



THE CR REPORT

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

Your District-Wide Information Source

June 2013 Issue



More than 1,000 students graduated from Caesar Rodney High School, McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, the Charlton School and Welch kindergarten



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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:
ronald.gough@cr.k12.de.us.

What's Happening?

Board Meetings

July 9: District Office 6:00 p.m.

July 16: District Office 7:00 p.m.

August: Date//Location To Be Determined

Special Events:

June 18: First Day of Summer School

July 4 : Independence Day

July 25: Last Day of Summer School

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 the Teachers and Staff Across CR*

As the 2012-2013 school year comes to a close, it is time to celebrate and reflect upon some recent accomplishments of our students and staff.

On June 1st, 431 students walked across the field at Rider Stadium and received their high school diplomas. This was the second largest graduating class in the history of the school district. More than \$1.75 million in scholarships have been awarded to those students who will continue their education at institutes of higher learning.

Other students will make us proud by volunteering to serve our nation as members of all five branches of this country's armed services: the U.S. Army; U.S. Air Force; U.S. Marine Corps; U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard. Several students will attend the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point. Other students have plans to enter the local workforce.

We are proud we are of these young men and women and of their accomplishments. They represent what it means to be a "Rider" and we know they will do great things as alumni of the best high school in the State of Delaware.

We also celebrated three other graduations in the district. At the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, 483 of Caesar Rodney School District's "Littlest Riders" graduated and another 68 students from the George Welch kindergarten program on Dover Air Force Base.

The third graduation occurred at the John S. Charlton School where 16 young men and women were recognized for their achievement and perseverance. These students attended classes at the Charlton School in Camden, on the campus of Wesley College and the campus of Delaware State University. I wish these students all the best as they move on.

I would also like to congratulate our Boys track team for winning Caesar Rodney's first ever Boys State championship and the high school's golf team for their

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Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

third consecutive State championship. Great job!

Unfortunately, amid our celebrations we received tragic news this June. United States Army Warrant Officer Sean Mullen (CRHS Class of 1992) lost his life while serving his third tour of duty in Afghanistan. Our hearts are heavy by this tragedy and extend our deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.

Once again, I want to thank our community, our parents, students and staff for making 2012-2013 an exceptional year and for once again proving that the Caesar Rodney School District is the best in Delaware.

Have a great summer!

Warrant Officer Sean Mullen Killed in Afghanistan; Graduated from CRHS Class of 1992

United States Army Warrant Officer Sean Mullen died recently following an explosion from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). A Caesar Rodney High School graduate of the Class of 1992, Warrant Officer Mullen was on his sixth deployment overseas to Southwest Asia and had served tours in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He enlisted in 1995 and rose through the enlisted ranks to become a warrant officer in November 2012.

"Our hearts break for his family and on behalf of our state, we offer them our deepest gratitude and sympathy," said Governor Jack Markell said as he ordered all U.S. and state flags to fly at half mast in honor of a fallen Rider—Warrant Officer Sean Mullen.

Rest In Peace



The CRHS flag flies at half-staff in honor of U.S. Army Warrant Officer Sean Mullen

You're In Rider Country

Andrea LaMotte Selected As Caesar Rodney School District's Teacher of the Year

Andrea LaMotte, a grade 6-8 special education teacher at the John S. Charlton School in Camden-Wyoming has been selected as Caesar Rodney School District's Teacher of the Year for 2012-2013.

With eight years teaching experience, Andrea received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Asbury College in Kentucky and a Master of Education from Wilmington University. Following her graduation from Wilmington University, Andrea began working at the Charlton Program. She currently teaches special needs children off-site at Postlethwait Middle School in Camden in areas of English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Vocational Training and Life Skills.



Andrea LaMotte smiles as a student accomplishes a task in her classroom

When asked why she wanted to enter the teaching profession, Andrea stated, "I have always wanted to be a teacher. When I was a child, my sisters and I would spend countless hours playing school in the basement of our house. Growing up in my family, I learned the value of a good education and the impact a teacher can make." Added Andrea, "The excellent teachers that influenced my life instilled in me a desire to develop a classroom where students would enjoy school while being challenged to do their best and gain self-confidence that would assist them to accomplish anything they desired in life."

Prior to working at the Charlton Program, Andrea taught English and worked with special needs children in India and Nepal. Her desire to work with children with disabilities strengthened her passion to dedicate her career with students requiring special services. "The more interaction I had with children with disabilities, the more my love and compassion for these children and their families grew, said Andrea."

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.

Andrea will now compete against 18 other school district Teacher of the Year nominees for the honor of becoming the State's 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year. That announcement will be made by Governor Jack Markell in October in Dover.





Sixteen Graduate From the Charlton School



Sixteen students, including one student who passed away during the 2012-2013 school year, have graduated from the John S. Charlton School. Opening ceremonies included the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance by Jonathan Stamm and the singing of "America The Beautiful" by Cierra Bolden. Guest speaker was Christopher Smith who graduated from the Charlton Program in 2012. Students from the Transition Partnership Project also performed a musical presentation to honor the graduates.



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 is the 79th 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 uphold 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 honor 66 seniors (35 female and 31 males) who will all attend college after graduation. Good luck to each in their academic journey and future success!

“Littlest Riders” Graduate From MECC

483 Kindergarteners Walk Across Bridge of Learning



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GO RIDERS!



Caesar Rodney High School



ool Graduates 431 Seniors



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Senator Carper Visits Star Hill Elementary

Senator Tom Carper stopped by Star Hill Elementary School recently to congratulate the students and staff on



receiving both the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School award and the Superstars in Education recognition.

Senator Carper met with staff for a roundtable discussion of best practices then visited several classrooms to talk with students about the importance of receiving this award.

Eagle Scout Improves Grounds Around W. Reily Brown

Zach Clendenin, a former student at W. Reily Brown, is an Eagle Scout candidate with more than 50 merit badges earned over a ten-year span. Needing to oversee a community project, Zach chose to give back to his former school by supervising a landscaping project involving more than 30 volunteer scouts and parents.

They planted flowers and small plants around the marquee sign, mulch and plants near the flagpoles and also created raised beds that houses flowers and vegetables. Thank you, Zach!



Last day at McIlvaine Early Childhood Center as students wait for their parents to pick them up



Students and staff from Star Hill, Welch and Stokes Elementary Schools warm up as part of the "Girls On The Run" (GOTR) program, whose purpose of the program is to inspire girls to be healthy and confident using a fun, experienced-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.



Two workers from Kent Signs install a new electronic bulletin board in front of W.B. Simpson Elementary School.



Staff from Frear take a pie-in-the-face from a well coordinated frontal assault by students during the closing days of the 2012-2013 school year.

Caesar Rodney and NASCAR: Riding Together



In early July of 1776, Caesar Rodney jumped on his horse and rode to Philadelphia to cast his vote for the Declaration of Independence. Top speed? A blistering 30 miles per hour!

Turn the clock ahead 237 years later where Tony Stewart climbs into his #14 Chevrolet and rides 400 miles to victory lane at Dover International Speedway (DIS) at an average speed of just under 160 mph.

So, what does Caesar Rodney and NASCAR have in common? Aside from a vast superiority in horsepower over the years, it is the hard work, long hours and valued support of the Caesar Rodney community that helps bring NASCAR twice annually to Delaware.

Three thousand employees, volunteers, booster clubs, organizations, squadrons and charities work side-by-side helping with parking, ticket sales, food services, media, security, hospitality, transportation and merchandise sales, staffed by many Caesar Rodney alumna work at both the Speedway and at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino.

Gary Camp is Senior Director of Communications for DIS. A graduate of CRHS Class of 1995, Gary is responsible for coordinating the racetrack's public relations efforts including cultivating promotional opportunities with local, regional and national media. His responsibilities also include writing news releases, speeches and executive presentations, e-newsletters, e-mail blasts, website content, souvenir program content, customer communications, fan guides, media guides, brochures and ticket inserts. On race weekend, he is also responsible for media center operations.

Camp has been named the NASCAR Public Relations Representative of the Year as well as the Kent County Tourism Person of the Year.

Emily Fitzgerald, a graduate of CRHS Class of 2008, is a Database Analyst for the marketing department at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, but on race weekends she spends her time in the hospitality suites towering high above the front stretch of the "Monster Mile."

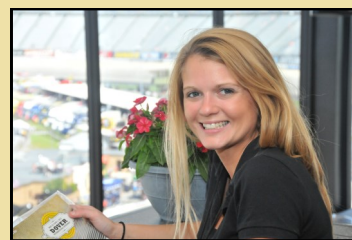
Emily began working for Dover Downs in 2011 and
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Gary Camp (center) talks with race fans during race weekend.

helps coordinates activities in the premiere suites.

"We provide quality services to our clients to ensure they have the ultimate racing experience, from food and



Emily Fitzgerald delivers updated race info to suite guests.

beverages to programs and updated race information as well as a spectacular view of the race in its entirety," said Fitzgerald.

While Camp and Fitzgerald work daily at the



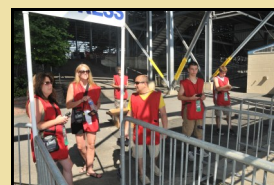
Cheerleaders and moms work the "Monster Mile" vendor tent.

giant speedway, hotel and casino, thousands more converge on race weekend to volunteer their time for their boosters, teams and clubs.

Nearly 25 CRHS cheerleaders and moms worked race weekend with all hourly earnings going to the booster club. "The funds raised are used to help alleviate the financial strain for parents and to support the cheer program," said Jennifer Lyles, head Junior Varsity cheerleading coach.

"Working the races provides each cheerleader an opportunity to earn a yearly \$250 scholarship upon graduation. However, the student must remain in good standing and eligible to cheer for their squad during the school year. Funds raised are also used to offset fees for competition, summer camp, camp gear and gifts at the end of the year for the students that worked the races."

"The CR wrestling team work gates scanning tickets, checking coolers and backpacks and provide an additional layer of security to race weekend," said



Getting ready to check tickets at Gate 3

Tony DeVary, who has worked the racetrack for more than 17 years. "The money earned goes towards uniforms, trips, camps and scholarships. It's a win-win situation for all involved."



English and Math Curriculum Part of Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards have been adopted by the Delaware State Board of Education as the intended curriculum for all English and math teaching and learning in the state. These standards were jointly produced by the Council of Chief School State Officers and the National Governors



Association and represent a fundamental change in education across the U.S. towards preparing students for the skills they need to be college or career ready.

Additionally, this is a state-led effort to establish a single set of clear educational standards for English Language Arts and mathematics that states can share and voluntarily adopt. Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards. Go to <http://www.corestandards.org> for more information.



In the 2014-2015 school year, all Delaware students will take part in the Smarter Balanced test. This computer adapted, computerized test is similar to our current DCAS test, but represents a change because it matches the skills of the Common Core State Standards. This next generation assessment will help evaluate how well students know the standards in each unit as well as how prepared they are for life after high school.

What do the CCSS and the Next Generation Assessments mean for our district? In preparing for these standards and this test, the Caesar Rodney School District, building teachers and leaders are participating in Department of Education trainings

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called Common Ground for the Common Core. This 18 month effort involves participating and sharing with other districts and integrating the state, district and school planning processes to reach all the way down to the individual classrooms. One of the requirements of these state trainings is that each building is required to develop a Common Core implementation plan around three goals. They are:

- Identify and develop school structures to build and support school-wide Common Core Culture
- Ensure that all educators implement instructional practices aligned to the Common Core Standards to improve student learning
- Utilize formative and summative assessments aligned to the Common Core standards to inform instruction and ensure student growth

As these trainings unfold and the plans are developing, this is matched with our own district processes that must give credit to the teams of teachers that are currently working to align our best teaching practices and strategies.

As our curriculum develops over the 2013-2014 school year, we will align our teaching practices ahead of the first administration of the next generation assessment in the 2014-2015 school years. When developed, these transition units will be accessible to every teacher through our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Also, our technology team is evaluating our current technology readiness to ensure all students will continue to have every opportunity to succeed on these tests with the training and support they need.

What does this mean for our community? Tackling the challenges of the CCSS and developing a stronger community are all our responsibilities. The first part to developing college and career ready students is to simply develop our knowledge about what these standards mean for our students and how we can help them succeed. One source of information developed by the Council for Great City Schools are these videos and parent roadmaps that highlight some of the facts of the CCSS.

For more information on these assessments, go to:

<http://vimeo.com/51933492>

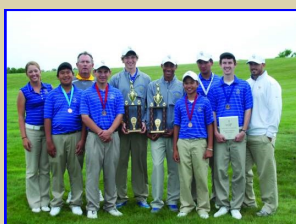
<http://vimeo.com/51947947> (in Spanish)

<http://www.cgcs.org/Domain/36>

Go Riders!

Caesar Rodney Sports Teams Capture State Championships and Individual Honors in 2013

It has been a very good year for the Caesar Rodney golf team as well as the boys track and field team. At the recent DIAA team state tournament, the CR golf team captured its third straight DIAA team state championship at the Rock Manor Country Club in Wilmington, crushing their second place competition by 18 strokes. It's the fifth state title for the Rider team and the first time CR has won three championships in a row. Along with defending state champion Joe Visalli, team member Samantha Leite is the highest female medalist in state history. That combination has helped to propel the Caesar Rodney High School team to its third straight State title.



Courtesy Delaware State News

Keeping championship streaks alive was also the mission of the Caesar Rodney High School boys track and field competitions as both the indoor and spring teams each captured the Henlopen Conference championship as well as the State championship. For the spring team, this is the first championship in the 70 year history of the competition while the indoor team claimed its first championship as well.



Photo courtesy of Chris Hurd

Individually, in girl's soccer, the accolades for Alexis "Lexi" Prillaman keep mounting. Lexi has been selected as the Delaware State Player of the Year (selected by the DE high school girls soccer coaches association); NSCAA High School All-American (National Soccer Coaches Association of America); Delaware Gatorade Player of the Year (selected by USA Today/Gatorade); Henlopen Conference Player of the Year (second year for this award); and leading scorer in the state with 38 goals (second year as leading scorer). In her three years playing at CR, Lexi has scored 96 goals.



Photo courtesy of the Delaware State News

Volunteer Tea Party

Simpson Elementary hosted a volunteer "Tea Party" to show thanks for more than 100 community members who provided their support and time to the school during 2012-2013.



Teacher Goes Beardless For Students

As part of an incentive, Stokes Elementary School teacher Kevin Truitt vowed to not shave his beard until his class met both AYP and their individual growth goals on DCAS (despite protests from his wife). As students finished up their DCAS tests and their scores rolled in, his beard progressively disappeared. The good news is that first photo is the "before" shot and the last photo is the "after" picture. We hear Mrs. Truitt likes the "new" Mr. Truitt.



Annual Welch Career Fair Exhibits Job Pathways

Seventeen presenters recently showed their "stuff" to fifth graders at Welch Elementary. At the annual fair, police, fire and medical staff demonstrated their tools of their trades. Photography, horticulture, pest management, fitness and health were also present to explain their career fields to students.



A classmate snares his friend in a giant butterfly net.





CRHS Student Travels To Africa For Documentary; Will Air On Television in July

Janet Goldsboro, a junior at Caesar Rodney High School looks just like any other student sitting in a room with her classmates. However, during her childhood and as a young African-American girl, she always felt that she was being made fun of because of the way she looked because she had "...dark features, dark hair, dark eyes, big nose and big lips," said Janet.

Roll the clock ahead several years later where Janet decides to attend the "Black Girls Rock" camp in Brooklyn, New York, a non-profit program including a summer leadership program, supported by Proctor and Gamble's "My Black Is Beautiful" initiative. "In order to get in, I had to submit a testimonial and video about myself," said Janet. A few weeks later, the camp called asking her if she would be willing to attend, all expenses paid. "I was a little nervous to go because I am real close with my mother, Tamantha, and don't like leaving her," said Janet. "But at the same time, I wanted some change and this was a great opportunity for me. My mother agreed."



The camp, two weeks long, offered numerous programs and workshops and seminars where she had to present her testimonial about herself, including things she has been through as a young female African American. "In these sessions, we were able to find strength among ourselves."

Just one month later, Janet received a call that a film director wanted to make a story out of the video she had submitted earlier. They talked with her mother and explained they wanted to take Janet to South Africa to film the documentary, co-directed by Shola Lynch who produced a documentary about Angela Davis, an American political activist and Lisa Cortes, executive director for the Oscar-winning movie "Precious." The documentary would focus on media images of rail-thin white women being the standard of beauty and how that can make black women, particularly

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curvy ones, feel inadequate and unaccepted. At first, her mother said no, but soon capitulated since this was an opportunity of a lifetime for her daughter to see the world and to share her story with black youth.

When Janet arrived, filming started almost immediately. "We walked through markets in Johannesburg where we learned about people trying to bleach their skin. "People will try to make their skin lighter because they feel any society will accept blond hair, blue-eyed fair skinned people over people with dark skin."

"Even though the documentary is about my life," said Janet, "when young black girls see it, it will hopefully touch their lives and let them know they are not alone."

Janet returned from South Africa and settled right back in at Caesar Rodney High School with her classmates. She has been offered a \$5,000 scholarship from the "My Black Is Beautiful" initiative to help her with college expenses should she decide to attend higher education in the future.

"My dream is to one day own my own magazine called 'Nubian Beauty' for young black girls who have struggled with their skin complexion. I want black girls to love who they are and how God made them and that they are special just like any other race and culture."

The documentary will air on Friday, July 5th at 10:00 pm on the Black Entertainment Television (BET) network.

Farewell to School Board Vice President Dave Henderson

The Caesar Rodney School District, the Caesar Rodney School Board and the Caesar Rodney community bid farewell to Dave Henderson.

For ten years, Dave served as president, vice-president and as a board member. Dave was actively involved in the renovation of four district elementary schools and provided leadership and oversight to the largest school district in Kent County.



Left to Right: Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald; Melody Heavner; Kathleen Haynes; Dave Henderson; Bill Bush III; and Cheryl Precourt.