

Red Clay Consolidated School District

eNews

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Equity in Education Conference a Huge Success

Hundreds of educators attended the Red Clay Regional Conference for Equity in Education on Friday, January 26, 2018. The conference, designed for educators, administrators, support staff and interested community members was created to provide meaningful dialogue that can be implemented in the work setting.

This year's theme, "Understand Everyone", included workshops that present effective strategies to meet the needs of diverse student populations. "The conference's subject matter and subsequent dialogue provided us with some necessary tools to further broaden our horizons and develop a deeper understanding of our diverse Red Clay community," stated Michael Simmonds, Director of Federal Programs.

Fatimah Stone, Esq., National Institute of Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) Sr. Legal Counsel, and Assistant General Counsel at University of Delaware delivered the keynote address.

Stone expressed the importance of understanding diversity and being comfortable enough with ourselves to recognize our own biases. "The conversation is sometimes uncomfortable but equally important," said Stone.

Red Clay embraced the opportunity to initiate discussion and is dedicated to the continued support of all students. “We are fully aware of the importance of Equity in Education. Fortunately, we were able to provide workshops ranging from Culturally Responsive Teaching, Self-awareness and Development, Social Justice for Marginalized Populations and Equity and Inclusion in Education,” said April Anderson, conference coordinator, Red Clay McKinney Vento Liaison and Dropout Prevention Specialist.

After the keynote address, attendees were to partake in two separate breakout sessions. Conference attendees chose from 10 different workshops addressing topics including barriers and support systems for at risk students, self-regulation strategies, white privilege and race-related issues, culturally responsive classroom environments, and high-quality assignments. All workshop presenters were professional speakers or university professors.

Red Clay Libraries Become Future Ready

In today’s digital world, the school library has changed from a quiet place to read or study to one that offers opportunities for online access, collaboration and project-based learning. Red Clay school libraries are meeting the challenging demands of twenty-first century learning by creating an environment that accommodates both collaborative and individualized learning and supports access to digital content, mobile devices and online learning platforms.

No longer do students button their lips and leave their voices at the door when entering the school library. Today Red Clay libraries are places where students can sit together and collaborate on projects, teachers can use green screens to video class members presenting reports and small groups can rehearse presentations.

All Red Clay schools have future ready librarians who have been trained to help students use their Chromebooks as a learning tool to research answers to modern day problems. Librarians are at the leading edge of the digital transformation, promoting and implementing innovative learning opportunities for students.

A more student-friendly atmosphere is present in Red Clay’s redesigned libraries. From movable furniture to flexible chairs and high tables, school libraries have become more inviting places for students to spend time in. Both large and small group conversation areas are available for students to collaborate. These specially designed spaces promote inquiry and creativity and encourage communities of learners.

Red Clay librarians help teachers plan personalized learning projects that align technology with instructional goals. Digital tools such as Chromebooks motivate students to become excited about learning. Librarians not only empower students as learners and creators but help students become self-directed as they create digital products to solve real world problems. When a problem occurs with the operation of a Chromebook, librarians are there to place a work order and provide the student with a substitute.

At Conrad Schools of Science, librarian Janet Dean says, “Our school library is a safe, comfortable, welcoming environment – truly the hub of our building.” Students are in Conrad’s library for a variety of reasons. A small group made their way up the stairs to rehearse a Capstone project presentation. Downstairs one student sat making up a test while others were working with their Chromebooks. One student came in for help when his password did not work.

Dean said the library has changed significantly since she came to Conrad in 1990. Gone are the card catalogs, cassettes and filmstrips of the past. Today students come to the library to research, collaborate and get help with technology.

Librarian Janet Dean troubleshoots computer problems, resets student passwords, checks out chargers and lends laptops to students who forgot their Chromebooks. She oversees students who are assigned online independent study classes and helps students with University of Delaware live searches. Dean knows it is her responsibility to make an impact on student learning. Today’s Red Clay student friendly libraries provide flexible learning spaces for multiple and varied activities. The use of technology has changed the way students learn and Red Clay’s future ready librarians are leaders in helping to personalize and promote student learning.

January Board of Education Meeting

- [Priority Schools Update](#)
- [Superintendent's Report](#)

Third Graders Learn Water Safety



Third grade students at Lewis, Marbrook, Highlands, Richardson Park and Warner are learning how to be safe in the water thanks to the YMCA Water Wise program.

Through participation in Water Wise, Red Clay third graders are taught basic swimming skills as well as skills that help them be safe in, out and around water. Beginning swimmers learn to be comfortable in the water while more advanced students are taught freestyle, back and breaststrokes, endurance skills and beginning diving.

Students in the program come once a week for five weeks. The 45-60 minute lessons take place during the school day. Lewis, Highlands and Warner third graders attend classes at the Walnut Street YMCA while Marbrook and Richardson Park third graders use the pool at Cab Calloway.

Brandon Lee-Johnson, aquatic coordinator for the YMCA said, "The Water Wise program gives kids an opportunity to learn safety around water." This is important because drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the U.S.

Water Wise was developed in 2008 by the YMCA of Delaware to educate children about water safety. It is financially supported by grants and individual and corporate donors including the Red Clay Education Foundation. The lessons Red Clay students learn not only help them feel safer and more comfortable around water but they also help develop their problem solving skills and bolster the students' self-esteem. Students not only learn water safety skills, conditioning routines and mechanics but they have fun as well. When it comes to learning to swim, Red Clay third graders are always ready to jump in the pool.

Monster Art Exhibition Begins 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 will take place on Friday, February 9, 2018 from 5-7p.m. 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 – 23rd at Cab Calloway. For further information or questions contact Heritage art teacher Sarah Pohlman at sarah.pohlman@redclay.k12.de.us.

Red Clay 2019 Teacher of the Year Nominations Available

Do you know a classroom teacher who is dedicated, inspiring, and making a difference? If so, please take the time to recommend this person by completing and submitting this nomination form. Administrators, students, staff members, parents and community members are encouraged to nominate one or more of these dynamic and inspirational teachers. Please submit by Friday, February 2, 2018. Find the nomination form here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/OXLqJ5S0oiyDvxkK2>

McKean Presents Philly Rapper

The "Audio, Radio, and Video Broadcast Engineering" career pathway at Thomas McKean High School will host the "2016/2017 Philadelphia Lyricist of the Year", MAD SQUABLZ, on February 2nd at 7:30pm here in our auditorium. This concert is our second of the year and follows up on our student run television and audio production of our "Classroom Series" television show that airs on EDTv (Channel 965 Comcast and Channel 30 on Verizon). Each artist that visits McKean records a television show in the morning and performs a concert open to our students and the public in the evening. The lights, sound, set, and more, is 100% student managed. Tickets are on sale at www.madsquablz.brownpapertickets.com Coming Straight out of PHILLY and ONLY 21-years-old, Mad Squablz is not a force to be reckoned with! He is literally a lyrical samurai with the ability to bring the dying art of true hip-hop back to life! With over 13 million views and a plethora of accolades like being the "2016 & 2017 Philadelphia Hip Hop Lyricist of the Year", or being deemed the "2016 TeamBackPack Mission Underground Champion" he is making a name for himself at a very young age. Opening for MAD SQUABLZ is local teen and Cab Calloway Student, Rodney Woodland. He performs under the name IllustTonez.

Area Businesses to Attend College and Career Fair

The 9th 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.

Richey Receives Exxon Grant

Richey Elementary School has received a \$500 Educational Alliance grant from Exxon Mobil that will be used to support STEM activities at the school, said Principal Dotty Johnson.

Exxon Mobil has a long history of supporting educational programs like Educational Alliance, which focuses on improvements in math and science from pre-school to higher education. A letter notifying Johnson of the grant noted that the corporation believes it is fundamentally important to encourage the next generation to pursue studies and careers involved in these fields.

Tennis Comes to Highlands

The Rodney Street Tennis and Tutoring Association (RSTTA) approached Highlands Elementary School Physical Education Teacher Ian Ferguson about expanding the tennis program. RSTTA provides year-round tennis and positive youth development programs that focus on healthy lifestyles, educational support, and life skills to help students succeed on and off the tennis courts. They work within the community and local schools with a focus on reaching underserved students. Through these programs, RSTTA uses tennis as a *hook* to teach youth the importance of leadership, teamwork, education, and healthy lifestyles.

Maryann Olmstead, who is the Program Manager at Rodney Street, wanted to reach out to more students. Therefore, she brought in several coaches and worked with all grade levels k-5 during the week first week of December at Highlands. RSTTA came in during the students Physical Education classes. The students learned tennis skills. The skills the students learned were holding the racket, hitting to a target, serving the ball, and returning the ball.

Highlands would also like to thank RSTTA for donating tennis rackets and balls to Highlands for the students. RSTTA is hoping to offer a tennis program to students after school in the Spring as part of the Wildcat Den.

Lewis Begins Smart Academy

Students at the William C. Lewis Dual Language Immersion School have plenty to be excited about this year with the introduction of the Lewis Smart Academy after-school program. This year the Third, Fourth and Fifth grade after school students are working on building circuits, computer animation and manipulating code. Students meet several times a week for about an hour. During that time, they have a snack, get some help with homework and then begin the engaging activities.

In addition to all of the traditional reasons why after school programs are beneficial, Lewis Smart Academy teacher, Maurice Baptiste shared, "The program prepares students for future careers in technology, giving them experience and building motivation. It facilitates high quality scientifically based classroom instruction."

Lewis student Mark T. shared his thoughts on the Circuits program, "I like to build things. This is good education for kids and gives them something good to do after school. We do projects and build cool things like circuits that light up and make sounds."

There are currently 52 enrolled students at Lewis Dual Language School, with 3 teachers offering support at each grade level. Students are building robots, creating their own movies, and developing light shows. Students and teachers agree that the Lewis Smart Academy after school program is beneficial and super fun! You can tell by the look on their faces and the way they are engaged that they are really excited about the program.

Delaware Teachers Institute to Hold Open House

The Delaware Teachers Institute in New Castle County (DTI) offers a unique approach for creating engaging instruction. DTI teams small groups of K-12 teachers from multiple districts (Appoquinimink, Christina, Colonial, New Castle County Vo-Tech, and Red Clay Consolidated) in seminars led by University of Delaware professors who are experts in academic content, which teachers have identified to be most relevant to their instructional needs. Working over the fall semester at UD, teachers collaborate to produce standards-based curriculum units that are rich in both content and effective teaching strategies. Teachers are paid a \$1250 stipend, earn fifty (50) PD clock hours, and have their curriculum units published at Yale, and on the University of Delaware website.

An Open House/Showcase will be held at the University of Delaware on Monday, February 5th from 5:00 - 7:00pm. It is an opportunity to learn more about this content-based professional development and to hear from your Red Clay colleagues regarding their experiences, what they have done in their classroom with their students from what they have learned.

Seminars Being Offered:

- Culture: A Total Way of Life Carla Guerron Montero (Anthropology)
- Disaster Science, Tricia Wachtendorf (Sociology and Criminal Justice and Director, Disaster Research Center)
- The Fantastic Ekphrastic Scholastic, David Teague (English)
- The Universe: It's Full of Stars! Veronique Petit and John Gizis (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Computational Thinking and Problem Solving in Mathematics Classrooms, Jinfa Cai (Mathematical Sciences)

Use this link to sign up to learn more:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/delaware-teachers-institute-curriculum-showcase-tickets-41979605129>

New EDTv Show to Promote Historically Black Colleges

A local talk show promoting Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) will begin appearing on the educational cable television channel EDTv later this month.

"HBCU Delaware Talks" was created and produced by Wilmington community member Steven Washington. The show will feature local HBCU alumni and has several objectives:

- Establish camaraderie and a support system among HBCU graduates and friends.
- Promote advancement of HBCU alumni initiatives.
- Encourage HBCU enrollment among local students by reaching out to parents, students, and guidance counselors at local elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Increase community awareness of HBCU alumni, celebrate / spotlight accomplishments of local HBCU alumni.
- Support existing organizations and / or initiatives that share our mission to promote HBCU advancement.
- To support HBCU's

Washington is founder and president of the Norfolk State University Alumni Association, Delaware Chapter Inc. (NSUAA-DE) and the Founder and President of the HBCU Delaware Coalition Inc. (HBCUDE). He also serves on the Wilmington Housing

Board of Commissioners as the Executive Secretary. “This great opportunity gives allowance to promote, share, collaborate, with the community(s) and school districts throughout New Castle County,” said Washington. “HBCU schools give opportunity to everyone to further his or her education throughout the country. What makes the HBCU TV show great is that It is the only one of its kind in the country.”

Washington has fought to keep his community strong and healthy in spite of the increasing crime rate. Committed to community service, Washington has been a volunteer and a youth mentor, coaching youth in the Stormins Classic Basketball Summer League for 12 years and has been influential to thousands as educator for over 27 years.

He is concerned about low-income families, youth, and seniors. His plan is to enhance education for the uneducated, work to provide a safe environment for raising families and provide more job training and resources of individual looking to be active and productive members of our city. He would also like to enhance unity among community organizations with like minds to work together for the common good and not work in silos.

The show will appear on Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. on “Eye on Wilmington.” EDTv, Delaware’s only 24/7 educational cable channel, is managed by the Red Clay Consolidated School District and appears on Comcast 965 and Verizon 30.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Feb. 5, 6:00-8:00p.m., Warner
- Facilities Committee Meeting, Feb. 5, 6:00p.m., District Office Board Room
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Feb. 6, 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

