

THE CR REPORT

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



SPRING 2019

www.crk12.org



Art-a-palooza

Message from the Superintendent

Well, Spring Break has finally arrived and with it the signal that the end of the school year is fast approaching. We've had quite a busy winter with students excelling both in the classroom, on the athletic field and on the stage. Hopefully you were able to join us at one of our many events to see just how talented our students are! We take great pride in the



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

work and accomplishments of our students and this year has certainly had a lot to be proud of. Such as individual state championships in wrestling, indoor track, and outstanding performances on stage in the Sound of Music, our Chinese and Spanish immersion

students showcased their talents and our students who took part in Black History Month activities along with "Rock Your Socks" activities for Autism Awareness Month. In April we also celebrated the "Month of the Military Child" by wearing purple! We are proud to be the home of a large number of students; whose parents are the heroes who defend our freedom and safety!

I know you're interested in our construction projects. For those of you that drive by the high school you will see the steel structure for the new ninth grade academy. I know that many of you are wondering about graduation. While the area behind the school and by the stadium is a construction site, we are in the planning stages of holding our first graduation outdoors on the new turf at Rider stadium. Now we just need the weather to cooperate! We continue to make improvements at our middle and elementary schools in fulfillment of the promises we

made during our referendum. However, we have hit a snag in the building of our new elementary school and we continue to look to our state legislators for assistance and securing the funds needed to build the type of elementary school that our community and our students expect and deserve. We are now involved in the dreaded state testing! While no one likes testing, we certainly appreciate the efforts of our students, parents and our community to support the work that's being done in our classrooms. These tests help demonstrate what our students have learned and help us improve upon the education they receive while they attend our schools. Let's finish the school year strong!



WHATS HAPPENING?

BOARD MEETINGS:

May 21: Allen Frear

June 18: W. Reily Brown

July 16: Paul L. Dunbar
Administration Building

SPECIAL EVENTS:

June 1: CRHS Graduation

SCHOOL CLOSING:

April 19-26: Spring Break

May 27: Memorial Day

June 6: Last Student Day

June 17: Last Teacher Day

FRONT COVER:

Benjy Eylsee a Pre-K student at the John S. Charlton School explores the light display at Art-a-palooza.

BACK COVER:

Sophia Ye a 4th grade student at Nellie H. Stokes Elementary smells a petunia that she planted on a field trip to Caesar Rodney High School.

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community.

For questions or comments, please contact Jason Minto, Community Relations and Information Specialist at: jason.minto@cr.k12.de.us

Follow us on social media



Visit Facebook and LIKE "Caesar Rodney School District" for all the latest information and photo galleries from ALL our schools!



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



Follow us on Instagram! Visit Instagram and FOLLOW "CaesarRodneyRiders" for all the latest photos from ALL our schools!

Caesar Rodney's

Social Media Posts



Tracey Quillen Carney, the wife of Delaware Governor John Carney, served breakfast to the students at W. Reilly Brown Elementary for the start of School Breakfast Week.



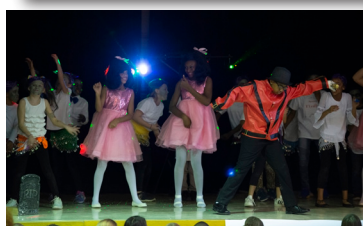
The students at W. Reilly Brown Elementary School heard from multiple professionals from many different career fields about their day-to-day life in their jobs. Professionals ranged from fire & police, board game maker, athletic director, hand surgeon, farmer, veterinarian and our own superintendent of Caesar Rodney School District, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald.



Mr. Tajesh Patel and Mr. Shiv Patel, co-owners of Fix Ur Crack and Wireless Zone, a Verizon retailer, with locations in Dover and Harrington stopped by the Kent Elementary Intensive Learning Center located at W.B. Simpson Elementary for a tour of the KEILC sensory room. The sensory room is a new therapeutic intervention used at the school daily to address sensory self-regulation and positive development of coping skills and was made possible by the generous donations from Wireless Zone this past summer.

"Motown Extravaganza"

In honor of Black History Month students and staff from Nellie H. Stokes Elementary presented "Motown Extravaganza" celebrating 60 years of Soul Music. Students dressed like musicians and danced to chart topping songs such as "Dancing in the Street", "Just My Imagination" and "Thriller".



Caesar Rodney School District Building Teachers of the Year 2019-2020



Christina Bevenour
Welch Elementary School



Alex Carter
John S. Charlton School



Alisa Cavaliero
W. Reily Brown Elementary School



Sabra Collins
Caesar Rodney High School



Allison Gerni
Fred Fifer III Middle School



Katrina King
McIlvaine Early Childhood Center



Eric Kraus
Nellie H. Stokes Elementary School



Amy Laslow
Dover Air Base Middle School



Andrea Pennington
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School



Krystal Ray
Star Hill Elementary School



Amy Smith
Allen Frear Elementary School



Chunyang Yang
W.B. Simpson Elementary School

Star Hill Elementary's "Autism Awareness Campaign"

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, School Counselor Gina Zanella-Sample from Star Hill Elementary School in Dover, organized a school-wide "Autism Awareness Campaign" during the month of April. The goal of the campaign is to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of individuals with Autism and to give the school community a common language when speaking about Autism. Students and staff participated in a spirit week which included the themes, "We Blend Together" (Tie Dye Day), "Light it Up Blue" (Wear Blue for National Autism Awareness Day), "We Are All on the Same Team!" (Favorite Sports Team Day), "Hats off to Autism!" (Hat Day), and "Be A Superhero for Autism Awareness!" (Dress Like a Superhero Day). In addition to a spirit week, students and staff contributed to a large Autism Awareness display in the main foyer of the school by coloring and designing over 400 individual puzzle pieces to show that "Together we are Better". Students also incorporated technology in to the Autism Awareness Campaign by reading one Autism fact for each day in April on live streamed morning announcements and by starring in videos, shown to the entire school, in which they discussed their positive experiences with their classmates with Autism.



CR Board of Education

Recognitions

Kaidin Burton, a 5th grade student at Allen Frear Elementary was recognized as a recipient of the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Student Award at the Caesar Rodney Board of Education meeting in April. On Friday February 8th, 2019 Kaidin Burton, a 5th grade student at Allen Frear Elementary, came to the aid of the bus driver of bus #40 who was having a medical emergency. Kaidin instructed the students on the bus to remain calm. Kaidin then dialed 911 to report the medical emergency. Kaidin also made a phone call to his mother instructing her to call and notify the school of what had occurred. While



Kaidin checked on the bus driver, Kaidin's brother Maurice instructed the kids in the neighborhood to run and get help. Kaidin's quick thinking and action helped to save the life of bus #40's bus driver. We are proud of Kaidin for being a leader to support our school community and a great representative of the Spirit of Caesar Rodney.

Beverly Knight received the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Community Award at the Caesar Rodney Board of Education

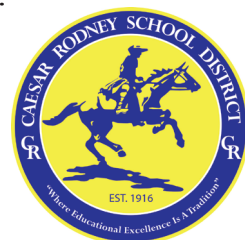


meeting in March for her continued support to the Caesar Rodney School District and for her many donations to our schools throughout the years. Mrs. Knight and Knight's Fine Jewelry has been a strong community partner for the Caesar Rodney School District. Through her advocacy and generosity, she has made a positive impact on individual students, classrooms, schools and the entire district. Her promotion and support for the school district along with her generosity exemplifies the true meaning of "Rider Pride."

Patricia (Trish) McCarty received the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Volunteer Award at the Caesar Rodney Board of Education meeting in March. Since her retirement, Patricia McCarty has continually



volunteered her time to assist students at the J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. Coming to the early childhood center twice a week and staying between 1-3 hours, Mrs. McCarty works with children of all abilities in either small groups or one-on-one. Her expertise and knowledge of how children learn has helped the school close the achievement gap. Mrs. McCarty also volunteers to complete many "at-home" projects that support the lessons in our classroom. Both students and their teachers have benefited from her love for learning. Mrs. Patricia McCarty truly exemplifies the spirit of Caesar Rodney!



Spanish Immersion Cultural Fiesta Night

Students from W. Reily Brown Elementary and the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center held their Spanish Immersion Cultural Fiesta Night at Caesar Rodney High School. The Spanish Immersion Students have not only learned all of the verses in their newly acquired second language, but they have also been learning the popular dances from countries rich in Spanish Culture. The students performed songs such as Festival de Abril, Amigos Para Siempre and La Decada just to name a few.



The Sound of Music

The Broadway musical “The Sound of Music” was recently performed by the Caesar Rodney High School Music Department and the Stage Crew Thespians. The cast, music, costumes and the sets were simply amazing. The students began auditioning for the parts back in December and music and stage practice began in January. Congratulations to everyone involved for an outstanding performance! Your hard work certainly paid off.

To see all the pictures of this wonderful performance, go to the Caesar Rodney School District home page and click on “Photos Around the District” in the Quick Links box.





Dr. Fitzgerald hands out gold coins for St. Patrick's Day



Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, stopped by the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, Home of the Littlest Riders and handed out gold coins to students in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.



ILC Dover visits McIlvaine Early Childhood Center



To wrap up March Space Mania Month, ILC Dover stopped by the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center to talk to the kindergarten students about how the astronaut spacesuit works and why they are so important to the astronauts.

Eagle 97.7 FM Makes Surprise Visit



Eagle 97.7 FM DJ's Jhas and Petch stopped by the Caesar Rodney District Office and brought lunch for Kim Summerfield, Secretary of Child Nutrition, and her co-workers after being nominated by Darla Koff, Child Nutrition Specialist, for Eagle 97.7's Co-Worker Kudos.



#goriders



Basketball Players Read to Students at W. Reily Brown Elementary



Basketball players from Caesar Rodney High School girls' and boys' basketball teams stopped by W. Reily Brown Elementary to read to students to celebrate Read Across America to help promote the joy of reading and the many ways in which literacy enriches our lives. Since 1998, Americans have celebrated Read Across America Day to help inspire young people to read and to support literacy for all our citizens. W. Reily Brown Elementary would like to thank Delaware State Education Association for supply the Cat in the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2 costumes.

CR Alumni Speaks to Students at Welch About Acceptance



The students at Major George S. Welch Elementary attended the "Spread the word to end the Word" Day assembly put on by Delaware Special Olympics. Caesar Rodney alumni Jillian Mathew, class of 2013, gave the main address to the students. The purpose of the assembly was to help change the conversation and help eliminate the demeaning use of the R-word and replace it with "respect." Hopes are to create a more accepting world for people with intellectual disabilities and all those people that may appear different, but have unique gifts and talents to share with the world.

Month of the Military Child



Members of Dover Air Base Middle School Chorus and Welch Elementary Student Council Leaders met with Governor John Carney for the signing of the proclamation for the observance of the Month of the Military Child. After the chorus performed for Governor Carney, they presented him with a gift of a Caesar Rodney sweatshirt. They also performed in the Senate Chambers and made an appearance in the House Chambers.



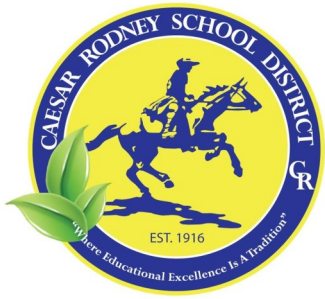
5th Grade Gala Band Concert



Eco-Team Harvests and Cooks Collard Greens



The W. Reily Brown Elementary Eco-Team harvested collard greens from their school garden. The plants were donated by the Kent Community Garden Collaborative. After harvesting the collard greens, Darla Koff, Caesar Rodney School District Child Nutrition Specialist, demonstrated how to prepare and cook the collard greens.



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 *Since Winter 2018*

- **Brown Elementary School** selected as a 2019 Delaware State Green Ribbon School Finalist
- **CRSD** selected as a 2019 Delaware State Green Ribbon Sustainable District finalist
- Advised **DNREC** on considerations for policy change/funding to promote school recycling and composting
- Conducted cost savings sustainability studies at **Frear Elementary** and **Postlethwait Middle Schools**
- Received funding and in-kind support from **US Fish and Wildlife Service** for habitat restoration at Frear
- Installed first raised bed of **The Community Gardens at Frear Elementary** with EcoTeam students
- Designed first professional development day bringing together all **building EcoTeam Sponsors**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GreenRibbonSchools



FEATURED RIDERS

WHO: Ms. Molly Stokes & Ms. Lauren Hamory

WHAT: CRHS EcoTeam Co-sponsors

WHEN: 2010 to present

WHERE: Caesar Rodney High School

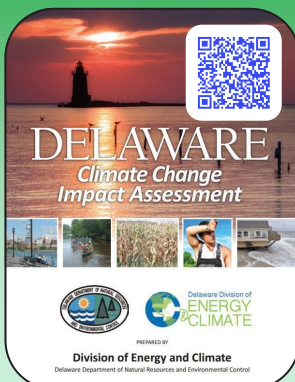
WHY: Original *GreenRiders* who formed the *Earth Club* in 2010 and forged the path for today's network of student led *EcoTeams*.

HOW: As science teachers who previously worked in environmental and conservation careers, they understand the skills and literacy that our students need to become conservation-minded citizens. This dynamic duo makes their *EcoTeam* a community experience rather than just a club.

"You are the last, best hope of Earth. We ask you to protect it or we, and all living things we cherish, are history."

Leonardo DiCaprio

GOOD TO KNOW



In Delaware, scientists, state agencies and local partners are working together to understand how climate change is affecting our state. Scan the QR code to find out what we know.

Delaware has a high tech, single stream recycling system (with magnets and laser eyes!) that handles most, but not all, recyclable materials. Scan this QR code to learn just what goes in your blue bin.

WHEN IN DOUBT...



...THROW IT OUT!
(or find a new use for it!)



Working outdoors helps you grow as a person and develop new skills. Delaware State Parks' Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program provides high quality summer jobs and environmental opportunities for young people aged 14-26. Turn a summer job into a great adventure! Scan the QR code for details.



**Congratulations to the
CRHS
Unified Basketball Team
for making it to the
State Championship Finals**





hello

SPRING