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Teacher of the Year Celebration



Top, Jennifer Cordrey walks to the podium after being announced as district Teacher of the Year. Bottom, Cordrey receives her award from LouAnn Hudson and Superintendent Susan Bunting.

Indian River District News

"A Model of Excellence"

irsd.net

Spring 2015

Jennifer Cordrey Named IRSD Teacher of the Year

Science teacher now eligible for state award

Jennifer Cordrey of Indian River High School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2015-2016.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year celebration on April 30 at The Clubhouse at Baywood Greens. Cordrey was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 16 candidates, one from each school.

List of school winners and group photo, Page 4

Cordrey has been an agriscience teacher at Indian River High School for the past 14 years. In addition to teaching horticulture and animal science, she is also the school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) faculty advisor. She holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and a master's degree in applied technologies from the University of Delaware.

Cordrey is a member of the Delaware Tech-Prep Association, the Delaware Association for Agriscience Educators,



IRSD Teacher of the Year Jennifer Cordrey with (from left) State Rep. Ron Gray, State Rep. Richard Collins, Superintendent Susan Bunting and State Rep. Ruth Briggs King.

the National Association for Agriscience Educators, the National FFA Association and the Indian River FFA Alumni Association. She has twice been named Delaware Agricultural Teacher of the Year. During her tenure, Indian River received the Delaware Agricultural Department of the Year award in 2013-2014. The school's FFA program was also ranked among the top 200 in the United States in 2011. Cordrey's other activities include serving as a cooperating teacher for the University of

Delaware, participating in the district's teacher mentor program, being a member of the Delaware Performance Appraisal System Component 5 Committee and serving on the IRHS safety team.

"As an administrator, I could never ask any more than Jennifer Cordrey gives every day," Indian River High School Principal Bennett Murray said. "The students have embraced Mrs. Cordrey as their teacher as they have not only received outstanding academic scores,
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From the Superintendent

Dr. Susan S. Bunting



Dear Parents,

On May 4, students and teachers began moving into eight new classrooms at Long Neck Elementary School. This essentially brought an end to Phase One of the major capital improvement projects approved by district residents in the January 29, 2013 referendum. Long Neck, East Millsboro and North Georgetown elementary schools each now have eight new classrooms to accommodate their educational needs.

We now move on to Phase Two of the construction projects, which will add eight classrooms and a new kitchen to the Georgetown Elementary/Middle School complex, two classrooms and a reconfigured front entrance to Selbyville Middle School and four classrooms to Phillip C. Showell Elementary School. Construction at Selbyville Middle began on March 12 and should be finished by late summer. The bid process is progressing for the remaining Phase Two projects. Work should be complete at Phillip C. Showell in October and at Georgetown in March 2016.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the public's support of these initiatives. Thank you for helping to build a brighter future for our students.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting
Superintendent

Jan Bomhardt Wins Counselor Award

Receives hundreds of nominations for DSCA recognition

Jan Bomhardt of John M. Clayton Elementary School has been named the 2015 Delaware Elementary School Counselor of the Year. She received the award at the Delaware School Counselor Association annual recognition luncheon on March 27.

Bomhardt received hundreds of nominations for the award from students, parents and co-workers.

"The community at large realizes that so many things go into a child's education," Bomhardt said. "It's nice that we're recognized. It's humbling to think that you make a difference."

"During her tenure as JMC's counselor, Mrs. Bomhardt has tirelessly



Jan Bomhardt poses with JMC students Haley Sockriter (left) and Olivia Johnson on "Character Day" during Red Ribbon Week in October.

worked to improve the quality of life for so many of our students and their families through various programs she initiated and continues to oversee," Principal Char Hopkins and Assistant Principal Allisa Booth said in a joint statement. "We cannot imagine trying to serve the John M. Clayton community without such an amazing person at the center of our school. She epitomizes the character of an exemplary school counselor."

Bomhardt has been an educator at Frankford/John M. Clayton Elementary School for 14 years, the last eight as a school counselor. She noted many of the students she counseled in elementary school have gone on to be successful in middle and high school.

"When they ask me for college recommendations - that is the most satisfying part of my job and the most rewarding," she said.

Bomhardt is now eligible for the national Counselor of the Year award given by the American School Counselor Association. The national winner will be announced in February.



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— News and Notes —

Last Day Moved to June 11

At its regular meeting on April 28, the Indian River Board of Education approved a series of changes to the 2014-2015 school district calendar.

The last day of school for students has been moved to Thursday, June 11 and will be a full day of school. Friday, June 12 will now be an inservice day for teachers. The last day of school for teachers will be Monday, June 15, which will be a half day.

Youth Philanthropy Grants

Two programs in the Indian River School District were recently awarded grants from the Delaware Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Board.

Connecting Generations received \$3,000 to help fund a part-time mentor coordinator at Georgetown Middle School, while Selbyville Middle School was awarded \$3,000 to initiate an after-school peer mentoring/tutoring program to help English Language Learners transition into schools and the community.

Poster Contest Winners

Two Indian River School District students were first place winners in the 2015 Delaware Arbor Day School Poster Contest.

Yael Rivas, a second-grader at Lord Baltimore Elementary School, was Sussex County's winner for Grades 1-2, while Sydney Johnson of Phillip C. Showell Elementary School was a first place winner in the kindergarten division for Sussex County.

The contest was sponsored by the Delaware Forest Service.

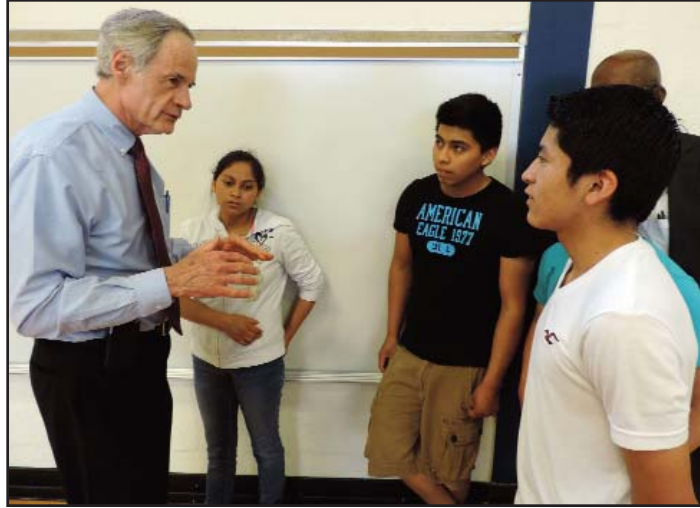
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Sen. Carper Visits APELL Program

Talks education policy with district officials

U.S. Senator Thomas Carper visited the Indian River School District's Accelerating Pre-Literate English Language Learners (APELL) program on Friday, April 17.

Housed in the G.W. Carver Educational Center in Frankford, APELL currently serves more than 60 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 the traditional ELL programs at the district's two high schools can provide. Most APELL students are from Guatemala, al-



U.S. Senator Thomas Carper talks with students during his visit to the APELL program on April 17.

though a few hail from Honduras, Turkey and Haiti. 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.

Sen. Carper visited APELL classrooms, observed lessons and spoke with students, teachers and staff. He also posed for photographs with APELL students.

"The good work going on in the Indian River School District, led by Dr. Bunting, will help these students have a chance at gaining the skills they need to be successful and earn gainful employment," Carper said. "I am proud to see this program has responded to the community needs and is helping these children thrive."

Following his visit to APELL, Sen. Carper spent an hour discussing federal education policy with Superintendent Susan Bunting and Board of Education member Leolga Wright.

Author Visits Long Neck Elementary



Renowned children's author Rachelle Burk hosted a series of assemblies at Long Neck Elementary School on March 13 to encourage students to tap into their creative abilities. Titled "Meet Your Inner Creative Genius," the assembly emphasized the importance of creativity, imagination and determination. It also included a discussion of the "Four R's: Read, Research, 'Rite, Revise." In the evening, Burk hosted a special parent program that showed families how to bring reading and writing into their everyday lives.

GMS Students Excel at County Science Fair

Four students from Georgetown Middle School participated in the Sussex County Science Fair on March 2 at Delaware Technical & Community College.

The event's big winner was GMS eighth-grader Elias Timmons, who received the award for Best Overall Middle School Project. His Hydrogen Power project also won first place among the fair's eighth-grade participants.

Timmons qualified to participate in the Delaware Valley Science Fair in Philadelphia on March 31.

Also participating in the Sussex County fair were GMS



Elias Timmons

seventh-graders Victoria Garay, Brandon Greelee and Brandon Ridgway.

Selbyville Middle School Dominates at Robotics Championships

Students from Selbyville Middle School earned numerous awards at the recent VEX State Robotics Championships.

Three SMS teams advanced to the finals, with two winning tournament champions
Spring 2015

onships. They were the "Sky Chickens" consisting of Nick Digirolamo, Logan Krick and Declan Burke and the "VEXterminators" consisting of William Brewington, Garrett Jones and Loren Filling. Both teams com-

peted together in an alliance with a third team from Hodgson Technical High School.

The "Sky Chickens" also won the Excellence Award for the middle school division.

A third team, the "VEXe-

tarians" consisting of Ashley Hudson, Madison Johnson, Storm Haas, Destin Smyth and Vanessa Reyes, won a Design Award for its Engineering Notebook. It also advanced to the finals.

2015-2016 IRSD Teachers of the Year

Denise Adkins

Southern Delaware School of the Arts

Jennifer Cordrey *(Overall winner)*

Indian River High School

Kelsea Dell *(Finalist)*

Selbyville Middle School

Terri Evan

Millsboro Middle School

Marci Ginsberg

John M. Clayton Elementary School

Joan Glasco

Georgetown Elementary School

Melissa Grunewald

Phillip C. Showell Elementary School

Maria Hazzard

North Georgetown Elementary School

Cathy Henderson

Georgetown Kindergarten Center

Dana Lambert

Lord Baltimore Elementary School

Andria McCabe

East Millsboro Elementary School

Helen Morrow *(Finalist)*

Howard T. Ennis School

Margot Newbold

G.W. Carver Academy

Jennifer Polly

Long Neck Elementary School

Mark Throm

Georgetown Middle School

Jonathan Tietz

Sussex Central High School



IRSD Teachers of the Year. Seated (from left): Helen Morrow, Cathy Henderson, Maria Hazzard, Jennifer Cordrey (overall winner), Jennifer Polly, Marci Ginsberg and Melissa Grunewald. Standing (from left): Terri Evan, Denise Adkins, Jonathan Tietz, Margot Newbold, Dana Lambert, Andria McCabe, Mark Throm, Joan Glasco and Kelsea Dell.

IRSD Teacher of the Year

From Page 1

but have been successful in both state and national leadership conferences exhibiting their agricultural knowledge. Indian River High School is truly fortunate to have employed a person like Jennifer Cordrey."

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



Jennifer Cordrey

IRHS Certified by PLTW

Indian River High School has received national certification for its pre-engineering pathway program through Project Lead The Way (PLTW).

A nonprofit organization and the nation's leading provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education programs, PLTW offers a rigorous world-class curriculum that allows students to apply what they are learning in math and science to real-life activities, projects and problems.

This national recognition distinguishes schools for successfully demonstrating a commitment to PLTW's national standards. Additionally, certification as a PLTW school provides students with the opportunity to apply for college credit or receive college-level

recognition at affiliate universities when they successfully complete select PLTW courses in high school. PLTW has more than 50 college, university and research partners, including the University of Delaware.

"We've seen how the PLTW program draws more students to engineering, math and science and gets them thinking about college and their careers," IRHS Principal Bennett Murray said. "We are extremely proud to be PLTW certified and ecstatic that our students are eligible for college-level recognition, which may include college credit, scholarships and admissions preference."

More than 5,000 elementary, middle, and high schools across the U.S. offer PLTW courses to their students.

Georgetown Elem. Launches Summer Reading Program

Georgetown Elementary School is excited to be launching its first Title I summer reading book project.

At the end of the school year, incoming students in Grades 2-5 will be given a novel to read. They will then choose one of four fun projects relating to their books. Students will have the choice of a writing a

newspaper article or creating a diorama depicting a scene from their book, a cereal box book report or a mobile displaying the story elements of their novel.

The goal is to keep students reading throughout the summer and have a fun project idea for them to work on during the summer months.

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