

Red Clay Consolidated School District

eNews

April 25, 2016

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Public Input Sought on Strategic Plan

District officials have scheduled three public meetings in order to get community feedback on the next district Strategic Plan, which will cover years 2016 through 2021. The meeting will include an overview of progress, and stations set up for each of the current five goals for feedback and suggestions. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- April 28th 6:30pm at Baltz
- May 5th 6:30pm at Cooke
- May 14th 10:00 am Warner

The timeframe for the current four-year plan, which consists of five main goals for the district, is drawing to a close. The current Strategic Plan began in the 2012-2013 school year.

The Strategic Plan serves as a guide for district decisions, framing where to allocate resources, how to prioritize funding, where to assign personnel, and how best to train teachers and staff.

The five goals included in the current plan are:

GOAL 1: Every classroom will have a highly effective educator led by highly effective administrators

GOAL 2: All students will read at or above grade level by the end of third grade

GOAL 3: Schools will continue to close the achievement gap for all students, with a particular focus on our English Language Learners and students with disabilities

GOAL 4: All students will graduate college- and career-ready

GOAL 5: Parents and the community will be engaged in the education of students

April Board of Education Meeting

- **Board Policy:**
 - [School Choice](#)
 - [Suicide Awareness and Prevention](#)
 - [Advisory Committees to the Board](#)
- [Dropout Prevention and Path Forward](#)
- [Major Capital Improvement Update](#)
- [Facilities Committee Report](#)
- [Community Financial Review Committee Report](#)
- [Superintendent's Report](#)

RCEF Golf Outing June 17

Play a round of golf for a good cause at the Red Clay Education Foundation (RCEF) 5th Annual Golf Tournament, to be held on Friday, June 17, 2016 at the Deerfield Golf Course. For information on registration and sponsorship opportunities, click [here](#)

A single golfer registration, with buffet dinner after golf at 2 p.m., costs \$95. For more information contact Eric Loftus at eric.loftus@redclay.k12.de.us or 302-552-3822.

Proceeds will benefit the RCEF, a non-profit organization which supports Red Clay educational programs that the regular budget cannot. 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.

Brandywine Springs Celebrates Earth Day

Brandywine Springs held a full range of activities to celebrate Earth Day on Friday, April 22. The students in grades K-8 turned their attention to the environment and took an active role in seed and tree planting, mulching and orienteering. They also participated in activities involving water filtration, bird feeders, solar ovens and bottle rockets. Events took place throughout the day, with classes assigned to different activities. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd with worldwide events to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The observance of Earth Day started from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues. In 1970 San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. Millions of people participated and Earth Day continues to be widely observed with the planting of trees as the most common practice. It is celebrated in more than 193 countries each year. The 2016 theme is "Trees for the Earth".

The Earth Day activities, coordinated by Kathy Yacucci, help Brandywine Springs' students learn at an early age to take an active role in helping to make their world a better place. In addition to participating in outdoor activities, an Earth Day poster contest was held and the winning posters are on display throughout the school. Principal Stephanie Armstrong said, "It teaches students an appreciation for how to preserve their environment." The students are excited to be taking part in this worldwide event.

Art Smart April 28

The opening celebration of the 9th annual Red Clay 'Art Smart' Student Art Show will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Delaware Art Museum. Admission is free and family and friends are invited to enjoy the artwork produced by students from all Red Clay schools.

Red Clay's 'Art Smart' Show is a collaboration between the Red Clay Consolidated School District and the Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway in Wilmington. Visitors can enter through either of the main entrances and follow the signs for the Red Clay exhibit.

The exhibit will continue through May 15th so that the Red Clay community can view the work of the student artists. Admission to the Museum is free on Thursday evenings and Sundays. For more information contact the art teacher at your child's school.

High School Band Festival Well Attended

Parents, friends and community members who came out to the High School Band Festival in the Cab Calloway Theater on April 21, 2016 were treated to an enjoyable evening of musical entertainment. Concert bands from each of Red Clay's five high schools participated in the program. The festival provided an opportunity to showcase the abilities of Red Clay students and their directors.

In addition, an exhibit of student artwork from A.I du Pont, Cab Calloway, Dickinson and McKean High Schools was on display for all to enjoy. Unified Arts Supervisor Dr. Judith Conway said, "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 performing arts curriculum for all students."

Red Clay Teachers Win "Partners in Education" Grants

The Delaware Retired School Personnel Association (DRSPA) has awarded "Partners in Education" grants to sixteen recipients throughout the state. The maximum grant award was \$500, and a total of \$7,500 was awarded. This is the third year that DRSPA, an association of retired Delaware school employees, has provided grants designed to assist teachers in improving education in Delaware schools. While sixteen grants were approved for funding, Earl Savage, Awards Committee Chair, noted that, "We received many more grants than we could fund, and were forced to pass on many proposals that were worthwhile and well-written."

The Partners in Education grant awardees for 2015 in the Red Clay Consolidated School District are:

1. *Argumentation Across Content Areas*, Michelle Morton & Holly Golder, Cab Calloway School of the Arts, \$500.00.
2. *Incubation and Embryology Project*, Natalie Alexander, North Star Elementary, Red Clay Consolidated School District, \$500.00.
3. *Gripping Graphics*, Jessica Gascard, Stanton Middle School, Red Clay Consolidated School District, \$498.02.
4. *Informational Texts - Literature Circles*, Amy Diguglielmo, William Cook, Jr. Elementary, Red Clay Consolidated School District, \$449.88

Numbers Bee Tournament April 30

The 14th annual Numbers Bee Tournament will take place at 9:00a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at John Dickinson High School. Teams from 12 Red Clay elementary and middle schools will be competing in this online math contest designed for Delaware students in grades 3-8. Family, friends and community members are welcome to attend.

Run by National Bee Inc., a Delaware non-profit organization, the Numbers Bee helps students improve their math fluency with numbers and operations, problem solving skills and analytical thinking skills. The friendly competition can help boost students' confidence levels and increase their enjoyment of math. In addition it attracts students who might otherwise be turned off by learning math through traditional methods. The students compete online with students in different locations to solve mathematical problems. Students are given a set of numbers and operations and the desired result. They are expected to find one or more solutions to the problem. There are 24 levels of increasing complexity. Since its introduction in 2003, teachers have reported the Numbers Bee game is challenging and stimulating for students at all levels. For more information visit info@nationalbee.org.

Annual McKean Plant Sale Coming Up

Thomas McKean High School is readying for the highly anticipated annual plant sale, to run from April 30 to May 7. For sale will be plants, flowers and vegetables grown in the McKean Greenhouse by students. Hours are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. The sale is located in the Greenhouse at the school, 301 McKennan's Church Road, Wilmington DE 19808. For

more information, contact Stephanie Matson at 302-992-5520, ext. 313.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- **Staff In-service Day – No School, April 26**
- District Student Art Show Open House, April 28, 4:30-7:30p.m., Delaware Art Museum
- Numbers Bee, April 30, 8:00a.m.-12:00p.m., Dickinson
- Special Executive Board Workshop, May 2, 5:30-7:00p.m., District Office Conference Room
- Mascot Committee, May 2, 6:30 p.m. District Boardroom
- Facilities Committee Meeting, May 9, 6:00p.m.,
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, May 9, 6:00-7:30p.m., Shortlidge Cafeteria and Room 210
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, May 10, 6:30p.m., Brandywine Springs Teachers' Lounge
- School Board Meeting, May 11, 7:00p.m., Warner
- **Early Dismissal for Conferences – Elementary Schools, May 12 & 13, 1:00p.m.**

