



THE CR REPORT

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

Your District-Wide Information Source

June 2012 Issue



A giant hand-painted mural stretches from the hallway of George Welch Elementary School over to Dover Air Force Base Middle School on Dover Air Force Base.



What's Inside...

Page 2: Superintendent's Message

Page 3: Teacher of the Year Kimberly Simmons

Page 4: CRHS Graduation Pictures

Page 5: McIlvaine ECC Graduation Pictures

Page 6: Charlton Graduation; New Principals

Page 7: Around the District

Page 8: Around the District

What's Happening?

Board Meetings (7:00 p.m.)

June 19: Dover Air Force Base Middle
July 17: Caesar Rodney District Office
August 21: Location To Be Determined

Special Events:

June 19: First Day of Summer School
July 4: National Holiday
July 26: Last Day of Summer School

DID YOU KNOW?

More than **3600** pictures of events, ceremonies, 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>



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.

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.

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

Before the school year comes to a close I would like to take one last opportunity to tell you about some amazing accomplishments and to thank the teachers and staff of Caesar Rodney School District for another great year!



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

At Caesar Rodney High School's commencement ceremony on June 2nd, 435 students ended one journey by receiving their diplomas and prepared to embark on another.

For some, their journey will take them directly into the work force prepared by you to compete for jobs in this tough economy. Others will go on to pursue their Associate or Bachelor degrees at schools like Delaware, Delaware State, Delaware Tech, The Naval Academy, Princeton, Maryland, West Virginia, Alabama, Haverford, Boston, Stanford, Penn, Michigan, Salisbury, Frostburg, Virginia and Washington, to name a few. Other students will make us proud by volunteering to serve our nation as a member of every branch of this country's armed services.

How proud we are of these young men and woman and what a mark they have left on this district! Yet when I spoke with these students, they told me it wasn't what they were leaving at Caesar Rodney, but rather, it was what they were taking with them - the impact each of you has had on them from kindergarten through high school! This is what they will forever remember!

While we celebrate their success, I would also like to celebrate the success our students have had on the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS). Although test results and other data are currently embargoed, I can tell you our children hit the mark! By our calculations, our student's growth from spring of 2011 to spring of 2012 is something we can all be proud of.

While there are many factors that have contributed to this improvement such as professional development, Professional Learning Communities and Learning Focused, to name a few, the one thing I know is each of you individually and collectively in your schools prepared your students to succeed!

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that the renovation of Allen Frear Elementary School will be completed by July, so there will be no need for any last minute permits! With this completion, the promise made by my predecessor Dr. Harry Roberts to provide our children with the best facilities in the state, will be fulfilled.

Please get some rest and relaxation this summer! Five hundred and two kindergarten students graduated from the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center as well as another 85 students from the George Welch kindergarten program who will be waiting for you on August 22nd! Thank you for all of your hard work and your dedication.

Once again, you have not only made this school district the BEST in the state, you've made it a special place that will impact our students for the rest of their lives!

Trio of Speedsters to Continue Competing at the Collegiate Level



Left to Right: Nick Price, William Berry and Terrell Oliver.

Among three very talented Caesar Rodney High School scholar/athlete speedsters is a treasure trove full of gold, silver and bronze medals earned during state track meets. Seniors Nick Price, William Berry and Terrell Oliver will each continue to compete at the college level when they graduate this year.

Nick Price, who only has seven of the 28 medals between them, laughed as he showed off his medals - all gold! Nick will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. William "Will" Berry leaves CRHS with five gold medals, two silver medals and three bronze medals. He will attend East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Terrell Oliver accumulated three gold medals, four silver medals and four bronze medals during his career at Caesar Rodney. Terrell will attend Delaware State University in Dover.

Kimberly Simmons Selected As Caesar Rodney School District's Teacher of the Year

Kimberly Simmons, a first grade teacher at W. Reily Brown Elementary School in Dover has been selected as Caesar Rodney School District's Teacher of the Year for 2012-2013.

Kimberly has spent all seven years of her experience at Brown Elementary. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce, Concentrations in Finance and Management from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. In 2004, Kim received a Master of Education from Wilmington University. In August 2011, she received a Certificate of Advanced Study for School Administration, also from Wilmington.

When asked what were the factors that influenced her to become a teacher, Kimberly replied, "I grew up in a

household of educators. My father has been a professor in Special Education for over 40 years while my mother was a teacher, academic advisor to athletes and a guidance counselor. On many occasions, I watched my parents help a struggling student, prepare for classes, get excited when one of their students succeeded, and showed pride in their student accomplishments. My parents showed me both the rewards and challenges that teaching holds and I decided early on that this was the profession for me."

Added Kimberly, "Teaching is more than just a job to me. It is a true passion. Being a teacher allows me an opportunity to make a positive impact on children's lives which can be very powerful. I believe that a teacher must do more than just teach academics, but must also give students experiences and lessons that will make them confident, responsible and successful individuals in life."

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

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

Two teams, consisting of the district superintendent, building principals, teachers and parents conduct classroom observations and interviews with the finalists. Again, working independently, each team member uses a rubric to award an overall score to each candidate. Combined with the score from the portfolio, the district Teacher of the Year is selected.

Kimberly will now compete against 18 other school district Teacher of the Year nominees for the honor of becoming the State's 2013 Teacher of the Year. That announcement will be made by Governor Jack Markell in October.



Kimberly Simmons reads a story to her class at W. Reily Brown Elementary





Second Largest Class at CRHS Graduates

435 Graduates Awarded \$1.92 million in Scholarships



GO RIDERS!



“Littlest Riders” Graduate From MECC

502 Kindergarteners Walk Across Bridge of Learning





Thirteen Graduate From the Charlton School



Thirteen students, including one student who passed away during the 2011-2012 school year, have graduated from the John S. Charlton School. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Matthew Wright while "America The Beautiful" was performed by Jordan Little. Students from the Transition Partnership Project performed a musical presentation to honor the graduates.



New Principals To Take Over Nellie Hughes Stokes and F. Niel Postlethwait Schools

Jason Payne, assistant principal at W. B. Simpson Elementary School will soon become principal at the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School in Camden, replacing Dr. Michael Noel who will become Supervisor of Instruction



at the district office. Jason received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from West Virginia University and a Master's degree in Education Leadership from Wilmington University. Jason began teaching in 1999 at Postlethwait Middle School and became assistant principal at Simpson in 2007.

Nicole Jones, is currently assistant principal at Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School in Camden. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Delaware State University and a Master of Education degree from Wilmington College. Nicole replaces Corey Miklus who has also been reassigned to the district office as Supervisor of Instruction. Nicole began teaching in 1999 at Skyline Middle School in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. In 2005, Nicole came to the Caesar Rodney School District and began teaching at Allen Frear Elementary School. One year later, in 2006, she transferred to Stokes Elementary where she has remained since.

Caesar Rodney High School's "Success Academy" To Begin July 31st

The Caesar Rodney High School "Success Academy" will once again host incoming freshman an opportunity to participate in a unique two week program



to acclimate each student to the high school environment and assist them with the smoothest transition possible as they move from middle

school to high school. Attendance is optional and no grades are given during the two-week program. The Success Academy is about a positive learning environment free from stress and rich in academics.

From July 31st through August 9th, students will be broken up into group activities including academic preparation, team building and leadership exercises. Included in the program will be field trips to Killens Pond, the Delaware Aerospace Foundation, Junior Achievement and the Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory.

Enrollment forms were due to the high school on April 20th; current enrollment is at 290 students. Families who would still like to have their child participate but haven't yet enrolled can contact the high school to put their child on the waiting list.

Massive Renovation of Frear Elementary School Nears Completion

The year-long renovation of Allen Frear Elementary School nears completion, on time and within budget, for the opening of the 2012-2013 school year. This is the fourth and final school to be renovated under the referendum that was passed by the CR community in 2005.

For the past year, students and staff were housed in the former General Henry "Hap" Arnold



Frear Elementary, August 2011



Frear Elementary, June 2012

Elementary School on Dover Air Force Base.

"I want to personally thank Dover Air Force Base for their outstanding hospitality and support and for being such a wonderful host during this past school year," said Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. "The students and staff of Allen Frear have made DAFB its home for the past nine months but now look forward to moving in to their new home in September."

"The staff, students and I are excited about moving back to Allen Frear," said principal Tara Faircloth. "Thank you, DAFB, for your tremendous support."

The Best of the Best



At the Senior Honors Program held during graduation week, principal Elvina Knight announced that Alexa Andaya would represent the Class of 2012 as Valedictorian while Pratyusha Gupta would be Salutatorian. Alexa will be attending Stanford University in California majoring in Political Science while Pratyusha will attend the University of Pennsylvania with an interest in medical field.

We wish both of these talented students success as they pursue their academic and professional dreams.

Academic/Athlete Signs Letter of Intent

Surrounded by her mother April, father Wayne, sister Rachel, grandmother Mary Sue and fellow teammates and coaches, Caesar Rodney High School academic/athlete student Miranda Smith signs a letter of intent to play soccer at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.





Band/Chorus Honors for Postlethwait Middle School Competitors

The Postlethwait Middle School 8th grade band, mixed choir and woman's choir recently participated in their 5th annual music festival at Six Flags in New Jersey. The mixed choir received an "Excellent" rating and placed first in their division. The 8th grade band received a "Superior" rating and placed second. The woman's choir received a "Superior" rating and had the highest overall score of the seven performing choirs that day. They were also presented, for the third consecutive year, with the trophy for "Best Overall Choir." Congratulations to all who participated!



Postlethwait students pose with trophies won in this year's competitions.

Charlton Student's Artwork to be Displayed in Washington D.C.

Brant Fisher, a student at the John S. Charlton School, has created a drawing that could soon receive national attention. As part of the national "2012 All Kids Can Create Exhibition," Brant's drawing has been forwarded to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. where it will be judged against entries from all across the country for state honors. Brant's drawing will also be on display at the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library from August 1 to 26, 2012. His drawing will be part of a collection of submitted drawings from across the U.S. that will be printed into a catalog which will then be mailed to the school.



CRHS Cord Assembly Honors Seniors



Pictured after receiving their "Honor Cords" are CRHS seniors and members of the National Honor Society (NHS). Chartered on May 4, 1934, this will be the 78th class to graduate NHS members. Each spring, the Board of Education, district superintendent and the CRHS principal recognize each graduating member of the NHS who has maintained an A grade point average and upheld the NHS tenets of Scholarships, Character, Service and Leadership. The Honor Cord, worn at Commencement over the graduation gown, is a visible recognition of each senior's achievements. This year, we honored 72 seniors (56 female and 16 males) who will all attend college after graduation. Good luck to each in their academic journey!