

# Red Clay Consolidated School District

## eNews

December 7, 2018

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#### **Marbrook to be Honored for Student Achievement**

Marbrook Elementary School is among 16 schools statewide that will be recognized next week by Secretary of Education Susan Bunting for their students' academic achievement.

The students showed exceptional performance on state tests or made remarkable progress in closing the achievement gaps between student groups, including those from low-income families, racial minority groups and students with disabilities.

Each building named a 2018 Recognition School will receive an \$8,000 award. Funding for the awards comes from the state's School Improvement funds. The Recognition School awards were created by legislation passed by the Delaware General Assembly in 2009.

Marbrook is a Title I Immersion school. Over the past four years, the schools has seen a 17% increase in English Language Arts scores and an 18% increase in Math scores.

Principal Melissa Phillips said one of the distinguishing attributes is the collegial working environment.

"The Marbrook staff is a tight knit learning community serving over 400 students in grades Pre-K through 5," she said. "At Marbrook, staff are committed to ensuring that every student is successful every minute of every day. Because of a strong culture of learning within the school, staff are empowered to experiment with innovative techniques such as student led conferences, growth mindset, and mindfulness in order to ensure that students achieve at high levels."

Over the years, the most notable practices that have proven to be successful in closing achievement gaps at Marbrook include quarterly data conversations with administrators, a formal PLC action plan structured around targeted goals and essential outcomes, improving differentiated instruction techniques, improving task/standard alignment for rigor and relevance, and creating solid intervention systems so that at-risk students have the supports needed to continuously improve.

### **Red Clay Preschools Embrace Inclusion**

Red Clay's inclusive Early Years Preschool program started in 1994 with two part time classrooms at Heritage Elementary School and has now expanded to include 35 classrooms in seven district elementary schools.

Preschool classes at Marbrook, Mote, Baltz, Lewis, Warner, Meadowood and RPLC are totally inclusive; students from the community go to class alongside students with special needs. Red Clay Early Years staff are dedicated to facilitating interactions among all the students, helping them to develop a greater level of understanding and acceptance of others.

Like most older students, preschoolers especially enjoy outdoor play on the playground. When they are in the classroom they follow Early Learning Foundations, a meaningful play-based curriculum which includes the state standards for preschool. The play-based curriculum helps the young students with their language, cognitive and physical development.

"The Early Years Program is a highly qualified learning experience for preschool students based around play that develops their social-emotional well-being to get them ready for school," said Gail Humphreys-Mackenzie, principal of the preschool program.

Early Years is committed to providing all children with quality, developmentally appropriate learning experiences designed to help them develop to their full potential. Support staff including occupational and physical therapists, speech language pathologists and autism support specialists work in the classrooms providing assistance for those in need. Special education coordinators, behavior analysts and nurses are also on hand to support students.

During the first four years of life, brain development is the highest, children want and need to learn new information. Structure helps young children adapt to routines and expectations. Social skills such as learning how to listen, take turns, speak in a group setting, develop compassion for others and accept multicultural differences are developed in preschool.

Research shows a strong relationship between preschool attendance and success in diverse areas of life. The HighScope Perry Preschool study tracked students through the age of 40 and concluded that those who attended preschool had higher earnings, committed fewer crimes and were more likely to graduate and hold a job.

Red Clay preschools offer young children the opportunity to work and play independently of their parents, building a foundation for a successful school/work career. Highly trained preschool teachers use smartboard technology to immerse students in learning experiences while peer interaction helps preschoolers practice sharing, compassion and acceptance of others.

The Early Years Preschool program is open to all Red Clay students. Special needs students must be three years old by December 31<sup>st</sup> while community peers must turn three by August 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information go to the Red Clay website at [www.redclayschools.com](http://www.redclayschools.com) and select Richardson Park Learning Center under the heading Our Schools.

### **Cab Wins National Safe Driving Award**

Students at Cab Calloway School of the Arts take teen-driver safety very seriously. The school was awarded \$1,000 for submitting the most entries in the 2018 Fall Create Real Impact contest during an assembly last week.

The contest gives educational grants for the best creative messages designed to prevent distracted driving, the number one killer of teens.

“I am so proud of our students for taking the topic of distracted driving seriously,” said Julie Rumschlag, dean of the school. “Our goal is to prepare educated, informed and safe drivers. This ‘hands-on’ student centered competition helps us achieve that goal.”

Thousands of entries from students ages 14-22 were submitted in the categories of music, art, writing and video. A total of \$12,000 in educational grants was awarded to students and schools across the nation. California Casualty works with the Impact Teen Drivers program to present the contest and the prizes.

Driver Education Instructor Kristine Murphy plans to use the funds to implement a new defensive driving curriculum for her class.

Preventing inattentive driving is more important than ever. The National Safety Council has issued a call to action after a sudden and dramatic rise in traffic deaths the past two years, many caused by reckless actions or drivers not paying attention to the road. The Delaware Office of Highway Safety has been targeting distracted driving, especially amongst those between ages 16-24, as a major public safety issue.

“I have confidence teens can change the culture of driving to one that is distraction free – much like earlier generations did with seat belts,” said Kelly Browning, Ph.D., Executive Director, Impact Teen Drivers. “The Create Real Impact Contest provides an opportunity for teens to join the conversation and do something about the problem.”

Impact Teen Drivers has reached more than two million teens since 2007 and the Create Real Impact contest began in 2009. California Casualty is a founding partner of the nonprofit and continues to provide support for the contest. California Casualty representatives help present checks to the winning schools and awardees.

“What I like best about the Create Real Impact contest is that it is all about students employing their creativity to deliver a critically important message to their peers: You can make a choice to help stop the tragedies that result from reckless and distracted driving,” said California Casualty CEO Beau Brown.

### **North Star Students Honor Ironman Champions**

North Star students, with racing bibs tied around their waists, assembled in the cafeteria on November 27, 2018 to provide a warm welcome for Brent and Kyle Pease, Ironman champions who came to share a message of inclusion, determination and perseverance.

The Pease brothers were introduced by their relative and North Star student Kyle McNulty. They had just returned from the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii where they were the first brother/brother duo to complete Ironman Kona. This was an extraordinary feat as Kyle was born with cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder affecting movement and muscle coordination.

The students listened intently as Kyle and Brent explained how they came up against many obstacles and how people told them they can’t do it. Kyle told the students, “Don’t let anything stop you, say ‘yes I can’ and find a way.” He added “We all have different challenges that we face. I found a way to say yes and I want you to find a way to say yes to your challenges. When you say yes anything is possible.”

Brent Pease said it took five years to get permission to be in the race which took them 14 ½ hours to complete. The Ironman triathlon consisted of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike and a 26.2 mile run. It challenged both brothers equally and gave them the same experience.

Brent and Kyle Pease have competed and finished in a total of four Ironman competitions. They have created the Kyle Pease Foundation to create awareness and raise funds to provide assistance for people with disabilities to meet their individual needs through sports. The Pease brothers have championed

more than 100 physically challenged athletes across six events who otherwise would not have the opportunity to take part in sports. Help includes scholarship opportunities, purchasing of medical or adaptive sports equipment and participating in campaigns to raise awareness about cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

“It feels good to say yes and share that with other people,” said Brent Pease as he took questions from the students. He told them that their focus on endurance events helps show people how they can both be challenged while competing in the same sport, something they were not able to do while they were growing up. He told the students that you have to start small and explained that they started with a local 5K and then went on to do a 10K, triathlon, half ironman and finally a full ironman.

North Star students are honoring the Pease brothers by spreading their message throughout the community and by collecting monetary donations for the Kyle Pease Foundation. Together they are making a difference.

### **McKean’s Carre Named Fight B Football Coach of the Year**

Matt Carre, head football coach at Thomas McKean High School, was recently named Flight B Coach of the Year and Head Coach for the Blue in the 2019 DFRC Blue-Gold All Star game.

Formerly a Delaware all-state athlete, Carre is now athletic director, head football coach and freshman English teacher at McKean and tries to get the best out of his students both in the classroom and on the field. He lives by McKean’s motto, “It’s a great day to be a Highlander” and helps students be proud of that as well.

When Coach Carre came to McKean in 2014 the struggling football team had a 0-10 record. This year they finished 5-5 with the team part of the playoff conversation for much of the season. Six players made the All-Conference team and DeVon Taylor became the first All-State player since Carre has been their coach.

“We were able to have more success this year because our coaching staff and players have done a great job committing to improving during the offseason,” said Carre. “Our offseason work included coaching clinics, weight room sessions, the DIFCA Spring Football Camp, 7x7 Summer League and Alpha Training.” Matt Carre treats his players like family and thinks of himself as a resource for kids who struggle. He believes in giving every student the same opportunity to succeed that he had. As teacher, coach and athletic director he has the chance to challenge students in academics and sports and bring out the best in their abilities. Carre explained that coaches had a big impact on his life and now it is his turn to give back.

### **Operation Warm Visits Warner Elementary**

The lunchroom at Warner Elementary served a different purpose on November 29, 2018. This morning it would be the central location for school, community partners and over 50 volunteers to prepare a special gift for students. Operation Warm collaborated with Harvey Hanna & Associates and its in-house charitable arm The Delaware KIDS Fund to ensure that every student would receive a brand new warm coat.

As each class arrived at the lunchroom, students were individually greeted and paired with a volunteer from one of the community partners on hand. The partners would then help students locate their

proper size and ensure that the coat fit properly. Afterwards, students would have their name written in the in-seam and then sign a large thank you cards and banners to commemorate the day. Signing their names in each coat was especially significant to helping students understand that this coat would be for them.

Site Coordinator Sherika Myatt communicated with Operation Warm project coordinator Danielle Skinner to bring everyone to Warner Elementary. Operation Warm works directly with manufacturers to create its own line of quality coats. Operation Warm is far more than a coat drive. Each coat donated represents love and compassion. "At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about what you've done with those accomplishments. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It about what you've given back," said Myatt while citing her favorite quote to describe today's events.

Over the last 20 years, Harvey Hanna & Associates has shown its commitment to Delaware by donating over \$1 million to local community organizations. While 400 coats alone were donated to Warner Elementary this year, Hanna donated 1800 in total to 4 local elementary schools, including Baltz, Richey and Pulaski.

"This project is not about me or volunteering, it is about a connection with the students and the ability to give the being present in the moment of Joy," stated Stockton University professor and volunteer Mary Lou Galantino.

### **New Red Clay App Available**

With the touch of a button Red Clay's new mobile app will keep you connected to the current news, events and updates. The app will deliver real time school news to your smart-device for FREE. With the app you can:

- Follow the latest school and district news
- Receive notifications about closures, breaking news and announcements
- View the latest photos from school events
- Select schools you want to follow
- See school locations, phone numbers and staff information

To download the free app, visit the iTunes App store or Google Play store, search and select Red Clay CSD. Keep informed from the start of the new school year!

### **Red Clay is Hiring Substitutes**

The Red Clay Consolidated School District is hiring daily and long term substitutes and para-professionals. Our partner, ESS is looking to train and place substituted immediately. Additionally, Red Clay has a new per diem rate. If you or anyone you know is interested in working as a substitute for our district, please visit <http://www.ess.jobs> to apply or call 877.983.2244 for more information.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Facilities Committee Meeting, Dec. 10, 6:00p.m., Red Clay Professional Development Center, 1612 Telegraph Rd.

- Cooke, Dickinson (all programs) Choice Open House, Dec. 10, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Highlands, A.I. High Choice Open House, Dec. 11, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Dec. 11, 6:30p.m., District Office Boardroom
- Special Board Meeting – Superintendent Search, Dec. 12, 7:00p.m., District Office Boardroom
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Dec. 17, 6:00p.m., A.I. Middle library
- School Board Meeting, Dec. 19, 7:00p.m., Warner
- **Schools Closed – Winter Break, Dec. 24 – Jan 1, Offices Closed Dec. 24-26, 31 & Jan. 1**
- **Schools and Offices Reopen, Jan. 2**