

# Red Clay Consolidated School District

## eNews

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### **Language Immersion Program Moves to Middle School**

Next school year, students who complete Red Clay's Spanish language immersion program in elementary school will be able to continue their bilingual experience in middle school.

The fifth grade class at Lewis Dual Language Elementary will have the opportunity to attend Skyline Middle School next year to continue their Spanish language immersion program. This year's fifth grade is the first class to complete all grades in the elementary Spanish immersion curriculum.

Next year's sixth grade immersion students will take their core classes of English, language arts, math and science in English and will attend classes with non-immersion students. They will have Spanish language arts and social studies classes in Spanish. In addition, immersion students will participate in physical education and arts electives. Plans are to continue the same curriculum in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and offer science in Spanish and social studies in English in grade 8.

"Red Clay is committed to making this a full journey for kids so they are truly fluent in the language," said Dr. Judith Conway, supervisor of Unified Arts. She added that as immersion students enter high school it is the plan for them to take Spanish advanced placement within the first two years and continue with dual enrollment classes.

More than 40 years of research has documented the success of immersion education to help students attain high levels of language proficiency. Benefits also include enhanced cognitive skills, increased cultural sensitivity, improved performance on English and math standardized tests and better job preparedness. Students in immersion programs show more positive attitudes toward other cultures, enabling them to effectively interact with people of different backgrounds and ethnicities.

Red Clay has been a leader in providing a bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. This year, the Spanish immersion program started at Mote and Marbrook and the Chinese immersion program at Linden Hill are providing kindergarten students with an opportunity to have fun while they learn in a non-native language. Continuing the immersion program into middle and high school will further develop students' knowledge, skills and abilities in comprehending, speaking, reading and writing, helping prepare them for today's global workplace.

Language immersion engages students in learning in a non-traditional way. Students acquire second language skills and cultural appreciation that gives them an advantage in the real world. "We are excited to offer the opportunity for students to develop fluency and proficiency in two languages," said Jim Comegys, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

### **Tickets Available for Hall of Fame Gala**

Red Clay will honor 12 teachers, administrators and community members at the third annual Hall of Fame Gala on March 22, 2018 at the Executive Banquet Hall & Conference Center.

The event is intended to recognize and thank educators and community members who have committed to working with children and the Red Clay Consolidated School District throughout their career.

"This wonderful group of people have made service to Red Clay students and the community their life's work, so it is only fitting that we recognize their outstanding efforts," said Superintendent Merv Daugherty. "We are extremely excited about this event and take great pride in honoring these individuals."

Those to be inducted into the Hall of Fame – which will be displayed in the hallway at district offices – include:

administrators Robert Andrzejewski, Theodore "Ted" Blunt, Francis Ryan, Mary Norris; teachers Mary Jane Bennett, Frederika Jenner, Edward Clark, Mary Beth Tash; community members Patricia Blevins, Maria Matos, Sally McBride and Marguerite "Peggy" Vavalla.

All monies raised will go towards funding educational and school activities sponsored by the Red Clay Education Foundation (RCEF).

Through the years, the RCEF has provided for distance learning labs, computer labs, travel to academic competitions and school trips to Junior Achievement and the Grand Opera House, among many other projects. This evening will allow the RCEF to continue its good work.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by contacting Maria Stevens in the Superintendent's Office at 302-552-3703 or [maria.stevens@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:maria.stevens@redclay.k12.de.us). The gala will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the hall, located at 205 Executive Drive, Newark.

### **McKean Concert a Success**

On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thomas McKean High School hosted rising hip-hop star, MAD SQUABLZ with special guest DJ Ghetto from the Wu-Tang Clan. With just under 100 in attendance, the student produced and operated show was an overwhelming success. "The students were involved in every aspect of this night. I can state that we ran a show that was managed fully by high school students. It makes me proud to see them work sound, lights, tickets and more", stated Greg Boulden, Instructor for the CTE pathway that sponsored the event. Earlier in the day the students produced a television show, and completed their effort with the concert. The show is currently airing on EDTv, Red Clay's educational cable channel, and can be seen here: [https://youtu.be/UoAk1rX\\_qlc](https://youtu.be/UoAk1rX_qlc)

It was announced on Monday morning that Mad Squablz will be opening for Black Star on their reunion tour of the United States starting in April. McKean looks forward to hosting Paul Cullen next. He was the bassist for the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame group, Bad Company, and now is a private chef who prepares meals in homes followed by music. Details to be announced.

### **North Star's Westcott Named Top Elementary Counselor**

Kelly Westcott, a guidance counselor for 10 years at North Star Elementary School, has been named the Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Delaware School Counselor Association.

She has spent 15 in years in the Red Clay Consolidated School District, 13 years at North Star, where she was also a 4th grade teacher and two years at Marbrook Elementary School as a Physical Education teacher.

Ms. Westcott graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Kinesiology-Movement Science/Teacher preparation and received her Masters in School Counseling from Wilmington College.

As the counselor at North Star, she wants each student to know she is available to support and encourage them with any problem no matter how big or small. "Each October I enjoy challenging my students to cross social boundaries and take a new seat in the cafeteria during Mix It Up At Lunch Day," she said.

She is coach for the school's Let Me Run team, a program for boys that combines lessons on exercise and life skills. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children. Her love for running has led her to complete four marathons and over a dozen half-marathons.

"Aside from being extremely knowledgeable and committed, Kelly is a levelheaded individual and handles any situation that arises in a professional manner," wrote North Star Teacher Alyssa Lieber in a nominating letter. "She is enjoyable to be around and her passion for her job always shines through."

### **Middle School Basketball Championships to be Held at Bob**

The Red Clay Middle School Girls Basketball Championship will be played on February 12, 2018 starting at 4 p.m. at the Bob Carpenter Center. The game will feature the Stanton Falcons and the Brandywine Springs Bobcats.

The Middle School Boys Basketball Championship will be held on Feb. 13, 2018 at the Bob Carpenter Center. The game will feature AI DuPont Middle School and HB DuPont Middle School. The game will start at 4 p.m.

Through the district's partnership with the Delaware 87ers, tickets will cost only \$5 for the entry to the games. Tickets will also get you in to the 87ers game following the championship game. Spectators are encouraged to use the promo codes BOBCATS, FALCONS, or REDCLAY to get the special pricing. Tickets will also be on sale at the Bob Carpenter Ticket Office starting at 3 p.m. Tickets are available online here: <https://ev11.evenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=global-87ers&evm=promo>

### **Monster Art Exhibition Opened Feb. 9**

The opening celebration for the collaborative exhibition of monster artwork created by students from Heritage Elementary, Brandywine Springs Middle School and Cab Calloway High School took place on Friday, February 9, 2018 at Cab Calloway School of the Arts, 100 N. DuPont Rd. Wilmington DE 19807.

This fall Heritage first and second graders created a drawing of a monster and shared it with students from Brandywine Springs and Cab Calloway. The older students used the monster as inspiration for their own monster creations, creating drawings, clay sculptures and sewn stuffed monsters.

An exhibition displaying the work of the younger and older students side by side will take place February 9 – 23<sup>rd</sup> at Cab Calloway. For further information or questions contact Heritage art teacher Sarah Pohlman at [sarah.pohlman@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:sarah.pohlman@redclay.k12.de.us).

### **Area Businesses to Attend College and Career Fair**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Red Clay College and Career Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:30p.m. at John Dickinson High School, 1801 Milltown Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.

New this year will be the presence of area business representatives who will share career information about the current and future job market, needs of employers, and work skills needed for future jobs.

FREE and open to the public, the College and Career Fair will also provide information to assist families with the college application process. Over 50 college admission counselors from regional colleges and universities will be available to answer questions and give presentations on financial aid, scholarships, the College Board, and the college application process. Bus transportation will be available from Wilmington.

### **Consolidation Task Force to Meet at Dickinson**

The Delaware School District Consolidation Task Force will meet at John Dickinson High School on Feb. 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The Task Force, created by the state Legislature in July 2017, was established to:

- a. Examine issues and existing research related to the consolidation of school districts;
- b. Study and make findings related to the financial feasibility and impact of school district consolidation;
- c. Study implementation challenges associated with school district consolidation;
- d. Examine and identify incentives that may be used to encourage schools districts to consolidate or reorganize; and
- e. Make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly concerning a proposed direction for public education consolidation based upon its findings.

The report of its findings and recommendations to the members of the Delaware General Assembly are due no later than January 30, 2018. For more information, visit <https://legis.delaware.gov/TaskForceDetail?taskForceId=389>.

### Highland Students Perform at Brew HaHa



A group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Highlands Elementary School recently performed at the Trolley Square Brew HaHa in Wilmington, under the direction of Music Teacher Kara Villanelli. “It was basically a little pop-up concert, where we walked to Trolley Square and sang songs celebrating winter and peace,” said Villanelli. “The students sounded great and we look forward to performing again. It was a unique and fun opportunity for all!”

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Feb. 13, 6:30p.m., Brandywine Springs Teachers' Lounge
- School Board Meeting, Feb. 14, 7:00p.m., Warner
- Cab Calloway Choice Meeting, Feb. 15, 5:30 – 7:00p.m., District Office Board Room
- **Schools Closed – Parent Conferences, Feb. 16**
- **Schools/Offices Closed – Presidents' Day, Feb. 19**
- Cab Calloway Choice Meeting, Feb. 22, 5:30 – 7:00p.m., District Office Room 239
- FACE of Red Clay Meeting, Feb. 26, 5:45p.m., Warner

