



THE CR REPORT

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

Your District-Wide Information Source

November 2013 Issue



More than 7,000 people showed up for Rider Pride Day while the "Go Pink" campaign raised \$5400 to help those battling cancer.



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The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community. For questions or comment, please contact Ron Gough at:
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What's Happening?

Board Meetings

November 19: Frear Elementary 7:00 p.m.
December 17: Simpson Elementary 7:00 p.m.
January 21: Fifer Middle School 7:00 p.m.

Special Events

November 27-29: Thanksgiving Holiday, Schools Closed
December 23– January 1: Winter Break, Schools Closed

We Are Now On Facebook!



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

Message From the Superintendent To Our CR "Rider" Community

Congratulations to the students and staff of Allen Frear Elementary School for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School. This is our third district school in three years to receive this national recognition.

Making Frear's selection all the more special was the fact that the building was undergoing major renovations and students were located in three separate buildings during the judging. Way to go Allen Frear!

Once again our annual Homecoming Parade was a huge success – with this year's parade being the largest ever! The parade's theme was "Forever Riders," recognizing the pride and support that our community has shown for our school district. The "Rider Marching Band" led off the parade followed by our School Board, our District Teacher of the Year, the Homecoming Court, all of our school and class floats and our cheerleaders. The parade ended with our volunteer fire departments blasting their horns. The excitement continued into the evening as the Riders scored a resounding 55-10 victory over the Polytech Panthers.

The next day, Rider enthusiasm continued with the sixth annual "Rider Pride Day." This event brought together more than 7,000 people who were entertained by nearly 90 vendors, chorus and band performances and outdoor demonstrations by Dover Air Force Base, DNREC and the Camden-Wyoming and Dover Fire Companies. What a true outpouring of Rider Pride!

Just one week later, Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and Secretary of Education Mark Murphy announced that W.B. Simpson Elementary School has been chosen as a 2013 winner of the state's Reward and Recognition Schools Award, based on 2012-2013 data that showed students are performing at an exceptionally high level of academics despite having a large percentage of students coming from low-income households. This award carries a \$50,000 Race to the Top prize. Way to go W. B. Simpson!

(continued next column)



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

That same day, the Lieutenant Governor also announced that Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School is a 2013 School of Continued Excellence. Stokes won the Academic Achievement Award last year and once again had outstanding academic performance this year, but is not eligible for a financial award until 2014. Way to go Nellie Hughes Stokes!

I want to personally thank the students and staff of the CRHS AFJROTC program for undertaking a community-wide effort to raise awareness of breast cancer during their "Go Pink" campaign. Nearly \$5,400 was raised in t-shirt sales, bake sales and donations to help CR families who are struggling with cancer.

Speaking of thanks, we are now at the time of the year when we pause to express our thanks for so many things. I want to personally thank all of the veterans who have served in our five branches of military service and are now employees of the Caesar Rodney School District. Their dedication, knowledge and sacrifice have been and always will be an inspiration to us all. We are honored that they are now helping to prepare our children to become good citizens.

I want to also thank the men and women of Dover Air Force Base for their tremendous support of the Caesar Rodney School District. I am so proud of our relationship with the Eagle Wing. Many of our children have a parent or parents that are currently deployed around the world defending our freedoms. The hardships endured by these families are difficult and we at Caesar Rodney are committed to doing our part by providing the best education for their children.

And finally, as Thanksgiving approaches, I ask that we all take time to give thanks for what we have and to remember those in our district who may be less fortunate and if possible to reach out a helping hand to those in need.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter and time spent with family and friends.

Three In A Row!



Stokes 2011

Star Hill 2012

Frear 2013

Allen Frear Elementary School Earns National Blue Ribbon Status

Allen Frear Elementary School in Camden has been recognized as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School!

“Our school motto “One Team, One Goal, No Limits!” is why we are a National Blue Ribbon School,” said Tara Faircloth, principal at Allen Frear. “Working as one team, we rely on each other with the same goal: ‘Success for all students!’ There are no limits to what Allen Frear students can achieve so we strive to involve everyone on our team so students get the best education. We are so incredibly proud of being proclaimed a National Blue Ribbon school!”



Since the National Blue Ribbon School program began 31 years ago, three other Caesar Rodney School District schools



Principal Tara Faircloth and staff announce being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School to students in Amanda Keppel's class.

have been chosen for this prestigious honor: Star Hill Elementary School in 2012, Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School in 2011 and Caesar Rodney High School in 1984.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in student achievement.

The program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. Allen Frear was selected in the “Exemplary High Performing” category.

Principal Faircloth and one teacher will attend the national awards ceremony in Washington D.C. in November.

Don't Text and Drive

Jennifer “The Grim Reaper” Bones recently visited with students at Caesar Rodney High School encouraging them to “Stay Alive,

Don't Text and Drive, It Can Wait.” During three lunch



periods, students from the Family Careers and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) manned a table encouraging students to pledge not to text while driving. The FCCLA students had just completed classroom presentations on the dangers of texting while driving.

Welch Administrators Go “Foggy” Greeting Students To School

Welch Elementary students recently held their Fall book fair. To help increase book sales and provide an incentive for students,



Mr. Payne and Ms. Miclette on roof in fog.

Principal Jason Payne and Assistant Principal Jean Miclette agreed to spend time on the school's roof greeting students as they arrived early in the morning. The book fair sold over \$6000 worth of books which is a new Welch record. The children were all surprised one morning to see Mr. Payne and Ms. Miclette living up to their end of the deal, waving from the roof, shrouded in a very dense morning fog.





High School Band Member to Perform on National Broadcast

The 2014 U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Tour recently visited Caesar Rodney High School where they announced that senior class member Elena Ramos, a clarinet Rider band member, has been selected to perform with the U.S. Army All-American Marching



Elena Ramos, center, is surrounded by U.S. Army representatives, CRHS band director DuWayne Sandlin and principal Elvina Knight.

Band at halftime during the nationally-broadcasted U.S. Army All-American Bowl. The game will be televised nationally on January 4, 2104 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Elena is one of only 125 band members from across the U.S. to be selected for this rare honor. We wish Elena well in her journey to Texas and look forward to seeing her performance at halftime.

Board Entertained by Reily Brown Chorus

At the recent October local school board meeting, members were treated to a surprise choral presentation by students in grades 3-5 of W. Reily Brown Elementary School. Many parents were on hand to watch their favorite singers perform their best. A special thanks to these children for their talented reception.



"Hotdogs For Heroes" A Hit At Welch

George Welch Elementary School's student council recently hosted a "Hotdogs For Heroes" event where more than 175 students, parents, aunt's uncles, grandparents, staff and airmen from Dover Air Force Base came together to "salute" the heroes in their lives.

Setting up a temporary outdoor theater to watch "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," Welch students bundled up in frigid temperatures to bond with their heroes.

"This is a great way to honor those who have made a wonderful impression in the lives of our students," said principal Jason Payne. "Since we don't have "Father/Daughter dances" or "Grandparent Breakfasts" because many of our student's fathers are deployed or grandparents live in other states, our student council thought this might be a good way of being able to show support and caring for those people in their lives they look up to." A simple way to say "Thank You."



"Daddy, You Are My Hero Today" t-shirt designed by a Welch student for her father.

Smokey The Bear Visits McIlvaine

A kindergarten student shakes hands with Smokey the Bear following his visit to the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. More

than 500 McIlvaine students took the "Smokey Pledge," stating: "I promise I will never play with matches." The



annual wildfire prevention program, sponsored by the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forest Service coincides with the observance of National Fire Prevention Month in October. Each student also received a gift bag of Smokey Bear school supplies.

“Go Pink” Campaign Huge Success

\$5500 Raised to Help CR Families Battling Cancer



The Caesar Rodney High School AFJROTC Program recently wrapped up a six-week "Go Pink" cancer awareness campaign, raising \$5455 in t-shirt sales, pink hair extensions, cookie sales as well as AFJROTC members seeking donations during sporting events.



Members of the CRHS AFJROTC Program take time from their awareness campaign to pose for a group photo.



Students at Postlethwait Middle School give a thumbs up to eradicate cancer and support the CR community.

The campaign ran in conjunction with the National Breast Cancer Awareness campaign. All monies raised will help support CR school district families dealing with the disease. “The outpouring of support from every school in the district as well as our CR family has been nothing short of incredible,” said Colonel Mitch Berger, USAF (Ret), Senior Aerospace Science Instructor with the AFJROTC program.



AFJROTC posts colors at Friday night's football game while another CR Rider seeks donations to help community members



Students at Fifer Middle show their support during the six-week cancer campaign.



Brown Elementary also showed their support by wearing pink and red to school.



CAESAR RODNEY HIGH INDUCTS 84 JUNIORS INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Eighty-four Caesar Rodney High School juniors have been inducted as members of the 92 year-old National Honor Society. Established in 1921 to recognize outstanding high school students, the National Honor Society honors those students who have demonstrated excellence in areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. All CRHS members are required to complete a mini-



mum of ten hours of community service each semester. Some community activities NHS members will be involved with this year include: Book Buddies; Allen Frear Academic Olympics; Homework Club Tutoring; Coastal Cleanup; Peer Tutoring; Parent Information Night; High School Orientation Night; and Summer Success Academy.

Shannon Lapinsky Earns Doctorate

Dr. Shannon Lapinsky was recently recognized for completing her Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Wilmington

University. Dr. Lapinsky is a special education and mathematics teacher at Fred Fifer III Middle School. Congratulations on a job well done!



GOING BATTY AROUND CR

Sometimes things can get pretty batty around the Caesar Rodney District. This was literally the case recently behind Charlton, Allen Frear, and Postlethwait schools where bats were migrating in the area of these schools. Facilities Management decided to give the bats a better place to roost by enlisting the help of Boy Scout Troop 24 based in Wyoming, led by Scout Master John Pearson.



Boy Scouts of Troop 24 pose with the six bat boxes they constructed to help relocate returning bats.

The Scouts enthusiastically constructed six bat boxes that will be home for the bats when they migrate back in the spring. The boxes will be put up beforehand in hopes the bats will find them a more desirable place to roost.

Alois Receives Jean Martin Award

The Diamond State Reading Association (DSRA) has announced that Christine Alois, Supervisor of Instruction with the Caesar Rodney School District has been awarded the annual Jean Martin Award in Literacy.

The award, named after the former officer of DSRA, is given to an education professional who is a DSRA member, has at least five years of teaching or administrative experience, is employed by an education organization, and shows significant leadership in the field of literacy. Congratulations, Christine, on this well-deserved recognition.





Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn Recognizes Simpson and Stokes Elementary Schools as Exemplary Performers



Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and Department of Education Secretary Mark Murphy recently announced that W.B. Simpson Elementary School is a 2013 winner of the state's Reward and Recognition School Award (formerly called an Academic Achievement Award). This award, which carries a \$50,000 prize, was created by legislation spearheaded by the Lt. Governor and passed by the Delaware General Assembly in 2009.

The awards are given (a) to schools whose students are performing at an exceptionally high level, particularly those schools with large percentages of students coming from low-income households, and (b) to schools that have succeeded in closing the achievement gap for students such as low-income students, students from minority groups, and students with disabilities. Winners were selected based on 2012-13 data.

Funding for this award comes from the state's Race To The Top grant. The winning schools have much discretion in deciding how to spend the money. As in years past, W.B. Simpson will appoint a committee (with administration, teacher, support staff and parent representation) to determine how the financial award will be used.

Lieutenant Governor Denn also announced that Nellie H. Stokes Elementary School is a 2013 "School of Continued Excellence." Stokes won an Academic Achievement Award last year and once again had outstanding performance again this year. However, Stokes is not eligible for a financial award, provided by the Race To The Top grant, until 2014.

CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Stage Crew & Thespians

Announces its 2013-2014 Season

*Charles Dickens'
A Christmas Carol*

Directed by Mr. John Muller

November 14th, 15th & 16th 7:30 PM

Tickets on sale at the door
\$6.00 (general) and \$4.00 (students/seniors)
Children under 5 are free.

*Rodgers' and Hammerstein's
The King and I*

Directed by Mr. Keith McCarthy

March 13th, 14th, & 15th 7:30 PM

Tickets on sale at the door
\$10.00 (general) and \$6.00 (students/seniors)
Children under 5 are free.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling
302-697-2161.

CR Teachers of the Year Honored



All 12 Caesar Rodney School District Building Teachers of the Year were recently honored at Maple Dale Country Club.





Traditional Homecoming Parade A Community Hit



“Principal For a Day” Program Celebrated at Frear Elementary

At Allen Frear Elementary School, Reverend John Moore, Vice President for Research Development with United Way, took time out of his busy schedule to participate in the statewide "Principal For a Day" program,



Reverend John Moore interacts with Allen Frear students during a classroom math lesson.

coordinated by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. The program offers area business and community leaders an opportunity to observe and interact in a school setting. Reverend Moore sat in on a PLC meeting with staff, toured the school with Principal Faircloth and observed Amanda Keppel's fifth grade class where he participated in an energetic math lesson.

CRHS Groundskeeper Honored

Joe Hock, outdoor field maintenance custodian for the athletic fields at Caesar Rodney High School has been selected as one of only five facility maintenance workers in Delaware to be recognized at the first annual OA Newton/Delaware



Association of Athletic Directors meeting. A retired Air Force veteran, Joe has been working the grounds of CRHS for the past nine years and is responsible for maintaining and cutting the athletic fields; painting lines on the fields, snow and trash removal, to name just a few. Congratulations to Joe for a job well done!

Association of Athletic Directors meeting. A retired Air Force veteran, Joe has been working the grounds of CRHS for the past nine years and is responsible for maintaining and cutting the athletic fields; painting lines on the fields, snow and trash removal, to name just a few. Congratulations to Joe for a job well done!

Kindergarteners Told To Run, Yell and Tell

Senior Corporal Alfonso Jones Officer Jones, Delaware State Police, recently stopped by the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center to discuss rules for trick-or-treating safety and “Stranger Danger.” Students learned rules such as:

always let an adult know where you are going, always take a buddy with you, and to “Run, Yell, and Tell” if you feel unsafe.



Officer Alfonso Jones stands behind McIlvaine students following his presentation to the school on being careful and safe.

George Welch Elementary Honors Our Veterans

Students in every grade at George Welch Elementary School, located on Dover Air Force Base, recently found a way to recognize veterans who have served in the

Armed Forces of the United States. From kindergarten through fifth grade, each class formed up in the shape of a heart wearing red in a symbolic gesture to thank all veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Photos from each grade were printed and each student was able to take one home to share with their families.



Go Riders!



Safety Patrol at Brown Pinned by Dover Police

W. Reily Brown Elementary recently held a Safety Patrol Installation Ceremony where Dover Police Department Corporals Lance Chandler and Derrik Lawson pinned safety patrol badges on 48 students.

The new safety patrol members vowed to report for duty on time; perform their duties faithfully; strive to prevent crashes and always setting a good example for themselves; obey teachers and officers of the patrol; report dangerous student practices and strive to earn the respect of fellow Reily Brown students.



Dover Police Department officers Chandler and Lawson pin a patrol badge on one of 48 Brown students.

Former CR Rider to Compete in 2016 Culinary Olympics

Joseph Albertelli, a 1997 CRHS graduate will be participating in the 2016 Culinary Olympics in 2016. One of 11 chefs from across the country selected for the renowned ACF Culinary Team USA, Mr. Albertelli is currently the executive chef at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y.

During the next few months, he will work with team coaches to represent the U.S. in its first international competition at the 2014 Villeroy & Boch Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg and the 2016 Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA), commonly referred to as the "culinary Olympics," in Erfurt, Germany.

The 11 chefs have already begun practicing for the Culinary World Cup to be held next November. We wish Joe all the best as he represents Team USA in 2014.

You're In Rider Country

Student Attendance Policy for the 2013-2014 School Year

Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, the State of Delaware has made changes to the attendance policy for all K-12 public schools:

- Compulsory attendance is required for all students in grades K through 12
- Schools will send letters to the student's residence at 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, and 20 unexcused absences.
- Schools will send letters at 10, 15, and 20 cumulative absences.
- Referral to the district visiting teacher is made at (10) unexcused days of absence
- Schools will send a certified letter to parents after 15 unexcused days of absence.
- Students and/or legal guardian by law must be referred to truancy court after 20 unexcused days of absence.
- The Caesar Rodney School District has the right after three or more unexcused days to make a truancy court referral per Delaware Code.
- A family trip form or leave request must be submitted one week prior to departure for permission for their child's absences to be excused
- A note must be submitted no later than two (2) days following the student's return to school from an absence.

You can access your students' grades and attendance on the Home Access Center (HAC) or call your child's school for more information.

400 Attend Breakfast/Book Fair at Simpson Elementary

More than 400 grandparents and students recently attended Simpson Elementary School's third annual Grandparents Breakfast and Book



Fair. Scholastic Inc. was on hand once again to sell children books to families and students. A portion of the \$7500 in sales will be given to the Simpson library. "Those funds will be used to sponsor author visits as well as purchase more books and supplies for our library," said librarian Jayne Stewart.