

INDIAN RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, 31 HOSIER ST., SELBYVILLE, DELAWARE 19975
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TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Lori Hudson Wins Top Teacher Honor

PCS educator to compete for state award

Lori Hudson of Phillip C. Showell Elementary School in Selbyville has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year ceremony on April 18 at Sussex Central High School. Hudson was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 15 candidates, one from each school.

School winners.....Page 4

Hudson has been a teacher in the Indian River School District for 19 years. She has spent the last three years teaching fourth grade at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School. Prior to joining the Phillip C. Showell staff, she spent 10 years as a mathematics and special education teacher at Selbyville Middle School, five years as a special education teacher at Sussex Central Middle School, and one year as a special education teacher at East Millsboro Elementary School.

A Nationally Board Certified Teacher, Hudson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wilmington Univer-



From left, State Rep. Ron Gray, Board of Education President Charles Bireley, Superintendent Susan Bunting, Teacher of the Year Lori Hudson, State Rep. Ruth Briggs King and State Rep. John Atkins at the ceremony on April 18.



Lori Hudson

sity. She is a member of Phillip C. Showell's school improvement team and is the school's lead social studies teacher. She has also served as a SMART technology trainer and as the chair of several educational book talks for PCS staff.

"Mrs. Hudson does her

best to live life to the fullest with no regrets. When she believes in something, she goes for it and does what she can to make it happen," said Phillip C. Showell Elementary School Principal Laura Schneider. "She is passionate in all she says and does and has a great love for the students in her classroom. Her sincere educational goal is to inspire her students to believe in themselves so they can reach true levels of greatness."

As the district's Teacher of the Year, Hudson is now eligible for the state Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced on October 29.

AWARDS

SCHS, IRHS Honored by U.S. News

Both high schools in the Indian River School District received Silver Medal awards and were ranked among the top three in Delaware this April when *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2013 rankings of the best high schools in the United States.

Sussex Central High School and Indian River High School were ranked second and third in Delaware, respectively. They were also among 1,790 schools nationwide to receive Silver Medal awards. This marks the first time either school has received Silver Medal recognition.

"Having both of our high schools recognized by *U.S. News* is a tremendous accomplishment," Superintendent Susan Bunting said. "On a national scale, we are thrilled that these schools are considered to be among the top 10 percent in the country."

U.S. News worked with the American Institutes for Research to evaluate schools on overall student performance on state-mandated assessments, as well as how effectively schools educated African-American, Hispanic, and economically-disadvantaged students. Performance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams was also used to determine the degree to which

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"A Model of Excellence"

From the Desk of the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

One of our district's primary initiatives for 2012-2013 was the piloting of a Spanish immersion program at John M. Clayton Elementary School in Frankford. This program allows kindergarten students to spend half of each school day learning in English and the other half learning in Spanish. The overall goal is to prepare students for success in the real world by giving them the ability to speak a second language. The immersion program has been so successful that we will not only welcome a new class of kindergarten students at John M. Clayton next year but will also expand the program to East Millsboro Elementary School. This will give more students, especially those in the district's northern end, the ability to participate in this innovative and worthwhile program. Students at both elementary schools will be able to continue in the program through the fifth grade and then take high-level Spanish courses in middle and high school. World language immersion is a major priority of Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, and we were pleased to welcome his visit to John M. Clayton Elementary on April 16. (See article at right.) This program has a bright future, and we look forward to witnessing its long-term impact on students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mountaire Farms for its donation of \$10,000 to the district's Project VILLAGE preschool program. Mountaire representatives Roger Marino and Mike Tirrell presented a check to district officials at the March 19 Board of Education meeting. Mountaire is one of our most caring and trusted community partners. We are extremely grateful for the support it has provided Project VILLAGE since the program's inception 15 years ago.

Congratulations to Lori Hudson of Phillip C. Showell Elementary School for being named IRSD Teacher of the Year for 2013-2014. This is a richly-deserved honor for a truly gifted teacher. It was a pleasure recognizing all of our school Teachers of the Year at the annual ceremony on April 18.

In closing, I would like to thank you for a great 2012-2013 school year. I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting
Superintendent

Gov. Markell Visits JMC Elementary

John M. Clayton Elementary School had a special visitor on April 16 when Delaware Gov. Jack Markell stopped by to observe the school's Spanish immersion kindergarten classrooms.

Gov. Markell met briefly with school and district administrators before visiting the program's Spanish and English classrooms. In each room, he observed lessons, spoke with teachers, read to children, and had students read to him.

The Spanish immersion program gives young learners the opportunity to acquire a second language in a developmentally-appropriate format. Students spend half of each school day learning in English and the other half learning in Spanish.

The program is part of the Governor's World Language Expansion Initiative. Gov. Markell believes that graduates who enter the job market without the ability to speak a language other than English are at a significant disadvantage.

John M. Clayton Elementary will accept a new group of



Gov. Jack Markell with JMC Spanish immersion students.

kindergarten students into the program in 2013-2014. This year's immersion students will continue in the program in the first grade next year. The program will also expand to East Millsboro Elementary School in 2013-2014.

State Honors IRSD Scholars

Four district students of the graduating Class of 2013 were honored on April 29 as exemplary scholars at the annual Secretary of Education's Scholars Dinner at Dover Downs Hotel.

Jessica Gude and Delaney McMullen of Indian River High School and Rosemond Dorleans and Katie Warrington of Sussex Central High School were among the 80 seniors from across Delaware honored at the event.

State political and education leaders gathered with the honored students, their families, and their school and district leaders to celebrate the scholars' achievements and wish them well as they continue their education.

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Millsboro Student Honored by LACC

Adamari Rodriguez, an eighth-grade student at Millsboro Middle School, was recently honored by the Delaware Latin American Community Center as its Outstanding Female Student in a middle school.

Rodriguez was nominated by social studies teacher Clarissa Stevenson and received her award at a special ceremony on April 20 at the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington.

The center's Hispanic Student Recognition Program rewards scholars for excellence in academics, the arts, science and technology, community service and athletics. Male and female winners were chosen in both the middle school and high school categories.



Adamari Rodriguez

Rodriguez is the current student council president and a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, and the AVID program. She also participates in soccer and cheerleading.

Science Olympiad Spirit Award



Students from Millsboro Middle School won the coveted Spirit Award at the Delaware Science Olympiad on March 16 at Delaware State University. Consisting of students in Grades 6-8, the Millsboro Middle team competed against 65 other teams from across the state. It also won a sixth-place medal for its mousetrap vehicle. TOP ROW (from left): Aidan Brown, Daysi Torres, Jordan Marcohon, Samantha McDonough (co-captain) and Adam Bobak. MIDDLE ROW (from left): Mary Cordell, Damizha Hudson, Zyanne Abrams, Ashley Mooney, Hannah Roney, Thomas Bilinski, Sequoi Eley and Calvin Hughes. BOT-TOM ROW (from left): Ciera Edwards, Megan Cotter, Tiffany McDonough and Hunter Lied (captain).



Georgetown Elementary School Principal Neil Stong (right) and teacher Colleen Barrett address students about the new instructional motto "Know It, Show It" during the kick-off assembly.

Georgetown Promotes "Know It, Show It" Motto

Georgetown Elementary School's instructional leadership team spearheaded plans to introduce the school's newly-adopted instructional focus to students in a high-energy kick-off assembly on Feb. 8.

The team chose the motto "Know It, Show It" to express the instructional focus that will be emphasized with all students, who are expected to know important grade level instructional content and demonstrate what they've learned in a number of ways. The staff will focus on the school-wide teaching of strategic thinking skills, encouraging student collaboration, and offering a variety of ways to represent student learning. Students are working with teachers to set goals for themselves and will be recognized for their efforts through class incentives, grade level celebrations, and school-wide recognitions including monthly assemblies to acknowledge stu-

dents' accomplishments.

During the Feb. 8 assembly, students danced to music blasting through the sound system. Administrators yelled, "Do you know it?" to which students shouted in unison, "Yes, I'll show it!"

Georgetown Elementary is the sixth district school to become part of the Vision 2015 Network. The others are Sussex Central High School, Selbyville Middle School, North Georgetown Elementary School, Georgetown Middle School, and Millsboro Middle School. Vision 2015 is a bold and coherent initiative designed to provide a world-class education to all public school students in Delaware. Developed in 2006 by a coalition of education, government, business and civic leaders throughout Delaware, it also laid the foundation for Delaware's first-place selection in the federal Race to the Top competition.

Indian River School District
"A Model of Excellence"

2013-2014 IRSD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



2013-2014 IRSD Teachers of the Year. Seated (from left): Molly Abbott, Corey Heacock, Jessica Hudson, Lori Hudson (overall winner), Karlie Class, Kelly Ankrom, Sarah Layfield. Standing (from left): Andrew Kelley, Melody Huebner, Megan Orhelein, Jessica Behrens, Samantha Gordy, Diane Simmons, Helen Timmons, Buddy Snyder.

Molly Abbott

John M. Clayton Elementary School

Kelly Ankrom

East Millsboro Elementary School

Jessica Behrens

Lord Baltimore Elementary School

Karlie Class

Southern Delaware School of the Arts

Samantha Gordy

Georgetown Elementary School

Corey Heacock

Indian River High School

Jessica Hudson

Sussex Central High School

Lori Hudson*

Phillip C. Showell Elementary School

Melody Huebner

Georgetown Middle School

Andrew Kelley

G.W. Carver Academy

Sarah Layfield

North Georgetown Elementary School

Megan Orhelein

Long Neck Elementary School

Diane Simmons

Selbyville Middle School

Buddy Snyder

Howard T. Ennis School

Helen Timmons

Millsboro Middle School

* - Overall Winner

IN THE COMMUNITY

SDSA Red Cross Club Wins Regional Honor



The Southern Delaware School of the Arts Junior Red Cross Club was recently named Delmarva Youth Club of the Year for 2013. Kneeling in front (L-R) are Makenna Chavez and Molly Beattie. Standing (L-R) are Kirsten Malec, parent volunteer Sheila Donovan, Vantashia Bridges, parent volunteer Dara Hearn, Board of Education President Charles Bireley, Onaedo Okoye, Antonia Debastiani, Superintendent Susan Bunting, Callie Stevens and faculty advisor Barbara McMillen. Missing from the photo are students Bethany Satterfield, Nick Outten and Kalee Simpson.

Ennis School Receives Stretcher Donation



On April 12, Gumboro Volunteer Fire Company No. 79 donated two Stryker MX Pro Stretchers to the Howard T. Ennis School. Pictured (from left) are school nurses Shelley Wilgus, Polly Pusey and Julie Barton, Gumboro Fire Company member Bruce Daisey, and school nurse Diane Milam.

U.S News School Rankings

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schools prepare students for college-level work.

U.S. News collected data on 21,035 public high schools from 49 states and the District of Columbia.

"This recognition is a validation of our exemplary efforts

to prepare students for success after graduation," Bunting added. "I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the students and staff of Sussex Central and Indian River high schools for the hard work and commitment that produced this national honor."