

## What's Inside



Delaware School Nurse  
of the Year, Page 2

# Indian River District News

*"A Model of Excellence"*

irsd.net

Spring 2018

# Courtney White Named IRSD Teacher of the Year

## NGE third-grade teacher wins district's top honor

Courtney White of North Georgetown Elementary School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year celebration on April 26 at Indian River High School. White was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 16 candidates,

one from each school.

White has been a third-grade teacher at North Georgetown Elementary School since 2016. She was previously a second- and sixth-grade teacher in the Seaford School District from 2003-2016. She was the Seaford district's Teacher of the Year in 2010-2011.

**More photos and complete list of winners, Page 4**

White holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Goucher College, a Maryland State Elementary Education Certificate from the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore and a master's degree in applied technology from Wilmington University.

During her career, White has been a Delaware Dream Team teacher in 2016, a Teach-Fest Delaware Spring Academy teacher in 2015 and the co-creator of the Personalized Virtual Summer and Intersession Academic Program at Central Elementary School in Seaford



*From left, Indian River Board of Education member James Hudson, Superintendent Mark Steele, 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year Lisa Richardson, 2018-2019 IRSD Teacher of the Year Courtney White, State Rep. Ruth Briggs King, State Rep. Rich Collins and State Rep. Ron Gray.*

from 2014-2016. She has also been an adjunct professor in the Wilmington University graduate program (2010-2015), a mentor teacher for Wilmington's student teaching program (2010-2016) and an educational technology teacher for the Delaware Tech certificate program (2004-2006).

White has repeatedly earned praise from her colleagues and administrators for her use of technology in the

classroom. This year, she implemented a video conferencing initiative with a third-grade teacher at another school to allow students in both classes to experience blended learning.

"As a member of the North Georgetown Elementary community, Mrs. White is a leader and is well respected by her peers," said North Georgetown Principal Heather Cramer. "There are many great

*Continued on Page 4*



Courtney White

## From the Superintendent

**Mark L. Steele**



Dear Parents,

When the University of Delaware formulated school enrollment projections more than a decade ago, the Indian River School District was anticipated to have a total enrollment of 10,957 by the year 2025. Parents may be surprised to learn that we will likely surpass that figure by the opening of the 2018-2019 school year, seven years ahead of schedule. This rate of growth has inevitably created the need for more capacity in our schools. The district will be exploring a variety of major capital improvement plans in the coming months. I encourage parents to stay informed on this issue and share with us their thoughts and concerns.

Four district administrators will be moving into new positions for the 2018-2019 school year. They are Jay Owens as Assistant Superintendent, Renee Jerns as Director of Student and Staff Programs, Judi Brittingham as Director of Special Education and Jessica Jackson as principal of Millsboro Middle School. All four will assume their new duties on July 1. I look forward to working with these gifted administrators for years to come. Congratulations!

I hope you all have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Mark L. Steele  
Superintendent

# Light Named Nurse of the Year

Beth Light of Sussex Central High School has been named the 2018 Delaware School Nurse of the Year by the Delaware School Nurse Association. Beth was presented with the award during a surprise ceremony at the school on May 9.

Presenters were previous state Nurse of the Year winners Chriss Zimmerman and Jan Marcin. Members of Beth's family were also in attendance, along with several school officials.



*Beth Light (center) with previous state Nurse of the Year winners Chriss Zimmerman (left) and Jan Marcin. More photos from the ceremony are available on the district Facebook page.*



## Indian River Board of Education

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Mark L. Steele,  
Board Secretary and District  
Superintendent

## Last School Day for Students Moved to Thursday, June 7

At its regular meeting on April 23, 2018, the Indian River Board of Education approved a series of changes to the 2017-2018 school district calendar.

The last day of school for students will now be **Thursday, June 7**. The last day for pre-school students will be Friday, June 1. The last day for teach-

ers and paraprofessionals will be Monday, June 11.

In addition, Sussex Central High School's senior exams will now be held on May 22-23.

The changes are the result of unused surplus hours built into the calendar to compensate for weather-related school cancellations.

## IRSD Students Compete in VEX World Championship Event

Throughout the Indian River School District this year, teams of students engineered and programmed robots as they expanded their STEM knowledge and interests. They competed in VEX and VEX IQ competitions with the goal of earning recognition and bids to the 2018 VEX Robotics World Championship.

This year, six district teams competed in the World Cham-

pionship, which brought together top robotics teams in the VEX and Vex IQ Challenge under one roof to celebrate their accomplishments and compete with the best teams from around the world. More than 30,000 people, including 1,648 teams from 30 nations, converged on Louisville, Kentucky in April for the 11th annual VEX Worlds.

*Continued on Page 5*

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# PCS Unveils History of Selbyville Mural

Phillip C. Showell Elementary School officially unveiled its "History of Selbyville" mural to students, parents and community members on March 7.

The nearly two-month project was a partnership between the school and local artist John Donato. Delaware Secretary of Education Susan Bunting attended the unveiling and cut the ribbon to officially reveal the mural, which is located in one of the school's hallways. PCS students also viewed a video chronicling the project produced by Melissa Bleile.

Phillip C. Showell students began work on the new mural on Jan. 19 and the school hosted a series of special events leading up to the mural's official unveiling.

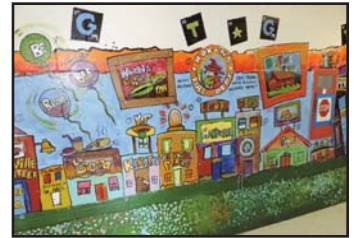
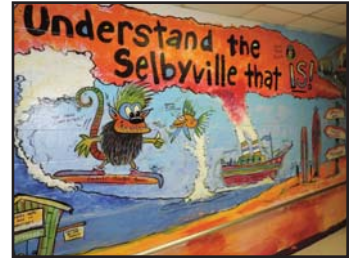
Family descendants of Phillip Cannon Showell hosted



Officials cut the ribbon to officially unveil the new mural at PCS.

a special assembly on Feb. 8 to teach students in Grades 1-5 about the history of their family and the school that bears their relative's name. Mr. Showell's family members then helped paint a section of the mural.

The school also hosted a Donors Paint Day in which local business owners and community members who made monetary donations towards the creation of the mural and the school's mural-themed T-shirts were invited to paint.



From left, members of the Showell family paint the mural during a special program on Feb. 8. PCS students begin painting the mural on Jan. 19. A lighthouse rendering within the mural. Above, scenes from the mural.

## Food Truck Visits Indian River High School



The Ruiz Foods School Truck visited Indian River High School on April 19, giving all students free samples of chicken soft tacos with red sauce and beef and bean burritos during their lunch period. Ruiz Foods is the largest manufacturer of frozen Mexican food in the United States and produces more than 200 products under its signature El Monterey brand. Above, junior Caden Spilman visits the truck during his lunch period.

## Did You Know?

- Edward Breen, CEO of DowDuPont, visited Indian River High School on April 16 to speak to students about leadership.
- Episodes of the IRSD Spotlight podcast can be accessed at [irsd.net](http://irsd.net) under the Discover IRSD tab.

# 2018-2019 IRSD Teachers of the Year

**Mallory Anderson**  
Selbyville Middle School

**Dara Callaway** (Finalist)  
East Millsboro Elementary School

**Kathryn Gichner Curl**  
Georgetown Kindergarten Center

**Corrine Elliott**  
Howard T. Ennis School

**Lori Hansen**  
Long Neck Elementary School

**Sue Keefer**  
G.W. Carver Academy

**Nichele Lobo**  
Southern Delaware School of the Arts

**Joseph Macaluso**  
Sussex Central High School

**Nathan Mohler**  
Indian River High School

**Brian Murphy**  
Georgetown Middle School

**Kelly Namorato**  
Phillip C. Showell Elementary School

**Christine Purcell**  
Georgetown Elementary School

**Robert Syphard** (Finalist)  
Millsboro Middle School

**Jennah Truitt**  
Lord Baltimore Elementary School

**Michelle Truitt**  
John M. Clayton Elementary School

**Courtney White** (Overall winner)  
North Georgetown Elementary School



IRSD Teachers of the Year for 2018-2019. Seated (from left): Christine Purcell, Nichele Lobo, Robert Syphard (finalist), Courtney White (overall winner), Dara Callaway (finalist), Kathryn Curl and Sue Keefer. Standing (from left): Brian Murphy, Kelly Namorato, Nathan Mohler, Joseph Macaluso, Corrine Elliott, Lori Hansen, Jennah Truitt and Michelle Truitt.

## Teacher

From Page 1

educators in the Indian River School District that are more than worthy of this honor, but I have met few educators as passionate as Mrs. White. I feel she was an amazing addition to our district and we are lucky to have someone with the willingness to continue to learn and grow as an educator. Her classroom environment she has created is one that I wish my own child could have experienced."

As the district's Teacher of the Year, White is now eligible for the state Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced in October.



Selbyville Middle School Teacher of the Year Mallory Anderson.



Top left, Courtney White with her North Georgetown Elementary School colleagues. Top right, White with 2017-2018 IRSD Teacher of the Year Lisa Richardson.



## Georgetown K-Center Hosts PA Bear Program

Prevent Child Abuse Delaware presented its "PA Bear" program to students at the Georgetown Kindergarten Center on April 11-12.

The program emphasizes that children are special and stresses the importance of talking about feelings. Children were taught how to identify feelings through facial cues, as well as what to do if someone tries to hurt them or touch

them in a way they do not like. Students received a coloring book at the end of the presentation that reinforced what they had learned.

Prevent Child Abuse Delaware is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It offers school-based programs that cover a variety of topics related to personal safety and child abuse.

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

# VEX World Championships

From Page 2

The following IRSD Teams earned bids to the Vex World Championship (final division ranking is in parentheses) : Team Long Neckers from Long Neck Elementary School (74 out of 80), Team Alphas from Georgetown Elementary School (23 out of 80), Team Zeus from Lord Baltimore Elementary School (71 out of 80), GMS Robotics Knights from Georgetown Middle School (77 out of 80), Rocketeers from Selbyville Middle School (28 out of 92) and Indians 2 from Indian River High School (90

out of 96).

VEX Competitions bring STEM skills to life by tasking teams of students with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge. Classroom STEM concepts are put to the test as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications and more.

The IRSD Robotics coaches would like to thank all of the parents, students, administrators and donors for their support.



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