Riders Roll!

SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE

Caesar Rodney School District, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, DE 19934
What a great year to be a Rider! As you look through the summer issue of The CR Report, I hope that you experience the sense of pride and satisfaction that we experienced the 2016-17 school year!

With graduations, moving up ceremonies, numerous awards and recognitions we certainly have a great deal to be proud of! First, let me congratulate our graduates. On June 3rd Caesar Rodney High School saw 499 students walk across the stage and receive their well-deserved diplomas. Included in the Class of 2017 was Mr. John Cooper. Mr. Cooper left Caesar Rodney prior to receiving his diploma to serve his country as a radio operator in World War II. With the consent and support of the Caesar Rodney Board of Education, the Delaware Secretary of Education and the Delaware State Board of Education, at 93 years of age Mr. Cooper was awarded his diploma. Once a Rider, always a Rider!

I also want to congratulate the staff and students of Postlethwait Middle School for being the recognized as a U.S. Department of Education “Green Ribbon School.” The program at Postlethwait, led by science teacher Todd Klawinski, is a great example of the community developing a partnership with a school to educate, inform and prepare our students.

Did you hear that our Chinese immersion students at both Simpson and Frear were able to take a virtual trip to China when both schools skyped “sister” schools in China? A virtual trip to Spain is planned for our Spanish immersion students next year! Who knows, a real trip to China and Spain may be in the future for these students!

As the year comes to a close and we begin preparations for the 2017-18 school year, I want to thank the parents, teachers, staff, administrators and community for putting the children of this community first and making the Caesar Rodney School District a special place for our students! Have a great summer!

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

Delaware State Board of Education, at 93 years of age Mr. Cooper was awarded his diploma. Once a Rider, always a Rider!

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

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Visit Instagram and FOLLOW “CaesarRodneyRiders” for all the latest cool photos from ALL our schools!

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community. For questions or comments, please contact Community Relations Specialist Dave Chambers at: david.chambers@cr.k12.de.us
There are approximately 800 students at PMS. That's over 1,600 green thumbs! And they just received one big thumbs-up from Uncle Sam! The U.S. Department of Education announced in May that F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School is among the 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award winners and one of only two selected from Delaware.

These schools have done exemplary work to help prepare the rising generation for the careers and challenges of the 21st Century.” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a press release.

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award honors schools, districts, and institutions for reducing environmental impact and costs, improving health and wellness and offering effective sustainability education.

"This award acknowledges your school’s commitment to sustainable practices. We commend your school for its leadership in facilities, health, and environmental education." wrote U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools director Andrea Suarez Falken in an email to PMS science teacher Todd Klawinski.

Mr. Klawinski, the school's scientific secret weapon, helped established an "Eco-Team" club at PMS to give environmentally conscious and motivated students an outlet to share their ideas to make a difference in the school and community. The group meets monthly and discusses ideas they have to make the school, campus, and students more environmentally friendly.

"Today is a great day, not only for our school being recognized as a Green Ribbon School, but for all the students, faculty, and staff of the Caesar Rodney School District. We have ventured down a pathway to being a Delaware public school model for sustainable living and lifelong learning, and for raising our students to become conservation minded adults as they continue down their own pathways to success." remarked Mr. Klawinski.

The school features an outdoor classroom, complete with a learning deck, raised vegetable garden and compost bins, which allows students to enjoy the outdoors and make connections between the environmental science content they learn in the classroom and the natural world around them.

“I’m extremely proud of our students and Mr. Klawinski. Through their efforts, and with the support of the Caesar Rodney School District, our school community has been provided with a highly interactive, and very diverse, outdoor learning environment that supports sustainable living and conservation practices.” said Postlethwait Principal Derek Prillaman in May.
Kyle Hill, a third-grade special education teacher at Star Hill Elementary School has been selected as Caesar Rodney School District’s 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year.

“Kyle Hill exemplifies the type of teacher every child in Delaware deserves. We are proud of him and proud to have him as our 2017-18 District Teacher of the Year.” said Caesar Rodney School District superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald.

With 18 years of teaching experience, all at Star Hill Elementary, Mr. Hill received his Bachelor's degree at Kutztown University and his Master's Degree at Delaware State University. He has taught every grade at Star Hill except first.

"It is an unbelievable honor to represent all of the amazing teachers in the Caesar Rodney School District. Words cannot express my gratitude for receiving this award." said Mr. Hill.

“Kyle Hill is a gifted educator who transforms the children he works with into people who believe in themselves, take chances and realize their importance in the world. These internal beliefs lead children to blossom academically, socially and emotionally into life-long learners.” remarked Star Hill Principal Nicole Kurz-McDowell.

The process for determining the district’s Teacher of the Year begins with recommendations from students, teachers, parents and administrators at each school building. Building teachers then vote to select the top five teachers. Those nominees then develop portfolios which are then reviewed and scored by a committee of parents, teachers and students from each school. From that process, one teacher in each building emerges as a District Teacher of the Year candidate.

A more in-depth portfolio is then created by each candidate which contains information including: educational history and professional development; awards and recognition; philosophy of teaching; community service; and letters of support. These portfolios are then read and scored independently by administrators, school board members, teachers, parents and students. From this process, candidates emerge as finalists.

Teams consisting of the district superintendent, principals, teachers and parents then conduct classroom observations and interviews with the finalists. Individually, each team member awards an overall score for each candidate. After a discussion and review of all scores, the District Teacher of the Year is selected.

“In a district that is so richly filled with the highest quality educators, I am truly humbled and grateful for this recognition.” said Mr. Hill, who will now represent Caesar Rodney School District and compete against eighteen other Teacher of the Year nominees for the honor of becoming the Delaware’s Teacher of the Year. That announcement will be made by Governor John Carney in October.
CRSD Teachers Of The Year 2017-2018

“I want to congratulate each of our Building Teachers of the Year. They are excellent examples of the commitment that the Caesar Rodney School District has made to our students and our community. Selecting only one of these outstanding teachers to represent our district in the statewide Teacher of the Year competition was indeed a challenge.” remarked CRSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald.

103 CRHS NHS Members Receive Honor Cords

One hundred and three members of the Class of 2017 crossed the stage inside the auditorium of Caesar Rodney High School in May to receive their National Honor Society graduation honor cords after a large dinner inside the cafeteria.

Guest speaker and CRHS Teacher Of The Year Nora Tuke advised the graduates to stop and take time to enjoy their youth while pursing their future scholarly endeavors next fall.

CRSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and CRHS Principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski awarded each senior their cord before members of the CRHS Chorale sang the school Alma Mater.

Afterwards, proud parents snapped souvenir photographs of their academic all-stars.

Congratulations and good luck to all these super scholars.

*It’s A Great Day To Be A Rider!*
No. This isn't science fiction. It's CR.

No. This isn't the future. It's now.

In April, third grade Chinese Immersion students from Allen Frear Elementary School held a Skype internet telephone call with students their own age in China who just happen to be learning English.

So, just imagine, Allen Frear students speaking Chinese to the Chinese students who were speaking English. It was a fun evening for sure.

Proud parents brought their super students back to school around 6:30pm that evening for an awesome buffet of Chinese food before the historic call was made at 7:30pm.

The Frear third-graders did a great job meeting and chatting with their new friends.
For the seventh time in the history of the program and the fifth consecutive time CRHS Air Force JROTC under the leadership of instructors Col. Mitch Berger and MSgt. Jon Wedel have won the title of Delaware JROTC Military Drill Champions at the Eagle Classic 2017 State Drill Competition held at Dover Air Base Middle School in April.

During the 22nd annual State of Delaware JROTC Military Drill Championships, CR finished first in three of the six events and finished second in the other three.

The CRHS cadets completed their first ever undefeated season winning the Overall Champion at The Blue Hen Classic, Dover’s Senator Classic, William Penn’s Colonial Classic and the State Championships.

The dedication, discipline and duty of CRHS' cadets truly epitomize what it means to be a Rider. Congrats to the cadets! Excellent as always!
Welch Elementary School students perform the maypole dance at Dover Days.

Approximately thirty 3rd, 4th and 5th graders from Dover Air Force Base's Major George S. Welch Elementary School participated in the 84th annual Dover Days festival in May.

After meeting at Christ Church in Dover, they proceeded to walk to Legislative Mall and pose for photos by Delaware's Liberty Bell.

The parade, which is believed to the largest in Delaware, began at 9:30am and Welch proudly represented CRSD and the US Air Force in fine fashion.

As the bell atop Old Court House on The Green struck 11am, the students performed the ritual of the maypole dance three times to hundreds of happy onlookers.

It's sad to report that only three schools participate in the maypole dance these days. One from CR, one from Capital and one from Smyrna. The students and staff at Welch have vowed to never stop performing the maypole dance...even if they are the only school remaining willing to carry on the tradition.
Over twenty students from Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School delivered a bountiful breakfast to the Delaware State Police troopers at Troop 3 near Magnolia in May morning as a way of saying "thanks" for their dedication to safety of our community.

They each prepared handwritten cards of thanks for the police officers and gave them to Troop 3 Commander Josh Bushweller who was very touched by the gesture, as were all the state troopers present.

The students brought the officers platters from Chick-Fil-A, doughnuts and coffee from Dunkin Donuts and gallon jugs of iced tea.

CRSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Stokes Principal Darissa Everett and Achievement Liaison Teacher Kellie Rogers accompanied the thankful students who were given a quick tour of the troop headquarters before a group photo was taken out front.

Twenty-six preschoolers at John S. Charlton School were a happy bunch as they graduated during a short ceremony in the school cafeteria.

Principal Todd Simpson and assistant principal Adrielle Benini led the Dr. Suess themed ceremony which including a reading from the classic book "Oh, The Places You'll Go".

Proud family members snapped photos as the students walked the processional but the highlight of the day was at the conclusion of the ceremony as the graduates walked the hallways of the school, which were lined with proud faculty, students and family members, for a Clap Out & High Five Tunnel like you've never seen before.

Congrats to these great little grads!
525 “Little Riders” Graduate from McIlvaine Kindergarten

525 kindergarten students (Class of 2029) graduated from McIlvaine Early Childhood Center on June 5th during three separate ceremonies held at CRHS with MECC Principal Brook Castillo as emcee.
Little Riders Graduate from McIlvaine Kindergarten

Kindergarten students (Class of 2029) graduated from McIlvaine Early Childhood Center on June 5th.

I did it! Only twelve more to go!
Caesar Rodney High School held its 101st Commencement Ceremony Saturday morning and you could feel the Rider Pride in the air. The guest speaker for the Class of 2017 was Delaware Governor John C. Carney Jr. who returned to the CRHS campus to give the graduates some words of advice regarding loyalty and also to fulfill a push-up challenge made to him by Rider football players last Fall during Rider Pride Day. And yes, he did them right on the stage to cheers from the crowd. Class of 2017 Valedictorian Grace Collins and Salutatorian Alyssa Ball both gave short inspiring speeches to their classmates. Congratulations to all of the graduates and good luck.
Graduate from Caesar Rodney High School
65 “Little Riders” Graduate from Welch Kindergarten

Sixty-five Welch Elementary School kindergarten students graduated June 7th during the school’s Kindergarten Graduation ceremony held at The Landings at Dover Air Force Base. The students sang three songs before receiving their diplomas and then after they closed the ceremony by signing the CR Alma Mater. Great job, Welch grads!

First grade is gonna be a piece of cake.
Little Riders Graduate from Welch Kindergarten

Five Welch Elementary School kindergarten students graduated June 7th during the school’s Kindergarten Graduation ceremony held at The Landings at Dover Air Force Base. The students sang three songs before receiving their diplomas and afterwards.
Riders from across Kent County woke up Sunday June 2nd to see John Green Cooper on the cover of the Delaware State News receiving an honorary high school diploma. But who is John Green Cooper you ask? And why did he receive a diploma?

Mr. Cooper was born on June 10, 1923 in Wyoming on what is now one of the Fifer farms. He spent his youth on the family farm in Lebanon where his parents were in charge of distributing surplus food during the depression. He held many jobs during his youth including distributing circulars for Sears & Roebuck, working at the local A & P store, and summer jobs at the Libbey-McNeill canning factory in Wyoming and another canning factory in Magnolia.

Mr. Cooper attended Caesar Rodney School. With the World War II on the horizon, he left school during the 11th grade and enrolled in the National Youth Administration Radio School in Dover.

Mr. Cooper enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in the Signal Corps. Leaving Ft. Monmouth and Ft. Dix behind, he sailed on a liberty ship to North Africa and from there to Caserta, Italy. He spent most of his remaining Army service as a radio operator at Allied Headquarters, working in the basement of the Royal Palace in Caserta and even passing General Patton on the stairs at one point. His unit received a citation for sending and receiving the most messages in one day.

Returning home after his service, Mr. Cooper found work driving a truck for the J.E. Churchman and Son grain business in Clayton. In 1945, Mr. Cooper's friend told him about a job opportunity with the Pennsylvania Railroad and he started employment with the railroad in December, 1945.

Mr. Cooper married Marie Churchman in January 1948 at St. Joseph’s Church in Clayton during a snowstorm. Their first daughter Barbara was born March 1949, followed a few years later by the birth of their second daughter Denise in June 1957.

Throughout his career with the Pennsylvania Railroad, Mr. Cooper worked all up and down the Delmarva Peninsula as a block operator and freight agent. He also served with the Delaware National Guard and for a brief period, supplemented the family income as a dispatcher for the Smyrna Police. He retired from the railroad in June 1983.

During 101st CRHS Commencement, Mr. Cooper was awarded his high school diploma for a lifetime of dedicated service to his town, state and country. After 498 graduates received their diplomas, it was time for Mr. Cooper, the "499th" graduate to be recognized.

Mr. Cooper celebrated his 94th birthday on June 10th and the district congratulates him on a life well lived and wish him many more happy, healthy years.
Ten Graduate From Charlton School

May 20th was a special day in the Caesar Rodney School District. It was graduation day at Charlton School.

Dr. George Tilson was the guest speaker at the commencement ceremony. Dr. Tilson has dedicated his career to the mission of helping youth and adults with disabilities and other challenges in achieving their life goals for employment and education.

The graduates included: Keith Coleman, Alexandra Dyer, Mikenna Hunt, Justice McTeer, Colby Pardee, Walter Pepper, Alex Start, Joshua Surdukowski, Devin Welch and Ronnie Woodus.

Charlton School Holds Prom

Everyone has dreamt of getting all dressed up, entering a grand gala event along a luxurious red carpet as the paparazzi takes photos and then dancing the day away to the hottest tunes, right?

Charlton School held its annual Prom May 26th and the upperclassmen did just that.

Students entered the Charlton gym on a long red carpet surrounded by teachers and faculty cheering them on. Ladies received a rose and a tiara along the red carpet.

Inside the gym, students partied, parents snapped photos, teachers danced...and everyone smiled. It was another great Charlton School event. Great job to the staff at Charlton for hosting this event and congrats to the students who got to enjoy one a very special day indeed.
June 9th was the last day of classes for CR students and over 500 McIlvaine kindergarten students celebrated their last day of school before summer vacation. Some celebrated with smiles. Some with tears.

“Saying ‘goodbye’ to our students is never easy and this year is no exception! The building just isn't the same without the class of 2029 filling our hallways. It's always fun to watch them grow over the course of their kindergarten year and we wish them the best of luck as they move on to first grade! We will miss them!” said MECC Principal Brook Castillo.

A young boy cries in the arms of his kindergarten teacher before he says goodbye on the last day of school.

Have a Safe Summer!
Major George S. Welch Elementary School 4th graders packed our bags and booked our flight...our destination was planned...all we had to do was enjoy the trip.

During the school's annual Passports Around The World event on June 2nd, students dressed up and gave short presentations based on different countries around the globe and the cultural differences between them.

“Many of the students of Welch Elementary are well traveled due to their parent’s occupations. This event gives students a chance to reminisce about places in the world they have traveled. They get to talk to classmates who have traveled to these locations, learn about new places and cultures and develop a sense that the world is made of many different people and cultures.” said Welch Principal Jason Payne.

That morning you could've visited England, Scotland and Ireland, swung on over to China and Japan and then ended your trip in Brazil....all before lunch!

CRHS varsity girls basketball coach Bill Victory was honored May 10th for being a man who lives up to his name. Coach Victory and his 2016-2017 team went 19-1, won the Henlopen Conference and he was named Henlopen Conference Coach of the Year.

Coach Victory has been the head coach of the Caesar Rodney High School varsity girls’ basketball team since the 1990-1991 season…27 seasons!

In those twenty-seven seasons he has:
- Won 421 games
- Made the DIAA State Tournament twenty-seven times
- Made the DIAA State Tournament Elite-8 eight times
- Made the DIAA State Tournament Final-4 three times
- Won the Henlopen Conference six times

In appreciation for his contributions in making the Caesar Rodney School District a special place for all students, Caesar Rodney School District extends its sincere congratulations and appreciation to Coach VICTORY!
W. Reily Brown Leads The Way

W. Reily Brown Elementary School Principal Dr. Susan Frampton welcomed parents and members of the community to her 2nd annual Leader Day on May 25th.

Folks arrived at Brown, a Leader In Me school, at 9am to be greeted by members of the student body who escorted them into the school where they enjoyed a complimentary breakfast.

“WRB’s Leadership Day is an opportunity to proudly share with our community our students’ hard work in becoming the leaders of their own lives.” remarked Brown Principal Dr. Susan Frampton

Students Blair McFadden, Samir Gibbons, Joslyn Papen and Jayda Johnson gave opening remarks as did parents Mrs. Clay and Ms. Johnson.

The action then moved into the school cafeteria where the Leader Day Choir performed two songs before the Brown Step Team took over.

Guests were then treated to an awesome school tour where they met famous people from history during the Living Wax Museum and did some shopping at the 3rd grade Market Fair in the gym & the school store.

Concluding the day, students Emma West and Ronnie Ross gave the closing remarks before guest speaker and CRSD Board Member Cheryl Precourt closed the event with inspiring words.

Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School has recently also become a Leader In Me school and Fifer Middle will become one next school year. Leader In Me schools teach 21st Century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.
Undefeated Fifer Wrestling Team Honored

The Caesar Rodney School Board recognized the 2016-2017 Fred Fifer III Middle School Wrestling Team, and Head Coach Chip Wilt, during the June board meeting at Star Hill.

The wrestlers went undefeated this season winning all nine of their matches decisively scoring 557 points to their opponents’ 215.

The hard work and determination of these young Riders sets a perfect example of the athletic excellence Caesar Rodney School Wrestling is known for. Great job!

New 2017-2018 Bell Schedule Announced

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Nebraska children's author Julia Cook visited the students of W. B. Simpson Elementary School on March 16th for a very fun and educational assembly in the school gym.

Ms. Cook, author of "But It's Not My Fault" and "My Mouth Is A Volcano", spent about an hour with the students.

She read from several of her books and left the youngsters with lessons about tolerance and responsibility.

Afterwards, CRHS Early Childhood Education students went into the Simpson classrooms and assisted the teachers with a follow-up lesson.

Ms. Cook even brought our her pet dog, Kirby, at the end of the assembly to the delight of the children.

For more information on Julia Cook, visit www.juliacookonline.com.

Thank you for the visit Ms. Cook! You too, Kirby!

Members of the Dover Air Base Middle School Chorus, under the direction of Dave Delong, went to Legislative Hall on April 4th in Dover with their very proud Principal Nicole Jones to sing some patriotic tunes in honor of The Month Of The Military Child - April.

Wearing purple or red, white & blue, they sang a medley of the military anthems to members of the Delaware General Assembly but not before meeting Gov. John Carney in his office first!

He met and spoke with most of the mini-minstrels, who were accompanied by members of the Welch Elementary student council and Principal Jason Payne, after he presented them with a special proclamation stating that April 4th is observed as Day of Recognition Of The Military Child in The First State.

Being all students who attend schools at Dover Air Force Base and in honor of the base dignitaries in attendance, the students sang "Wild Blue Yonder (The Air Force Song)" in the office of the Governor before heading down to the Senate chamber for another performance. Here's to all the military children who attend Caesar Rodney schools.
The Caesar Rodney High girls’ tennis team are state champions again!

Caesar Rodney won the DIAA girls’ team tennis championship for the second year in a row on May 26th at St. Andrew’s School. It is the third title in four years for the Lady Riders tennis squad.

“It means a lot to us,” said Nora Frederick, who won an individual championship at No. 3 singles, in an interview with the Delaware State News. Along with Frederick’s victory at No. 3 singles, the Riders swept the doubles competition with wins by No. 1 doubles team Katherine Tamesis and Micaela Thorogood, while Piper Casey and Chloe Manguba were winners in No. 2 doubles competition.

“They’ve been strong all year,” said CR Coach Zach Taylor of his doubles teams in an interview with the Delaware State News. “The biggest thing for both teams, is their chemistry. They complement each other really well.” (Thanks to Delaware State News reporter Tim Mastro for use of excerpts from his May 26th article)

Hundreds of college-bound seniors gathered in the school gymnasium on May 5th to celebrate College Decision Day. Most of the CRHS seniors had decided on what school or military branch they’ll be attending in the fall and came to school today dressed in their new gear.

As an added bonus, each senior received a doughnut which they then could decorate with their new school colors. There were different colors of sprinkles, cereals, marshmallows, crystallized sugar, M&Ms, gum drops and gummy bears for the seniors to choose from as fun toppings for their "Decision Day Donut". (The gummy bears were a big hit in all colors)