



THE CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUARTERLY "Where Excellence is Our Tradition" CR REPORT

Your District-Wide Information Source

April 2013 Issue



Left:
Senator Tom Carper Visits
McIlvaine Chinese Dual
Immersion Program.

Right:
Civil Rights Icon
Ruby Bridges Talks to
Students at Simpson.



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DID YOU KNOW?

More than **5000** pictures of ceremonies, events, 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>

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.)

April 16: Star Hill Elementary
May 21: John S. Charlton School
June 19: W. Reily Brown Elementary

Special Events:

May 1: Interim Reports Issued
May 27: Memorial Day-Schools Closed
May 29: McIlvaine ECC Graduation
June 1: CR High School Graduation



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.



Message From the Superintendent

A lot has certainly gone on in the Caesar Rodney School District since the last issue of the CR Report was published just 60 days ago. First, 12 outstanding teachers have been selected by their peers, their students and by parents, as their building Teacher of the Year." From those outstanding educators, we will soon select our "2013-14 District Teacher of the Year" who



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

will represent our district in Delaware's "State Teacher of the Year" competition. Biographies of each "Building Teacher of the Year" can be found on pages 3-5 of this issue of the CR Report.

In this issue you will also find a full page dedicated to our efforts in preparing our students for "college and career readiness." As part of Delaware's Race To the Top initiative, Caesar Rodney has increased our number of Advanced Placement offerings, brought world language to our middle schools and Early Childhood Center and we have initiated an enrichment program to meet the needs of our gifted students. Our goal is to provide each student with an education that will prepare them for whatever future they may choose.

I wish to commend the PTO of Simpson Elementary School, along with Mr. Kijowski and his staff, for inviting Ruby Bridges, a civil rights icon, to visit with the students at Simpson Elementary. Her story of acceptance resonated with everyone who attended the assemblies.

Other distinguished visitors to the district included:

- Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, who stopped by for an informal lunch with the student council at Stokes Elementary to get the student's perspective on what made their school a 2012 Recognition School.
- Senator Tom Carper visited the Chinese Immersion program at McIlvaine and then visited Caesar Rodney High School to check out the school's award winning Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) program. He also surprised the AFJROTC program and congratulated them on their recent fifth-place results in national drill competition.
- State Senator Dave Lawson and his Legislative Assistant Heather Lehman (CR Class of 2007) visited our district to explore recent security upgrades in our buildings following the horrific shootings in Newtown Connecticut.

(continued next column)

I am proud to say that CR students and staff have once again been recognized for their hard work, innovation and talent: Star Hill Elementary has been recognized with a "Superstars in Education" award for reading proficiency; Allen Frear has been recognized with the "Lt. Governor's Excellence in Parental Involvement Award"; our AFJROTC Drill Team finished fifth in the nation for their performance in the Air Force National Drill Competition; the high school's Junior Achievement program received a check from the Roy Klein Foundation; and our high school principal, Mrs. Elvina Knight, was recognized as the FCCLA Administrator of the Year Award.

But of all of our wonderful awards and recognition, I am most proud of the work done by Mrs. Julie McParlin and the 80 high school students who volunteered their time to provide coaching and support for our Charlton students who participated in the annual Caesar Rodney Basketball Special Olympics. More than 180 athletes came together at Caesar Rodney High School to compete and have fun in a day filled with beaming smiles, high-fives and gold, silver and bronze medals. A proud day to be a Rider!

Four CRHS Academic Scholars to Attend Secretary of Ed Banquet

Four seniors will represent Caesar Rodney High School at the Secretary of Education's Scholar's Banquet on April 29th at Dover Downs. The students were selected by their principal based upon their academic performance as well as community service and service to CRHS.

Since 1984, Delaware's Secretary of Education has honored top students from Delaware's public high schools for their many academic achievements. The number of scholars from each school is calculated based on the school's student enrollment. The principal then completes a nomination package for each scholar including a one hundred word narrative citing the student's qualifications for this prestigious honor.

"These students are truly among the "best of the best" of the graduating class of 2013," said CRHS principal Elvina



Left to Right: Samantha Leite; Jackie Mihok; Kevin Dunkleberger; and Max Wilt will attend the Delaware Secretary of Education's Banquet.

Knight. "Each of them are remarkable in their own way and I wish each of them much success in their academic journeys."

Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

Katie Comegys

Katie Comegys is a grade 6 social studies teacher at F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School. With six years experience, Katie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Social Studies from the University of Delaware and a



Master of Education in Instruction from Wilmington University. "As a teacher, I have provided my students a loving environment while teaching them the information and skills that they'll need to be successful. I am a firm believer in the fact that students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. I see students out and about that I had years ago; they come up to me, update me on their current grades, friends, boy/girlfriends, accomplishments, social lives, etc. I feel so privileged that I know these young people and even more privileged to know that they have the desire to address me in public. I feel that the relationships I have made with my students are of the utmost importance."

Dawn Dick

Dawn Dick is a first grade Elementary Education Reading Specialist at Nellie Stokes Elementary School. Dawn has 14 years of teaching experience and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Villanova University and a Masters in Reading



from Wilmington University. "Recently I was sitting in my classroom when a young woman dressed in army fatigues walked into my class. She looked familiar but I couldn't place her face. As she approached me, my mouth dropped. This was a student I taught my very first year teaching. We immediately hugged and she said she was in the school to watch her brother graduate from fifth grade but she wanted to stop and visit with the staff. I was touched to say the least when she said I was one of her favorite teachers. I could say that I have helped to mold our future and have educated the future leaders but I believe my greatest contribution in teaching is making an impact on a child's life."

Joy Eanes

Joy Eanes teaches eighth grade social studies to special needs students at Fred Fifer Middle School in Camden. With 11 years teaching experience, Joy earned a Bachelors degree



in Education and a Master of Education from the University of Delaware. "I became a teacher to encourage middle school students to

overcome their obstacles with self-confidence and hard work. The small incidental moments in a child's life can make all the difference to their self worth. I am here to help children become kind, thoughtful, happy adults who can accept challenges and solve problems. One person put my life on the right track in eighth grade, and I continue to teach hoping I can provide others the encouragement they need for a successful life."

Amanda Fesel

Amanda Fesel is a fourth grade teacher at Star Hill Elementary School in Dover. With nine years teaching experience, Amanda received a Bachelor degree in Education Certification from Wesley College and a Masters degree in School Counseling from Wilmington University.



"Teaching is the most rewarding career one could be apart of. My most rewarding moments are with students. Working with students that have that 'aha' moment when they finally understand the concepts of multiplication gives me the feeling of accomplishment. Having the shy student feel comfortable enough in to break the silence and offer an answer to a question in front of the whole class makes me feel like together we created a non-threatening environment for all. When a child says sorry without being asked, I feel that I have assisted in teaching empathy. When former students come back with smiles and open arms ready to be hugged and begin their conversations with, "Remember when we..."

Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

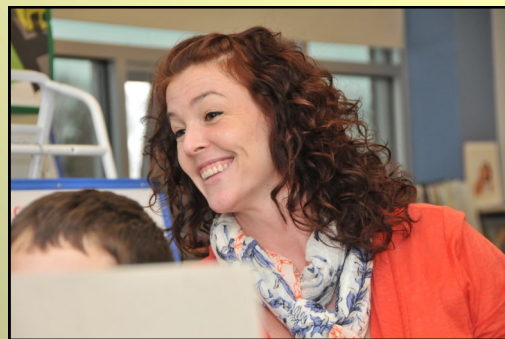
Ruth Fuchs

Ruth Fuchs is the Library Media Specialist at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center in Magnolia. With 15 years education experience, Ruth received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Science from Rowan University and a Master of Instruction from the University of Delaware. "While growing up, I had the ambition of becoming a legal secretary because I loved keyboarding class. However, my high school chemistry teacher saw more potential in me than my ability to type. She saw my willingness to help others learn by asking me to stay after school to help my peers. It was then I realized my passion for helping others develop a love of learning. She, along with my parents, encouraged me to become a teacher. Their commitment to the value of education were core values instilled in me. I continue to carry those core values in my commitment to my students, colleagues, administration, and my four children."



Amanda Keppel

Amanda Keppel is a grade 5 teacher at Allen Frear Elementary School. With 14 years experience, Amanda graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education. "On my first day in first grade, I entered the classroom which was warm and inviting. I looked up at my new teacher, saw her smiling face, and was welcomed like I was the most important person to ever walk into her room. It was within the walls of this classroom that I was instilled with a love of learning that I still possess today. An unknown author once stated, 'In the years to come, your students may forget what you taught them, but they will always remember how you made them feel.' I certainly remember how wonderful my teacher made me feel and to know she cared. From then on I wanted to grow up to be just like her; to let children know how special, and amazing they are and help instill the love of learning in their lives."



Susan Kunzweiler

With 18 years teaching experience, Susan Kunzweiler is a fifth grade teacher at W. Reily Brown Elementary School in Dover. Susan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts degree in Special Education, both from Delaware State University. "Until I became an inclusion teacher, there were little hurdles to overcome in my classroom and little reason to change my direction of teaching. Success was the norm in my classroom. Today, it is quite the opposite. My students are comprised of many abilities and socio-economic levels. Obstacles arise daily. Changing my direction means providing differentiated instruction and assessment while remembering that all children can learn if given a warm and welcome environment. Altering the way I teach for each child in my class helps each child progress one step closer to academic success."



Andrea LaMotte

Andrea LaMotte teaches grades 6-8 special education at the John S. Charlton Program. With eight years experience, Andrea received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Asbury College in Kentucky and a Master of Education from Wilmington University. "The most rewarding part of teaching for me is watching my students master new academic skills and see the excitement on their face as they realize they accomplished what they have been working so hard on in the classroom. I love looking back at the progress a student has made over a school year and knowing that I helped them get to the point they are at today. I know that the skills that they work on and master today will impact them for the rest of their lives."



Building Teachers of the Year Announced

District Teacher of the Year to be Announced in April

David Moore

As a science teacher and Department Chair at Caesar Rodney High School, David has 24 years teaching experience. David received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Education from the University of Delaware and a Master's degree in Science Education from Delaware State University. When asked why he became a teacher, Mr. Moore replied, "I was the type of student who most people would have never thought would become a teacher. I was quiet, shy, somewhat withdrawn and only had a few friends in high school. But something I discovered along the way was an ability to synthesize information into understandable segments. My first leadership role was as Drum Captain which allowed me to open up a little bit even though it was my senior year. I guess what has kept me in the teaching profession is what I call the 'light bulb moments.' The moment when a student finally, after periods of struggle, gets the information or better yet when a student discovers that they can achieve success even though at first they believed that they wouldn't."



Christine Roberson

Christine Roberson is a grade 4 and 5 teacher at W. B. Simpson Elementary School in Camden. With eight years experience, Christine earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education in Reading from Wilmington University. When asked why she wanted to be a teacher, Christine responded: "As I became older and started thinking of my career path, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I had a strong desire to make a difference with students. I wanted to be the teacher that students want to come to school for. I wanted to be the teacher that makes each and every child feel safe, love to learn and know that it's okay to make mistakes. When my daughter was born, my desire for teaching became stronger. As I watched her through her first few years, I was amazed at how children naturally learn, but also at how my influence helped her. Once again, I had that feeling of wanting someone to believe in themselves and be all she can be. It was reaffirmed that I needed to go back to school and get my degree."



Matthew Santee

With 17 years teaching experience, Matt Santee is a sixth and eighth grade social studies teacher at George Welch Elementary School in Dover. He received a Bachelor degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Education from Wesley College in Dover. "I am honored to be a part of a learning process that involves all teachers. I am a part of a network of people who have dedicated their lives to teaching. At Dover Air Base Middle School, we work as a "family" to ensure that all of our students needs are both met and exceeded. Each teacher and staff member is a link to meet student success. I am excited to witness the tremendous amount of growth and development that takes place during the three-year period the student spends at Dover Air Base Middle School. My biggest reward will be watching all of my students succeed at life and become a productive part of our society. ALL students can become successful learners."



Kimberly Warriner

Kimberly Warriner has three years teaching experience at George Welch Elementary School in Dover. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. "When I became a kindergarten teacher, I became a little bit of everything. I became a master in reading, math, writing, science, and social studies. I became a passer of knowledge, an instiller of the love of learning, a stepping stone into the school world. I became an introduction to the world of letters, numbers, words, and books. I became a planner, an actor, a singer, a dancer, a nurse, a custodian, a coach, a cheerleader, and so much more. So did I become the hardest possible thing I could? Did I do something that just wows people when I tell them that I am a teacher? Without a doubt...I did!"





Career and College Readiness

What Does It Mean?

What does it mean to be college, career or armed services ready? How do we know that students will be successful when they graduate from high school and contribute to their communities? What technology or language skills will they need to compete for future jobs?

While no one can predict the future, these are just some of the questions coming from the Department of Education and districts when they say College and Career Readiness. As we explore the issue, we must look at the indicators of college and career readiness in our students. These indicators include SAT scores, AP classes, classroom grades, technology skills, and knowledge of content standards. The basic definition of college and career readiness is any person that does not need any remediation or support within the first year of graduation from high school.

Accuplacer Online Instruction

One activity that is currently being implemented and evaluated is an assessment known as Accuplacer (<http://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/>) currently used by more than 1300 institutions worldwide.

This pilot assessment is currently occurring with about eighty-five 11th grade students at Caesar Rodney High School. This suite of tests accurately and efficiently assesses reading, writing, math and computer skills using an adaptive, online test and online instruction. As a result of this pilot, students will be better prepared for the SAT and will also be better prepared for college placement and success. As the pilot continues and results are analyzed, decisions will be made on how to refine or expand the implementation of this program. To be continued...

Comprehensive Health Course Pilots – Promoting Online Learning

Online learning and technology are everywhere. As we examine the possibilities to improve student learning with new ways of teaching and instruction, we must plan, implement and evaluate to find success. One example of this is using Compass Learning™, a web-based curriculum to promote “blended” learning. In this form of learning, some of the instruction and assessment is offered by the program and some of the learning and assessment is performed by the teacher.

In the fall of 2012, the State of Delaware approved the use of Compass Learning Health to satisfy the half credit requirement for all students in the Caesar Rodney School District. With this new tool, we have designed three ways to evaluate the implementation of this program and determine the best training and implementation for teachers

(Continued next column)

and students. These three options are:

- A traditional Health class whereby all instruction and assessment is from a certified teacher.
- A “virtual” Health class whereby all instruction and assessment is in the online system.
- A “blended” Health class whereby some instruction is from the computer (establishing background knowledge) and some from instructor (discussion, projects, collaboration)

AP STEM Access Program

Recently, College Board informed us that CRHS qualifies for funding to support AP course development as well as the diversity of students enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics courses (STEM). Recently, www.donorsChoose.org received a \$5 million grant from Google to increase the number of underrepresented minority and female high school students participating in AP courses in STEM disciplines. This grant will provide funding for Caesar Rodney High School to incorporate technology into AP Environmental Science. In addition to startup funding, Donors Choose also provides \$100 for classroom supplies for each student in AP stem courses (Biology, Calculus AB/BC, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Physics B, Physics C, and Statistics 7100) that receive a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam on the May of 2014 tests. In sum, this grant is worth about \$10,000. For more information, please visit, <http://collegeboard.org/apstem>.

Lieutenant Governor Denn Visits Stokes Elementary School

Lt. Governor Matt Denn recently visited Nellie Stokes Elementary School following the announcement that the school had been recognized as a 2012 Reward and Recognition school. Lt. Governor Denn talked with staff, toured the school and had an informal lunch/roundtable discussion with a group of Stokes students.



Left to Right: Meeting in the library and having lunch are from left to right: students Joshua Harvey; Sebastian Porter; Samantha Wolfgang; Lauren Clough; and Alexis Skodzinski; Lt. Governor Matt Denn, Nicole Byers (assistant to Lt. Governor Denn); Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, superintendent; and Nicole Jones, principal.

You're In Rider Country!

Ruby Bridges Talks With Children of W. B. Simpson Elementary

Ruby Bridges, a world-renowned civil rights icon from New Orleans, LA., recently visited W. B. Simpson Elementary School to talk to students in grades 1-5 about her life, civil rights and the need for everyone to respect each other.

In 1960, when Ruby was six years old, her parents responded to a request from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and volunteered her to participate in the court-ordered integration of the New Orleans School system. Ruby was one of four black children in New Orleans to pass a test that determined whether or not these children would attend an all white school.

Ruby told the Simpson students that in anticipation of protests against her attending an all-white school, federal deputy marshals protected and escorted her to school, beginning on November 14, 1960. She was now the only black to attend the all-white school; the other three black students would attend another nearby school.

On her first day of school, Ruby was escorted to school, sandwiched between four white federal marshals, but could see large angry crowds gathered nearby. That moment in time would be forever captured in a painting Norman Rockwell would create years later titled "The Problem We All



Ruby Bridges talks with students and staff at W. B. Simpson Elementary School during her presentation.

Live With" which depicts Ruby being escorted to school by the federal marshals. The original Rockwell painting now hangs in the White House in Washington D.C.

As Ruby, her mother and the marshals neared the school and heard the shouts of the protestors, she thought it was a Mardi Gras celebration because they were yelling, screaming and throwing things. When Ruby got inside the school, she was brought to the principal's office where she sat with her mother all day, never going to her classroom.

All during that day, upset white parents came in to the principal's office and into classrooms and removed their children from the school. They had been unsure whether Frantz Elementary would be segregated. But now that Ruby was there, they knew the school was now integrated and they wanted no part of that.

At the end of the day, Ruby and her mother were again escorted by marshals to their car. Ruby noticed the protestors outside were now carrying more signs, chanting and shouting. Ruby then saw someone holding a black doll in a small coffin which really scared her. It was something she would never forget.

On her second day, she was shown to a classroom where she met her teacher, Mrs. Henry, who was white and a native of Boston. Ruby would be her only student! White parents had pulled their children from the school; only three other white children attended the school that typically held 576 students. They were kept in other classrooms away from Ruby. Ruby did not know that other children were even in the building!

All through the winter, Ruby and Mrs. Henry were the only two in a classroom filled with reading, writing, arithmetic, caring and love. In the spring, however, Ruby did get a chance to meet and play with several white students. One of the children, however, stated his mama told him he was not allowed to play with her. It was only then Ruby realized everything had happened because she was black.

As the school year winded down, so did the protests. Ruby received excellent grades from Mrs. Henry, but the school principal argued with her teacher and wanted the grades changed since Ruby had received so much attention; the grades could not be accurate! Mrs. Henry was very angry that the principal could be so mean to Ruby. To this day, no one knows if the grades were ever changed.

As the second year began, Ruby was crushed to find out that Mrs. Henry did not return to Frantz Elementary since her teacher was now pregnant and chose to return to Boston to be with family. However, the year would be different as more black children were now attending the integrated school and the marshals were no longer present.

It would be another 35 years before Ruby would find Mrs. Henry again; they are now life-long friends.

"I am honored Ruby was able to share her story with our students," said principal Mike Kijowski. "I believe her story of overcoming adversity, getting along with others and having a strong faith will resonate with our children for a long time."



Ruby Bridges, staff and students pose with Ruby following her presentations.





Senator Carper Visits McIlvaine and Caesar Rodney High School

Senator Tom Carper recently spent an entire afternoon with students from both the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center and Caesar Rodney High School. Senator Carper wanted to see firsthand the work being done with the Chinese Dual Immersion Program at McIlvaine as well as look at Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) work being taught at the high school.

At McIlvaine, he marveled at the students understanding of Chinese symbols, numbers and instruction and joined a group of students drawing Chinese symbols with water on recycled paper. "We are a big trading partner with China as they are with us," said Senator Carper. "We need to figure out how to get along better in the world. One way we can do that is by communicating better.

The Dual Immersion program is a step in the right direction."

Senator Carper also visited students at CRHS, visiting the classrooms of Tim Elmer and David

Moore who teach students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). During the Senator's visit, he observed students working on projects including robotic arms, levitating magnets and heart/lung machines.

"A huge number of jobs are going unfilled in this country, millions of jobs," said Senator Carper. We don't have enough people coming out of our schools with skills to fill those jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The focus on STEM here at Caesar Rodney High School will not only help our economy as a country but will help these students get jobs in these critical areas."

While at the high school, Senator Carper also paid a surprise visit to students and staff in the AFJROTC program, and thanked them for their commitment to the program and their school.



Sen. Carper and children listen to instructions from paraprofessional Zhang Ying.



Senator Carper discusses with students the robotic arm they created in Tim Elmer's class at CRHS.

High School AFJROTC Cadets Finish Fifth Place in National Competition

Members of Caesar Rodney High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (AFJROTC) program recently took their three-time and defending State Champion Armed Exhibition Drill Team to the Air Force Nationals competition, held in Landover, Maryland.

Bringing with them the biggest team they have ever assembled, the elite Caesar Rodney team competed with a 16-



Cadets and instructors from DE-941 pose for an official portrait prior to the competition held in Landover, Maryland. The team placed fifth in the nation.

man formation. "This is the first time we have competed at the national level," said AFJROTC Program Instructor MSgt. Jon "Jay" Wedel, USAF (Ret). "Six of the cadets were relatively new and had never performed in public before. We battled the best AFJROTC Programs in the country. The competition was fierce but the boys were incredible." Added Wedel, "We were the highest finishing team outside of Texas, finishing fifth in the country."

However, not ones to rest on their laurels, the team will now compete at Dover Air Force Base at the State of Delaware JROTC Military Drill Championships. With success, the team can once again take home the state title.

Could Spring Be Around the Corner?

An early spring snowstorm blankets Simpson Elementary during the last week of March, 2013.



Academics, Soccer, Field Hockey, Basketball: All-Around Superstar

She's a junior at Caesar Rodney High School, but not just any junior. Recently playing for the U.S. Region I Soccer Team in Spain and Portugal, Alexis "Lexi" Prillaman is a three-sport standout (soccer, field hockey, basketball) as well as an academic scholar with a bright future ahead of her.



Alexis "Lexi" Prillaman

Her interest in playing three sports actually began during middle school. "I wanted to be active and play three sports, rather than just sit at home," said Lexi. When asked how she then managed and now manages to juggle such a demanding schedule, including classroom activities and studies, she responded, "I've always been good with time management and pretty much have my days planned out."

Getting picked to participate in international soccer competition was something that also needed a lot of planning...and skill! Said Lexi, "It starts by being on the Olympic Development Program (ODP) team. Then, in the summer, you attend a camp where tryouts for the regional team occurs, which takes the top 16 players in the region, from Maine to Virginia." Added Lexi, "At that camp, I was selected to travel to Spain to compete."

During her ten-day trip overseas, Lexi was able to meet players from all around the world and play against so many different teams and cultures. Once the tournament began, Lexi would score two of the team's eight goals.

CR soccer coach Darryl Gravatt knew all along Lexi would be a standout player. "She has it all; she is an elite player. She is fast, very tall, two-footed and has great vision."



Lexi Prillaman races past a defender in a field hockey game earlier this year

Added Coach Gravatt, "She is as good as anyone I've ever seen."

Lexi has high hopes for her soccer team this year. "I'm hoping we can go all the way. I think we can if we work really hard. We're going to be working at it every day."

Once Lexi graduates from CR, her playing days will not be over. Lexi has committed to play soccer at the University of Richmond in Virginia. We wish her the best in her academic and athletic aspirations.

Star Hill Elementary Wins Prestigious Superstars in Education Award

Star Hill Elementary School in Dover has been named a recipient of the Superstars in Education Award for their outstanding work in providing reading proficiency to their students through the use of fluency stations.



First implemented during the 2008-2009 school year, fluency stations were a

school-wide initiative to improve student reading fluency and comprehension while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Fluency stations were created with the students, teachers and parents in mind.

The teachers have been trained in research based fluency strategies and best practices allowing them to create and put into practice powerful and meaningful fluency lessons. Students were then taught these strategies and had multiple exposures and practice throughout the week at their fluency station.

Volunteers who assist at the fluency station are trained to model and collaborate with the teachers and students in an effort to improve individual student fluency.



Fluency Stations are comprised of weekly reading passages that are read repeatedly and are differentiated with leveled passages based on student need. The students read the passages individually and with a partner during whisper, choral, and echo reading focus lessons.

In addition, the passages are connected to the overall theme of the lesson for each week providing students more exposure to common vocabulary and concepts greatly increasing their comprehension. Student data is then tracked using a cold and hot read throughout the week and graphed to demonstrate an increase in oral reading fluency.

"We are honored that Star Hill has been recognized as a 'Superstar in Education' recipient," said principal Chester Cox. "This award is a validation of the dedication of our teachers and volunteers who work effortlessly to ensure our students receive the instruction and education necessary to become proficient readers."





Postlethwait OM State Champs Once Again



For the second year in a row, a team from Postlethwait Middle School is going to the world "Odyssey Of The Mind" competition, as Delaware's state champs! In a statewide team competition held earlier, six 7th graders tackled a problem entitled "All Mail Must Go Through," where they had to create and present, in character and costume, an original performance that included a technical representation of electronic messages being sent and received, with attachments, having the email routed through a SPAM filter and passing through a central server before reaching its' final destination.

The presentation earned the highest scores in the State among the OM judges, besting the second place competitors by a whopping 24 points.

"I thought the team did a fantastic job! They were the most creative of any teams in the competition," said 8th grade science teacher Brandianne Emory. "Kudos to team coach Bill McPoyle who worked so hard to get our kids ready for this competition."

Now its on to the "World" competition, to be held in May at Michigan State University. We wish them luck and hope they come back with a world title in hand.

Spelling Champions Recognized By Board

The grade 4-8 winners of the annual Caesar Rodney School District Spelling Bee were recently recognized by the members of the Caesar Rodney School District School Board. Congratulations to each Bee winners!



Jump Rope For Heart Raises \$7K

Nellie Stokes recently raised \$7,678.01 the annual "Jump Rope for the Heart" campaign run by the American Heart Association. One student, Sydney Cunningham, raised \$3,060 while another student, Savana Clements, raised \$1,160.



"This is the highest amount of money ever raised for this

Sydney Cunningham, front row center, and Savana Clements, front row right, together raised \$4220 for Stokes.

campaign," said Principal Nicole Jones. I want to personally thank all the students, area businesses and especially physical education teacher Lori Horton for their efforts in making this a wonderful success!"

Box Top Contest Raises \$3K at Frear

At Allen Frear Elementary, students participated in a box tops contest where the boys and girls challenged each other to see who could collect the most box tops. Frear collected 6,309 box tops, raising \$630 for the school's Parent Teacher Association.



Bragging rights belonged to the ladies with 3,811 box tops collected while the gentlemen collected

Mr. Freeman, center, shows his "Rider" with some of the students who came out to support him despite their losing effort.

2,498 box tops. Since the ladies won, for the fourth year in a row, assistant principal Freeman Williams had to wear his "Ladies Rule" shirt along with a pink tutu. This year, Mr. Freeman asked the boys to support him by also wearing pink to school. What a great way to have some fun and raise money for a worthwhile cause.

Reading Rocks!



Children's book author Shelley Gill visited McIlvaine ECC while at Reily Brown, assistant principal Jean Allen celebrated Dr. Seuss' 109th birthday.



“Chicks” at McIlvaine

Spring is here and learning is “hatching” at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center (MECC)! All classes at MECC



participated in the “egg to chick” program with the University of Delaware’s Cooperative Extension System. Students enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a chicken, observing the chicks, and holding the chicks as a part of the classroom science center. The students observed a variety of breeds of chickens, including Delaware’s own blue hen.

CRHS Principal Knight Receives First-Ever FCCLA Award

The Delaware Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) presented its first-ever Administrator of the Year Award to Mrs. Elvina Knight, principal of Caesar Rodney High School. The award is given to the administrator who best supports FCCLA and its mission. Without the support of school administrators, students could not take advantage of the many opportunities offered through FCCLA. Exceptional administrators encourage chapters to take advantage of FCCLA programs and develop leadership skills to prepare their students for the multiple adult roles of family member, wage earner and community leader.



Principal Elvina Knight

CR FCCLA chapter president Makayla Whitt said that when you talk with Mrs. Knight about a project, her first response is always “how can I help you make this work.” Mrs. Knight is well-known throughout the state as a strong supporter of Career and Technical programs and their importance in supporting student growth.

FCCLA is a national youth organization for students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences programs with more than 300,000 members nationally.

CRHS Junior Achievement Presented With \$1500 Check

The Junior Achievement (JA) Company program at Caesar Rodney High School helps students gain experience forming and running a business. Students sell stock in the company, market test and produce a product, engage in philanthropy, and liquidate the company at the end of the year; repaying their stockholders. Students learn how to run and manage every aspect of a business from human resources and public relations to production and finance, and draw a salary and commission from the sale of their product.



Marion Klein, Honorary Chair of the Roy Klein Education Foundation presents a check for \$1500.

This is the third year of the program at Caesar Rodney High School, with former students going on to study at Princeton University, a paid internship at Barclays Financial, and receiving numerous scholarships and accolades from their involvement. In its first year, the club competed in a national competition and placed in the top 15 teams in the North American region. Marion Klein’s title is Honorary Chair of the Roy Klein Education Foundation. The committee picked this particular program because it fit the mission so well; to create financial support for education and economic development in greater Dover and Kent County, Delaware.

State Senator Lawson Visits CR Schools to Look At Security

State Senator David Lawson recently visited the Caesar Rodney School District to get an accounting of building security following the horrific murder of twenty six people, including 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Senator Lawson met with CR superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and toured W. Reily Brown, Fred Fifer and Caesar Rodney High Schools. The senator looked at fire alarms, auto release and magnetic doors, windows and exterior escape routes. Said Dr. Fitzgerald, “We are quite appreciative of Senator Lawson’s visit, of his interest in the Caesar Rodney School District and the steps we’ve taken to create a safe environment for our students.”



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald discusses security with Senator Lawson.





Basketball Special Olympics Comes To Caesar Rodney High School

The Special Olympics Delaware Caesar Rodney School District Basketball Skills Competition took place March 21st at Caesar Rodney High School. More than 180 athletes from the district-wide Charlton Program competed at the event, which was organized by more than 80 students and staff from Caesar Rodney High School's Special Olympics Project Unify Club.

Olympians were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for competing in various basketball - related competitions.

