

# Red Clay Consolidated School District

## eNews

February 23, 2018

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#### **Message from the Superintendent on School Safety**

In the Red Clay Consolidated School District, the safety and welfare of our students and staff is our highest priority. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment for your children.

As part of our Comprehensive School Safety Plan, we have policies and procedures in place that keep our buildings secure. In addition, every school practices Intruder Drills throughout the school year. The goal of these training drills is to improve our ability to protect students, save lives, and reduce injuries.

Much like a fire drill, with practice, students will become familiar with the procedure. We are using guidelines set forth by the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security in our planning related to school crisis scenarios. This advanced planning allows us to feel confident that we are prepared for any possible scenario.

Thank you for your continued trust. As leaders, we must help our children understand that as the adults in their lives, we do everything we can to keep them safe, so they can focus on their learning and growth.

If you have any questions, please contact your school Principal or the Red Clay Consolidated School District Public Safety Office at 302-552-3775.

#### **District Seeks Thoughts on Equity in Survey**

In order to better understand its diverse community, Red Clay has created a survey to gauge opinion on current policies and practices related to equitable treatment of all. The survey responses will be considered by the Diversity Committee, which is

currently drafting a comprehensive new district policy on Equity that will be submitted to the Board of Education for consideration. The survey will be open until March 6<sup>th</sup> to parents, staff, and students in grades 6-12. Please click here to take the survey: <http://bit.ly/2sRZfRr>

### **School Choice Deadline March 16**

The Red Clay Board of Education approved School Choice numbers for the 2018-2019 school year at its February meeting, setting in motion the process by which students can attend schools outside their assigned attendance zones. The Delaware School Choice law allows families to apply for open seats in any school, regardless of residency. Kristine Bewley, Manager of the district's Information Systems Department – which oversees the choice program – said that letters to students informing them of available seats have been sent. If invited to attend the school, families have until March 16 to accept the seat, or it will be considered a rejection. Bewley presented the annual numbers at the Feb. 14, 2018 school board meeting. A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

### **February Board of Education Meeting**

- [School Choice Presentation](#)
- [Superintendent's Report](#)

### **Stanton Holds 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black History Month Panel Discussion**



Seven distinguished community leaders were invited to speak Feb. 15, 2018 at Stanton Middle School during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual panel discussion celebrating Black History Month held at the school. This year's theme was "Be the Change You Want to See: Steps Toward Community Advocacy."

The program was hosted jointly by the school, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). The seven community leaders talked about their professional careers and personal journeys to success during brief remarks to the students.

Panelists included:

- Charma Bell, Director of First Tee Delaware
- Cerron Cade, Gubernatorial Nominee for Secretary, Delaware Department of Labor
- Dorrell Green, Director, Office of Innovation and Improvement, DOE
- Charles Madden, Executive Vice President
- Chandra Pitts, CEO of One Alliance
- Kyle Sheppard, Institutional Advancement Coordinator at Delaware State University
- Justen Wright, Licensed Funeral Director, House of Wright Mortuary

## Forest Oak Hosts STEAM Fair



Parents and students gathered in the Forest Oak Elementary School gymnasium on February 22, 2018 to visit and participate in the first annual STEAM Fair. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering Arts and Mathematics), is a term used when grouping the academic disciplines and typically when addressing policies.

The fair was organized by parent volunteer Heidi Mulik. Mulik, after visiting a fair in Philadelphia last summer, immediately scheduled a meeting with Principal Erin NeCastro to discuss a future fair at Forest Oak. NeCastro, Mulik and other team

members put the plan in action. “STEAM is extremely important at the elementary school level,” said Mulik. “It gives students the opportunity to plan academic goals at a young age.”

Upon entering the gymnasium, students received raffle tickets for a chance to win STEAM related door prizes. Some exhibitors included; UD Traveling Insect Zoo, Conrad Schools of Science Biochemistry Program, IEEE DE Bay Section, Kirkwood Library and Girl Scout Troop 1078. Additionally, Forest Oak teachers set up a computer station and an Origami table.

Visit the Red Clay Facebook page to view some photos from the fair: <https://www.facebook.com/RedClaySchoolDistrict/>

### **Classroom Management Strategies Shared Among Schools**

Teachers from Brandywine Springs School (BSS) shared their experiences with a new teaching strategy developed by one of their own that emphasizes student-centered classrooms called MTC (Managing the Classroom) at a recent North Star Elementary School faculty meeting.

Developed by BSS Teacher Eva Foxwell, the techniques allow teachers to enhance any curriculum by challenging students to become motivated to perform at higher levels, have a purpose and expectation for their studies, and be prepared for career-ready futures.

Ms. Foxwell was joined at the meeting by BSS Teachers Lori Nichols, Sonia Saunders, Deanna Bilecki, and Leslie Grant. Each teacher provided a testimonial about the success within their own classrooms and the thrilling benefits that assist not only the students, but the teachers. North Star Principal Karin Jakubowski had the opportunity to meet Ms. Foxwell and observed her working with North Star Teacher Emily Brown. “I was amazed at the way the career-ready education was integrated so seamlessly and quickly,” she said. “The students responded immediately to the strategy and it was incredible how they accepted the career-ready education so positively. With this strategy the students find a purpose within the classroom and it encourages students to become leaders, stand out as performers, while learning at a high-level.”

### **Chinese New Year Celebrated at Conrad**

Family, friends and classmates filled the Conrad Schools of Science lunchroom to celebrate the Chinese New Year on February 13, 2018. Students worked with Teacher Luo Lijing to prepare and coordinate the program.

In its fourth year, Chinese New Year at Conrad continues to grow in all aspects, including participants, guests and information learned throughout the evening. Students opened the program by singing the Happy New Year Song. Other portions of the program included a fashion show, interactive learning of the Chinese Alphabet and an introduction of some Chinese meals. Each portion of the program was narrated by students in English and Chinese. After the program, guests were invited to learn Chinese calligraphy, proper use of chopsticks and paper cutting. A full buffet Chinese meal concluded the evening.

### **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.

### **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.

### **DOE Seeks Feedback on State Report Card**

The Delaware Department of Education is seeking online public feedback on data visuals that will be used in the Delaware State Report Card. The survey can be accessed through the [DOE School Profiles – Stakeholder Engagement page](#) or directly through [this link](#). The survey will close on March 1.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- FACE of Red Clay Meeting, Feb. 26, 5:45p.m., Warner
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Mar. 5, 6:00p.m., Baltz
- District Workshop – Inclusion, Mar. 6, 5:30p.m., District Office Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting, Mar. 12, 6:00p.m., District Office Board Room
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Mar. 13, 6:30p.m., Brandywine Springs Teachers' Lounge
- Red Clay College and Career Fair, Mar. 13, 6:30 – 8:30p.m., Dickinson
- Cab Calloway Choice Committee Meeting, Mar. 15, 5:30 – 7:00p.m., District Office



