

## What's Inside



Teen shines in Miss Hispanic program, Page 2



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## Pendleton A Finalist For PAEMST

Vickie Pendleton of Georgetown Middle School has been named a state-level finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The Presidential Awards are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. Awardes serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.



"When my application was  
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# Indian River District News

*"A Model of Excellence"*

irsd.net

Fall 2017

## Blue Ribbon Award for East Millsboro

### One of three honorees in Delaware

East Millsboro Elementary School was one of three schools in Delaware and 342 nationwide to be named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2017.

This is the second time that East Millsboro Elementary has received this national honor. It also won the award in 2008. Overall, it is the Indian River School District's ninth National Blue Ribbon Award since 2001.

"In earning National Blue Ribbon recognition, East Millsboro Elementary School has made the Indian River School District proud," Superintendent Mark Steele said. "It gives me great pleasure to have this terrific school recognized as one of the top schools not only in Delaware, but in the entire country. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Principal Kelly Dorman and to East Millsboro's students and staff for the hard work and dedication that produced this prestigious honor."



The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve high learning standards or are making no-

table improvements in closing the achievement gap. This coveted award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

Now in its 35th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program has bestowed recognition on more than 8,500 schools. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and the Department of Education will honor East Millsboro Elementary School and the other national winners at a special

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## From the Superintendent

**Mark L. Steele**



Dear Parents,

I want to thank everyone for a smooth opening to the 2017-2018 school year. We faced a few challenges early on, especially in the area of bus transportation, but we've managed to address those issues and move forward. We recently had to alter bus schedules for some students due to a critical shortage of bus drivers. This is a statewide problem for school districts and I want to thank parents for their patience as we work to resolve this issue.

I also want to thank parents and community members for their approval of the current expense referendum last March and for their support and understanding during the recent state budget reductions. We've worked hard to weather the state's financial crisis with minimal impact on classroom instruction. Regardless of the budget constraints we face now or in the future, parents can rest assured that IRSD remains committed to providing students with the best possible instructional programs.

I am excited to have started my first full year as district superintendent. It is an honor and privilege to serve in this position. I hope you all have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Mark L. Steele  
Superintendent

## IRHS Student Named Miss Hispanic Delaware

Indian River High School student Ana Calles of Selbyville was crowned Miss Hispanic Delaware on Aug. 26 at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington. Calles represented Mexico in the program, which celebrates Hispanic culture and helps young women develop poise and communication skills. As the only downstate contestant, the IRHS 11th-grader was scored on her talent (piano), interview skills and evening gown. Her platform for the program was volunteerism.



## Teacher a PAEMST Finalist

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submitted, I was completing my 32nd year of teaching," Pendleton said. "Needless to say, I am humbled and it is an honor to be recognized for the work I try my best to do each day."

Pendleton will be honored this fall at the Delaware

PAEMST Recognition and Recruitment Banquet. This event annually recognizes Delaware's outstanding math and science educators

Pendleton is also eligible for the National PAEMST Award. If chosen as a national winner, Pendleton will be invited by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House to attend a week-long recognition and celebration event in Washington, D.C.



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Mark L. Steele,  
Board Secretary and District Superintendent

## How Do You Restore a Phone Number to BlackBoard?

The Indian River School District has recently been contacted by several parents who have accidentally opted out of our automated phone notification system by pressing "1" at the conclusion of a message. If you have opted out by mistake and want your phone number restored to the system, please call **1-855-502-7867**. This automated hotline can return your contact information to the Blackboard Connect system.

Additionally, Blackboard offers a message replay service. Simply call **1-855-473-7529** to hear replays of any recent messages that were sent to your phone number.

Parents who change their phone number during the school year are encouraged to provide the updated contact information to their child's school so they can continue receiving automated messages from the school and district.

## District Seeking Bus Drivers

Indian River School District bus contractors are in need of bus drivers and bus aides for the 2017-2018 school year. District enrollment growth and the retirements of several bus drivers have created multiple openings for this academic year.

All Delaware bus drivers are required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and School Bus Endorsement. The district and its bus contrac-

tors will assist interested drivers in receiving the training necessary to obtain a CDL and "S" Endorsement prior to the beginning of the school year.

Bus driver applicants will be subject to pre-employment drug testing and criminal background and child protection registry checks.

Interested applicants should contact the IRSD Transportation Office at (302) 436-1000.

## Did You Know?

Michelle Peeling, an English teacher at Indian River High School, was recently named the "Best Teacher on Delmarva" in a contest sponsored by Midway Chevy Cadillac and local radio station The Vault 103.5 and 106.1.

The Indian River School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, creed, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship status, pregnancy, age, ancestry, disability, gender identity, genetic information, military status or any other characteristic protected by law.

# Playground Dedication at Georgetown Elementary



Georgetown Elementary School hosted a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new playground on Sept. 8. The playground was designed by former Indian River High School students Sara Saylor, Ricky Parrett and Samuel Rojas as part of a STEM Capstone project. The new playground equipment can accommodate all students, including those with disabilities. The project was funded by generous donations from B&C Elevators, DIY Company, Schell Brothers, Baker's Hardware, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haaga, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wilgus and a private donor. Labor for the project was donated by Schell Brothers. Volunteers from Schell Brothers and the Georgetown Elementary School community installed most of the equipment during a special event on June 10. The playground was ready for students when school opened on Sept. 5.



# East Millsboro Wins Blue Ribbon School Award

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awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 6-7.

National Blue Ribbon Schools are honored in one of two performance categories based on overall student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

- Exemplary Achievement

Gap Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years.

East Millsboro Elementary was a winner in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category.

"East Millsboro has been recognized as a school community where parents, teachers and the community collaborate for the benefit of all students and has received this recogni-



tion for being an 'Exemplary High Performing School,'" East Millsboro Principal Kelly Dorman said. "I want to thank our community, families, students

and the E.M.E. Team for working together to receive such a huge honor! We appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication to the success of all of our students."

The district's other Blue Ribbon Award winners are Long Neck Elementary (2005 and 2011), John M. Clayton/Frankford Elementary (2004 and 2014), North Georgetown Elementary (2006), Phillip C. Showell Elementary (2003) and Lord Baltimore Elementary (2001).

# North Georgetown Unveils Renovated Library



Local artist George Bradford is presented a plaque in appreciation of his efforts in designing the library mural (below). Mr. Bradford was a custodian in the district for 19 years before retiring in 2004.



North Georgetown Elementary School hosted an unveiling ceremony for its newly-renovated library on Aug. 31. The renovation was a collaborative effort between the school staff and the community as part of an initiative to promote reading at the school. Above from left, Assistant Principal Samantha Lougheed, artist George Bradford, teachers Adam Warner and Megan Foley, IRSD Superintendent Mark Steele and NGE Principal Heather Cramer.



## 9/11 Remembrance



Lori Smyth, a 1987 graduate of Indian River High School, visited the G.W. Carver Academy on Monday, Sept. 11 to share her experience as a 9/11 survivor. Lori lived and worked in Lower Manhattan in 2001 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center towers on the morning of September 11. With the help of several strangers, Lori was able to escape New York City on that day without being seriously injured. The G.W. Carver Academy and the Indian River School District would like to thank Lori for sharing her story with students.

Visit the Indian River School District on Facebook or on the web at [irsd.net](http://irsd.net)

## G.W.C. Celebrates Murals

The G.W. Carver Academy in Frankford hosted a Mural Project Unveiling and Community Night on Oct. 2.

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, G.W. Carver Academy students worked with local artist John Donato to create several motivational murals that are on display throughout the school building. On Oct. 2, Carver students and staff invited families, local legislators, community agencies, school supporters and local residents to the official unveiling of the murals. The event also featured a performance by local musician Taylor Knox.

The mural project was made possible in part by a grant from the Delaware Community Foundation's Next Generation South program.

From top, local artist John Donato shows off one of the GWC murals; local musician Taylor Knox performs at the unveiling event; a mural in the hallway of the G.W. Carver Academy; John Donato with officials from GWC, the school district and NextGen South.

