

# Indian River School District



November 2021 Newsletter

## SMS Takes Volleyball Title



The Selbyville Middle School volleyball team capped a perfect season by winning the DAAD Central Delaware Invitational Volleyball Tournament at Smyrna High School on Oct. 29.

The Indians defeated Providence Creek Academy and Newark Charter in the first two rounds before downing Smyrna 29-27, 25-21 in the championship finals.

SMS not only finished with a perfect

13-0 record, but did not lose a set the entire season. In its six years of existence, program has an overall record of 57-3.

Team members were Serenity Phillips (Co-Captain), Taliyah McCray (Co-Captain), Daisy Aguilara, Catherine Bunting, Taygan Conaway, Parker O'Shields, Lila Brown, Gianna Hocker, Brooke Loosarian, Isabelle Dorey, Kiley Harant, Taylor Hevner,

*Continued on Page 4*

## Two Schools Receive State Recognition

North Georgetown Elementary School and Long Neck Elementary School have been named 2021 Delaware Recognition Schools for Excellence in Serving Special Populations.

The honor recognized each school's growth and progress towards language proficiency for English learners. EL students at both schools showed exceptional growth toward meeting proficiency standards on ACCESS tests. In addition, eligible schools were required to have a low-income rate of at least 35 percent.

"When our students walk through the doors of NGE, we strive to provide a learning experience and opportunities in which our students continue to demonstrate success," said North Georgetown Principal Samantha Lougheed. "We are honored to receive this award and want to thank our staff who work day in and day out to ensure the needs of our students are met as well as our families for their continued support."

"Long Neck Elementary is beyond proud to receive this recognition for Excellence in Serving Special Populations," said Long Neck Principal Kathleen Wilson. "We use a team approach to student success and achievement that is grounded in building relationships with our learners and meeting them at their individual academic levels of readiness. I am so proud of our staff and

*Continued on Page 2*

## Parent Center Food Pantry Reopens

The IRSD Parent Center Food Pantry at the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford reopened on Nov. 8.

A joint initiative between the Indian River School District, The Harry K Foundation and the Food Bank of Delaware, the pantry is open every Monday from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. when school is in session. The pantry is closed on holidays and in-service days when students are not in school.

District families can visit the pantry once a month to receive 30 pounds of food and five pounds of household items. Visitors must bring their driver's license or approved State of Delaware ID for each visit.

The G.W. Carver Center is located at 30207 Frankford School Road in Frankford. Residents can contact the Howard T. Ennis School at (302) 856-1930 for more information.

## Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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## From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

It gives me great pride to report that two of our schools were recently recognized by the State of Delaware for their exemplary work with special populations. North Georgetown and Long Neck elementary schools were named Recognition Schools of Excellence for assisting English Learners in achieving language proficiency. My heartfelt congratulations go to principals Samantha Loughheed and Kathy Wilson and their dedicated staff members for working tirelessly to give every student the opportunity to be successful in the classroom and in life.

On November 5, I had the pleasure of traveling to Washington D.C. to attend a special awards ceremony in which Southern Delaware School of the Arts was honored as a National Blue Ribbon School. (See Page 3.) It was wonderful to see SDSA Principal Travis Bower and teacher Mary Litchfield recognized alongside some of the most gifted educators in the United States. It's moments like this that remind me how fortunate I am to lead a school district with so many talented educators that have the best interests of every student at heart. Congratulations again to SDSA on this prestigious honor.

I would like to take a moment to thank parents for their patience and understanding during the past few months as we navigate COVID protocols in our schools. Having all students return for in-person instruction five days a week has presented a new set of challenges during the pandemic and the road hasn't always been smooth. But despite these hardships, you have continued to comply with state and local regulations regarding face coverings, social distancing and quarantining, and continued to support our efforts to make schools safe. The results are evident, as the number of positive COVID cases in our schools has trended downward in recent weeks. I am tremendously proud of what we've been able to accomplish under very difficult circumstances this school year. Again, we greatly appreciate your cooperation as we work toward a return to normal operations.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens  
Superintendent

## NG, LN Named Delaware Recognition Schools

*From Page 1*  
students for continuing to find success in the midst of a challenging year."

North Georgetown and Long Neck will each receive a banner to display in their building and an \$8,000 grant to enhance educational services for students.

## New Howard T. Ennis School Continues to Take Shape

Work is progressing at the new Howard T. Ennis School site north of Millsboro.

The building's steel frame is now complete and crews are currently constructing interior and exterior walls. The roof is being placed on the structure and driveway and parking lot areas are being plotted.

Furniture has also been purchased for the building and bid packages for security and technology infrastructure are expected to be issued in December.

The building is scheduled for substantial completion in spring/summer of 2022.



*The new Howard T. Ennis School is being constructed on a parcel of land on Patriots Way north of Millsboro across from Sussex Central High School.*

## SDSA Honored in Washington, D.C.



*Representatives from Southern Delaware School of the Arts traveled to Washington, D.C. on Nov. 5 to receive the 2021 National Blue Ribbon School Award. From left: IRSD Superintendent Jay Owens, SDSA teacher Mary Litchfield and SDSA Principal Travis Bower.*

## Georgetown Middle School Hits the Airwaves

Representatives from Georgetown Middle School have appeared on a local Spanish-language radio station throughout the school year to provide information and assistance to the district's Hispanic families.

Bilingual School/Community Liaison Jokebed Juarez and Assistant Principal Maria Hazzard visited Maxima 95.3 on Aug. 27 to share information about the U.S. educational system, special programs offered at the middle and high school levels, attendance policies, the English Learners program and various community supports. The public had the opportunity to call in and ask questions.

Jokebed also visited Maxima on Sept. 28 to highlight important dates for parent-teacher conferences, progress reports and other district events. She plans to appear on the morning talk show with Kevin Andrade every three months to provide current updates and information to families.



*GMS Bilingual School/Community Liaison Jokebed Juarez (left) and Assistant Principal Maria Hazzard at the Maxima studios on Aug. 27.*



## Author Visits LB...Virtually

Renowned children's author Jerry Pallotta paid a virtual visit to Lord Baltimore Elementary School on Oct. 21. Mr. Pallotta spoke via Zoom to all students in Grades K-5 during the school day before speaking with parents that evening during the school's Literacy Night. He discussed the writing process and how he develops ideas for his books. Mr. Pallotta is the author of more than 90 books, including the recent "Who Would Win?" series, which shows what would happen if various animals faced off in the wild. He has been a children's author for more than 30 years.

## Crandell Wins State Title

Brynn Crandell of Indian River High School became the first downstate cross country champion in 18 years with a time of 19:37 at Brandywine Creek State Park on Nov. 13.

Brynn captured the state title with a winning margin of nine seconds over defending champion Tiffany Herrera of St. Mark's. She was not only the first downstate champion in 18 years, but also the first female state champion from the Henlopen Conference since 2001.

In addition, Indian River's Chase Simms was the state runner-up in the boys cross country championship.



## PTO Hosts Drive-In Movie Night at JMC



The John M. Clayton Elementary School PTO hosted a drive-in movie night in the school parking lot on Nov. 12. Numerous families turned out on the clear and crisp evening to enjoy Space Jam 2. In addition, JMC Honor Society members sold bracelets and glow sticks to those in attendance.

## SMS Volleyball Completes Perfect Season

*From Page 1*  
Macyn Hockman, Autumn Johnson, Tori Royster, Madelyn Wiest, Karalena Maciey and Heidi Showers. Coaches were Sally Craig (head coach), Bill Croal and McKenzie Johnson.

"The players displayed great teamwork and a desire to

win as they played throughout the season," Coach Craig said. "Determined players and a dedicated and experienced coaching staff were the keys to our success."

In addition, the SMS volleyball "B" team also finished with a perfect 10-0 record and dropped only one set

the entire season. The SMS field hockey team also completed an undefeated season with a 1-0 victory over Millsboro on Nov. 1. The Indians finished with a 10-0-1 record and surrendered only four goals the entire season. Beacon played SMS to a 1-1 tie on Oct. 27.

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