

INDIAN RIVER DISTRICT NEWS

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

Five Star Honor for Preschool Program gets highest rating from state

The Indian River School District's Project VILLAGE preschool program recently received a prestigious Five Star rating from the Delaware Stars for Early Success program.

Delaware Stars is a Quality Rating and Improvement System administered by the Delaware Department of Education. It promotes high-quality early learning for young children and sets quality ratings that guide families seeking the best programs for their children.

Five Star recognition is the highest rating a preschool program can receive.

Founded in 1997, Project VILLAGE is a comprehensive, developmentally-appropriate early childhood program for economically-challenged four-year-olds. Its goal is to provide students with the math and language readiness skills that will



Representatives of Project VILLAGE were honored at the Jan. 27 Board of Education meeting. From left, Supervisor of Elementary Instruction Audrey Carey, teacher Lorna Tull, Superintendent Susan Bunting, paraprofessional Beth Smith, Board President Charles Bireley and paraprofessional Joan Riddle.

ensure their academic success in kindergarten.

The award-winning program currently has five locations in the district serving

about 175 students. The Selbyville location at Southern Delaware School of the Arts was the recipient of the Five-Star recognition.

SPORTS

Shultie Wins 400th

Sussex Central High School varsity wrestling coach Phil Shultie earned his 400th career dual meet victory on Jan. 15. Shultie reached the milestone when the Golden Knights defeated Dover 47-24 and Woodbridge 58-12 in a tri-meet at Dover High School.

Shultie has been Sussex Central's varsity wrestling coach since 1976 and holds the state record for most dual meet victories. He led Sussex Central to the state Division I dual meet championship in 2008. The Golden Knights were also state finalists in 1995, 1999 and 2010. Overall, 24 of Shultie's wrestlers have won individual state championships in their weight classes. That group amassed a total of 34 state titles, with seven wrestlers winning multiple championships.

"It really hasn't sunk in yet," Shultie said of his 400th victory. "If you coach long enough, you're bound to win some matches."

Shultie replaced the retiring Herm Bastianelli as Sussex Central's head coach for the 1976-1977 season. Bastianelli had been coach since the school's formation in 1969. Shultie was a varsity wrestler under Bastianelli, earning a third-place finish in the 107-pound weight class at the 1971

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AWARDS

Moore Earns National Recognition

Jeanine Moore, a fourth grade teacher at Long Neck Elementary School, is one of Delaware's two 2012 recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Moore was Delaware's winner in the mathematics category and will take part in a week-long series of networking

and professional development activities in Washington, D.C. She will also receive a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.



Jeanine Moore

The award is the highest

recognition a K-12 math or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Established by Congress in 1983 and administered by the National Science Foundation, the Presidential Awards allow each state to select finalists in mathematics and science. Those finalists then vie

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"A Model of Excellence"

From the Desk of the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

One of the benefits of publishing this newsletter three times a year is that it affords us the opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of our students and staff. This edition is no exception, as 2013-2014 has been an outstanding year for academic, athletic and professional accolades. On these pages, you will find articles about Jeanine Moore's Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, Project VILLAGE's Five Star rating from the State of Delaware, Phil Shultie's 400th dual meet wrestling victory and the Ferguson, Carson and Horatio Alger scholarships awarded to our students. I am exceptionally proud of all these honorees, and I hope you as parents feel the same sense of pride at the many talented individuals who have made a commitment to educating children in our district.

On another note, I would like to congratulate former district superintendent Lois Hobbs for her recent induction into Delaware State University's Delaware Diamond Extravaganza Class of 2014. The program recognizes those who have displayed a commitment of support in women's athletics and education. Ms. Hobbs served as IRSD superintendent from 1996-2006 and is currently a senior consultant with Focus on Results. I had the pleasure of working with Lois for many years prior to her retirement and admired her focus and dedication to K-12 public education. I commend her on this richly-deserved honor.

As we move into the second half of the school year, I encourage parents to maintain frequent contact with teachers and take an active interest in their children's academic and extra-curricular activities. It is through your involvement that your children can reach their full potential both in and out of the classroom. I am grateful to the many caring parents who have annually lent their unwavering support to our schools. On behalf of our students and staff, I thank you for your involvement. We collectively hope the remainder of the school year continues to prove rewarding.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting
Superintendent

McCabe Selected For Delaware Dream Team

Heather McCabe of Phillip C. Showell Elementary School was recently one of 34 teachers named to the "Delaware Dream Team," which will develop high-quality Common Core formative assessment tools to be shared with teachers across the state.

A fifth grade teacher, McCabe will collaborate with fellow teachers and Common Core coaches from across the country to create these assessment resources. She will also share her professional development experiences with colleagues.

Dream Team members were selected through a competitive application process that

evaluated candidates' understanding of the Common Core State Standards and their desire to broaden their impact beyond their own classrooms. Each team member received a \$500 stipend.

McCabe and her fellow team members also participated in the TeachFest Delaware event Jan. 9-11 in Baltimore. The two and a

half-day conference allowed them to work with LearnZillion content coaches on creating high quality Common Core assessment tools and resources. The Delaware Department of Education is partnering with LearnZillion on the Dream Team project.



Heather McCabe

SCIENCE

Ag Program Flourishing

Students at Millsboro Middle School are getting an introduction to the plant and animal sciences this year through a new exploratory agriculture course.

Teacher Susan Mitchell is guiding students through a se-

ries of project-based learning activities designed to introduce them to subject material they will encounter in high school. Every student in Grades 6-8 will take the course during the 2013-14 school year. So far, the class has earned rave reviews from students.

"The kids love it," Millsboro Middle School Principal Renee Jerns said. "You want kids to be excited about what they're learning."

The new course was developed in conjunction with the agriculture pathway at Sussex Central High School. The hope is that students will choose to continue their studies in plant and animal science in Grades 9-12.

One of the main projects undertaken by the agriculture program is the design and installation of landscaping

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GMS Students Get Holiday Surprise

When Georgetown Middle School students John and Valencia Whealton were summoned to teacher Eric McGuire's classroom on Dec. 19, they thought they were being presented with special certificates commemorating their selection as Students of the Month. They had no idea that they and their older sister Kiara were about to receive an early Christmas present.

After John and Valencia received their certificates, all three Whealton children got a huge surprise when their father, Richard Whealton, entered the classroom. Less than 24 hours earlier, Mr. Whealton had returned home from nearly a year of active military duty in Afghanistan. He decided to surprise his children at school and their tearful reunion was witnessed by classmates, family members and a camera crew

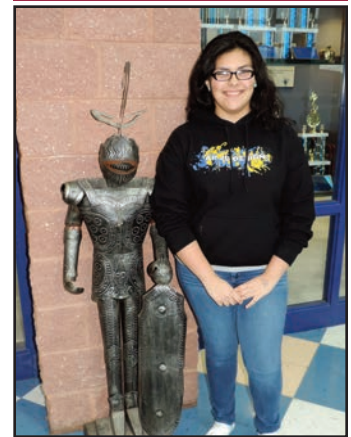


Richard Whealton (center) has a surprise reunion with his children (from left) Kiara, John and Valencia Whealton at Georgetown Middle School on Dec. 19.

from WBOC-TV.

After an extended group hug, Mr. Whealton and his three children recorded a round of television interviews

for a special WBOC feature. John, Valencia and Kiara didn't expect their father to return home until the spring, making it a family reunion none of them will ever forget.



Ana Ramirez-Irinea

Student Earns Horatio Alger Scholarship

Sussex Central High School student Ana Ramirez-Irinea was recently awarded a Delaware Horatio Alger Scholarship valued at \$6,000

Ramirez-Irinea, a 12th-grader from Georgetown, was one of 14 students from Delaware and three from Sussex County to receive state Horatio Alger State Scholarships.

The Horatio Alger Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education. Each year, the Association awards more than 100 national scholarships of \$20,000 each to high school seniors from across the United States. These winners are chosen from more than 40,000 applicants annually. Since its inception in 1984, the program has awarded nearly \$100 million to more than 20,000 students nationwide.

After graduation, Ramirez-Irinea plans to attend either Drexel University in Philadelphia or the University of Maryland.

The Delaware scholarship program is sponsored by Michele Rollins and Family and is given in honor of late association member John W. Rollins.

MMS Names Carson Award Candidates

Millsboro Middle School is proud to announce that eighth-grader Kiara Hall is its 2014 Carson Award nominee. Kiara was selected from a formidable

group of candidates that included eighth-graders Hope Craig and Taylor Evick; seventh-graders Lauren Littleton, Cindy Zheng, Grant Argo and Demitrius Sturgis, Jr.; and sixth-grader Alyssa Hudson.

Dr. Ben Carson started the Carson Scholars Fund in 1994 to "recognize and reward outstanding students in the United

States enrolled in grades 4-11 who exemplify academic excellence and humanitarian qualities." The administration, staff and students of Millsboro Middle wish Kiara good luck as she moves forward as a Carson Scholar nominee with a chance to win a trophy and receive a \$1,000 scholarship to invest in her college education.

Agriculture

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around the sign on the school's front lawn. Students formulated detailed plans that included the types of vegetation to be planted, scale drawings and cost estimates. After reviewing all of the plans, Jerns selected a winning landscaping scheme that will be installed by students. The plantings should be complete by the spring.

Jerns hopes to expand the program in future years to include a green house and wetlands habitat. The school has also established a Future Farmers of America chapter for the first time in its history.



Millsboro Middle School's Carson Award Candidates. Above left, bottom row (from left): Lauren Littleton, Cindy Zheng, Grant Argo and Demitrius Sturgis, Jr. Top row (from left): Kiara Hall, Hope Craig and Taylor Evick. Above right, Alyssa Hudson



Family Literacy Night



On Jan. 16, Georgetown Elementary School hosted a Family Literacy Night to give parents an opportunity to learn from teachers about how they can support their children at home with reading. Grade level teachers planned activities for parents, and children were entertained by story teller Raggatha. The district's Parent Information Center provided helpful information about parenting issues. Refreshments were provided, and Georgetown Elementary School staff members volunteered to help make the night a success. More than 200 families participated in the event.

Shultie Gets 400th Win

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individual state championship meet. Although he was initially reluctant to replace a local legend, Shultie took the head coaching job and soon began racking up dual meet victories at a record pace.

Shultie reached 300 career wins in 2006 and during the next few years became Delaware's all-time leader in dual meet victories.

"It's really an honor, but it's an honor that goes to a lot of different people," said Shultie, who gave credit to his wrestlers and assistant coaches. "We have kids who believe in the program and buy into the program."

Shultie was quick to praise long-time assistant coach Chip Illian, who has been on Sussex Central's coaching staff for 25



Phil Shultie (light blue shirt holding framed photo) celebrates his 400th career victory with his team on Jan. 15.

years. Illian was a varsity wrestler when Shultie earned his 100th career win. Shultie also gave credit to the strong wrestling programs at the middle school level.

"I'm not one to showcase anything," Shultie said, deflecting praise for his accomplishments. "It's more for the kids and the past wrestlers."

IRSD: A Model of Excellence

District Students Win Ferguson Scholarships

Twenty-six Indian River School District students were awarded Ferguson Scholarships from the State of Delaware for exemplary performance on the 2013 Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS).

A total of 28 scholarships totaling \$28,000 were awarded to district students who earned high scores on the reading and math portions of the DCAS. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000 and can be used once the student begins post-secondary education. Two district students earned multiple scholarships.

The list of district winners is as follows:

Georgetown Middle School
Danielle Hudson - 8th Grade Reading
Raelynn Jackson - 8th Grade Reading
Jessica Zou - 8th Grade Reading

Indian River High School
David Chan - 10th Grade Math
Shauntel Drummond - 10th Grade Reading
Logan Hearn - 10th Grade Reading

Moore Award

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for the state title the following year.

Moore was one of three Delaware finalists for the mathematics award.

In addition, Karen Berry of Sussex Central High School has been named a Delaware finalist for the 2013 PAEMST. She will compete for the award with three other Delaware teachers in the mathematics category.

Moore and Berry were honored along with the other state winners and finalists at the annual PAEMST Recognition and Recruitment banquet on Feb. 5 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.

Bradlee Saville - 10th Grade Math
Paul West - 10th Grade Reading

Millsboro Middle School
Kyle Ernst - 8th Grade Reading
Luis Garcia Osorio - 8th Grade Math

Quinlan Heacock - 8th Grade Reading
Brittany Ritter - 8th Grade Reading
Zoe Stayman - 8th Grade Reading
Alyssa Thompson - 8th Grade Reading
Donaldo Ventura Lopez - 8th Grade Reading

Selbyville Middle School
Michael Cedeno - 8th Grade Reading
Benjamin Linthicum - 8th Grade Reading and Math
Joseph Linthicum - 8th Grade Reading and Math
Samuel Rojas - 8th Grade Reading

Sara Saylor - 8th Grade Math
Sussex Central High School
Maaz Nasir - 10th Grade Math
Brian Rentz - 10th Grade Reading
Randy Short - 10th Grade Reading
Jada Smack - 10th Grade Reading
Joshua Wilson - 10th Grade Reading
Vanessa Zunun Ordaz - 10th Grade Reading

Statewide, 299 Ferguson scholarships were awarded to 284 students. There were 15 students who earned multiple scholarships.

The scholarship program is named in memory of Michael C. Ferguson, former Deputy Superintendent and Acting Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction and former state budget director.

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