



THE CR REPORT

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

Your District-Wide Information Source

September 2013 Issue



Students arrive for their first day of class at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center in Magnolia. MECC is the largest full-day kindergarten program in the State of Delaware.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Photographs of events, ceremonies, celebrations and everyday life in all of our schools can be found on the Caesar Rodney School District website at:

<http://www.cr.k12.de.us/photos/photos.htm>

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community. For questions or comment, please contact Ron Gough at:
ronald.gough@cr.k12.de.us.

What's Happening?

Board Meetings (7:00 p.m.)

September 17: McIlvaine ECC

October 15: Brown Elementary School

November 19: Frear Elementary School

Special Events:

September 25: Interim Reports Issued

October 4: Homecoming Parade/Dance

October 5: Rider Pride Day

October 14: Columbus Day—Schools Closed

We Are Now On Facebook!



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

Message From the Superintendent

This past school year, 456 members of the Class of 2013 graduated from Caesar Rodney High School while another 16 students successfully completed our Charlton program. Of those students, many will attend college or enter the military and proudly serve our country. Others will join the work force, while for some success will take the form of being able to live independent productive lives. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them.



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

This past August 26th, 7,672 students walked through the doors of our schools to begin the new school year! As you are well aware, in education the future is now. It's each minute spent in a classroom; it's time spent on the playground, cafeteria or on the school bus. Our children face tests and challenges unlike ever before. These children will need guidance, support, encouragement and in some instances accommodations if they are to succeed. It will take the combined effort of this district, our parents and our entire community to ensure that each student has the type of education that places them at a level that allows them to compete in a global economy.

Last year, 100 students from both the McIlvaine ECC and Welch Elementary were part of the state's first Chinese immersion program. Students in our middle schools had the opportunity to take Spanish or Chinese online. Our high school students could choose more foreign language options than anyone in the state (Spanish, French, German, Latin, Chinese and Arabic).

This year we will expand our Chinese program into first grade at both Simpson and Frear while welcoming another 100 kindergarten students into the immersion program at McIlvaine. Our middle school language program will expand into the 8th grade and we will begin the process of planning a Spanish immersion program at McIlvaine for the 2014-15 school year.

We have developed and are in the process of refining our student gifted and enrichment program for all our students and have increased our teacher lead Advanced

Placement offerings so that students can earn college credits in over twenty courses.

Our goal continues to be simply this: our children will be prepared to compete worldwide in any job market. They will not only be prepared to enter a college or university in Delaware; they will be prepared to graduate from any college or university in the world.

I have always said that Caesar Rodney is so much more than just a school district. We are Academics, We are the Arts, We are Athletics and we are a place where students can learn in a positive Atmosphere. We are a place that cares about our children, whether in our classrooms or at home.

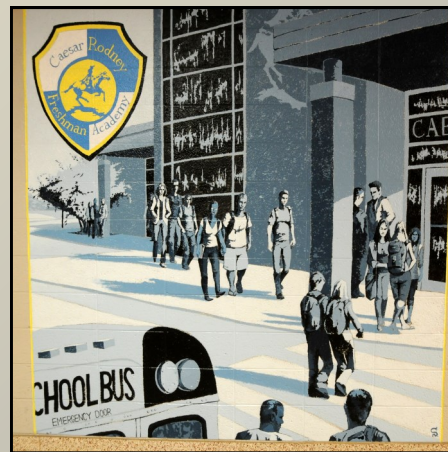
We belong to a partnership; a partnership that exists between us and our students, their parents and our community; a partnership which has always been the foundation of this district. At its core is the trust and belief that we will keep our children safe from harm, that they are cared for in a nurturing environment and that they will be challenged to the utmost of their ability. It is a partnership in which we as educators are not only called upon to teach, but to shape, guide and nurture.

We are committed to doing what it takes to help our children - but our success as a school district - our children's success - and ultimately our community's success - will only take place if our partnership continues to grow and our committed to each child's education remains strong!

I wish each of our educators, all of our parents and every student a wonderful, successful school year.

Wall Mural Graces Entrance To Freshman Academy

An 8 X 8 foot wall mural painted during the summer by art teacher Rob Sample is the first thing you see as you approach the Freshman Academy wing at Caesar Rodney High School. Having spent seven years teaching art at the high school, Mr. Sample gave up two weeks of his summer vacation to create the mural and capture the spirit of the Freshman Academy. Thank you!



Third Annual Success Academy a Huge “Success”

More than 300 incoming freshman gave up two weeks of their summer vacation to participate in Caesar Rodney School District's *Success Academy*. The two-week program allows volunteer students to become acclimated to their new high school environment. Meeting their fellow classmates and assigned teachers before the opening bell of the 2013-2014 school year helps to alleviate the anxiety of transitioning from middle school to high school.

This year's *Success Academy* was once again a huge success according to feedback received by students, staff and parents at Caesar Rodney High School.

The *Success Academy* is part of Caesar Rodney School District's Race To The Top initiative.

“The Success Academy once again provided a great experience for our incoming Freshman class,” said Assistant Principal Dr. Kevin Long. “The Academy continued to deliver academic curriculum with a focus on reading and writing as well as establishing the importance of teamwork, peer and teacher bonding, and Rider Pride. With this year's theme being Global Awareness, field trips included Killens Pond State Park, Delaware Agriculture Museum, Fifer Orchards, Junior Achievement, Barnes & Noble and Tuckahoe State Park.”



One team-oriented task was to fill a tall water pipe with water while trying to stop the massive leaks in the cylinder.



A lot of teamwork was required to successfully escape from a spider web without touching any strands.

Chinese Dual Immersion Program Expands

Last year, 100 of Caesar Rodney School District's “Littlest Riders” immersed themselves in a one-of-a-kind program that offered Chinese literacy, mathematics, science and social studies during one half of the academic day and then English Language Arts, science and social studies in the second half of the day.

Known as the Chinese Dual Immersion

Program, the split Chinese/English school day was initially offered at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center.



Now, in 2013, those 100 students have since moved on to first grade at either Allen Frear or W. B. Simpson Elementary schools. Add to that a new kindergarten class of 100 more students at McIlvaine, there are now 200 students in grades K-1 immersed in the Dual Chinese Immersion Program. Ni Hao!

Rider Pride Day, October 5th





New Principals and Assistants For the 2013-2014 School Year



Dr. Susan Frampton, Principal
W. Reily Brown Elementary School



Derek Prillaman, Principal
Niel Postlethwait Middle School



Jason Payne, Principal
George Welch Elementary School



Dr. Kristina Failing
Assistant Principal
Postlethwait Middle School



Larry Friend
Assistant Principal
Caesar Rodney High School



Dr. Kevin Long
Assistant Principal
Caesar Rodney High School

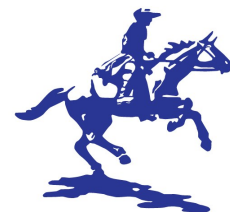


Julia Walls
Assistant Principal
Allen Frear Elementary

Did You Know?

Last year, more than 9300 pictures of Caesar Rodney students and teachers were posted during the 2012-2013 school year. With a new school year now underway, you can look at events in our schools by going to the Caesar Rodney School District and clicking on "New Photos From Around the District" or going to the following link:

<http://www.cr.k12.de.us/photos/photos.htm>



First Day of School Begins For 7800 Riders





College and Career Readiness Updates

Student Access Portal

Parents, do you need more information on College and Career Readiness for your student(s)? Do you want to be able to support their learning at home? In order to tie together many of our learning programs and College and Career Readiness information, the district is using the "Student Access Portal" at: <https://www.cr.k12.de.us/portal/>. This website will provide one place for all the online learning across our district as we provide 24 hour access with students' own time, pace and place. Please bookmark this site on your home computer and phone.

Advanced Placement Updates

Across the district, our success at expanding both access and success in the Advance Placement program continues. Over the past two years, (2011-2013), some of the results have been:

- the number of students in the AP program increased from 270 to 376 (a 39% increase)
- the number tests taken increased from 393 to 603 (a 53% increase)
- the number of AP scholars increased from 36 to 66 (a 83% increase)

This year we have welcomed two new courses to our high school: AP Chinese and AP Human Geography. Also, AP Human Geography is our first AP course that is available to 9th grade students.

Saving for College

Many families rank saving for college as a top priority, yet sometimes this goal goes unrealized. Saving for college should start as early as possible and contributions should occur often. One important plan is a Delaware 529 college savings. The power of this plan lies with the power of long term investing.

This plan is open to any resident in the State of Delaware and is designed to provide a flexible, tax-advantaged account with regular deductions and low contribution amounts. Money can be auto-deducted and put into these plans on a pre-tax basis and grow tax free. Qualified expenses are also tax free! Monthly contributions start as low as \$15 a month and money can be contributed by any family member.

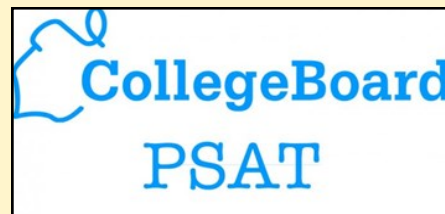
For more information, please visit Delaware's plan sponsor at: <https://www.fidelity.com/delaware-529/>



PSAT Updates

This year, all 9th, 10th and 11th grade students will take the PSAT on October 16th. This national test measures critical reading, math and writing skills your child has developed over many years.

Students will also recall facts from literature, history, or science, or complete math formulas, since this test measures reasoning and critical thinking.



This test is a primary indicator of our student College and Career preparedness. By taking this test, students also become eligible for National Merit Scholarships (www.nationalmerit.org).

At CRHS, each student in grades 9, 10, and 11 will receive a free "Official Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT". This booklet explains the seven types of questions students will see on the test as well as a complete practice test with answer key. This will also be used by teachers to help students understand the test and the importance of doing well.

For preparation and skill information, please visit the student portal or www.collegeboard.org/psat and www.collegeboard.org/psatskills.

College Quick Start

This program is an online college and career planning tool available free of charge to any student who takes the PSAT/NMSQT. Once scores are released, it is powered by student responses to the test, and provides personalized information that helps take the next steps towards college. Resources include an online score report, study plan, personality test, career exploration, and college matches. For more information, go to: www.collegeboard.org/quickstart

Go Riders

Varsity Sports Programs Now Underway

Remaining Soccer Schedule

Sept 21 @ Charter
 Sept 24 **SEAFORD**
 Sept 26 Laurel (4:00 pm)
 Oct 1 **SMYRNA**
 Oct 3 @ Cape Henlopen
 Oct 8 @ Milford
 Oct 10 **LAKE FOREST**
 Oct 15 @ Glasgow
 Oct 17 @ Dover
 Oct 22 **MIDDLETOWN**
 Oct 24 **SUSSEX CENT.**
 Oct 29 @ Appoquinimink

Remaining Field Hockey Schedule

Sept 19 @ Sussex Central
 Sept 24 @ Indian River
 Sept 27 @ Caravel (3:45 pm)
 Sept 28 **DELMAR** (11:00 am)
 Oct 1 @ Lake Forest
 Oct 3 **DOVER**
 Oct 8 @ Laurel
 Oct 10 **MILFORD**
 Oct 15 @ Seaford
 Oct 17 @ Cape Henlopen
 Oct 24 **SUSSEX TECH**

Remaining Football Schedule

Sept 20 **HODGSON**
 Sept 27 @ Cape Henlopen
 Oct 4 **POLYTECH**
 Oct 11 @ Sussex Central
 Oct 18 **SUSSEX TECH**
 Oct 25 **St. MARKS**
 Nov 1 @ Smyrna
 Nov 8 **DOVER**

Remaining Volleyball Schedule

Sept 19 **SMYRNA**
 Sept 23 @ Sanford (3:45 pm)
 Sept 24 **SUSSEX CENTRAL**
 Sept 26 **SEAFORD**
 Oct 1 @ Indian River
 Oct 3 @ Milford
 Oct 10 @ Lake Forest
 Oct 15 **WOODBRIIDGE**
 Oct 17 @ **POLYTECH**
 Oct 22 @ Cape Henlopen
 Oct 24 @ Dover

Go Riders



Thirty-five of Caesar Rodney School District's newest teachers take time out from meetings and briefings prior to the first day of school. These new teachers, some with prior experience in other school districts and states, are more than eager to begin the new 2013-2014 school year.

Backpack Donation

Human Resources Specialist Sandy Donnelly and Site Manager Brian Ruggles from Fluor ISA in Edgemoor stand between Caesar Rodney Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and Executive Assistant Tamara Toles-Torain with 75 backpacks which will be distributed to underprivileged children in grades K-5 in the CR school district. Donations collected by Fluor employees, many who live in the community, paid for the backpacks which are filled with school supplies including paper, pens, pencils, glue sticks, markers and scissors. We thank the Fluor employees for their generosity.



“Grandparents Day” Celebrated at Frear

On Monday, more than 300 grandparents and great-grandparents went back to school! However, they didn't come to study; they came to offer hugs, smiles and support for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren attending Allen Frear Elementary School. National Grandparents Day was created in 1978; this is the second year that Frear Elementary has reached out to their community. "The wonderful support of our community was evident today as hundreds of grandparents came to Frear to interact and share quality time with their grandchildren," said principal Tara Faircloth. "It was a cheerful and happy experience for our students and we look forward to inviting our grandparents back again next year."





Rider Pride Weekend Fast Approaching

Caesar Rodney School District's Rider Pride weekend is soon approaching as details and planning are all coming together for another spectacular weekend.

It all starts with the annual Homecoming Parade which begins on Friday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m. marching through Main Street in Camden-Wyoming and ending at Caesar Rodney High School. Floats, bands, squads, groups and community support apparatus are all part of the hugely popular parade.

Following the parade, the CRHS varsity football team takes on POLYTECH

dubbed "Riders Rumble in the POLYTECH Jungle" football game beginning at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, October 5th, the sixth annual "Rider Pride Day" at Caesar Rodney High School begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 2:00 p.m. More than thirty



vendors are expected to attend along with student performances, petting zoo, face painting, displays and emergency response vehicles.

Saturday evening, the Modern Maturity Center in Dover will be the site for the annual semi-formal "Homecoming Dance" which will run from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at these events showing "Rider Pride!"

CRHS AFJROTC To Help Promote Breast Cancer Awareness

The Caesar Rodney High School AFJROTC Program is conducting a Family Breast Cancer Awareness Drive to draw attention to the fight against Breast Cancer. The program, now in its second year, raises awareness through the sale of hot pink CR Family Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts.



All proceeds from the sale of these shirts will be donated to members of the CR Family affected by cancer. Last year the drive raised in excess of \$3,800 for the families of students and staff within the district.

The sale of the new shirts will run from September 16th through October 25th. Shirts can be purchased at any CRHS home football games or by contacting the AFJROTC Program at the high school. The cost of the t-shirts is \$10 apiece for sizes XS thru XL; \$12 apiece for XXL & XXXL.

Anyone who purchases a shirt or has anything pink is asked to wear it to school on Friday, October 25th and to the "PINK OUT!" football game that evening at Caesar Rodney High School. Our goal is to completely fill the stands with pink and show support for all those affected by Breast Cancer. Tickets for the game can be purchased at the gate.

To place orders, contact Jay Wedel at jon.wedel@cr.k12.de.us or call 302-697-2161 ext. 1054 to submit and order. Checks should be made payable to: CRHS AFJROTC Program



We thank you, the Caesar Rodney community, for your support of the Caesar Rodney School District Facebook page. To date, we are approaching 1,000 "Likes" while the number of hits on our four-month old page has exceeded 110,000 "views!" We will continue to provide you with up-to-date information regarding our schools and district.

"Like" Caesar Rodney School District