

INDIAN RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, 31 HOSIER ST., SELBYVILLE, DELAWARE 19975
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AWARDS

Stevenson Named Teacher of the Year

Eighth-grade social studies teacher at MMS

Clarissa Stevenson of Millsboro Middle School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year celebration on April 10 at The Clubhouse at Baywood Greens. Stevenson was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 15 candidates, one from each school.

School winners....Page 4

Stevenson has been an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Millsboro Middle School for 10 years. She holds a bachelor's degree from Catawba College in North Carolina and a master's degree from Wilmington University.

A Nationally Board Certified Teacher, Stevenson is a member of Millsboro Middle School's instructional leadership and Vision 2015 teams. She has presented professional



From left, State Rep. Ron Gray, Board of Education President Charles Bireley, Superintendent Susan Bunting, 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year Clarissa Stevenson, Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, Rep. John Atkins, Rep. Ruth Briggs-King.

development workshops on Learning Focused Strategies and project-based learning. She also began the student-led conference initiative, which is now a school-wide practice. In 2013, she was one of just 22 teachers nationwide selected to participate in the Dirksen Congressional Center's *Congress in*



Clarissa Stevenson

the Classroom summer workshop in Illinois. Stevenson has also been nominated for the Delaware Geographic Alliance Teacher of the Year

award. Stevenson has represented her school on the Indian River School District's technology and innovation committee, been a

district social studies curriculum alignment facilitator and served as a lead teacher for the Social Studies Coalition of Delaware. She is a member of the National Council for the Social Studies, the International Society for Technology in Education, and the Delaware Geographic Alliance.

"Clarissa Stevenson embodies the very qualities all of us look for in master teachers – the belief that all children can learn and the passion to create a rigorous classroom environment conducive to authentic student learning and achievement," Millsboro Middle School Principal Renee Jerns said. "Children of all abilities not only thrive in her classroom because of the structure and culture of high expectations but also because of the bevy of content-related experiences that enable her to bring social studies alive. Clarissa Stevenson is exactly the kind of teacher every principal dreams about."

As the district's Teacher of the Year, Stevenson is now eligible for the state Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced on October 21.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

District Officials Attend NSBA Annual Conference

Indian River School District Superintendent Susan Bunting and Board of Education member Nina Lou Bunting recently received a crash course on the future of public education at the National School Board Association (NSBA) Annual Confer-

ence in New Orleans. Held on April 5-7, the conference was attended by administrators and school board members from across the country. The goal of the annual event is to transform school leadership to meet the educa-

tional needs of today's children. "NSBA provides continued education for board members and superintendents; it's where we hone our skills," Susan Bunting said of the conference. "The general speakers were phenomenal!"

Each day, Indian River's team attended a large general presentation for all conference participants and several smaller sessions focusing on specific education topics. The conference also included an exhibit

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"A Model of Excellence"

From the Desk of the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

With one of the most brutal winters in recent memory behind us, I would like to thank parents for their patience and understanding during the repeated weather cancellations and delays of the past few months. In mid-March, we announced that the school day would be extended by 30 minutes to make up instructional time lost due to the weather. Amazingly, there were two more snow cancellations after this announcement was made! When warmer temperatures finally arrived in April, we were left with a total of nine weather closings, the most since 2009-2010. Fortunately, the state allowed us to forgive four of the days and our dedicated team of administrators were able to formulate a plan to make up the remaining time. This plan to lengthen the school day allowed us to make up instructional hours without adding days to the end of the year. In fact, the last student day will now be June 10, a day earlier than what was originally planned in the school calendar. We understand the 30-minute extension presented challenges for parents, and we sincerely appreciate your cooperation during these difficult and unusual circumstances. Now we need to get outside and enjoy the warm weather!

I would like to congratulate Clarissa Stevenson for being named the district's Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015. Millsboro Middle School and the Indian River School District are privileged to have such a talented and dedicated teacher in their ranks. The annual Teacher of the Year program at Baywood Greens was a wonderful event in which the 15 school winners were honored in front of their families, friends and colleagues. I'm always amazed at the top-notch teaching talent on display during this program. I commend all of the winners for their hard work and dedication!

Once again, this newsletter is highlighting the myriad accomplishments of our students and staff. I hope you enjoy reading about the great people and programs that have put the Indian River School District at the forefront of public education in the State of Delaware. Have a wonderful spring and summer!

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting
Superintendent

District Students Excel at County Science Fair

With Indian River High School's Taite Daisey leading the way, IRSD students had a strong showing at the recent Sussex County Science Fair.

Daisey took first place in the 11th-grade competition with her "Antioxidant Activity" project and earned one of three prestigious BioGENEius awards. BioGENEius is a separate contest for student biotech projects and is coordinated by the Delaware Biotechnology Institute. Daisey was also one of five students to receive an award from Dow Chemical.

Daisey's "Antioxidant Activity" project studied the an-

tiioxidant properties of various foods. Antioxidants are compounds found in some foods that protect against cancer-causing free radicals. Using the Briggs-Raucher Reaction, Daisey tested several commonly-eaten foods for their antioxidant content. The Briggs-Raucher Reaction is an oscillating reaction, which means there are observable color changes in each phase.

The longer the time between phases, the more antioxidant activity there is in the food.

"In my AP biology class, Taite is one of the most
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Taite Daisey

Officials Attend NSBA Event

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hall featuring the latest products and services for schools. During the event, Susan and Nina Lou Bunting attended courses on school board governance, Common Core State Standards, instructional technology, blended learning, community engagement and recent devel-

opments in 21st Century education.

Susan Bunting noted the conference gave participants a glimpse into the future of public education.

"We're out there looking at what's coming," she said. "It broadens our horizons, and we learn where we have to go."

She noted one of the main benefits was the opportunity to share ideas with school officials from districts across the country. "We found that we have a lot in common."

Nina Lou Bunting has been a Board of Education member since 2002. Prior to joining the board, she was an elementary school teacher in the Indian River School District for 39 years, retiring in 2001. She was the State of Delaware's Teacher of the Year in 1979. The Delaware School Board Association awarded her the prestigious Certificate of Distinction in 2012 and the Certificate of Excellence in 2014.

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Two Programs Honored by State Chamber

IRSD earns 20th and 21st Superstars in Education awards

The Indian River School District has received two prestigious Superstars in Education Awards from the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

The "Peer to Peer Observation" program at Georgetown Middle School and the district's "BRINC: Linking to the Future" program were among the 2014 Superstars winners announced in April.

"Having two innovative programs recognized by the State Chamber is a tremendous honor for our district," Superintendent Susan Bunting said. "These awards illustrate the commitment of our teachers

and administrators to providing the best possible educational services for our students. I congratulate everyone involved in creating and implementing these award-winning programs."

Georgetown Middle School's "Peer to Peer Observation" program began with teachers acknowledging their strengths and weaknesses as identified by the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teachers. Teachers were then partnered with a colleague who could assist them in their areas of weakness. After a series of

school-wide training sessions, teachers conducted 20-minute observations of their partners.

Within a week of the observation, teaching pairs held post conferences, where observers shared their feedback with teachers and discussed specific ways to improve instruction.

The "BRINC: Linking to the Future" program consists of a consortium of four Delaware school districts - Indian River, Brandywine, Colonial and New Castle County Vo-Tech. The consortium's goal is to ensure that every student in each par-

ticipating district graduates college-and career-ready. This is done by creating and supporting new personalized learning environments. The vision is for students to learn in different styles and paces to meet their needs, including large-group instruction, small-group instruction, project-based collaboration, virtual learning, online coursework and independent learning. Locally, BRINC activities are taking place at Indian River and Sussex Central high schools.

All of the 2014 Superstars winners were honored at a special ceremony on May 5 at the Sheraton Wilmington South Hotel. This year's honors are the district's 20th and 21st Superstars awards.

Superstars Winners

Peer to Peer Observation
Georgetown Middle School

BRINC: Linking to the Future
District Consortium

Science Fair

From Page 2

responsible students I have," IRHS science teacher Kiersten Lenz said. "She always enters the classroom ready to work, and she often helps other students with the rigor of the class. She is a very positive person who will go far in life."

Daisey also qualified to compete in the Delaware Valley Science Fair, which was held on April 3 in Oaks, Pa.

Another Indian River High School student, Griffin McCormick, finished third in the ninth-grade competition for his "Water Are You Drinking?" project. He also qualified for the Delaware Valley Science Fair.

A pair of Georgetown Middle School students performed well in the seventh-grade competition. Elias Timmons placed third with his "Vehicle Texture and Speed" project while Gabby Guy received Honorable Mention for her "Memory (Can you remember the back of your hand?)" project.

STAFF HONORS

Showell Named Counselor of the Year

Cathy Showell of Long Neck Elementary School has been named Delaware's Elementary School Counselor of the Year for 2014.

The award, sponsored by

the Delaware School Counselor Association, recognizes the recipient's personal dedication and service to the profession of school counseling. It was presented to Showell at the associ-

ation's annual spring conference in Dover on March 13.

"Cathy is a master of all the ingredients of successful teaching and counseling, especially the ability to inspire," said Long Neck Principal David Hudson, who nominated Showell for the award. "Cathy's success comes from her love and respect for her students. She has an outstanding rapport with people of all ages, especially the at-risk children she works with at Long Neck Elementary School."

Showell has been a counselor in the Indian River School District for the past 23 years. She has served in that position at Long Neck Elementary School, North Georgetown Elementary School, Sussex Central Middle School, and East Millsboro Elementary School.

The association also presented a graduate student scholarship to Millsboro Middle School teacher Whitney Price. The scholarship assists those pursuing a degree and eventually a job in school counseling.

SPORTS

Champs Meet Governor



Members of the Indian River High School boys soccer team meet with Delaware Gov. Jack Markell during a special visit to Legislative Hall in Dover on March 19. Rep. John Atkins invited players to Legislative Hall to honor them for their 2013 state championship. The Indians captured the Division II state title with a 3-0 victory over St. Elizabeth on Nov. 16.

2014-2015 IRSD Teachers of the Year



2014-2015 IRSD Teachers of the Year (bottom to top): Meg Lawson, Clarissa Stevenson (overall winner), Heather McCabe, Jason Orlen, Tanya Evans, Lara Lane, Allisa Booth, Caroline Hevner, Melissa Strader, Diane Comolli, Kayla Bollinger, Robert Hahn, Meg Wildt, Jamie Moore, Brian Hitchens.

- Kayla Bollinger**
Lord Baltimore Elementary School
- Allisa Booth**
Sussex Central High School
- Diane Comolli**
Indian River High School
- Tanya Evans**
Selbyville Middle School
- Robert Hahn**
G.W. Carver Academy
- Caroline Hevner**
John M. Clayton Elementary School
- Brian Hitchens**
Georgetown Middle School
- Lara Lane**
Georgetown Elementary School
- Meg Lawson**
North Georgetown Elementary School
- Heather McCabe**
Phillip C. Showell Elementary School
- Jamie Moore**
Southern Delaware School of the Arts
- Jason Orlen**
East Millsboro Elementary School
- Clarissa Stevenson***
Millsboro Middle School
- Melissa Strader**
Long Neck Elementary School
- Meg Wildt**
Howard T. Ennis School

* - Overall Winner

ART EDUCATION

Millsboro Middle Students Complete "Grid" Project

Sixth-grade art students at Millsboro Middle School recently completed a "grid project" to honor the alma maters of the school's staff members.

After art teacher D. Halliwell surveyed staff members on the colleges and universities where they had earned their degrees, groups of her students chose which school's pennant they wanted to recreate. The project required them to utilize the "grid method" of drawing to duplicate and re-



size the images. They also gained experience with a color wheel.

The project supported the school's initiative to improve college readiness.

Participating students were Katie

Castillo Delacruz, Colby Collins, Jasmine Cummings, Haley Cooper, Emma Evan, Michael Glanden, Izebella Grebe, Maria Henriquez, Charley Herrera, Sheila Hidalgo Tepaz, Isaiah Johnson, Dylan Jones, John Leates, Malakai McCarty, William Perkins, Kayla Schrader, Cameron Schweiger, Matt Seiler, Philip Simms, River Smith, Nick Sust, Chase Traylor, Shi'Naya Walston, Caleb Winter, Celina Lombardi and Kelsey Kormanik.