

What's Inside



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Courtyard Makeover at MMS

Grants from two local businesses are allowing Millsboro Middle School to transform an abandoned interior courtyard into a "self-perpetuating outdoor classroom."

A \$3,000 grant from the Lowe's Toolbox program and a \$2,000 grant from Tanger Outlets will allow for the installation of flowering plants and shrubs, raised flower beds and a stone walkway in an L-shaped courtyard that currently contains only gravel and weeds. The area is surrounded by brick walls and windows on all sides.

School counselor Tanja Doty-Levenson, who pursued grant funding for the project, said students will be actively

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Indian River District News

"A Model of Excellence"

irsd.net

Winter 2015

Murphy Visits NGE



Above, Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Murphy with North Georgetown fifth-grade student Draven Remp. Below, Mr. Murphy works with second-grader Kenny Bartolon Berudo.

Education secretary meets with teachers, praises school district

Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Murphy paid a visit to North Georgetown Elementary School on Jan. 28.

Mr. Murphy toured several classrooms before hosting a brief roundtable discussion with Superintendent Susan Bunting, Principal Jeff Forjan, Assistant Principal Karen Clausen and teachers Mary Norton, Meg Lawson and Emily Pettyjohn. The group discussed a variety of topics, including English Language Learner (ELL) programs and the school's accomplishments, priorities and challenges for the current



school year.

During the discussion, Mr. Murphy touted the Indian River School District as an educational model of excellence in the State of Delaware.

Security Monitors Receive Training

School security monitors in the Indian River School District recently received training on the handling of crisis situations involving armed intruders.

Members of the Delaware State Police Special Operations Response Team (SORT) provided the training on Jan. 30 at the district office in Selbyville. Security monitors were trained on locating and confronting an armed intruder who may be hiding or holding hostages in a classroom.

Training was provided by Lt. Charles Condon, Sgt.

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Master Cpl. Carey Brower (left) of the Delaware State Police SORT team conducts a training session with IRSD school security monitors.

From the Superintendent

Dr. Susan S. Bunting



Dear Parents,

Throughout the summer, fall and early winter, you may have noticed construction projects taking shape at three of our schools. I am happy to report that additions at Long Neck, East Millsboro and North Georgetown elementary schools are nearly complete, and students and staff will soon be enjoying their new accommodations. Each school received eight additional classrooms in Phase One of the expansion project. We will now embark on Phase Two, which will include the addition of eight classrooms and a new kitchen at Georgetown Elementary/Middle School, four classrooms at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School and two classrooms at Selbyville Middle School. These projects will be underway soon and completed later this year.

Parents are reminded that students will take the new Delaware System of Student Assessments for the first time beginning in March and continuing through the end of the school year. DeSSA replaces the former DCAS assessment for math and English language arts. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions about this rigorous new assessment.

I hope the remainder of your school year proves rewarding!

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting
Superintendent

Mentoring Programs Honored

Murphy, Ashman earn awards from Creative Mentoring

Two representatives of the Indian River School District were recently honored by Creative Mentoring for their support of exemplary mentoring programs in schools.

Lisa Ashman, mentoring coordinator at John M. Clayton Elementary School, was named an Exemplary Mentor Coordinator, while Michele Murphy, the district's community education coordinator, received the Exemplary Mentor Champion Award.

Ashman and Murphy were honored at the statewide Creative Mentoring Summit in Dover on Jan. 14. The summit honored mentors and school, business and community mentoring program coordinators who have been exemplary mentoring champions.

Ashman oversees the largest school mentoring pro-



Michele Murphy (left) and Lisa Ashman recently received awards from Creative Mentoring.

gram in the Indian River School District. She continually seeks grants and other donations to the program and ensures that mentors are welcomed into the school community.

Murphy is the IRSD Parent

Center coordinator and facilitates mentoring programs throughout the district. She ensures that mentors are prepared to work with children and maintains regular contact with all program participants.



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Superintendent



Lisa Ashman (standing) with JMC mentors (from left) Cynthia Headman, Colleen Merchant and Barbara Romansoff.

Important Dates

- March 6:** No school - Teacher inservice day
- April 1:** End of Marking Period
- April 2:** No school - Teacher inservice day

- April 3-12:** No school - Easter break
- April 13:** School resumes following break
- April 20-24:** Kindergarten registration

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Phase One Projects Nearing Completion

Work to begin on Phase Two in the spring

The Indian River School District is nearing completion of the first phase of construction projects approved by residents in a major capital improvement referendum on January 29, 2013.

Work is complete at North Georgetown Elementary School, where teachers and students moved into eight new classrooms in early January. East Millsboro Elementary School began moving into its eight new classrooms in early February. Those rooms will be



Students and teachers have moved into new classrooms at North Georgetown.

occupied and fully operational by the end of the month.

Construction and site work is progressing at Long Neck Elementary School, which is also receiving eight new classrooms. The project should be complete by the end of February.

Only punch list items and

training will need to be completed at all three Phase One projects once occupied.

Phase Two construction projects will begin in late February. The Board of Education approved construction bids for Selbyville Middle School on Jan. 26. Work on two new classrooms and a reconfigured exterior entrance and driveway is slated to begin in late February. The project should be completed by the opening of the 2015-2016 school year in September.

The district will solicit construction bids for the Georgetown Elementary School/Georgetown Middle School project in March. Work is scheduled to begin in the



One of eight new classrooms at East Millsboro Elementary School.

spring. The complex will receive eight new classrooms and a new kitchen. The project should be completed by March 2016.

Bids for construction at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School, which will receive four new classrooms, will be solicited in late February. Work should begin in the spring and be completed in October.

MME Courtyard Project

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involved in the courtyard's transformation by providing labor during the construction process. Work will likely begin in the spring and be completed by the end of the school year. Lowe's employees will assist in the laying of pavers for the walkway.

Once complete, the courtyard will be made available to all teachers for a variety of educational activities. It will also be utilized by the mentoring program as a meeting place for students and adults and by school counselors as an alternative location for student counseling sessions. MMS students, especially those in the agriscience program, will be responsible for maintenance on the new garden and may initiate a rain barrel project.

The Millsboro Middle School building was closed for extensive interior renovations from 2006-2008. Prior to the renovation, the courtyard con-

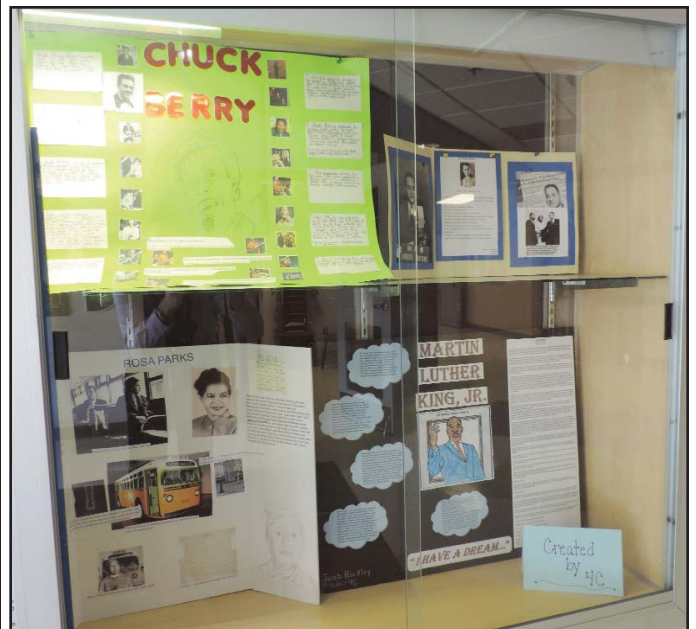


The courtyard to be refurbished at Millsboro Middle School.

tained a greenhouse structure with plants. This was removed during the construction process, and the courtyard has not been utilized since.

Levenson noted Sposato Landscape Company donated the landscape design for the courtyard. Donations from other community organizations are also being sought for benches and raised flower beds.

SDSA Students Honor African-American Heroes



In honor of Black History Month and the schoolwide theme of "The 1950's," fourth-graders at the Southern Delaware School of the Arts created projects honoring prominent African-Americans who were either born or were popular in the 1950's. Some of the projects were put on display in the school lobby. Among those honored were Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Dr. Ralph Bunche, Chuck Berry and Jackie Robinson.

IRHS Students Build Toys for Needy Children



Students in Allen Timmons' Construction & Manufacturing 2 and 3 classes at Indian River High School helped put toys in the hands of less fortunate children this Christmas. Throughout the holiday season, students built new toys in the school's wood shop. Those toys were then delivered to the Dagsboro Church of God collection center and subsequently given to the U.S Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Above left, IRHS students (from left) Joseph Fitzpatrick, Deisy Velasquez, Garrett Scott, Briten Blades and Pedro Cimarron display their work. Above right, technology education teacher Allen Timmons works with students Jacob Ricci (left) and Michael Kramer.

Students Win DAR Awards

Long Neck Elementary School recently received a visit from Barbara Paulish, vice regent of the Major Nathaniel Mitchell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Mrs. Paulish dropped by the school on Jan. 29 to announce the winners of the American History Essay Contest. Fifth-grade students studied Ellis Island in their social studies specials and wrote letters to describe what it would have been like to travel to the United States and pass through Ellis Island in 1892.

Eight fifth-graders received Certificates of Participation and American Flag pins, with one student, Arushi



Back row (from left): Barbara Paulish (DAR), Carly Anderson, Arushi Sharda (Honorable Mention), Garrett Schultz, Zeke Serano and Social Studies Specialist Terry Kansak. Front row (from left): Haile Tarbox, Joanna Ramon Rendon (medal winner), Michael Guarino and Matthew Maniscalco. Not pictured: Ben Eroh and Daniel Foreman (medal winner).

Sharda, earning an Honorable Mention award. Two other students won medals for the Excellence in History DAR Award and received \$20 in prize money. They were Joanna Ramon Rendon and Daniel Foreman. Both will have their

winning essays entered into the state competition.

Receiving Certificates of Participation were Carly Anderson, Garrett Schultz, Zeke Serano, Haile Tarbox, Michael Guarino, Matthew Maniscalco and Ben Eroh.

Training

From Page 1

Rodney Workman and Master Cpl. Carey Brower of the SORT team.

Armed security monitors are stationed at each of the district's 15 school buildings. Their duties include regular patrols of the school's building and grounds, implementation of comprehensive school safety plans and frequent checks of locks on exterior doors. Each monitor has also completed training to be certified as a constable under Delaware state law. Constables have limited arrest powers on school grounds.

All 15 school security monitors have previous law enforcement experience.

School Choice

The IRSD Board of Education began considering school choice applications for Grades 1-12 at its meeting on Feb. 23. Choice applications for 2015-16 will now be either approved or disapproved on a monthly basis. For more information about the process, visit irsd.net.

"IRSD: A Model of Excellence"
Visit us on the web: irsd.net