

Arleth Avalos Wins District ESPOY Award for 2022-2023

Arleth Avalos is the Indian River School District's Educational Support Professional of the Year for 2022-2023.

A paraprofessional at the IRSD Early Learning Center, Arleth is described by colleagues as positive, kind, organized and hard-working. ELC teacher Ashley Rowe noted that Arleth builds loving and caring relationships with all of her preschool learners, creating a nurturing classroom environment. Arleth also provides a valuable service by translating documents and other important information for Spanish-speaking families.

"Arleth is a devoted paraprofessional at the Early Learning Center. She is kind, caring and will always go the extra mile to help staff members or

the littles and their families," ELC Principal Janet Hickman said. "Arleth has a great sense of humor that she shares with everyone she interacts with. The smiles and the laughter that she promotes is contagious. In addition, Arleth is bilingual and shares her gift with others to guarantee that key information is understood by families whose native language is not English.

"I am so proud of Arleth that she is attending college in order to transition to become a teacher. The students in her class are so lucky to have her care, concern and devotion."

Arleth was chosen as the district winner from a pool of 16 candidates, one from each school and the district office. She is now eligible for the state ESPOY award, which will be announced in December.

Photos of school winners, Page 3



Arleth Avalos (center) with IRSD Superintendent Jay Owens and IRSD Early Learning Center Principal Janet Hickman.

Project Kudos Raises Funds for Winter Coats

For three weeks in September, schools throughout the Indian River School District gave "kudos" to important people and in the process raised more than \$20,000 for the purchase of winter coats for students.

Through social media posts, schools and the district office recognized students, staff, bus drivers, parents, volunteers, community members and other individuals who are vital to the success of schools. For every comment left on a Kudos post on Facebook or Instagram, the Kudos for a Cause Program sponsored by Schell Brothers donated \$1 to the winter coat drive.

District schools collected a total of 20,189 comments, far exceeding the initial goal of 16,000. On Oct. 6, Schell Brothers presented district officials with a check for \$20,189 to purchase winter coats for IRSD students.

The Indian River School District would like to offer its heartfelt thanks to Schell Brothers for making sure every child stays warm this winter!



Indian River School District

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

October is always an exciting month in the Indian River School District. On October 3, I had the pleasure of visiting the IRSD Early Learning Center to present the district's Educational Support Professional of the Year Award to paraprofessional Arleth Avalos. It was an honor to surprise Arleth in her classroom and present the award in front of her students and co-workers. Arleth was chosen for the award from a pool of 16 candidates, one from each school and the district office. (See Page 3.) I would like to congratulate Arleth on this prestigious honor. In addition, the district has selected its Special Education Ambassadors for 2022 (see Page 4) and we are preparing for another great Special Education Week, which runs from October 24-28. Throughout that week, we will promote and celebrate the special education services, programs, teachers and support staff that make it possible for students with disabilities to reach their full potential. Being a former special education teacher myself, this is an event that holds special meaning for me every year.

We continue to make progress on the new Howard T. Ennis School building, which is under construction north of Millsboro. Drywall is substantially complete along with the paving of parking lots and entrances. Furniture installation is scheduled for late-November and early-December. The building remains on schedule to open to students on January 3, 2023 when classes resume following Christmas Break. The construction of this new school has been a multi-year effort and we look forward to Ennis students and staff having the modern facility they so richly deserve.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the first few weeks of school. New starting/ending times for our schools and revised bus transportation schedules created some challenges early on, but we've managed to persevere and keep things running smoothly. As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

Did You Know?

Millsboro Middle School has earned Phase 1 School-Wide PBS Recognition from the Delaware Positive Behavior Support Project for 2021-2022. MMS was honored for its ongoing efforts to create a multi-tiered system of behavioral support to foster safe and caring learning environments that promote the social-emotional and academic development of all children.

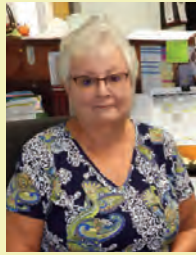
IRSD Educational Support Professionals of the Year



Tameka Gardner
North Georgetown
Elementary School



Jazmyn Hall
Howard T. Ennis
School



Karen Hearn
IRSD District Office



Arleth Avalos
Overall Winner
IRSD Early Learning Center



Glenn Jacobs
Selbyville Middle
School



John Justice
John M. Clayton
Elementary School



Daniel Lawver
Long Neck
Elementary School



Harry Litten
East Millsboro
Elementary School



Kristina Messick
Millsboro Middle
School



Frances "Annie" Moore
Georgetown
Elementary School



Maria Obando
Phillip C. Showell
Elementary School



Antonio Perez
Georgetown Middle
School



Susan Pleasanton
Lord Baltimore
Elementary School



Wendy Rishel
Southern Delaware
School of the Arts



Bridgit Schutt
Sussex Central High
School



Sherry Sturgis
Indian River High
School



Specialists Present at WIDA Event

Two IRSD educators were featured presenters at the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in September.

Dr. Jennifer Lovellette, Secondary Multilingual Learner Specialist, and Dr. Marisa Hockman, Elementary EL/ELA Literacy Specialist, gave a presentation titled *Multilingual Learner Shadowing: Ensuring Equity and Leveraging Change*.

Dr. Lovellette and Dr. Hockman shared with educators from across the United States what the school day looks like through the lens of a multilingual learner in order to provide a catalyst for change in a time when educational access and equity are increasingly vital.

Participants in the session learned about the shadowing process to illuminate students' engagement in language development, specifically listening and speaking. They were also challenged to consider how implementing a MLL shadowing experience could be the impetus for change in their own settings.

PE Teacher Joins ELC Staff

For the first time ever, the IRSD Early Learning Center in Frankford has a "specials" teacher on its staff.

Physical education teacher Justin Tomlinson joined the ELC staff on Oct. 3 and immediately set about getting preschool learners moving and improving their physical fitness.

ELC Principal Janet Hickman noted that child physical fitness is especially important in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and that they are happy to have Justin leading the way!



Justin Tomlinson works with students at the Early Learning Center.



Amy Andress



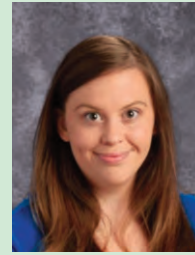
Amanda Lingo



Neil Stong



Lenny Brittingham



Briana Shuman



Lori Ann Sentman

Special Education Ambassadors 2022

The Indian River School District is pleased to announce its Special Education Ambassadors for 2022! The honorees are as follows:



Jaclyn Johnson

Amy Andress, East Millsboro Elementary School
Amanda Lingo, IRSD Early Learning Center
Neil Stong, Georgetown Elementary School
Lenny Brittingham, Georgetown Middle School
Briana Shuman, Howard T. Ennis School
Lori Ann Sentman, Indian River High School
Jaclyn Johnson, John M. Clayton Elementary School
Meiasha Harris, Long Neck Elementary School
Kristie Van Zee, Lord Baltimore Elementary School.
Conor Casey, Millsboro Middle School
Carol Oxbrough, North Georgetown Elementary School
Krystal Bush, Phillip C. Showell Elementary School
Nicole Cope, Selbyville Middle School
Stephanie Fair, Southern Delaware School of the Arts
Jackie Johnson, Sussex Central High School
Cheryl Carey, Community Ambassador



Meiasha Harris



Kristie Van Zee



Conor Casey



Carol Oxbrough



Krystal Bush



Nicole Cope



Stephanie Fair



Jackie Johnson



Cheryl Carey

Special Education Week in the Indian River School District is October 24-28!

Family Reading Night...Luau Style!



Phillip C. Showell Elementary School had a successful Family Reading Night Luau on Sept. 21 with more than 400 people in attendance. Families engaged in activities focused on reading, including a book walk, Guess the Teacher book trivia and a comprehension escape room.

Ennis Students “Walk and Roll” Across America

Students at the Howard T. Ennis School are figuratively “walking and rolling” across America in 2022-2023.

Adaptive physical education teacher Jessica White has revived the Walk & Roll Across America program this year to promote exercise and lifelong fitness for the school’s older specialized population. Every Friday, students in the middle school, PACT and STEP programs walk or roll laps around the school’s rear parking lot.

Students collect a popsicle stick for each lap completed. With each lap being approximately .1 miles, students must complete 10 laps to walk

a mile. Most students averaged two miles during the first few weeks of the program. After each session, students head to the cafeteria to record how many popsicle sticks they earned and to calculate their total mileage.

In the first two weeks of the program, students walked a total of 135.7 miles.

The goal is to see how far students can figuratively travel throughout the United States. Florida was the first destination chosen, meaning mileage from the first two weeks got them approximately as far as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.



Students and staff are looking forward to seeing the different places they will travel across the United States this school year!