

# Indian River School District



January 2022 Newsletter

## Aquatic Center Reopens at HTE

The Dr. Lorraine Wray Aquatic Center at the Howard T. Ennis School in Georgetown has reopened.

Those who elected to pause their membership during the closure of the pool will be eligible to reinstate the membership until it expires. The school is currently offering only monthly memberships to new members at the following rates:

- \$40 per month for a single membership
- \$35 per month for a single membership for first responders, IRSD employees and seniors
- \$80 per month for families of three or more
- \$10 walk-in fee

Howard T. Ennis will be offering other pool events such as swim lessons, life-guarding courses and birthday parties. Please see the HTE Facebook page for more details.

Hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-8:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00-8:30 p.m.; Friday from 3:30-7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday times may change based on availability of lifeguards. Please check the HTE Facebook page for updates.

For more information, contact the Howard T. Ennis School at (302) 856-1930.



## TAPP Students Visit WBOC



*Students in the Indian River School District's Transition and Parallel Program (TAPP) visited WBOC-TV on Tuesday, December 14 to watch a live noon news broadcast. Here they are with WBOC news anchors Jacqueline Karli and Steve Hammond. The TAPP program teaches 18-21-year-old students with special needs functional life and job skills to help them become more independent individuals.*

## Long Neck Dedicates Playground

Long Neck Elementary School hosted a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, December 13 to commemorate the installation of its new playground equipment.

School and district officials, along with numerous community donors, cut a special ribbon to officially open the new playground. The event was attended by all Long Neck students and staff members.

The school raised approximately \$90,000 for the new equipment through fundraising efforts by its PTO organization and various community donations.

PTO members involved in the project were Mary Wilkins, Jennifer Harrison, Kris Dellinger, Rose Coulter, Megan Gray and Colleen Baker.

Community donors were Long Neck Deli, Captains Pizza, Grotto Pizza, Ocean Grill Diner, Long Neck Rotary Club, Grace United Methodist Church, Long Neck Snowball Stand, Nana's Kids, Long Neck United Methodist Church, JT Rogers Marine Construction, Community Bank of Delaware, Arena's, Mountaire Farms, McDonald's, SoDel Cares and Baywood Greens.

**Photos on Page 4**

## Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

31 Hosier St.  
Selbyville, DE 19975  
(302) 436-1000  
irsd.net

### Board of Education

Rodney M. Layfield,  
*President*

Leolga T. Wright  
*Vice President*

Derek E. Cathell

W. Scott Collins

James E. Frtiz

Dr. Donald G. Hattier

Madeline R. Moses

Gerald T. Peden

Constance T. Pryor

Dr. Heather M. Statler

**Dr. Jay F. Owens**  
*Board Secretary and  
District Superintendent*

The Indian River School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, creed, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship status, pregnancy, age, ancestry, disability, gender identity, genetic information, military status or any other characteristic protected by law.

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

 @IndianRiver DE

Visit us on  
the web at  
**irsd.net**

## From the Superintendent



**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to 2022! I hope you had a fun and relaxing holiday break. As we approach the halfway point of the school year, I couldn't be more proud of how our students, families and staff have risen to the occasion during these difficult times. The past few months haven't been easy, but I am confident that we will persevere and finish 2021-2022 on a high note. I sincerely thank you for your support and understanding as we adjust to the challenges of the pandemic.

For the second consecutive year, an IRSD student-athlete has been named Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Bre Reid of Sussex Central High School earned the honor this year as she helped guide the Golden Knights to the state tournament quarterfinals. (See Page 3.) Bre's accomplishments, along with Brynn Crandell's state cross country championship and the Selbyville Middle School volleyball team's undefeated season, made it a tremendous fall season for girls' athletics in the Indian River School District. I congratulate all of these young ladies for their hard work and dedication on the athletic field and in the classroom.

I am pleased to report that to date, eight seniors in Sussex Central High School's International Baccalaureate program have been accepted to 29 different colleges and universities and have obtained more than \$1 million in total scholarships. One IB senior has also chosen to join the Marine Corps after graduation. These success stories are a testament to how the IB program and its challenging curriculum have been effective in preparing students for life after high school. Meanwhile, graduating seniors at Indian River High School have already been accepted to more than 40 different colleges and earned approximately \$1.6 million in merit scholarships. I wish all of these students the best of luck in the future!

In November, we were heartbroken over the passing of Ridge Murray, who was an Indian River High School graduate and well-liked by those who had the pleasure of knowing him. His parents, Bennett and Dana, and other extended family members are dedicated members of our IRSD team. We offer our deepest sympathies to the Murray family in their time of grief. During the holiday season, it was wonderful to see the holiday light displays that were set up in Ridge's honor at John M. Clayton and Lord Baltimore elementary schools. Our community truly came together to support the Murray family and we hope that you will continue to keep them in your thoughts. Indian River High School's Alumni Association has established a scholarship fund in Ridge's honor. Donations can be sent to Indian River High School Alumni Association, 29772 Armory Rd., Dagsboro, DE 19939. Please write "Ridge Murray Scholarship" on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for all you do to support our schools!

Sincerely,



Dr. Jay F. Owens  
Superintendent

## Reid Named State Player of the Year



*Senior Bre Reid of Sussex Central High School was named Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year for 2021. Bre also surpassed 1,000 kills in her career as the Golden Knights compiled a 13-4 record and advanced to the Delaware state tournament quarterfinals. Bre will be continuing her volleyball career next year at James Madison University.*

## Two Athletes Win Mini Max Awards

Two district students were recently named 2021 Delaware Mini Max award winners by the Maxwell Football Club.

**Clifton Toomey** of Indian River High School and **Gunner Abbott** of Sussex Central High School were among 44 Delaware seniors to receive this honor. They were nominated by their coaches using criteria that included performance on the football field, academic record and community service.

The Maxwell Football Club will select one player from the group of Mini Max winners as its Delaware Player of the Year on January 26.

## Millsboro Wins Bracket at DAAD Invitational



The Millsboro Middle School volleyball team won its bracket at the Delaware Association of Athletic Directors (DAAD) Middle School Invitational in October.

The Golden Knights defeated Magnolia in the first round before coming back from a set down to oust Mariner in the semifinals. In the bracket final, Millsboro defeated Postlethwait 2-1 to capture the title. Ava Ruscavage served for 10 points in a row to win the final set for the Knights.

MMS finished the season with an overall record of 6-4.

Team members were Ava Ruscavage, Mia Messina, Ava Brock, Ariyana Gibbs, Wynnie Bostic, Sabrina Schafer, Violet Reichert, Leah Lloyd, Makenzi Alm and Jayla Harmon. Coaches were Samantha Mumford (head coach) and Melissa Hanna.

## Career and Trade Fair at IRHS

Indian River High School will host a Career & Trade Fair on **Wednesday, February 23** at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to give all IRSD students and their families exposure to career and trade paths in Sussex County that do not require a four-year college degree. Participants can meet with more than 30 local employers and businesses ready to share potential career and trade information and/or hire on the spot.

The event is free and registration is not required.

Businesses scheduled to participate include Schell Brothers, Mountaire Farms, Hooked Restaurant Group, Custom Mechanical, Delaware Department of Corrections, East Coast Trailers & RV, Trick Trucks, Bethany Blooms, A&A Companies, Megee Motors, Sea Colony Fitness Center, Preston Automotive, Indian River School District, Bayside Resort Golf Club, State Farm, Wawa, RSC Landscaping, G&E/Hockers, SoDel Concepts, Cadia Healthcare Renaissance, Delaware Department of Transportation, Blades HVAC, Envirotech Environmental Consulting, Vector Security, Keller Williams Realty, Expert Wire, PNC Bank, Delaware Air National Guard, Sussex Tech Adult Ed & Apprenticeship and Delaware Army National Guard.

## Outdoor Family Night at ELC



*The IRSD Early Learning Center hosted its Family Night outdoors on November 4. The theme was Fire Prevention and students participated in an obstacle course, art projects and a food project.*

# Teacher Marches in Rose Parade

On New Year's Day, Phoebe Marvel, Sussex Central High School's choral director and assistant marching band director, marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California with the "Band Directors Marching Band."

The band was the first of its kind, both in its composition of band directors and in that it was accompanied by a float. This band/float combination had never before been attempted in the Rose Parade's history. The purpose of the float, in memory Michael D. Sewell, was as a "Salute to America's Band Directors. We teach music. We teach life."

Phoebe marched the 5.5-mile parade route alongside 270 band directors from the United States and Mexico. She played the mellophone in the band and was the only representative from Delaware.

The band and float paid tribute to the exceptional instruction, character development and inspiration provided by music educators everywhere.



*Phoebe Marvel, second from right, with the Band Directors Marching Band at the Tournament of Roses Parade.*

## Pensioners Sought for Sub Positions

In his recent revision of the State of Emergency that requires Delawareans to wear masks in indoor public settings, Governor John Carney also eased regulations related to recently-retired state employees returning to the classroom as substitute teachers.

Delaware pensioners may now accept positions as substitute teachers after only a one-month separation of state service instead of the previous requirement of six months. In addition, service as a substitute teacher will not count towards the annual earnings limit of \$30,000 for pensioners in a state-funded position.

The Indian River School District is in need of substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year and has temporarily increased retired teacher substitute pay to \$200 per day after five days of substituting. (Retired paraprofessionals receive \$150 per day after five days of substituting.)

Any recent Delaware pensioner who is interested in becoming a substitute teacher should contact Michele Murphy in the IRSD District Office at (302) 436-1000 or [michele.murphy@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:michele.murphy@irsd.k12.de.us).

## Bus Drivers and Bus Aides Needed!

*Substitute drivers and aides also needed*

Interested applicants should contact Shawn Tidwell or Tami Hudson in the IRSD Transportation Office at (302) 436-1000

[shawn.tidwell@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:shawn.tidwell@irsd.k12.de.us)  
[tami.hudson@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:tami.hudson@irsd.k12.de.us)

## Long Neck Playground Ribbon Cutting



*To view more photos and videos from the ceremony, visit the district Facebook page.*

## Did You Know?

Superintendent **Jay Owens** and Supervisor of Early Learning **Audrey Carey** were among six new members inducted into the Sussex Central High School Hall of Fame on November 19. Other inductees were Trinity Hall, Donna Polk, Joe Shockley and Kirk Rogers.