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Teachers Win STEM Awards

Three Indian River School District teachers were honored on Monday, Jan. 25, at the Delaware STEM Council's annual STEM Educator Awards reception at the Chase Center in Wilmington.

A total of five educators from around the state were honored at the event for their work with STEM in the classroom.

Robert Gibson of Sussex Central High School won first place in the high school STEM category while Travis Bower, formerly of Selbyville Middle School, took first place in the middle school STEM category. In addition, Jeff Kilner of Sussex

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Indian River District News

"A Model of Excellence"

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Winter 2016

Art Students Create Message of Peace

Installation on display in hallway

Students at Southern Delaware School of the Arts created a message of peace in their school hallways this fall.

About 15 students in Grades 6-8, under the tutelage of art teacher Jamie Moore, created an installation that ran nearly the length of the hallway next to the cafeteria and school lobby. The piece depicted children in silhouette releasing white doves into the air. There were also white dove figurines hanging from the ceiling and a band of black paper at the top of the wall on which images of stars and planets had been drawn.

The theme of the installation was "Peace", and students dedicated their work to the City of Paris and the victims of November terrorist attacks.

The installation was officially dedicated during school's



The art installation created by students at Southern Delaware School of the Arts. The work was dedicated to the victims of the Paris terrorist attacks.

winter festival on Dec. 5. The ceremony featured a performance of John Lennon's "Imagine" by SDSA eighth-grader Page Athey.

It was the first art installation produced by SDSA students in five years. Students in the elementary grades assisted in its creation by making white doves out of construction paper.



One of the many doves featured in the work.

District Growth

The IRSD Futures Committee is continuing to study issues related to enrollment growth throughout the district. For more information, visit irsd.net/growth. Comments or suggestions on this issue can be sent to general.information@irsd.k12.de.us.

From the Superintendent

Dr. Susan S. Bunting



Dear Parents,


From now until March 18, the Indian River School District is participating in the 5Essentials Survey, which is an opportunity for community members to share their voice and have a role in improving their schools. Teachers, students and families across the district are being asked to take a 20-minute survey to help identify the strengths and weaknesses in their schools' climate and learning conditions. The data compiled from this survey will help us provide the best possible educational resources for our students. I hope you will take a few minutes to complete the survey at:

survey.5-essentials.org/delaware

The district's Futures Committee is continuing to study space issues related to an unprecedented rate of enrollment growth in recent years. Enrollment has grown an average of 4 percent per year for the past decade. In 2015, it exceeded 10,000 students for the first time ever. This has created space shortages in several buildings. The committee is exploring all options to address this problem, including building new schools. For more information, visit irsd.net/growth.

I hope your school year continues to be rewarding!

Sincerely,


Susan S. Bunting
Superintendent

Artist Visits APELL Classrooms

Students in the district's Accelerating Pre-Literate English Language Learners (APELL) program recently received a special visit from a local artist, Jan Bain, who conducted a series of lessons in watercolor painting.

Visiting APELL on Nov. 12, Bain showed three classes of students how to draw and paint images of snowmen. Some of the students turned their paintings into greeting cards for loved ones.

Each lesson began with Bain demonstrating how to draw a snowman using a pencil and sketch paper. Students then transferred their sketches to watercolor paper and painted them.



Local artist Jan Bain conducts a lesson in watercolor painting for APELL students.

A retired school teacher and administrator, Bain is a member of the Millsboro Art League, the Art League of Ocean City, the Delaware Watercolor Society and the Mid-Atlantic Symphony. She moved to Delaware in 2006 after previously residing in Min-

nesota and New York. Bain is also a part-time teacher at Delaware Technical and Community College.

Housed in the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford, APELL serves approximately 70 students ranging in age from 14 to 18. This voluntary program accommodates English Language Learners (ELL) who require a more intensive form of instruction than traditional ELL programs at the district's two high schools can provide.

The goal of APELL is to improve language and literacy skills so that students can eventually return to their home school, which would be either Sussex Central High School or Indian River High School.

Teachers Win STEM Educator Awards

From Page 1

Central High School won second place in the high school category.

The STEM Educator Award recognizes teachers or teams

of teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels who demonstrate STEM innovation and excellence through teaching, academic collaboration and student engagement.

Gibson, Bower and Kilner have each done an outstanding job in encouraging students to challenge themselves in STEM areas both in and out of the classroom.



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Above: STEM Educator Award winners with Gov. Jack Markell at a special reception on Jan. 25. District winners were Robert Gibson (third from left), Jeff Kilner (fourth from right) and Travis Bower (third from right). Below: Robert Gibson (left) and Jeff Kilner (right) receive their awards.



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SCHS Student Wins National Scholarship

Three state scholarships also awarded

Sussex Central High School senior Milena Rodriguez of Millsboro is the recipient of a national Horatio Alger Association scholarship for 2016.

A student in the school's prestigious International Baccalaureate program, Rodriguez was the only student from Delaware to receive this honor. The national scholarship is valued at \$22,000.

In addition, three other Sussex Central students were named state Horatio Alger Scholars. They were Samantha Franklin, Raymundo Romero-Ibarra and Raquel Ventura-Lopez. Each will receive a \$7,000 scholarship.

The Horatio Alger Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity, and who aspire to pursue higher education. Each year, the Association awards more than 100 national scholarships of \$22,000 each to high school seniors from across the United States. These winners are chosen from more than 40,000 applicants annually. Since its inception in 1984, the program has awarded more than \$110 million to approximately 22,000 students nationwide.

Rodriguez, who plans to study behavioral neuroscience after high school, is the sixth Sussex Central student to be named a national scholar. Other winners were



Milena Rodriguez

Jonathan Gibson (1997), Michelle Brittingham Gutierrez (2002), Megan Seek (2005), Cristie Happekotte (2007) and Rosemond Dorleans (2013).

"This is a tremendous honor for Milena and for Sussex Central High School," SCHS Principal Bradley Layfield said. "Milena is a shining example of what can be accomplished with hard work and perseverance. I congratulate her on this wonderful achievement."

Rodriguez will attend the annual Horatio Alger National Scholars Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 31 – April 2. At the event, she will meet the other 2016 National Scholars along with distinguished members of the Horatio Alger Association.

The Delaware scholarship program is sponsored by Michele Rollins and Family and is given in honor of late association member John W. Rollins. The national Horatio Alger Association has been in existence since 1947.

Megginson Selected As Senate Youth Delegate

Sussex Central High School senior Charlie Megginson has been selected as a delegate to the 54th annual United States Senate Youth Program, which will be held March 5-12 in Washington, D.C. Megginson was one of only two students from Delaware to receive this honor.

Each year this competitive, merit-based program brings 104 of the most outstanding high school students — two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity — to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. The overall mission of the program is to help instill within each class of USSYP student delegates a more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service. In addition to the program week, each student receives a \$5,000 under-

graduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs.

"I would like to congratulate Charlie Megginson on this prestigious honor," SCHS Principal Bradley Layfield said. "To have Sussex Central represented in the U.S. Senate Youth Program is a tremendous accomplishment for our school. I have no doubt that Charlie will be a strong delegate to the program and an exemplary representative of the State of Delaware."

In addition to exceptional leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, student delegates generally rank academically in the top 1 percent among their states' high school juniors and seniors. Now more than 5,000 strong, alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service.



Charlie Megginson

Thanksgiving Food Drive



In November, Southern Delaware School of the Arts conducted a food drive in conjunction with Mountaire Farms. SDSA held a competition between all 18 homerooms and collected a total of 1,209 items, which were donated to Mountaire. Wendy Webb's sixth-grade homeroom donated the most items (161). From left, SDSA students Colby Fox, Emma Brower and Kami Camper with the food items that were donated to Mountaire Farms.

PCS Launches "Bank at School" Initiative

Phillip C. Showell Elementary School officially launched its new Bank at School program during a special assembly on Nov. 6.

Bank at School is a collaborative effort between the University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and the Delaware Financial Literacy Institute. Through the program, banks partner with schools to enable students to open savings accounts. A banker comes to the school each week on the same day and time to accept deposits from students. Requirements for opening an account are a parent permission form and a minimum \$1 deposit.

The program at Phillip C.

Showell was attended by Judy Austin, UD Bank at School coordinator; Robert Glen, state bank commissioner; and Christine DeBruyn, branch manager of WSFS Bank in Selbyville. PCS staff members staged a skit highlighting the benefits of financial responsibility and students cut a special ribbon to officially open the school's bank.

Bank at School has been in existence since 1992 and offers financial management life lessons for students. The program is customized to the needs of each school. In addition to deposits made at school, additional deposits and money withdrawals can be made by students at any partner bank branch.



From left, PCS fourth-grade teacher Katherine Bennett as "Pudent Penny", third-grade teacher Taylor Miller as "Grandma" and Principal Karen Clausen as "Wasteful Wendy."

Selbyville Teams Have Successful Fall Seasons

Victories were plentiful at Selbyville Middle School this fall as two athletic teams – volleyball and football – posted undefeated seasons.

In just its first year of existence, the SMS volleyball team posted a 10-0 record under the leadership of coach Sally Craig. It clinched its undefeated season with a victory over Delmar on Oct. 28.

"The players worked hard all season, playing one game at a time. Their dedication and desire was what helped them accomplish this undefeated record," Craig said. "It was magical to be a first-year program and to do so well. Credit also goes to a total team effort by all members and the dedication of the coaching staff. It couldn't have been done without the help of assistant coach Sara Powell and volunteer



coaches Tanya Ehlers and Bill Croal. It was truly amazing!"

Team members were Jessica Amezcua (Captain), Raychel Ehlers (Captain), Brandi Mitchell, Lauren Holladay, Sierra Livingston, Citlaly Macedo, Isabella Binko, Hailey Gay, Skylar Kneller, Valeria Leiva, Logan Reese, Nicole Woody, Kambrie Bullard, Caroline Powell and Ashley Temaj.

Meanwhile, the football team posted a perfect 7-0 record under the leadership of coach Jesse Bare.

After posting an average margin of victory of more than 30 points in its first six games, the Indians needed a nail-biting 14-8 victory over Millsboro Middle School on Nov. 5 to wrap up an undefeated season.

It was the eighth undefeated season for SMS in the last 14 years.

News and Notes

Playground Dedicated

News and notes from around the Indian River School District:

• On Jan. 19, the district's Transitioning Our Toddlers to School (TOTS) program held a special dedication ceremony for its new Boundless Energy Playground at the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford. The new playground was funded through a generous \$5,000 grant from the Carl M. Freeman FACES Foundation. The playground was installed in December and serves about 60 special needs preschool students.



The new TOTS Boundless Energy playground at the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford.

• Emma White of Southern Delaware School of the Arts won first place in the Coast Day 5th Grade Essay Contest sponsored by the University of Delaware. Another district student, Zoe Tuttle of Lord Baltimore Elementary School, received Honorable Mention.

• Rosnell Lewis, Jr. of John M. Clayton Elementary School won the inaugural Southern Sussex Rotary third-grade spelling bee on Nov. 10. Lewis won a new bicycle donated by Bicycle Connection in Bethany Beach. Twenty-nine students

from John M. Clayton, Phillip C. Showell and Lord Baltimore elementary schools and Southern Delaware School of the Arts competed in the inaugural event.

• The Southern Delaware School of the Arts Honor Society conducted a special project to support Hope and Life Outreach (HALO), an organization based in Salisbury, Md. that assists homeless children and families. SDSA students painted suitcases with a Christmas theme and then filled them with necessities such as blankets, toiletries and coloring books. All of the items were donated by the community. HALO representatives visited the school on Dec. 14 to collect the suitcases.

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