



THE CR REPORT

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

Your District-Wide Information Source

January - March Issue 2011



School Nurse of the Year

At the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, Rebecca Gravatt has been named School Nurse of the Year for the Caesar Rodney School District.



"Fish" Bulletin Board at Welch Elementary School

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What's Happening?

Board Meetings:

April 19 - Nellie Stokes Elementary School

May 17 - Fred Fifer Middle School

June 21 - George Welch Elementary School

Caesar Rodney High School

May 25 - Last Day of School for Seniors

June 4 - Graduation Class of 2011

Elementary / Middle / Charlton June 8 - 10
Abbreviated Days

Report Cards

April 6 - Grades 1-5, grades 6-12 available through Home Access Center

School Holidays

April 22 - 29 Spring Vacation

May 3 - Teacher Appreciation Day



Message From the Superintendent

I would like to welcome you to our newly created *CR Report* which is filled with information about what is going on in our schools. The renovation of W.B. Simpson Elementary continues on track. Our building Teachers of the Year have all been selected as has our School Nurse of the Year. Invited speakers continue to engage our students



about historical events that have shaped the world. Race To The Top federal funds have helped us to create the Freshman Academy and Success Academy. Read Across America was a huge success as well as Family Literacy Night and the opening of the Parent Information Center. Our students have excelled in competition against other schools, statewide. Several of our student athletes have signed Letters of Intent to play soccer, baseball, football and lacrosse at colleges and universities across the country. Our schools are gearing up for graduation in June while kindergarten registration is less than a month away. These are exciting times in our community and I hope this issue of the *CR Report* captures a small piece of that excitement.

Cat In The Hat Visits Star Hill

In February, Star Hill worked feverishly to celebrate their love of reading. To wish Dr. Seuss an early Happy Birthday, grade 4 and 5 students created a living wax museum where students either took on the identity of a famous character from literature or made the books themselves come to life for museum visitors. Harry Potter, Huck Finn, Junie B. Jones and Laura Ingalls Wilder were just a few of the characters on display for visitors. During the "I Love To Read" month, students also held a book character parade, brought in guest readers, listened to a dramatic reading of "Cat in the Hat" and had fun decorating doors in honor of Dr. Seuss.



Cat In The Hat Visits CR Schools

"Oh the places You Shall Go!"

Students and staff at W. Reily Brown celebrated Theodor Geisel's (Dr. Seuss) 107th birthday with a visit from one of his greatest non-fiction creations—the Cat In The Hat!



Accompanied by Thing 1 and Thing 2, as well as a reading by both Secretary of Education Dr. Lillian Lowery and Caesar Rodney School Dis-



trict Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, the Cat In The Hat entertained nearly two hundred students by acting out the book named in his honor. Secretary Lowery talked with the students and explained the importance of reading being the foundation of their educational development.



Assistant Principal Jean Allen is flanked by Cookie Skripko, left, and Katie Coenen.



Meet Your School Board Members



Left to Right: Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent; David Henderson, President, Charles Whitehurst; David Sechler; Col. (Ret) Robert King; Kathleen Haynes, Vice-President.

David Henderson is the President of the Caesar Rodney School Board of Education. Currently in his third year as president, Mr. Henderson has served on the Board since July of 2003. He is a retired Delaware State Police Officer and also served four years in the United States Air Force. Mr. Henderson has resided in the district for thirty plus years.

Kathleen Haynes has served on the Caesar Rodney School Board for nine years and has been vice president for the past two years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Pennsylvania and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Dickinson School of Law. Kathleen currently works as an attorney with the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. She has three children who all attend district schools.

David Sechler has served on the Caesar Rodney School Board since July, 2007. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Distributive Education and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, both from Delaware State College. Before serving on the Board, he worked for thirty years as a Delaware public school teacher and administrator. In 1999, he became the first principal of Fred Fifer Middle School where he stayed until he retired in July 2006.

Charles Whitehurst Jr. has been a member of the Caesar Rodney School Board of Education for the past 15 years. Mr. Whitehurst graduated from Caesar Rodney High School and holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the National Law Center of George Washington University. He has practiced law not only in Dover but throughout Delaware for the past thirty years.

Colonel (Retired) Robert King has been a member of the Caesar Rodney School Board since July of 2010. He currently serves as the Deputy, 436th Support Squadron at Dover Air Force Base. His degrees include a Master of Science degree in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a Master of Education degree from George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Holocaust Survivor Shares Experiences With Caesar Rodney High School Students

Ann Jaffe, 80, a survivor of the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II, recently spoke to nearly 200 students at Caesar Rodney High School. Invited by English teacher Kathleen Swierzbinski to share her experiences, Ms. Jaffe kept every student on the edge of his or her seat as she explained the horror of not knowing when she and her family would be taken away and killed.

“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.”



Added Ms. Jaffe, “They took away our civil rights. 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.”

As a ten year-old, Ms. Jaffe witnessed the horror of mass executions. “On the holiest of our holidays, Yom Kippur, the Germans would come to our village for mass killings to add insult to the horror.” Only 32 Jews would eventually survive. In the village next to hers, only five Jews out of 1000 would survive. “The educated, including teachers, were quickly executed to prevent any kind of leadership and organized resistance from developing.”

Ms. Jaffe explained that for nearly 15 months, she and her family lived in total fear. Her mother, a seamstress, was asked by a German officer to make dresses for his wife. That bought her family some valuable time. Her father, whose hobby had been horticulture, worked with a German officer to extract iodine from plant life. Again, some valuable time gained.

One day, in 1942, the Germans brought two trucks into the village to round up nearly 100 Jews,

including Ms. Jaffe and her entire family. They were to be taken away for extermination. Standing in the truck, Ms. Jaffe’s father saw the German officer he had been working with. Yelling to get his attention, the officer approached and immediately ordered the family off the truck since he needed the skills of Ms. Jaffe’s father. This simple action would save their lives.

Just two weeks later, partisans entered the 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. But we also realized we were the ‘lucky ones’ who would be able to tell the world what had happened,” she said.

Ms. Jaffe concluded her presentation by telling the students that they are the last generation that will hear the horrors of the Holocaust from a survivor. She also asked each student to bring up their children by teaching them tolerance and not hatred.

Many of the students gathered around Ms. Jaffe following her remarks to show their appreciation for her presentation.



Go Riders!

Riders Capture DECA Awards

More than 200 students from 14 Delaware schools recently participated in the DECA Annual State Career Development Conference in Dover. DECA, an association of marketing students, hosted the event in which students competed in 32 events showcasing a wide variety of skills in areas such as marketing, sales, and project management. These skills are recognized by the education and business communities as being essential for a student's future success.

Students from Caesar Rodney High School were extremely competitive and successful, capturing eight first-place and two second-place events. Those students will now have the opportunity to represent Delaware at the DECA International Career Development Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida in late April.

During the conference, results were announced of a statewide community service project called "Sleeping Bags for the Homeless Children of Delaware". The students of DECA collected \$13,500.00 and 140 sleeping bags. DECA will now purchase 1656 sleeping bags for children of Delaware in need thanks to the efforts of all of the DECA students representing their high schools.



Students at Caesar Rodney High School pose with some of the awards won at the annual DECA Conference.

Did you know???

Caesar Rodney High School has the largest enrollment of any high school in Delaware with 2072!!!

Gravatt Nominated for School Nurse of the Year

Rebecca "Becky" Gravatt, RN, MSN, NCSN, school nurse at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center in Magnolia, has been nominated to be the 2010-2011 Delaware School Nurse of the Year. With ten years experience, "Becky" has worked at McIlvaine ECC since 2001.

In a letter to the nominating committee, Sherry Kijowski, principal at McIlvaine, stated that "Becky" is "...an invaluable asset, an advocate for student and staff wellness, encourages and fosters community relationships, and serves as an ambassador for our school."



Becky's nursing duties begin in the summer prior to each school year. She visits with incoming "at risk" school families to discuss health and academic issues. She then conducts vision and hearing screening and provides each family with contact information for community health organizations and wellness checks.

Becky's role as a school nurse is never-ending. On an average school day, she can see as many as fifty students, handling illnesses, injuries, scrapes, bruises, sneezes, coughs, runny noses, sniffles, broken bones and more. She is also authorized to provide medications including administering insulin doses and providing breathing treatments.

Becky can also be seen in the classroom facilitating lessons about dental health, protecting from germs and hand washing, and continues to mentor student nurses from Wesley College.



"I wouldn't trade this job for anything in the world," said Becky. "I love working with the kids!"

Delaware's School Nurse of the Year will be announced on May 6th during National School Nurse Week.

"Literacy Night" A Huge Success

With more than 300 people in attendance, a recent "Literacy Night" at Dover Air Base Middle School turned out to be a huge success! The school was active with engaging presenters, eager parents and enthusiastic students. Students escorted their parents to sessions which included Centers in the Classroom, DCAS Expectations, Math Literacy, the Smart Board and much more.

One of the more popular sessions was presented by Mary Kennedy, a clinical psychologist and national best-selling author. She spoke of the trials and triumphs of the publishing industry as well as the importance of a solid education. After her presentation, Mrs. Kennedy held a book signing and talked one-on-one with participants.

Dr. Jessilene Corbett, principal of Air Base Middle stated, "Parents look forward to open houses, sports banquets, book sales and choral and band concerts, but our literacy night is the spark of a new tradition at ABM. It is our goal to build a stronger home-school connection. This was a perfect opportunity to bring in a local author and to allow parents to experience what their children do on a daily basis."

Several local vendors donated food for "Literacy Night" while students took home a Scholastic book and a goodie bag full of school supplies. Twenty lucky attendees also won gift certificates and baskets. "Literacy Night was fun, educational and delicious!" one person wrote on a end of the night survey. We think everyone in attendance would agree.



Teacher Amanda Mazzola educates parents about the new DCAS expectations during a session at Literacy Night at Air Base Middle.

Pitching In To Help Others

Fourth grade classes at Allen Frear have been working on numerous service projects to help various organizations locally and globally. Mr. Seitz's class collected food for the Food Bank of Delaware. Ms. Miller's class collected school supplies for Haiti. Mr. Cohee's class collected art supplies and games for St. Jude's hospital. Mrs. Schaefer's class collected Pennies for Peace while Mrs. Rynkowski's class collected soda (pop) tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Overall, the service projects were a huge success with each class donating a substantial amount of items. Most importantly, the fourth grade students at Allen Frear were able to learn a lot about their communities and the importance of helping others.



W.B. Simpson Elementary School staff (L to R) Susan Hoffman, Kathy Dorre, Sandy Tinsley, Bartie Kelly, and Jane Stewart rehearse for their big number during Read Across America Day. Their band name? **READING ROCKS!**

You're In Rider Country!

Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

Jodi Farrington

Jodi Farrington is an Autism teacher at the John S. Charlton School in Camden-Wyoming. Jodi has been teaching for nine years; eight of those years have been spent at Charlton. She received her Bachelors degree in Special Education from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania and a Masters degree in

Special Education from Wilmington University. When asked what influenced her to be a special education teacher, Jodi stated, "I always knew I wanted to be a

teacher. But when I was 20 years old and volunteered for a school for children that had been diagnosed with special needs. I then knew what my calling was." Added Jodi, "My heart is working with children that have been diagnosed with disabilities. I can't see myself doing anything else."



Michael Lenoir

Michael Lenoir is a Music Education teacher at Star Hill Elementary School in Dover. Michael has been teaching for eight years with the last six years at Star Hill. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education, Comprehensive K-12 from West Chester University in Pennsylvania.

Asked what has been his greatest contributions and accomplishments in education, Michael stated, "Music is a learned

skill that can develop over time with patience, practice and persistence. My goal is that Star Hill students move on to the next stage with an appreciation for music in some capacity, whether it is singing, playing an instrument,



or just listening to music for enjoyment."

Diana Hanes

Diana Hanes has more than 20 years of teaching experience with the past eight years in her present position at Nellie Stokes Elementary School in Dover. Diana received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from the University of Delaware and a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Wilmington

College. When asked what her biggest reward is being a teacher, Diana stated, "Watching a child's face light up when they begin to read and realize that they get it. You can actually see the light bulb come on and the student begins to grow as a reader and learner. It is an indescribable feeling

when a parent approaches you to thank you because their child now loves to read when before they hated the task. There isn't anything in the teaching profession that can compare. When a child begins to read and improve in the classroom, it is the ultimate reward for me."



Heather Childers

Heather Childers has more than 16 years teaching experience and currently teaches all subjects in first grade at W.B. Simpson Elementary School, temporarily relocated at Dover Air Force Base. Heather received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from York College in Pennsylvania and a Masters degree in Literacy from the University of Delaware.

When asked why she became a teacher, Heather replied, "I cannot remember a time when I wanted to do anything else. I was always meant to be a teacher. I can remember working with students early in my college career and knowing that the classroom is where I wanted to be. So, while there aren't any specific factors that influenced me to become a

teacher, I do believe that all of my experiences working with children led me to the place where I am today."



Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

Carla Lawson

Carla Lawson is a Secondary Social Studies teacher at Caesar Rodney High School in Camden-Wyoming. With fourteen years experience, all at Caesar Rodney High School, Carla received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Delaware and a Masters degree in Secondary Counseling from Wilmington College. Carla also became National Board Certified in 2002.

When asked what the greatest reward is for her as a teacher, Carla responded, "For me, the greatest reward is the opportunities I have to make a difference. One thing I value is helping others." Added Carla, "As a teacher, I have countless opportunities to work with students, families and our community in a positive way. Working with my students in different capacities and being a part of our community brings me personal joy and satisfaction."



Brook Fuchs

Brook Fuchs is a Reading Resource Specialist who has been teaching for 11 years; the last six years at McIlvaine. Brook received a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education and a Master of Education in Reading, both from Salisbury State University in Maryland. "My parents stressed the importance of education in my life so much that I knew that I didn't want to stop going to school after I graduated," said Brook. "I simply wanted to transition from being the student to being the teacher. Some of my favorite days growing up were the first days of school. I would get so excited to have my new backpack and supplies and to meet new friends and see old friends. As a teacher, I get to relive some of the best parts of my childhood. I get to be the person that children and parents respect and turn to for support. I would recommend teaching as a profession to my own children as I know how rewarding and fun it can be."



Amanda Mazzola

Amanda Mazzola is an "all subjects" teacher in grades 6-8 at Dover Air Force Base Middle School in Dover. Having taught for 16 years with 11 years in her current position,

Amanda received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Relations from the University of Delaware and a Masters of Education from Wilmington University. She also received National Board Certification status in 2008.



"Teaching is in my blood. Both my mother and father were teachers and my mother's parents were both teachers too," said Amanda. "As a matter of fact, they all taught in the Caesar Rodney School District. They were all huge influences on me because they taught me the value of a great education and the rewards that come with hard work. They also taught me that giving back to your community is one of the most powerful things you can do. Being an educator is an opportunity to do just that."

Monica McCurry

Monica McCurry is a third grade teacher at W. Reily Brown Elementary School in Dover. Monica holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Wilmington College. When asked what rewards she sees as a teacher,

Monica responded, "My favorite reward is seeing the pride on a student's face when they have achieved something. When they've realized that they have accomplished something that they've been working hard to complete, it's great to know that in some small way I have helped that person grow. I enjoy watching the behavioral maturity and academic growth in my students over the course of a school year. I find it rewarding to know that I have provided a safe learning environment for my students so they can be their personal best."



Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

James Cohee



James Cohee is a Grade 4 teacher at Allen Frear Elementary School in Camden-Wyoming. With six years teaching experience, James received his Bachelors in Elementary Education from Wesley Col-

lege and a Masters in School Leadership from Wilmington University. When asked what influenced him to become a teacher, James replied, "As a senior in high school I knew I would apply to the education department at the college of my choice. However, it was not until I began working for the Boys and Girls Club that I truly knew that I wanted to work with elementary students. I thoroughly enjoyed being their mentor and tutor and it allowed me to get a glimpse of the joy and challenges teachers are confronted with on a daily basis. Once I finally entered into student teaching I absolutely knew that teaching children was the best fit for me. It was amazing to be able to see a student have an 'ah ha' moment when a concept became clear to him/her after many trial and errors."

Misty Yencer

Misty Yencer is a K-2 Reading Specialist at Welch Elementary School in Dover. With nine years teaching experience, Misty received both a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and a Masters in Advanced Reading Instruction from

Wilmington University.

"After becoming a 'teenage' mom at 17, a

group of my dance instructors decided to give me a chance to become an instructor as well. Knowing that my

dance teachers believed in me and offered me this opportunity made me realize how much a 'teacher' can inspire. I soon realized how much I

enjoyed sharing my love of dance with kids, as well as inspiring and being a role model for them. As a business major at Del Tech, I quickly made an appointment with my advisor to change my major to education. Deciding to become an educator has been one of the greatest decisions I have made for myself personally and professionally."



Lauren Boulden

Lauren Boulden is a Grade 7 Language Arts teacher at Postlethwait Middle School in Camden. With five years teaching experience, Lauren received her Bachelor of Science degree in

Elementary Education and her Master of Instruction in Literacy from the University of Delaware. When asked what factors influence her to become a teacher, Lauren responded,



"From the time I could talk, I began lining up my stuffed animals in front of my Fisher Price blackboard, teaching them to read with my multi-colored magnetic letters. My efforts to teach my make-believe classroom transformed into assisting my fellow classmates when they struggled with a word or math problem in class. My passion for teaching was innate from the very beginning; only deepened as time progressed."

Angela Anderson

Angela Anderson is a Grade 7 Math teacher at Fred Fifer III Middle School in Camden-Wyoming. With nearly nine years of teaching experience, Amanda received her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from the University of Delaware and a Masters of

Education in School Counseling from Wilmington College. When asked what she felt were the rewards of teaching, Angela responded, "The rewards are the feelings you



get when you see a struggling student finally get the 'ah-ha' moment and truly get it. The best feeling is knowing you have been part of destroying a student's negative self-image because he or she has felt you genuinely care about him or her as an individual and believe in his or her success."



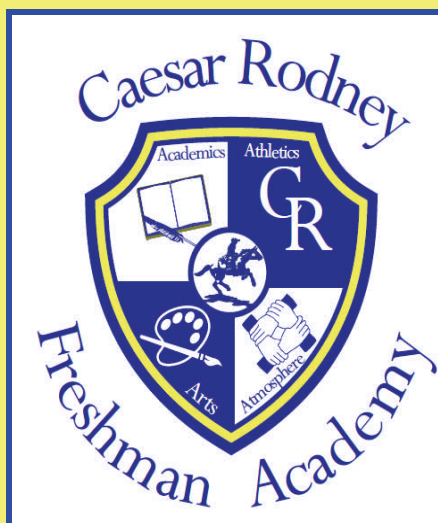
Freshman Academy To Begin In August

Beginning this August, with the start of the 2011-2012 school year, Caesar Rodney High School will offer incoming 9th grade students a "school within a school" known as the "Freshman Academy." This small setting will provide students a unique opportunity to excel through an engaging, supportive environment that will encourage their development to the fullest extent possible.

Caesar Rodney High School's Freshman Academy has been developed to focus specifically on the areas most likely to affect a child's success during his or her initial steps into the high school setting. The goal of the Freshman Academy is to build strong academic, personal and social foundations that will successfully prepare each student for college and/or career readiness after graduation.

For most students, transition into high school from middle school is stressful in terms of experiencing a larger more impersonal, competitive, grade-oriented environment. This transition is difficult for all students of varied backgrounds

and academic ability. The academic, social and emotional factors for ninth grade students can positively or adversely affect their overall success during high school if they are not met with initial support prior to the move to 9th grade as well as continued support throughout their first year of high



school. The mission of Caesar Rodney High School's Freshman Academy is to provide the attention and focus for your child to ensure academic success throughout high school and beyond.

The Freshman Academy will be housed in the C and D wings of the

high school. Students will take their four core courses (Math, English, Science and Social Studies) in those wings while elective courses will be housed in the other parts of the building. The core courses will be scheduled as 90 minute periods and will alternate every other day. Elective classes will be scheduled as 60 minute periods and will run every day. This will allow students the opportunity to schedule an additional elective class during the school year and give teachers the opportunity to provide differentiated and individual instruction to accelerate, enrich and remediate students in the four core courses.

Teachers will be assigned to the Freshman Academy from the current staff at Caesar Rodney High School and will all have previous instructional experience in the core areas and grade level.

If you have questions about the Freshman Academy, please contact Jeff Visalli (Assistant Principal at Caesar Rodney High School) at 697-2161 or email him at jeff.visalli@cr.k12.de.us

Race To The Top

Last year, Delaware and Tennessee were announced by the United States Department of Education as the first two winners of the first phase of the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) program. The national RTTT program is a \$4.35 billion fund designed to reward states that are leading the way in comprehensive, coherent, statewide education reforms across four key areas. They include:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals how to improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and leaders, especially where they are needed most;
- Turning around the lowest-performing schools (continued next page)





Success Academy To Begin in August

The Success Academy is part of Caesar Rodney School District's Race To The Top application and will run as a nine day program beginning Monday, August 8th and ending on Thursday, August 18th.

The Success Academy has been developed to assist students moving from middle school to the high school with the smoothest transition possible and will focus on the needs of the students which have the most significant impact on their success while in high school. The Success Academy will run from 9:00 - 1:30 each day with transportation and lunch provided.

Attendance at the Success Academy is optional. Each incoming freshman will be pre-enrolled in the Success Academy and will also receive an "opt-out" form that may be returned if you choose not to

have your child attend the Success Academy.

The following is just some of what students will enjoy by attending the Success Academy, all grounded in Caesar Rodney High School's Four A's: (Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Atmosphere):

- Acclamation to the new school environment (physical building, classrooms, school grounds, rules/regulations, student code of conduct, lunch room procedures, and staff).
- Building a sense of belonging and community within the school (exposure to extra curricular programs that the school has to offer).
- Introducing a positive environment that gives opportunities for students to experience academic success (connection to staff and positive peer to peer

interactions).

- What to expect from high school classes, study skills, time management.
- Introduction and groundwork for the four core subject areas with an emphasis on reading and writing.
- Career and college planning, including a trip to Junior Achievement in Wilmington.
- The option of completing the PE I and/or Heath credit prior to starting the school year free of charge as part of the comprehensive summer school program.

If you have questions about the Freshman Academy, please contact Jeff Visalli (Assistant Principal at Caesar Rodney High School) at 697-2161 or email him at jeff.visalli@cr.k12.de.us

Race To The Top (Continued)

Since winning this award, Delaware has received approximately \$119 million that will be utilized over four years for the changes necessary to help districts through these four areas. Approximately 50% of this money is to be provided directly to districts through an application process that describes how the money will be utilized for innovative change. This forces districts to look at the entire k-12 "pipeline" and incorporate a variety of data sources to determine where to apply these funds most effectively so students can meet college, career and life success.

In our school district, the analysis of our k-12 "pipeline" identified 9th grade students as needing more support. Therefore, we have developed the Success and Freshman Academies to jumpstart their success in high school and ease this transition from one school to the next. Additional activities under Race to the Top focus on the following:

- Improving the number of, and access to, accelerated coursework opportunities for students (AP classes)
- Implementing Professional Learning Communities where groups of teachers discuss curriculum, assessments and data to identify how best to improve accelerated, enrichment or intervention programs.
- Refine our interventions for "at-risk" students and support time in and out of school for all students.
- Utilize Learning Focused unit and lesson planning to develop common assessments and teach with research based instructional strategies.
- Improve teacher/leader effectiveness through professional development and instructional monitoring.
- Effectively communicate and engage with families and the community to support student achievement.

Please contact Ryan Fuller at (302) 697-2173 or at ryan.fuller@cr.k12.de.us for more information on RTTT.



Work at Simpson Elementary in High Gear



The progress on the renovations to W. B. Simpson Elementary School continues to move forward. All of the contractors are in high gear as the school and site receive improvements that will prepare it for many more years of admirable service. Students and residents who remember the old Simpson can see the new façade taking shape as they drive by on Old North Road. Inside, students will enjoy the benefits of a state of the art facility when they return to school in August 2011. Thank you to all of the District supporters for making this possible. Our community support of improvements to our schools demonstrates their commitment to the District's Tradition of Excellence!





Student Athletes Excelling in Rider Country!



State Wrestling Champs!

Members of the Caesar Rodney High School Wrestling Team assemble on the winner's stand at Smyrna High School after capturing the 2011 DIAA Division I Dual Team championship!

Congratulations to those student-athletes who have signed Letters of Intent including:

Kelly McKenna - Chestnut Hill College (Soccer)

Miles Hunter - Liberty University (Football)

Zach Mawson - Rider University (Baseball)

Brooks Johnson - Mt. St. Mary's - (Lacrosse)

Dante Shells - Liberty University (Football)

Issah Meade - Arizona State University (Wrestling)

Laura Askin - University of Delaware (Swimming)



Issah Meade signs his Letter of Intent to wrestle with Arizona State University.



Senior Laura Askin signs with the University of Delaware Swimming Program as CRHS principals Matt Donovan, Jason Bastianelli, Latonya Pierce and Elvina Knight witness.



As mom Mary Ann, dad Patrick and Coach Darrell Gravatt look on, Kelly McKenna signs with Chestnut Hill College in Pennsylvania to play soccer.



The F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School Cheerleaders recently took first place at the State Championships at the University of Delaware. Additionally, the team swept every competition they entered this year. Congratulations on a fine season which ended in a State Championship!

GO Riders!



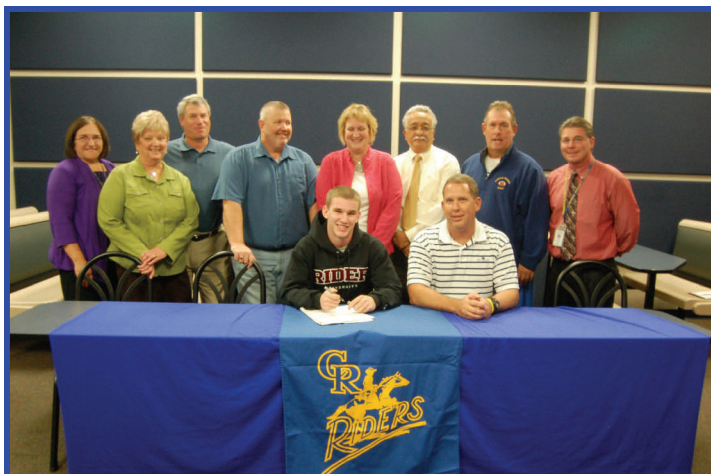
Friends of CRHS Senior Dante Shells surround the student athlete as he signs his Letter of Intent to play football at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.



As his family looks on, Miles Hunter signs his Letter of Intent to play football at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.



Surrounded by family, Brooks Johnson signs his Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Mt. Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



Zach Mawson with family and friends signs his Letter of Intent to play baseball at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.



Kindergarten Registration Begins April 11th

Kindergarten registration in the Caesar Rodney School District is an exciting event for new students and their families! Our district's goal is to welcome each child as they enter our district as a "little rider," meet with parents and students to complete the screening process and share important information and resources to make coming to school a positive experience for our youngest students.

Children are eligible to register for kindergarten if they turn five years-old on or before August 31, 2011. Registration will take place at Welch Elementary School for on-base students and at McIlvaine Early Childhood Center for all other Caesar Rodney pupils. Registration will begin the week of April 11, 2011.

Monday, April 11 th	Tuesday, April 12 th	Wednesday, April 13 th	Thursday, April 14 th	Friday, April 15 th
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	9:00 am – 3:00 pm Evening registration from 4:00-6:00 pm at Welch Elementary and McIlvaine ECC	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	9:00 am – 3:00 pm Evening registration from 4:00-6:00 at McIlvaine ECC only	9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Families need to bring the following documents with them to kindergarten registration:

- original copy of the child's birth certificate
- proof of residency (includes mortgage, lease, home owner's insurance, electric or gas bill) **NOTE:** phone bills and driver's licenses are not accepted as proof of residency
- photo ID for the adult registering the child
- medical documents for the student (includes most recent physical, shot records, lead test).

We hope that as many of our "littlest riders" as possible join us for kindergarten registration during the week of April 11th. This will be an exciting start to a wonderful educational journey!

Pictured is Aaron Craver, a 19 year-old student at the John S. Charlton School in Camden-Wyoming, next to a landscape painting he created. Aaron is also a student at the Delaware State University site that is part of the Transition Partnership Project. Aaron, a very talented artist, was recently part of a competition at the Biggs Museum in Dover. Aaron's mother Deborah stated her son's artistic abilities began when he was in the seventh grade. As a student in an Autism program just outside of Anchorage, Alaska, his school was under renovation; his class was housed in a re-locatable trailer. She stated that Aaron did not like this arrangement and tried to leave "frequently" to go to his new building. Therefore, the school proposed that Aaron "decorate" the trailer as a means to have him feel like it was more comfortable to him. This is when they found out his abilities with painting. The school and his family had no clue what he was capable of doing until this prospect was offered to him! He painted the Alaskan range on this wall. Everyone was amazed and the school soon allowed Aaron to paint a mural in the new school's gymnasium. Aaron and his family moved to Delaware in 2009, where he now attends Charlton. These days, Aaron dedicates at least 20 hours a week to his painting. In addition to the artwork now hanging in Biggs, Aaron also has artwork hanging at the Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, home of the Philadelphia Phillies!





Caesar Rodney School District

A Pie In The Face For A Worthy Cause



Base Security Liaison Officer Jay Darcy takes a pie in the face from a student at George Welch Elementary School during a recent student assembly. Voted by the students as the person they would most like to hit in the face with a pie, the students and staff raised more than \$250 which will go to creating “care packages” for new students, which includes pencils, erasers, notebooks and more. Fourth grade teacher Brian Zambotti also took a pie in the face as runner up.



Students of Caesar Rodney High School recently competed in the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference. Students experience tests that simulate business procedures and take part in presentations in front of judges from the local business community. The skills that these students obtain will benefit them whether after high school or college. Areas tested included: admin support, web design, financial analysis, presentation management, and accounting. Twenty students placed in one or more events at the state level, recording a record 27 trophies. They will be traveling to Washington, DC, in May to compete at the national level.

Go Riders!

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the community of the Caesar Rodney School District. For questions or comments, please contact Ron Gough, Community Relations Specialist for the Caesar Rodney School District at (302) 698-4828 or via email at: ronald.gough@cr.k12.de.us.