

Red Clay Consolidated School District

eNews

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March Board of Education Meeting

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Conrad's Mentoring Program Helps Middle School Students

Every Wednesday after-school, Conrad high school students gather in the library to pair up with Conrad middle school students for mentoring and tutoring. The Big Brother, Big Sister Mentoring Program is a peer support group that provides acceleration opportunities for middle and high school students in need of academic support, while fostering positive social interactions with other students within their school and learning community.

The Big Brother, Big Sister Mentoring Program works to achieve three primary goals:

- Accelerate academic achievement in one or more problem areas
- Strengthen students' self-esteem

- Improve soft skills such as: communication, problem solving, collaboration and adaptability

More than 150 students have been successfully supported and assisted over the last four years through Conrad's Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program.

High school mentors, recruited from the National Honor Society, receive volunteer service hours for the time they work with the students. Middle school students, recommended by teachers and parents, are mentored in subjects that they could benefit from additional support. Assistant Principal Kendra Todd-Dixon and Guidance Counselor Brenda Akin oversee the program.

Red Clay Administrators Recognized

The National Association of Federal Education Program Directors held their 40th annual conference this week in Washington D.C. During that time, three Red Clay Administrators were honored with the NAFEP State Leadership Award for the significant roles they play in supporting and promoting activities and goals that support students in Title One Schools. Those administrators included:

- Dr. Tawanda Bond, Equity Officer. As a middle school principal of a Title I Middle school, Dr. Bond advocated for and implemented educational and social-emotional frameworks to foster academic growth and solid foundational relationships for students from poverty. In Dr. Bond's current role, she guides efforts to conceptualize, define, assess, foster and cultivate diversity institutionally and educationally districtwide.
- Dr. Susan Huffman, Principal of AIMS. In her third year as principal at A.I. duPont Middle School, Dr. Huffman exhibits a passion for education and believes that giving her students anything less than excellence is not an option.
- Mr. Michael Simmonds, Director of Federal Programs. As the Director of Title I in Red Clay, Mr. Simmonds supports the Title I schools with various reading and math initiatives and parent engagement activities.

Baltz Students Hold Healthy Heart Challenge

During the month of February, heart healthy month, Baltz Elementary School students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge sponsored by the American Heart Association. Not only did the students learn about the importance of eating a variety of healthy foods and of exercising but they participated in a jump rope challenge and raised approximately \$800.00 to give to the American Heart Association.

Since being founded in 1924, the American Heart Association has changed the lives of millions of people. It has supported research and development of procedures and equipment to help save the lives of those affected with heart disease, heart defects and complications, and strokes. People of all ages have benefited from the research that they have done.

Through the Kids Heart Challenge, Baltz students learned how to take care of their health, developed their jump roping skills, an exercise that benefits the whole body, and collected donations to help the efforts of the American Heart Association.

First State Teacher Wins Award

Terri Eros, a science teacher at First State School, located in Wilmington Hospital, is a recipient of the 2018 Hess Corporation STEM Outreach Program award. Working with the Baylor College of Medicine, the company has created a unique and engaging resource for students. Winners received a dozen 2018 Hess RV with ATV and Motorbike model vehicles. The materials are connected to STEM lesson plans available for free download from the web.

“It didn’t take long for students to notice the Hess boxes and start asking questions about when they could be used,” Terri said about the models. “The hands on nature of STEM has its own appeal but adding in the ability to work with RVs, ATVs and Motorbikes makes it all the more engaging.”

Warner Students Perform Songs in Swahili



The third grade class at Warner Elementary School performed “Songs in Swahili” on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Supported by the Warner-Shortlidge Arts Alliance and directed by Kim Doucette from Opera Delaware, the students sang songs from Ghana, Kenya and South Africa. “Mr. Chris” accompanied them on the drums as they sang in Swahili and moved in rhythm to the African songs. The students were excited and nervous to perform in front of a live audience. Members of Opera Delaware and the Arts Alliance listened to the student performance. Fifth grade students from Warner were in attendance and heard the same songs they performed when they were in third grade.

Marbrook Holds Multicultural Fair

March is full of family fun at Marbrook. A new tradition, the Multicultural Family Fair, took place on March 7. There was a tremendous turn out to celebrate the unique cultures and traditions of families in the Marbrook community. Students and their parents sampled foods from around the world, played games, made crafts and viewed amazing student created posters highlighting their family's heritage. The Marbrook PTO had a fund-raising event at the Texas Road House on Wednesday, March 20 from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. Families came out to enjoy some delicious food and 10% of their total food purchase was donated back to Marbrook.

Marbrook's annual math night was held on Thursday, March 21, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Students and their families came out, played educational math games, and ate pizza and cookies. March was a busy month for the Marbrook community!

Ag Lab Comes to Forest Oak



Forest Oak third grade students received a visit from members of the Delaware Farm Bureau, FFA and Delaware Department of Agriculture on March 21, 2019. Representatives from the Farm Bureau presented a handcrafted wooded Book Barn and "ag accurate" books to the students at Forest Oak. Teacher Martha Eldreth, organizer of the Ag Lab event for all third and fourth graders, and her third grade class sat in the library to listen to Stewart Ramsey, President of the New Castle County Farm Bureau read aloud the book *Green Bean! Green Bean!* Ramsey interacted with the students, asking

questions about their experience with planting, pollination, harvesting and tasting different crops grown in Delaware. He told the students how robots are used to help on the farm.

After the story and discussion, the third graders had a chance to talk with FFA President Tim Mulderig and Vice President Jillian Cannon, Delaware Farm Bureau Executive Director Joseph Poppiti and Farm Bureau Foundation Manager Laura Simpson, organizer of the Ag Lab visits. Jaonne Walston and Ashley Melvin from the Delaware Department of Agriculture also joined the students.

The Book Barn and new books were made possible by a USDA grant provided through the Delaware Department of Agriculture to the Delaware Farm Bureau. The event at Forest Oak was the kickoff to a project that will bring Book Barns and factually correct books to every elementary school in Delaware within three years.

The third graders all agreed they had learned something new about agriculture and would be willing to try a new food that they have not eaten. Principal Erin NeCastro said, "The mobile Ag Lab helps students learn about agriculture and brings the farm to them."

History Comes to Life at Baltz

The fifth grade classes at Baltz Elementary School worked hard to complete projects on African and Hispanic Americans, Presidents and Famous Athletes for the annual Living History Museum held on March 15, 2019. The students presented the findings of their research to their peers, other students, faculty and visitors to the school. Each student wore a simple costume that represents what the historic person may have worn in his or her work and used artifacts that were associated with the historical figure.

The students role-played the historic person and used "first person" narration to recount important dates in his/her life, his/her contributions to history, and other historic information about the person's life. Attendees enjoyed listening to the live presentations and learned some new and interesting history facts.

Elementary Choral Festival March 28

"Sing into Spring" is the theme of this year's Elementary Choral Festival which will be held on March 28, 2019 at 7:00p.m. at Cab Calloway School of the Arts. Approximately 90 students from North Star, Linden Hill, Mote, Cooke, and Richey will perform in the festival, which is free and open to the public. The combined honors choir will perform five songs. Red Clay's elementary choral students have been rehearsing for months and are looking forward to sharing their talents with a live audience.

Conrad Biotechnology Fair March 26

The tenth annual Biotechnology Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 from 2:30 – 4:00p.m. in the Conrad Schools of Science cafeteria. Parents, community members, local scientists and business professionals are encouraged to come and support Conrad biotechnology students by viewing their projects and asking questions about their research.

Biotechnology II, III and IV students will present at the Fair. Biotech-2 students created trifold posters and portfolios and will be presenting topics that represent the latest techniques scientists use today in the field of biotechnology. They chose their topic and created a visual display of their solution.

The Biotech-3's and 4's will be presenting the findings they collected from their own experiments. These students had the opportunity to design and plan every detail of their research. Some of the research they conducted included methods of creating biofuels from algae and food waste and methods to

recognize the optimal time to extract energy from algae according to the light intensity produced when it glows. Other research projects have sought to solve a real world problem to benefit society such as finding cures or remedies.

The Conrad Schools of Science Biotechnology Fair, coordinated by Conrad biotechnology teachers Bill Coughlin and Cristin Brown, provides Biotechnology II, III and IV students with the opportunity to present their findings through research and experimentation to the scientific community. The Fair serves as a pipeline from Conrad to scientific institutions and provides a way for students and staff to network with the community.

Middle School Band Festival April 4

The 2019 Middle School Band Festival will be held on April 4, 2019 at Cab Calloway School of the Arts Theatre at 7:00 pm. Admission is free. Concert bands from four Red Clay middle schools will be participating: Brandywine Springs, Dickinson Middle Years Program, H.B. duPont Middle School, and Skyline Middle School. In addition, as a special highlight, the Red Clay Elementary Honor Band will perform two selections.

The evening will also feature an exhibit of student artwork from Brandywine Springs, Cab Calloway, Dickinson Middle Years Program, HB duPont, and Skyline Middle School.

This program gives Red Clay the opportunity to highlight the abilities of students in the arts programs. Musical and artistic experiences offer students a lifetime of personal enjoyment and meaningful expression. Parents, friends, and community members play a vital role in supporting the Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum for all students. Please join us to share in the joyful sound and beautiful images created by these talented students.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Diversity Committee Meeting, Mar. 26, 4:30 – 5:30p.m., District Office Room 239
- SAT – Grade 11, PSAT – Grades 8,9 & 10, Mar. 27
- Special Services Parent Council Meeting, Mar. 27, 6:00 – 7:30p.m., Stanton
- End of Third Marking Period, Mar. 28
- District Elementary School Music Concert, Mar. 28, 7:00p.m., Cab Calloway
- **Schools Closed – Grading Day, Mar. 29**
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Apr. 1, 6:00 – 7:30p.m., Lewis Cafeteria
- District Middle School Band Concert, Apr. 4, 7:00p.m., Cab Calloway
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Apr. 9, 6:30 – 7:30p.m., District Office Boardroom
- Report Cards Distributed, Apr. 11