank You!



Scott Golden
DAFB Middle
Sergeant, USMC, 6 years



James Oboryshko
Brown Elementary
SFC, US Army 26 years



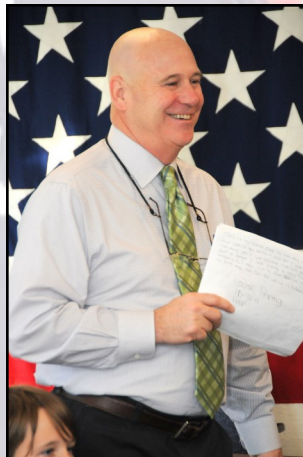
Alberta Miclette
Welch Elementary
Sergeant, USAF, 6 years



Dave Linscott
Nellie Stokes
SMSgt, USAF, 26 years



Chris Warga
Star Hill Elementary
TSgt, USAF, 20 years



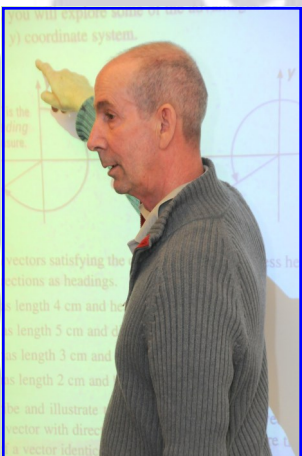
Don Miller
Fifer Middle
CMSgt, USAF, 30 years



Don Williams
Charlton School
MSgt, USAF, 23 years



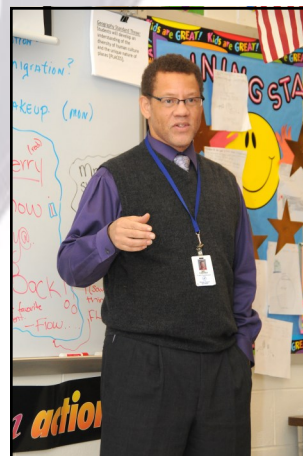
Dawn Card
McIlvaine ECC
Captain, USAFR, 23 years



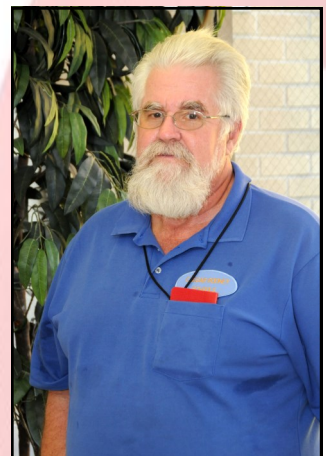
Doug Higdon, CRHS
1st Sergeant, US Army,
20 years



Alma Bartolomeo
Simpson Elementary
MSgt, USAF, 25 years



Kurt Cherry
Postlethwait Middle
CMSgt, USAF, 30 years



Howard Mills
Frear Elementary
Technician, USN, 3 years



Homecoming Parade A Community Get-Together



Rider Pride Day Once Again A Huge Success



"The fourth annual Rider Pride Day was a huge success," said Kevin Thompson, chairperson for this year's community event. "Our best estimate is that more than 5,000 people came out to support the Caesar Rodney School District, our schools and staff and most importantly, our students."





Students at W. B. Simpson Elementary School helped celebrate “Red Ribbon Week,” the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the United States. The campaign serves as a vehicle for communities to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment of drug prevention and awareness. The campaign also commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.



High School Teacher Receives Prestigious Copeland Award

At the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation’s Fifth Annual King Neptune Gala at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Governor Jack Markell recently presented the foundation’s first *Tatiana Copeland Prize in Education* to Kimberley Statham, a history and economics teacher at Caesar Rodney High School.

The prize, named after Tatiana Copeland, a world-renowned philanthropist and “Godmother” of the Kalmer Nyckel Foundation, recognizes a member of the educational community who has made an exceptional contribution to the foundation’s mission.

“Kim Statham is an ideal first recipient of this important new prize, and we’re delighted to be able to recognize Kim for her many contributions to education in Delaware,” said Sam Heed, Historian and Director of Education for the Kalmer Nyckel Foundation. Added Heed, “That we are a relevant and increasingly important resource in Delaware is in large measure due to the success of our Model Curriculum Units for the Department of Education, and those Curriculum Units have been such a success thanks to the incredible creativity, knowledge and hard work of Kim Statham.”



Kim Statham receives the Copeland Prize in Education from Governor Jack Markell at the Chase Center in Wilmington.

Data Coach To Assist District Teachers

The Caesar Rodney School District welcomes Stacy Courtright, Data Coach, whose role will be to help teachers get the most out of the increasing amounts of student data now available to them. Stacy will



District RTTT Coordinator Ryan Fuller meets with Data Coach Stacy Courtright.

meet with small groups of teachers at least twice monthly to review student data, help teachers identify areas of student progress or deficiency and work with teachers to address student needs as identified by the data. Stacy is one of 29 data coaches working with schools throughout Delaware to support Race To The Top (RTTT) initiatives. Stacy is a Fulbright Scholar, holds a Master’s Degree in Education from Arizona State University and has more than 12 years of experience in using data to drive classroom instruction, working as a classroom teacher and an instructional coach. Stacy comes to Delaware through a program developed by Wireless Generation, Inc., a company that provides innovative tools to help teachers teach and enhance classroom learning.

Go Riders!

McIlvaine To Receive Crayola Grant

Crayola and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) has selected the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center (MECC) as one of 20 schools nationwide to receive a "Champion Creatively Alive Children" school grant. MECC was chosen based on innovative ideas proposed for infusing art into learning. MECC will receive a \$2,500 monetary grant and \$500 worth of Crayola products. The funds will be used to explore new ways to foster critical 21st century skills in children known as the 4Cs: creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking. These essential skills are imperative for children to develop for greater success in school and in their future careers.



MECC's principal Sherry Kijowski said, "We are thrilled that McIlvaine has received this opportunity from Crayola and NAESP. Our school will use the grant funds to support our monthly parent parties by setting up a 'creation station' at each event. Students and their families will collaborate, communicate, critically think, and develop creative projects together." Each parent party "creation station" also includes a take-home component that will encourage learning and imagination long after the event is over. Creative things are happening at the Home of the Littlest Riders!

Proclamation Signed At CRHS

Delaware's Secretary of Education Dr. Lillian Lowery recently signed a proclamation at Caesar Rodney High School recognizing International Education Week. Joining Secretary Lowery were CRHS students studying Chinese and Arabic. International Education Week promotes programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.

First held in 2000, International Education Week is today celebrated in more than 100 countries.

According to Open Doors, 260,327 U.S. students studied abroad in 2008-09. The Departments

of State and Education also reported hundreds of thousands of students and scholars come to the United States to study here each year, bringing more than \$20 billion into the U.S. economy in 2009-10.



Dr. Lillian Lowery holds up a signed proclamation by Governor Markell highlighting International Education.

Simpson Rededication Includes 550 Pairs of Scissors!

The recent rededication of W.B. Simpson Elementary School was highlighted by the cutting of a 400-foot ribbon that extended from one end of the newly-renovated school to the other. Every student and invited guest was given a pair of scissors and when it was time, more than 550 students and guests snipped away, taking with them a small yellow memento of the community ceremony. Family members of W.B. Simpson were on hand for the special event including daughters Marianne Teller, Jane Bethard and son George Simpson. Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and Secretary of Education Lillian Lowery also attended.





W. Reily Brown Promotes Bicycle Safety

Nearly half of W. Reily Brown Elementary School's students walk to school each day, since the school is embedded in the middle of the Dover community on Webbs Lane. Therefore, school officials recently reached out to the Delaware Department of Transportation (DELDOT) looking for help to further enhance safety measures around the school.

As a result, DELDOT is now in the planning stages of improving signage in front of Brown to make it safer for parents and school buses when dropping off students. This will include new painted areas on the road, ramp curbs and neon signage.

Brown also joined a national movement called National Walk to School Day and Safe Routes to School. Every student was briefed about walking to school, where to walk, how to walk, looking for crosswalks, looking left and right and more. Students also learned about the importance of bike safety, wearing a helmet and hand signs for biking and more. DELDOT also provided each student with neon clothing reflectors, pencils, safety tip folders and activity books.

Students then drew a picture, attached to a contest slip, about biking safely. Their slips of paper were put in for a drawing where ten brand new bikes, helmets, visors, water bottles and bike locks, all donated by DELDOT, were given to a lucky boy and girl in each grade.

DELDOT also conducted an outdoor bike "Rodeo"



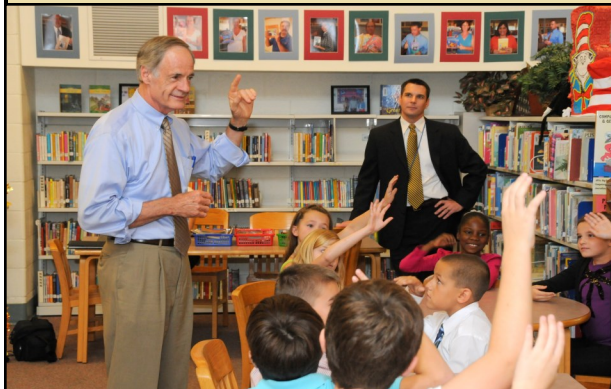
Ten students from Brown Elementary proudly display their new DELDOT-donated bicycles.

demonstration for students in grades 1-3. During the event, DELDOT representatives taught the students more about how to wear helmets correctly, dangers and safety practices. In grades 4-5, students were offered a bike rodeo demonstration to see more about bike safety, dangers of performing stunts and more.

"This was a wonderful experience for all of our children and we look forward to our continued partnership with DELDOT," said Dr. Wendy Schachte, Achievement Liaison Teacher at Brown Elementary.

Senator Carper Visits Stokes

Senator Tom Carper recently visited Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School to talk with students and staff about their recent success in being named a National Blue Ribbon School.



With Stokes Principal Corey Miklus looking on, Senator Tom Carper talks with students about the three branches of government in the United States.



Senator Carper talks teaching strategies with Stokes Teacher of the Year Diana Hanes.

During his visit, he also spoke with Stokes teachers to find out what they do everyday in becoming a nationally-recognized school. The senator said he would share their thoughts and ideas with low-performing schools.



Carnations placed at school flagpole following Veterans Day ceremony at DAFB Middle School.