CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUARTERLY
"WHERE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IS A TRADITION"

THE CR REPORT

www.crk12.org

Fall 2018

School Days!

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

Message From the Superintendent

What a great year to be a Rider! So many changes have been made thanks to the wonderful support from our Rider community. During the summer, we had major construction projects going on at five schools: Caesar Rodney High School, Fred Fifer III and F. Niel Postlethwait middle schools as well as Star Hill and Nellie Hughes Stokes elementary schools. Heating and air conditioning systems were upgraded, new roofs added and classrooms upgraded. At the high school, the new athletic fields at the high school are completed while demolition and construction projects have begun.

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

Moving forward, we will begin in earnest for the construction of the new ninth grade academy wing and the opening of our new Rider stadium and auxiliary stadium. Construction at the rest of the schools will be on hold until next summer where we will once again pick up where we left off since the HVAC systems in some of our buildings were not changed over.

We have also hired a number of new administrators including principal Jennifer Martin at Simpson Elementary, assistant principal Ashley Holmes, also at Simpson, and assistant principal Kerri Carr to Stokes Elementary. Congratulations to each of these outstanding administrators.

Our athletic teams are true "Road Warriors" this year! Our football, soccer and field hockey teams all played away games until October 12th when our new fields opened for competition. It was truly a homecoming celebration including our annual Homecoming Parade before our football game against Cape Henlopen as well as Rider Pride Day the following day.

Finally, I want to personally welcome the more than 8000 students who are now enrolled in our schools and walking through our doors, making Caesar Rodney the largest school district in Kent County.

ON THE COVER…J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center teacher Beth Stombaugh welcomes students to their very first day in school. More than 500 kindergarten students have begun their educational journey through the McIlvaine doors. We wish each child a wonderful, educational experience for the next 13 years and look forward to seeing them across the Caesar Rodney High School stage in 2031.

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

What's Happening?

Board Meetings

October 23: Charlton School 7:00 p.m.
November 20: McIlvaine ECC 7:00 p.m.
December 18: Stokes Elementary 7:00 p.m.

Special Events:

October 8: Columbus Day - Schools Open
October 12: Homecoming Parade 5:30 p.m.
October 13: Rider Pride Day, CRHS
October 13: Homecoming Dance @ Delaware State Fairgrounds 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

School Closings:

November 6 : Election Day
November 12: Veterans Day
November 21-23: Thanksgiving Break
December 24-31: Winter Break

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Visit Twitter and FOLLOW "CaesarRodneyRiders" for all the latest information on ALL our schools!

Follow us on Instagram!

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CR Building Teachers of the Year Honored

"You may not be able to fly like Ironman or have super strength like the Hulk, but you each have "superpowers" far beyond that of the Avengers. You have the "superpower" of compassion, patience and caring for the children of our District as you all make the world better every day you teach. You are each a true Superhero!" Dr. Michael Noel, Assistant Superintendent

Matthew Santee
Dover Air Base Middle

Kristin Thompson
Fred Fifer III Middle

Agoston Szabo
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle

Lisa Christy Betts
John S. Charlton

Elizabeth Stombaugh
McIlvaine Early Childhood Ctr.

Amanda Graham
Nellie Stokes Elementary

Benedicta Guzman
W. Reily Brown Elementary

Dr. Kimberly Weber
Major George Welch Elementary

Amanda Hobbs
W.B. Simpson Elementary

Charlene Morrow
Star Hill Elementary

Ashlee Upp
Allen Frear Elementary

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High School Sophomore Praised For Saving Woman's Life

The Spirit of Caesar Rodney Award has been presented to Audrey Hastings, a sophomore at Caesar Rodney High School (CRHS), for her actions in saving the life of a distressed motorist.

With her parents Kim and Howard and sister Corinne by her side, School Board president Jessica Marelli, School Board vice president Michael Marasco, other board members and Caesar Rodney School District superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald presented Audrey with the award for her actions in successfully performing CPR on a woman suffering from a medical emergency.

On July 18, 2018, while on her way to the CRHS gymnasium for a summer gym class, Audrey came upon a single vehicle car accident where the driver had experienced a medical emergency. The car veered off the roadway; the driver was unresponsive.

While her parents called 911, Audrey rushed to the woman's aid. With her training as a Girl Scout

and the assistance from the 911 dispatcher, Audrey successfully administered CPR to the stricken driver until medical assistance arrived. The driver would go on to recover at a local hospital.

Without Audrey's quick thinking, training and assistance, it's quite possible the motorist might not have survived.

"We are so super proud of her," said Audrey's father Howard. "She has always been super studi

High School teacher Rhonda Bassett (left) stands next to Audrey Hastings following the School Board presentation. It was Mrs. Bassett who recommended Audrey for the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Award.

ous and smart in school. There's not a day that doesn't go by that she doesn't amaze us. We are all so happy and proud that we came along at the right time and place."

"We are so fortunate to have students like Audrey in the Caesar Rodney School District," said Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald. "In an immediate, critical situation, Audrey remained calm; all of her training kicked in and she provided the gift of life to a person she had never met. I am personally so proud of Audrey and I look forward to watching her excel in her educational journey here in the Caesar Rodney School District."

Audrey is a student at CRHS involved in countless school activities including Student Council and the Future Farmers of America (FFA). She also helped her FFA teammates take first place in the Agricultural Commodities display at the Delaware State Fair. Audrey is truly a hero, role model and a great representative of the Spirit of Caesar Rodney.

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McIlvaine's "Littlest Riders" Enter First Day of Class of 2031

The first day of school for more than 475 "Littlest" Riders has begun at The J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. Hopefully, in 2031, we will see each child walk across the stage with their diploma in hand.

50+ New Teachers Join The Caesar Rodney

More than 50 new teachers have been hired by the Caesar Rodney School District for the 2018-2019 school year who will now join returning educators in providing a quality education to our more than 8000 students. Some of the new teachers came from as far away as Spain and China, while others are former Caesar Rodney alumni. However, they all have one thing in common: to be the best teachers for our children. Welcome to Rider Country!

Former Police Detective Briefs Students on Internet Safety

Claudine Malone, program coordinator for the Beau Biden Foundation and a former New Castle County police detective, recently briefed students at Postlethwait Middle School about internet safety,

cyber bullying, sexting, online predators and child abuse. The foundation is carrying on the legacy of former attorney general Beau Biden who passed away in 2015. As attorney general, Beau often visited CR schools to educate students about the dangers of the internet and knowing the signs of child abuse.

Cathy Kemp Recognized as Advisor of the Year

Cathy Kemp, a career advisor with Caesar Rodney High School, has been chosen as the Delaware Career Association (DCA) Advisor of the Year and Jobs for America's Graduates Outstanding Specialist. Cathy earned these honors by becoming the state's DCA Chapter of the Year in part to her students winning the most competitive events statewide during the 2017-2018 school year.

Cathy has spent the past 16 years of her 18 years at CRHS teaching, counseling and advising students on teamwork, life skills, personal budget-

ing and time management as well as preparation for higher education or entry into the global economy. She was recently recognized at the monthly meeting of the Caesar Rodney School Board.

Congratulations, Cathy, on a job well done!

"Rider Dribblers" Clinic Reaches 15th Year

For the 15th year, CRHS Boys' and Girls' basketball teams hosted the Rider Dribblers Basketball Clinic. Rider Dribblers provides youth an opportunity to learn basketball skills in a fun and high-energy environment. Fundamentals are practiced through stations, competitions and games. It also teaches players the value of teamwork, hard work and strengthens their Rider Pride. The instruction is conducted by CRHS basketball coaches and players.

Two AFJROTC Students Earn Private Pilot's License

Two Caesar Rodney High School (CRHS) students were among a small group of 120 students nationwide to each receive a $20,000 scholarship from Headquarters, Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFJROTC) to defray all costs for a private pilot's license.

CRHS AFJROTC cadets Dean Poplus and Noah Lewis listen to a briefing by Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Col (Ret.) Mitch Berger.

Dean Poplos and Noah Lewis, both seniors at CRHS, and members of the school's AFJROTC program, were selected to attend a demanding, compressed eight-week college-level curriculum at Liberty University, located in Lynchburg, Virginia. The program, named the "USAF Chief Of Staff Pilot Flight Academy", both Dean and Noah graduated with their pilot's license in hand. Giving up their entire summer for this opportunity, both seniors are part of a small cadre of less than 3,500 students in the country, ages 16-19, to be named licensed pilots.

The academy was initiated earlier this year by USAF Chief of Staff General David Goldfein in response to a current shortage of Air Force pilots. That shortage is expected to continue well into the future. The Pilot Academy is designed to get eligible students interested and involved in aviation, from pilots to aircraft crew chiefs and more. The goal of the academy is to recruit 250 students next year, double that the following year and 1000 cadets in the year 2021.

"The requirements to be considered for the academy this year was extremely competitive," said Col. (USAF Ret.) Mitch Berger, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at CRHS. "After being notified by headquarters of this program, we talked with all of our cadets. For those interested, an aviation knowledge test was administered and sent back to headquarters for scoring." Both Noah and Dean were later notified they had been selected to participate in the Pilot Academy program. Added Berger, "CRHS was one of only three schools, nationwide, to send more than one student through the program. It is quite obvious that both Dean and Noah are truly among the best of the best."

"Having been successful in the Pilot Academy, both Dean and Noah have a leg up in applying for a service academy when they graduate from high school in June, should they choose to take that path," said Berger. "Headquarters AFJROTC will also fund flying time for Dean and Noah at Dover Air Force Base in order to maintain their currency."

Berger, himself a former Air Force navigator, said the Pilot Academy is a great recruitment tool to join AFJROTC. "It's not automatic that you will get into the program just by joining AFJROTC. It is a very competitive process and a wonderful opportunity for a student who wants to pursue a career in aviation."

Rider Pride Weekend October 12-13, 2018

Remembering Those Who Perished in the 9-11 Terrorist Attacks

In an early morning dense fog, cadets from Caesar Rodney High School's AFJROTC program formed at the school's flag pole to ceremoniously raise then lower the American flag to half-staff on September 11th, exactly 17 years following the terrorist attacks on the United States. Later that same day, cadets presented the colors at Mission BBQ in honor of those who died on September 11, 2001.

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In front of a standing room only crowd of emergency responders, military personnel and patrons at the Mission BBQ restaurant in Dover, cadets of the CRHS AFJROTC Honor Guard presented the colors while the National Anthem was being sung.

At the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, kindergarten students in Mrs. Briana Villa's class show off their red, white and blue apparel in support of Patriot's Day. With Mrs. Villa (left) is paraprofessional Lisa Warren (middle) and Katrina King (Achievement Liaison Teacher).

"Kids In The Kitchen" at Star Hill

At Star Hill Elementary, nearly 100 fifth graders participated in the national "Kids In The Kitchen Day" across America. After washing their hands before entering the kitchen area, students experienced first hand how school kitchen staff prepare student meals every day. These future chefs then prepared pizza, chicken nuggets and desserts, washed dishes and folded linen, just like our great nutrition staff do to provide more than 500 breakfast and lunch meals daily. A fun time was had by all!

Kindness, Respect, Perseverance

At Star Hill, six first grade students from the classes of Ms. Hazewski and Mrs. Madara as well as Ms. Lesher were treated to a Blue and Gold lunch for having embodied the true blue and gold colors of Caesar Rodney: C-Choosing Kindness; R-Respecting Others and P - Perseverance. Having a Blue and Gold lunch with their teachers is special!

New Principal and Two Assistant Principals Approved by School Board

Jennifer Martin

Ashley Holmes

Kerri Carr

Two teachers and a former assistant principal have been selected to move into leadership positions within the Caesar Rodney School District. Jennifer Martin has been selected as the new principal at W. B. Simpson Elementary School. Jennifer replaces Michael Kijowski who has been assigned to the district office as Supervisor of Instruction. Ashley Holmes, an achievement liaison teacher at Star Hill Elementary is now the assistant principal at W.B. Simpson Elementary School. Kerri Carr, an instructional resource teacher at the district office, is now the assistant principal at Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School. Congratulations to Jennifer, Ashley and Kerri.

Members of the Caesar Rodney School District Office show their support for a fellow colleague as well as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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GREEN RIDERS

Planning For 21st Century Sustainable Schools

Our CR *Environmental Education Specialist* brings you the latest news regarding the district's efforts to raise awareness about sustainability, environmental literacy, and all things GREEN.

The Caesar Rodney Center for Green Schools

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS *From Summer 2018*

- *Installed six new raised beds for* ***The Community Gardens at Brown Elementary.***
- *Instructed three* ***professional development classes*** *with full enrollment.*
- ***The Community Gardens at CRSD*** *to expand to sites at eight additional school campuses.*
- ***The Compost Centers at CRSD*** *to expand to sites at seven additional school campuses.*
- *Mapped out Frear Elementary's portion of* ***The Multiuse Trail at the CRSD EcoCampus.***
- *CR Environmental Specialist elected to board of* ***DE Association for Environmental Education*** *(DAEE).*
- *Postlethwait recognized as* ***Air Quality Flag Program*** *by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).*
- *CRSD Teacher of the Year, Ashlee Upp, designs* ***Mindful Moments Yoga Bench*** *at Frear.*

FEATURED RIDER

"When I think of you I think of what can be done."
Horace W. Cook

WHO: Anna Thompson

WHAT: CRSD student, received *Spirit of Caesar Rodney Student Award* for successfully planning and initiating two projects.

WHEN: May 2018

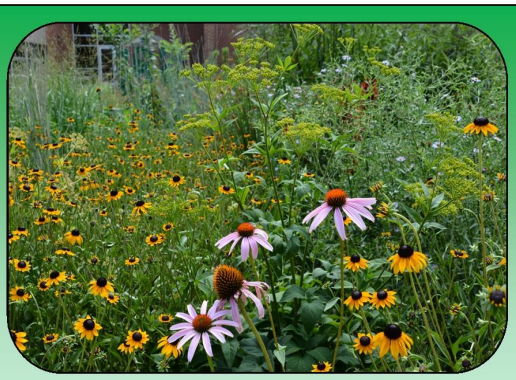
WHERE: Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School

WHY: To promote health and wellness and to reduce negative environmental impact in her school.

HOW: Organized a memorial tree planting for a fellow student and a beloved teacher who valiantly fought cancer. Designed pilot program for a new GREEN initiative that puts food in the hands of students and keeps food waste out of landfills.

GOOD TO KNOW

CRSD is an active partner with DE Children in Nature initiatives.



Native meadows have great value for wildlife especially pollinators that are critical for our food production. Have you noticed how CR is restoring native habitat around the district?

"Over the last thirty years in particular, spontaneous outdoor play of all kinds has declined, both in vitality and in quality."

Dr. Joe Frost, University of Texas at Austin

CR Celebrates National Custodial Day

More than 70 custodians, chief custodians and firemen tend to Caesar Rodney schools year round. Their job is to ensure our schools, parking lots and grounds are kept clean and functioning throughout the year.

National Custodial Worker's Recognition Day, held in October, is set aside to show appreciation to those men and women who keep our schools running smoothly and shining brightly. Our custodians often work behind the scenes, after a class, after a show or after a school day making sure the facilities are ready to go for another school day.

Building Custodian Nancy Jester

One of those custodians is Nancy Jester, the district's senior custodian with 27 years on the job, all within the Caesar Rodney School District.

First starting in 1991 in the district office part time, Nancy then transferred to Stokes Elementary full time as a custodian for more than ten years before heading to Fifer Middle where she has since remained.

"When I first started here at Fifer, I was the night fireman, which oversees the night crew to make sure all the tasks are accomplished and rooms and other areas prepared for after class programs," said Nancy.

Routinely, custodians will vacuum, buff floors, trash removal, clean up spills and biohazard issues, change filters, lightbulbs, clean restrooms and more. Other responsibilities include getting the school and grounds ready following snowfall, storms or other events.

When asked what gives her the most satisfaction in her job, Nancy replied, "Its the kids. Being a custodian is a behind-the-scenes job. People never really see what we do. But we are visible to the students everyday and they know we maintain a clean, safe environment for them. The students are polite and caring and that means a lot to me."

Local Chef Helps CRHS Nutrition Staff During National School Lunch Week

Local chef Sal Iapino stopped by CRHS to help school cafe staff prepare a healthy pizza made with whole wheat dough, chicken, lettuce and cheese during the National School Lunch Program.

Postlethwait Opens Blue and Gold Cafe

At F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School, seven students from the John S. Charlton School program recently officiated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the district' sixth Blue and Gold Café.

In front of district administrators, teachers, child nutrition staff, cafeteria workers, school board members and fellow classmates, the Charlton students greeted customers, took coffee requests, poured coffee and took payment.

Karen Abate, a teacher with the Charlton School, said the Café is a wonderful program that truly helps their students with special needs. "The Blue and Gold Café allows our students to interact with other students and staff while improving their functional life skills including inventory control, customer service and currency exchange. These are the kinds of skills our students will be able to use when applying for jobs as they get older."

"The students and staff from our Charlton Program are our students and staff," said Dr. Kristina Failing, principal at Postlethwait Middle School. "They are our family and are an integral part of our fabric and community. I don't want to imagine a day without our buddies. Our Brew & Gold Café crew are hard workers and bring the best energy to school each and every day. We are privileged and honored to work beside and with them!"

There are currently five other Blue and Gold Café stations currently running: Allen Frear Elementary along with the John S. Charlton School; Caesar Rodney High School; Fred Fifer Middle School; Wesley College; and now at Postlethwait Middle. A sixth location, at Dover Air Base Middle School, will be opening soon.

The Rider football field officially opened during Homecoming Weekend with a win while the Legacy Field construction continues. (Drone photography courtesy of Jason Bonner.)

More than 60 dignitaries and invited guests helped cut a yellow ribbon officially opening the new artificial turf football field . The Riders defeated Cape Henlopen 30-9.

Ground Breaking for the Ninth Grade Academy scheduled to be completed in August 2020.

CR Rider Homec

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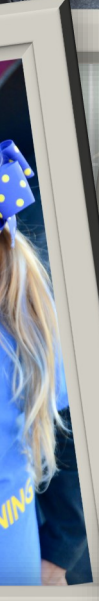
coming Weekend



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We are...CR!!!