

Red Clay Consolidated School District

eNews

November 9, 2017

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Red Clay Salutes Veterans and First Responders



As Veteran's Day approaches, The Red Clay Consolidated School District hosted a celebratory program to honor and remember those who keep our communities and country safe on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Active duty military, veterans

and first responders were invited to participate in the program. State Representative Kim Williams and State Senator Anthony Delcollo were on hand as well. As guests entered the auditorium, they were given a program with an attached button. On the back of each program was a personalized hand-written note by students from Baltz Elementary. Superintendent Merv Daugherty provided opening remarks by greeting everyone and explaining the significance of the empty chair in the back of the room, which was set aside to recognize those Missing in Action. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scouts John Schemerhon, Michael Locursio, Vasista Vovveti, Casey Paproth and Alex Przybylski, who are Conrad students. The Conrad Choir, led by band and choir director Pat Healy performed the Star-Spangled Banner. Fourth graders from Forest Oak prepared a video in advance for program, singing a patriotic song. Speaking on the significance of Veterans Day were students Millicent Ayako, Rickey Howell and Nicole Kennedy, who are members of the Rho Kappa Honor Society, led by teacher Leigh Weldin. There was a reception immediately following the program, where service members answered student questions.

School Choice Period Open

The application period to apply for a choice school is open until January 10, 2018 at 4 p.m. To apply online, click [here](#) to find an application. Paper applications are available at all Red Clay schools. Schools will be holding School Choice Open Houses through mid-December. For a schedule of open houses, click [here](#). The Delaware School Choice program offers parents expanded educational options by giving parents an opportunity to apply for their child to attend a school other than their assigned attendance zone school. For a list of frequently asked questions about the choice process and timeline, click [here](#).

Students Benefitting from Language Immersion

Kindergarten students in the language immersion program at Marbrook, Mote and Linden Hill elementary schools are benefiting from instruction delivered by two highly qualified teachers – one who teaches them for half a day in English and the other for a half day in the immersion language. Marbrook and Mote offer students Spanish while Linden Hill offers Mandarin Chinese.

“We value the opportunity to give our youngest students the gift of a second language,” said Amy Grundy, Director of Elementary Education. “We believe that beginning in kindergarten, a second language positions students for great success.” Language immersion students follow the same standards-based curriculum as their traditional counterparts. Reading, writing, social studies and concepts to support math and science are studied in English while math, science and language arts are taught in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. Related arts are taught in English.

Students in Maya Aldas’ kindergarten class at Marbrook have fun while learning Spanish numbers through song and finger play. They eagerly recite their numbers, singing in unison and watching numbers appear on the screen in the front of their classroom. Alda only speaks to her young students in Spanish. “The students can’t wait to go home and introduce new words and songs to their families,” said Principal Melissa Phillips. “We’re really excited to watch the program grow and see how it is useful for the kids.”

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. At Marbrook the young learners are thriving. Students in grades 2-5 can share in the bilingual experience by taking an afterschool Spanish class. “A goal is to have a cultural fair in the spring, said Principal Melissa Phillips. “Our intent is to provide a cultural experience for everybody in the school.”

Beginning immersion programs in kindergarten is part of the Governor’s World Language Expansion Initiative. Former Governor Jack Markell spoke about the importance of Delaware graduates learning a world language saying that those who do not speak a world language other than English will be at a disadvantage in the global job market.

Red Clay is providing a bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. The intent is to continue the immersion program into middle and high school. Students who will be in kindergarten next year and want to be considered for the language immersion program should fill out a choice application – even if they reside in the feeder pattern.

Language immersion engages students in learning in a non-traditional way. They have fun while acquiring second language skills and cultural appreciation that will give them an advantage in the real world.

Technology Initiative Completed

As promised, Red Clay has completed its three year 1:1 Technology Initiative on time with all students in grades three through twelve now in possession of their own Chromebook.

The final phase of Red Clay's 1:1 Initiative was completed this year with the distribution of Chromebooks to students in grades 5, 8, 11 and 12. Close to 12,000 Chromebooks have been given to Red Clay students in grades 3 through 12 since the start of the initiative said Kristine Bewley, Manager of Information Systems. Currently, third through fifth grade students use their Chromebooks solely in the classroom, while students in grades six through twelve can take theirs home.

The initiative, made possible by the passing of the most recent referendum, provides students with the opportunity to use educational technology to develop 21st Century skills preparing students to be college and career ready. "We are helping to prepare students for jobs that don't exist today by exposing them to the use of technology to keep them current as careers change," said Beth Schwartz, Red Clay Instructional Technology Teacher.

Blending technology into their teaching practices, enables educators to differentiate their instruction, thereby meeting the varying needs of their students. "Red Clay's work to move to 1:1 is so much more than getting devices in kids' and teachers' hands. It is about moving to technology enhanced teaching and learning. We want our students to grow and thrive in our blended learning and modern classrooms. Red Clay has gone 1:1, now we look forward to using this technology to support great instruction and learning in our classroom," said Director of Curriculum, Jim Comegys.

Red Clay's professional learning opportunities for teachers will provide support with programs, resources and lessons. Teachers in grades 3-12 have received professional development on the effective use of the Learning Management System (LMS – Schoology), Google Apps for Education, blended learning, and technology integration methodology. Ongoing professional learning is planned to provide continued support and development of the blended classroom.

Many Red Clay students are excited about using their Chromebooks to engage in learning and collaborate with peers and teachers. A survey is now available to ask families, students and teachers who are using Chromebooks this year to take three minutes to help shape the future of learning in Red Clay schools. The survey can be taken at tinyurl.com/RCCSD1to1.

In today's classroom, students have the opportunity to use their Chromebooks to create, problem solve, collaborate, research, publish, and practice. Learning, enhanced with technology, broadens the scope of possibilities for our students. Through the use of Chromebooks, students have access to the information they need to be successful. Chromebooks boost students' capabilities of learning anytime and anywhere.

Early College Academy Accepting Applications

The dual enrollment program, Early College Academy (ECA) will be featured in an informational meeting for 7th and 8th grade students and their parents or guardians at Alexis I. DuPont High School, 50 Hillside Road, on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. The presentation is in advance of A.I. High's Choice Open House, scheduled for Dec. 14th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The ECA is entering its 4th year. Through a unique partnership with Wilmington University, ECA students can earn up to 31 college credits while simultaneously earning high school credits toward graduation. They can finish their first year of college while still in high school, saving up to \$10,000 if they were to continue their education at Wilmington University.

Students in the ECA will have the opportunity to participate in sports and extra-curricular activities and take part in all the events available to A.I. students, including academic activities, electives and A.P. classes.

During the students' freshman through junior years, Wilmington University courses will be offered at A. I. High School and taught by A. I. faculty. Senior year, select courses will be offered on Wilmington University's campus. Students will receive a college transcript through Wilmington University, making them highly competitive for college acceptance. They will graduate from high school with a successful college experience and the mindset of a college student.

The Early College Academy is a new approach to high school, providing students the opportunity to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and college credits. Enrollment in ECA jumpstarts the college experience, transitioning students into a university community and exposing them to the rigor of college coursework while in a supportive environment. ECA students receive access to resources and materials that will assist them with their coursework.

A. I. High School is now accepting applications for consideration for admission into the ECA. Students not in the A. I. feeder pattern must fill out a choice application. For further information check the A.I. High School website or contact Jennifer Abernethy at 302-651-2626 Ex. 230 or Jennifer.Abernethy@redclay.k12.de.us.

Nutrition Jobs Available

Are you looking for a fun and rewarding part time job that offers you the ability to work while your kids are in school? If so, look no further than Red Clay Café! Red Clay Café can offer you an opportunity to work in a school cafeteria serving nutritious meals to Red Clay students with a smile. If you are interested in applying, please visit us at the nutrition office to obtain a copy of the application or obtain a copy of the application from a Red Clay School Cafeteria or office near you. The Nutrition Office is located at 1798 Limestone Rd., Wilmington, DE 19804.

Family Resource Fair Huge Success



The 11th Annual Red Clay Family Resource Fair, held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, was a huge success! Folks lined the walkway outside of John Dickinson High School patiently waiting for the doors to swing open for the day's event at 10 a.m. More than 1,300 people attended, and over 115 exhibitors were showcased. The Blue Rocks mascot, Rocky Blue Winkle, helped us kick off the event as he grabbed his tote bag to walk the fair while entertaining and interacting with attendees. From the active demonstrations by RIVfit Athletics to our own Red Clay Hurricane Relief Efforts, there seemed to be something new and different as you rounded each corner. This year, alongside the fair festivities, Red Clay partnered with the News Journal for the Imagine Delaware Literacy Festival sponsored by Nemours. Attendees were able to listen to author readings and receive free books amongst other activities. The fair successfully brought the community and our schools together as it is known for doing year after year.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Cab Calloway High, Heritage Choice Open House, Nov. 13, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- Conrad Middle, Mote Choice Open House, Nov. 14, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Nov. 14, 6:30p.m., Brandywine Springs Teachers' Lounge
- School Board Meeting, Nov. 15, 7:00p.m., Warner
- Conrad High, Marbrook Choice Open House, Nov. 16, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- **Schools Closed – Parent Conferences, Nov 20-21**
- **Schools Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 22-24**
- Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 23-24
- Linden Hill, McKean Choice Open House, Nov. 27, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- Cooke, Dickinson (all programs) Choice Open House, Nov. 28, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- North Star, Stanton Choice Open House, Nov. 29, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- Diversity Committee Meeting, Nov. 30, 4:30p.m., District Office Board Room

- District Middle School Choral Festival and Art Show, Nov. 30, 7:00p.m., Dickinson