CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUARTERLY
"Where Excellence is Our Tradition"

THE CR REPORT

Your District-Wide Information Source

January 2013 Issue



Handmade snowflakes sent to Newtown, Connecticut, to provide Caesar Rodney Rider support for Sandy Hook Elementary School students.



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Nearly 4,000 pictures are now online of the CR school year at:

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

Have you seen our website?
http://www.cr.k12.de.us

Welcome to Rider Country!

What's Happening?

Board Meetings (7:00 p.m.)
February 19th: - Stokes Elementary
March 19th: - Postlethwait Middle School
April 16th: - Star Hill Elementary

Special Events:
February 18th- President's Day-Schools Closed
March 22nd: - In Service - Schools Closed
March 29 through April 5th - Spring Break
April 15th - 19th: Kindergarten Registration

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 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.

Caesar Rodney School District, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, DE 19934

Message From the Superintendent

As we enter the second half of the 2012-2013 school year, I am proud to say our schools continue to receive accolades on a state and national level for excellence. Allen Frear Elementary School has been nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School. If approved, Frear would be our third school in as many years to receive National Blue Ribbon status. This accolade speaks to the hard work of our students, our faculty and staff and to the support that we have received from our parents and our community. Also, I am proud to say that because of the work done by the Advanced Placement (AP) students and AP teachers at Caesar Rodney High School, the school district has been recognized by The College Board as an AP Honor District. This award is presented to a district for increasing student access and performance.



Kevin Fitzgerald, Ed.D., Superintendent

Individually, one of our students who graduated this past June from Caesar Rodney High School (CRHS) has received State AP Scholar recognition and is one of only two students to receive this honor in Delaware. During her four years at CRHS, this remarkable student took 17 AP exams and achieved the highest score in 14 of those exams. I wish her well in her future endeavors as she continues her education at the University of Pennsylvania and the Wharton School of Business.

Additionally, CRHS had three National AP scholars named, nine students designated as AP Scholars with Distinction and nine students earning AP Scholar with Honor status. Twenty-one students earned AP Scholar recognition, as well. Congratulations to each of these students on their achievements.

One of our seniors has been nominated to attend one of three military academies: West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy. This is truly a testament to the hard work of this student and I wish him the best in the years to come.

I am also pleased that 28 Caesar Rodney 8th and 10th grade students have earned 29 Michael Ferguson scholarships. These $1,000 scholarships are given to students in grades 8 and 10 who have attained high scores on the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System in reading and mathematics. One of our middle school students earned two scholarships and is one of only 20 students, statewide, to accomplish this feat.

I want to personally say farewell to Mrs. Terry Dotson, my Administrative Secretary, who not only served our district for 31 years, but is also an alumni of CR. She will be missed.

The True Meaning of "Change"

Aliza Aragon (left), a seventh-grade student at Fred Fifer Middle School in Camden, stands next to Guidance Counselor Tegra Robinson in the Fifer lobby. Aliza, a member of the Fifer Middle School's "Forever GEMS Club" recently helped donate money for a local non-profit organization. The fund-raiser, called "Change for Change," encouraged Fifer students to donate "spare change" to the fundraising effort. Aliza donated $130.00 of her own money…all in coins! Said Mrs. Robinson, "We commend Aliza for her commitment and sense of civic responsibility."



Caesar Rodney High School Receives College Board AP Award

While attending in-service training in the Caesar Rodney High School library, the school's Advanced Placement teachers



were surprised to receive a banner presented to them on behalf of the College Board. The award placed CRHS on the third annual AP Honor Roll for expanding opportunities and improving performance for AP students. Congratulations!

28 Students Receive 29 Ferguson Scholarships

The Delaware Department of Education's Office of Higher Education has announced the awarding of 299 Michael C. Ferguson scholarships of $1,000 each to 279 students statewide who attained high scores on the 2012 Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS) reading and mathematics tests in grades eight and 10.

Twenty-eight students in all three Caesar Rodney middle schools and Caesar Rodney High School received one $1,000 scholarship for their scores in reading while one student received the maximum $2,000 for scores in both reading and mathematics.

Since the program began 13 years ago, more than 4,500 public school students have been awarded more than $6.1 million in scholarships. This year, 10 eighth grade students earned two scholarships and 130 earned one scholarship. In the 10th grade, 10 students earned two scholarships and 129 students earned one scholarship.

The scholarship program, included in the Educational Accountability Act of 1998, is funded by Delaware's General Assembly and named in memory of Michael C. Ferguson, former deputy superintendent and acting superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction and former state budget director.

The 2012 program is authorized to award a maximum of 300 scholarships of $1,000 to eighth and 10th grade students who attain the highest scores on the DCAS in the content areas of reading and mathematics. The law states that up to 150 of the Ferguson scholarships will be awarded to students who participate in the free and reduced lunch (FRL) program. Of the maximum 150 scholarships awarded in the FRL program and the 150 not in FRL, up to 75 scholarships will be awarded to eighth graders and 75 awarded to 10th graders.

Students can use their scholarship once they begin their postsecondary education; however, they must enroll at an institution within five calendar years after graduating from high school or the scholarship is forfeited. Recipients may have one additional year of availability of the funds for each year they serve as an active duty member of the military.

Payments are made directly to the institution after the student notifies the Higher Education Office. The award only can be used at regionally or nationally accredited postsecondary institutions or at Delaware- or other state-approved private business and trade schools in the United States. The award cannot exceed direct educational costs.

The Higher Education Office contacts recipients with instructions for setting up the online accounts where they can keep track of their scholarship funds, update contact information as needed and identify the colleges they plan to attend. Recipients can use the same account to access other state-sponsored financial aid programs administered by the Higher Education Office.



Michael Ferguson Scholarship recipients have a group photo taken following formal recognition by the Caesar Rodney School Board members and district administrators.

Those Caesar Rodney students who received the Michael Ferguson Scholarships are as follows:

Caesar Rodney High School: Aryial Anderson; Tristan Boling; Lydia Bright; Alexandra Brodin; Ariele Castro; Michelle Dao; James Domfort; Angela Errico; Patrick Gallucci; Schuyler Geer; Nicholas Gruwell; Dayshia Jones; Parker Kurlander; Eric LeMarble; Juneessa Pressley; Madison Stark; and Brandon Yearick.

Dover Air Force Base Middle School: Allison Hayes; Caleb Siebach; Hallie Walsh and Jared York.

Fred Fifer Middle School: Channah Mills; Jonni Tran; Siwa Versnel (two scholarships) and Robert White.

Postlethwait Middle School: Meagan Barter; Aaron Debloois and Hailley Loper.

Former CRHS Student Named State AP Scholar

Pratyusha Gupta, former student at Caesar Rodney High School and salutatorian of her graduating class of 2012, has earned the prestigious State AP® Scholar Award for her extraordinary performance on the 2012 Advanced Placement exams. This honor is presented to one male and one female student in each state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of Advanced Placement examinations and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP exams taken.



Pratyusha Gupta during a recent visit to CRHS

During her four years at Caesar Rodney High School (CRHS), Pratyusha took 17 AP exams and obtained an average score of 4.82. This included 14 exams with a maximum score of 5 and three exams with a score of 4. She was also named a National AP Scholar which is given to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. And finally, she was also selected as an AP Scholar with Distinction, given to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Elvina Knight, principal at CRHS, spoke highly of the brilliant scholar. "Pratyusha was an active member of a variety of clubs and organizations here at CRHS. She brought recognition to both herself and the school during her junior year when she earned the position of National President for the Technology Student Association; the first time Delaware student received this recognition. She was an active member of National Honor Society, Academic Bowl, Math League, Science Olympiad, Junior Achievement, and the Technology Student Association."

Pratyusha is now a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania enrolled in the Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology (M&T) which is a joint-degree program offered for undergraduates. In this program, Pratyusha enters both the engineering school and the Wharton School of Business; within four years she will obtain bachelor degrees from both programs.

"In the M&T program, I am taking on a double workload which also allows me to choose any engineering major and any Wharton concentration," said Pratyusha who is currently majoring in material science in engineering and finance and statistics on the business side. Added Pratyusha, "I hope to pursue a career in investment banking but sales and trading is also an option once I graduate."

When asked what her favorite classes were and which teacher influenced her the most, Pratyusha unhesitatingly replied; "Micro-economics and macro-economics, but I also loved taking calculus. My most influential teacher was Mr. [Jay] McCormick who influenced me in what I was interested in as a sophomore and helped me realize my passion for economics and finance. He was certainly the best teacher I have ever had."



Teacher Jay McCormick, Principal Elvina Knight and Teacher Paul Wilson reunite with Pratyusha Gupta.

In 2012, CRHS had three National AP scholars, with an average score of 4.69. One State AP Scholar was recognized (Gupta) with her average score of 4.82. Nine students earned AP Scholar with Distinction with an average score of 4.24. Nine students earned AP Scholar with Honor status with an average score of 3.51 while 21 students earned AP Scholar recognition with an average score of 3.03. Congratulations to each of these students—continued academic success in all future endeavors!

Operation Snowflake Provides Comfort to Sandy Hook Elementary School Students

A student at Fred Fifer Middle School in Camden holds up a snowflake she made as part of "Operation Snowflake," a national initiative to help decorate the school that students of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut have relocated to following a shooting that killed 20 children and six adults. The project was designed to create a "Winter Wonderland" for those returning students. A number of schools in the Caesar Rodney School District participated in the initiative to show support for those students who were witness to the tragedy. In his seventh grade art class, Fifer Middle School teacher Al Schwartz said, "This project is a wonderful way of our students being able to express themselves while feeling compassion for others. Operation Snowflake is making a good thing by doing a good thing."





AP Students and Ferguson Scholarships Recognized

At the January School Board meeting, students were recognized for academic success on Advanced Placement exams and high scores on the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS).



CRHS Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars pose with Caesar Rodney School Board members



Michael Ferguson Scholarship recipients with their principals and assistant principals

Returning Air Force Sergeant Surprises Daughter in Classroom

After a seven month deployment to the Middle East, TSgt. Kenneth Riley, USAF, returned home to Delaware and to his family. However, a previous deployment had made him miss the birth of his daughter Alexis, 5, now a student at the McIlvane Early Childhood Center. Wanting to capture his arrival on camera, TSgt. Riley asked the Caesar Rodney School District to help get media support in capturing that moment when his daughter would be surprised by his return. While watching a movie in class, her father walked in where Alexis spotted him and raced into his arms, all caught on camera for a father reunited with his family. Welcome home, Sergeant Riley!



TSgt. Riley and family together again!

Caesar Rodney High School Athletes/Scholars Commit To Play Collegiate Sports

Aaron Briggs, a senior at Caesar Rodney High School in Camden, recently signed a Letter of Intent to play baseball at the University of Delaware. The three-letter varsity athlete is surrounded by family and school officials including: Left to Right, front row: Ken Powell (stepfather); Aaron Briggs; Ongela Powell (mother). Back Row: Caesar Rodney baseball coach Richard Szvitch; Caesar Rodney High School Principal Elvina Knight; Branden Briggs (brother).



Surrounded by her family, coaches and principal, Samantha Leite of Caesar Rodney High School has made a commitment to attend Purdue University and will also play golf for the university's team. Front Row, Left to Right: Michelle Leite (mother); Samantha Leite; Jose Leite (father). Back Row: Coach John Newman; Principal Elvina Knight; Coach Blair Newman.



Go Riders

Surrounded by her family, coaches and principal, Megan Card of Caesar Rodney High School signs a Letter of Intent to play Lacrosse at Delaware State University. Front Row, Left to Right: Brad Card (father); Megan Card; Dawn Card (mother). Back Row: Coach Brittany Stewart; Maddie Card (sister); Elvina Knight, principal; Coach Caty Beron.



Surrounded by her family and coaches, Sarah Candeloro of Caesar Rodney High School signs a Letter of Intent to play tennis at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Left to Right seated: Dan Candeloro (father); Karen Candeloro (mother); Sarah Candeloro; Zach Candeloro (brother); Brandon Hennessy (cousin). Standing in background: Coach Zach Taylor; Coach Gaby Brengle.



Dotson Retires After 31 Years With Caesar Rodney School District

Terry Dotson, Administrative Secretary to the District Superintendent, has retired after a 31 year career in the Caesar Rodney School District. Starting in 1974 as a clerk/typist at CRHS, Terry moved to the Department of Public Instruction in 1982. A military move with her family followed but they returned to Delaware and to Caesar Rodney in 1990 where Terry then worked as a paraprofessional, financial secretary, secretary and finally as the superintendent's secretary. We wish Terry and her family a wonderful retirement.



Holiday Season Celebrated Throughout District

Chorus/Band Concerts/Plays/Performances Abound



W.B. Simpson Winter Chorus



Gingerbread Houses at Simpson



Chorus at Star Hill Elementary



Students at Frear Elementary in concert during "A Celebration of Patriotism."



Fifer Middle School/Postlethwait Middle School Winter Band Concert



DAFB Middle Band Concert



DAFB Middle Chorus Concert



FMS/PMS Chorus Concert



W. Reily Brown Holiday Concert



Stokes "A Christmas Carol"



Welch's Winter Chorus Concert

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Massive Mural at Fifer Focuses on the Four "A's"

One cannot help but notice a massive yet colorful 40 X 20 foot mural located in the cafeteria of Fred Fifer Middle School in Camden. Created by art teacher Alfred Schwartz and chief custodian Cheyenne Rivera, the mural was



painted in traditional Caesar Rodney colors to create excitement about the four "As" in Rider country: Arts, Academics, Athletics and Atmosphere.

"Painting the mural took quite a bit of time, nearly three years, but it was about grabbing a minute here or an hour there until finished," said Mr. Schwartz. The mural was completed last spring.

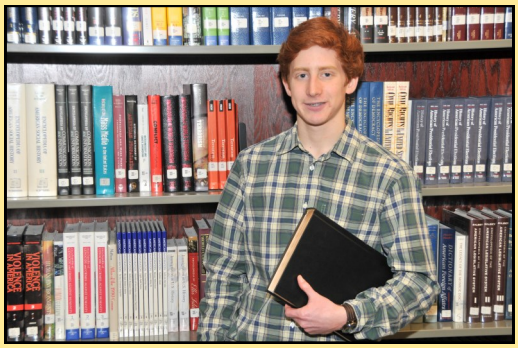
"The mural could not have been completed without the incredible support of the administration which made this possible."

Mr. Schwartz has been a teacher of Technology Education and Art for 17 years with the last 13 years spent at Fifer while Mr. Rivera has been with Fifer and the Caesar Rodney School District since 2007.

Go Riders!

CR High School Senior Nominated To Attend Three Military Academies

It is undoubtedly quite an honor when a student has been nominated to attend one of five prestigious military academies: The U.S. Military Academy; U.S. Naval Academy; U.S. Air Force Academy; U.S. Coast Guard Academy; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. But to be nominated into three? That is very well the case with CRHS senior Peter Kolakowski.



An academic scholar as well as a talented musician, Peter was nominated by Senator Tom Carper to attend the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; Senator Chris Coons nominated Peter to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York; while Congressman John Carney nominated Peter to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Acceptance into one of the above academies is extremely competitive. Candidates must have high class ranks, grade point averages, SAT or ACT scores, and must excel in athletics and participation in clubs and activities. They also need to show leadership potential, pass a physical fitness test, medical evaluation, and interview.

Lori James, Kent County Director for Senator Carper's office stated, "In nominating a student, we look for the 'whole person' concept, both in and out of school. We look for that person who is not only achieving academically, but also gives back to the community and volunteers time to help others."

Peter has applied to colleges as well, including the University of Delaware, Loyola University, DeSales University, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of North Carolina. "Although the military academies have yet to make their final decision, the other schools have ROTC programs I could enter if I am not selected to attend a military academy. However, I like the opportunity each academy presents to not only offer a great education but to become a leader in the military. A military career is something I am seriously considering."

CRHS Principal Elvina Knight offered high praise for this talented student. "Peter is a highly motivated young man who ranks in the top 5% of his graduating class. His strong academics and his love for music has always been amazing to me because of the time commitment needed for both. He has always set high goals for himself." Added Principal Knight, "We are so proud of his accomplishments and his nominations to the service academies and universities. Our entire staff wishes him well in all of his future goals and ambitions."

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the community of the Caesar Rodney School District. For questions or comments, please contact Ron Gough, Community Relations Specialist for the Caesar Rodney School District at (302) 698-4828 or via email at: ronald.gough@cr.k12.de.us.