

## What's Inside



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## Expansion Projects Progressing

Construction is continuing on Phase One of the building expansion projects approved by Indian River School District residents in a major capital improvement referendum on January 29, 2013.

North Georgetown, Long Neck and East Millsboro elementary schools are each receiving eight additional classrooms in Phase One.

At North Georgetown, exterior work is nearly complete and the building has been enclosed. Interior work is progressing, and the project is on pace for completion in late-November.

At East Millsboro, roof work is complete and windows  
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# Indian River District News

## "A Model of Excellence"

irsd.net

Fall 2014

## JMC Named National Blue Ribbon School

John M. Clayton Elementary School in Frankford was one of three schools in Delaware and 337 nationwide to be named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2014.

This is the second time that John M. Clayton Elementary (formerly Frankford Elementary) has received this national honor. It also won the award in 2004. Overall, it is the Indian River School District's eighth National Blue Ribbon Award since 2001.

"John M. Clayton Elementary has set an exemplary example for public schools across the country," Superintendent Susan Bunting said. "Each year, its teachers and staff work tirelessly to make sure that students facing a variety of demographic and economic



*John M. Clayton Elementary School in Frankford won its second National Blue Ribbon School Award in 2014.*

challenges receive a quality education. The dedication of these talented educators is without compare. My heartfelt congratulations go to the entire John M. Clayton community on this prestigious national honor."

The Blue Ribbon Award honors schools whose students have achieved at high levels or have made significant improvements in achievement, especially among disadvantaged or minority groups. The

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## Beahan Honored by NASSP

In May, Neil Beahan of the Southern Delaware School of the Arts was named Delaware's 2014 Middle Level Principal of the Year by the Delaware Association of School Administrators.

The honor made Beahan eligible for the National Principal of the Year Award sponsored

by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and MetLife. Beahan was recognized along with the other state winners at the NASSP Principal's Institute in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 8-10.

The institute saluted all  
*Continued on Page 4*



*Neil Beahan (center) with NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti and NASSP President G.A. Buie.*

## From the Superintendent

**Dr. Susan S. Bunting**



Dear Parents,

It always makes me immensely happy to have one of our schools recognized for its efforts in providing exemplary academic programs to students. As you can see on Page 1, John M. Clayton Elementary School was recently named a National Blue Ribbon School for the second time in 10 years. It's also worth noting, however, that Phillip C. Showell, John M. Clayton and Lord Baltimore elementary schools were named State Recognition Schools for 2014, while Long Neck and East Millsboro elementary schools were named Delaware Schools of Continued Excellence. I commend the staff and students at each of these schools for their hard work in earning these prestigious honors. Congratulations!

I would like to thank parents for their patience and cooperation this fall during the implementation of a new transportation system that resulted in daily schedule changes at several schools. We had a smooth opening to the school year in September. The new system has functioned well in the weeks and months that have followed.

I deeply appreciate your taking an active interest in your children's education. Have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting  
Superintendent

# IRSD ADP Program Honored

Indian River was recently named a District of Distinction by *District Administration* magazine for its "Home Grown by Indian River: An Administrative Development Program Model" initiative.

This national recognition program honors districts that demonstrate educational excellence with innovative strategies and ideas that can also be replicated by other school districts. Indian River was one of nearly 50 districts from 28 states to be honored.

The IRSD Administrative Development Program began in 2005 with the goal of grooming teachers to fill administrative positions. Through a series of intense training sessions, participants were able to hone their leadership skills and acquire an in-depth knowledge of the operations, finances, personnel procedures and instructional expectations of the district.

## Indian River Board of Education

Charles M. Bireley, President  
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Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.,  
Board Secretary and District  
Superintendent

# Markell Visits SCHS



*Gov. Jack Markell visited Sussex Central High School on Sept. 8 to speak to students about pursuing a college education. Gov. Markell gave an overview of the college access supports offered by the state and encouraged students to pursue those options during their senior year. Following his remarks, Gov. Markell answered questions from SCHS students.*

Numerous graduates of the ADP program now hold administrative positions in the district.

"This highly-successful program has produced a cadre of highly-effective administrators at both the school and district levels," Superintendent

Susan Bunting said. "It's immensely satisfying to see so many individuals who came to our district as teachers now holding leadership positions. We are pleased to offer our teachers this wonderful opportunity for professional advancement."

# Sherman Helps Kick Off New School Year at SMS



*On Friday, Sept. 5, Sherman, the mascot of the Delmarva Shorebirds baseball team, visited Selbyville Middle School to participate in the school-wide "Swinging for Success" assembly to kick off the 2014-2015 school year. Above left, Sherman does the "Chicken Dance" with SMS students. Above right, Sherman is pictured with SMS teacher Tim Clausen.*

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[irsd.net](http://irsd.net)

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# New Sign Dedicated at IRHS

Indian River High School hosted a special ceremony on Oct. 11 to dedicate a new, 14-foot-high sign on the school's front lawn.

The sign was donated by IRHS Alumni Association with financial assistance from State Reps. John Atkins and Ron Gray and State Sen. Gerald Hocker. The sign features an 8-foot-wide electronic message board that can rotate through several messages at a time. The sign also features a new student-designed logo of a Native American chief.

The Class of 2000 provided materials for the landscaping at the base of the sign. The design and labor were donated by Calvin Walters, a 1976 IRHS graduate.



*IRHS Alumni Association members at the dedication ceremony on Oct. 11. Front row (from left): Joy Cadden, Marla Daisey, Ruth Ann Marvel and Cindy Gallimore. Back Row (from left): Mitch Rogers, IRHS Principal Bennett Murray and Calvin Walters.*



*SMS students Devyn Roos (left) and Malaurie Noble with food collected in the drive.*

## SMS Conducts Food Drive

This fall, Selbyville Middle School conducted a canned food drive to benefit a local community food pantry. Titled "Just One," the campaign encouraged every student and staff member to donate just one canned or boxed non-perishable food item. An estimated 800 items were collected for the pantry.

## IRSD Accepting Choice Applications for '15-16

The Indian River School District is accepting school choice applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

The application deadline for students in Grades 1-12 is **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** Parents must submit a Delaware Standard Application for Educational Options, along with an Indian River School District Choice Student Supplemental Information Form. These forms are available on the district web site: [irsd.net](http://irsd.net).

Application forms should be mailed to Indian River School District, Attn: School Choice, 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, DE 19975.

All school choice applications will be either approved or disapproved by the Indian River Board of Education at its regular meeting on February 23, 2015. Applications will not be considered by the Board on a monthly basis prior to the February meeting.

The district has the right to disapprove an application

based on building capacity or the student's discipline and/or attendance record.

Applications received after the January 14 deadline will be considered only if "good cause" circumstances exist. These circumstances include a change in the child's residence due to a change in family residence; a change in the state in which a family resides; a change in a parent's marital status; the location of child care services; a change in residence caused by a guardianship proceeding, placement of the child in foster care, adoption or participation by the child in a foreign exchange program; a reported and recorded instance of bullying against the child as defined in Delaware Code; or participation by the child in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program.

Parents enrolling their child in kindergarten are encouraged to submit a school choice application by April 30, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. for consideration by the Board of Educa-

## Gym Floor Gets Update at Millsboro Middle



*The installation of the new gym floor at Millsboro Middle School was completed in early-September. Featuring updated logos and lettering, the new floor is currently being used by the school's athletic teams and physical education classes. The previous gym floor was decades old and in need of replacement due to cracks and splintering.*

tion at its May 18, 2015 meeting. Parents of kindergarten students must first enroll their child in his or her school of residence before submitting a choice application.

Parents still reserve the

right to submit a school choice application for kindergarten up until the first day of the 2015-2016 school year if capacity at the choice school exists.

For more information, call (302) 436-1000.

# JMC Wins National Honor

From Page 1

program recognizes schools in two performance categories – Exemplary High Performing Schools and Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools. High Performing Schools are among the best in their state as measured by scores on state assessments or nationally-normed tests. Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are recognized for closing achievement gaps between the various ethnic and socioeconomic student subgroups.

John M. Clayton Elementary was a winner in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category. Despite having large percentages of minority and economically-disadvantaged students, JMC has consistently performed well on state assessments. In 2014, it was praised by the state for its efforts in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The percentage of African-American and Hispanic students at JMC who met performance standards in math and reading consistently exceeded the state average.

"The staff at John M. Clayton Elementary is ecstatic upon learning that we were named a National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education," JMC Principal Charlyne Hop-

## Red Ribbon Week



*John M. Clayton Elementary School may be a newly-minted National Blue Ribbon School, but red ribbons took center stage the week of Oct. 27-31. In honor of Red Ribbon Week, which promotes drug, alcohol, tobacco and bullying prevention, JMC held a series of spirit days, each with a different slogan and dress-up theme. Above, third-grade students and teachers show off their costumes on the day they dressed as book, story, comic book or movie characters that exhibit good character. On other days, students dressed in the apparel of their favorite sports teams; in red, bright or neon colors and in traditional costumes from other cultures.*

kins said. "To accomplish this it takes a singular focus on student achievement. The staff is phenomenal and works together as a team to make sure that all students are successful and I can't praise our students enough for their accomplishments. Together they work hard and continually demonstrate that all students can achieve high standards and expectations."

Hopkins was also the principal of Long Neck Elementary School when it won Blue Ribbon

recognition in 2005 and 2011.

John M. Clayton Elementary School was honored along with the other national winners at a special awards ceremony November 10-11 in Washington, D.C.

The district's other Blue Ribbon Award winners are Long Neck Elementary (2005 and 2011), East Millsboro Elementary (2008), North Georgetown Elementary (2006), Phillip C. Showell Elementary (2003) and Lord Baltimore Elementary (2001).

# Neil Beahan Recognized by NASSP

From Page 1

state winners while providing a forum for honorees to advocate for education and share best practices and expertise.

Beahan has been an employee of the Indian River School District for 33 years. He began his career as a music

teacher at Selbyville Middle School in 1981. He held that post until 2005 when he accepted a music teacher position at Southern Delaware School of the Arts. In 2007, he became an assistant principal at Sussex Central High School. He has been the principal of

Southern Delaware School of the Arts since 2009.

In October, Beahan attended a special ceremony in Dover during which Delaware Gov. Jack Markell signed a proclamation designating October as Principal Recognition Month.



North Georgetown expansion project in early-November.

# Construction Progressing

From Page 1

have been installed. Interior and site work is progressing, and the project is slated for completion in late-December.

At Long Neck, roof installation and exterior brick work are progressing. The installation of windows and the enclosure of the building will follow. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in mid-January.

For additional information and photos of the construction projects, visit [irsd.net](http://irsd.net).

Phase Two, which will be completed in 2015, is currently in the design and development stage. It will include the addition of eight classrooms and a new kitchen at the Georgetown Elementary/Georgetown Middle School complex, four classrooms at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School and two classrooms at Selbyville Middle School.

The Selbyville Middle School and Phillip C. Showell Elementary School projects are tentatively slated to go to bid in January. The Georgetown Elementary/Georgetown Middle School project is ready for state agency review and will likely go to bid in March.



Long Neck expansion project in early-November.

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