

# Indian River District News

Indian River School District, 31 Hosier St., Selbyville, De. 19975

(302) 436-1000 • www.irsd.net



Spring 2009

## Moore Named IRSD Teacher of the Year

### District honors educator from East Millsboro

Heather Moore of East Millsboro Elementary School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year ceremony and reception on April 23 at Sussex Central High School. Moore was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 15 candidates, one from each school.

Moore has been a third-grade teacher at East Millsboro for the past six years (2003-2009). Prior to joining the East Millsboro staff, she taught kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade and fifth grade students at Long Neck Elementary School from 1999-2003. She joined the district staff in April 1999 as long-term substitute teacher at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School.

A 1995 graduate of Sussex Central High School, Moore holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Salisbury University and master's degrees in Applied Educational Technology and School Leadership & Instruction from Wilmington College.

Moore is a member of East Millsboro's school leadership committee, professional learn-



**Above, Heather Moore (center) with Superintendent Susan Bunting and Board of Education President Charles Bireley. Right, Moore addresses the audience after receiving the Teacher of the Year award.**

ing community and language arts committee. She is a lead mentor for the Indian River School District and has conducted SmartBoard training workshops for her fellow teachers. She has also been a

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teacher in the district's Bridges summer school program since 2000 and has participated in East Millsboro's after-school program for the past six years.

Moore is a member of the Historical Society of Delaware



Teacher Advisory Committee and East Millsboro's Parent Teacher Organization.

She is now eligible for the state Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced in October.

## Training for Vision 2015 Continues

The Indian River School District has completed its second year of participation in the Vision Network, which featured a strong emphasis on training for school instructional leaders in 2008-2009.

Instructional leadership teams from Indian River and Sussex Central high schools attended monthly training sessions for Focus on Results, a school improvement framework that helps schools make measurable, lasting improvements in student performance, school leadership and decision-making.

"We've had a very successful year as part of the Vision Network, and we look forward to continuing our participation in 2009-2010," Superintendent Susan Bunting said. "Our instructional teams are committed to this valuable training. The results have been evident in our school buildings."

As part of the training, Indian River and Sussex Central are working to implement instructional strategies that help students develop and refine their critical thinking skills.

The Vision Network is working to implement the recommendations of the Vision 2015 Plan. It provides the opportunity to accelerate the pace of educational achievement for all students, make positive changes to the state's education system and better prepare each and every student for success upon graduation.

Indian River is one of six districts and charter schools throughout Delaware participating in the Vision Network program.

**"A Model of Excellence"**



## From the Desk of the Superintendent

**Dr. Susan S. Bunting**

Dear Parents,

Only a few weeks remain in what has been another successful school year. Once again, I am extremely proud of our students and staff for making the Indian River School District a model of excellence that is emulated by other public school systems across Delaware. Recently, we had a few more reasons to celebrate:

- The district received a Superstars in Education Award from the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce for its "Home Grown by Indian River: An Administrative Development Model" program.

- Michelle Peeling of Indian River High School received the Horace Mann Abraham Lincoln Fellowship.

- Dawn Brasure of Millsboro Middle School was named Delaware's Middle School Counselor of the Year.

- Jane Boyd of Long Neck Elementary School was named Delaware's School Nurse of the Year.

Congratulations to all of these award winners. They have made the Indian River School District proud!

On the major capital improvement front, Phillip C. Showell Elementary School will soon vacate its temporary quarters at the John M. Clayton Building in Frankford and return to its renovated facility in Selbyville. The move will commence at the end of the school year, and classes will resume at the Selbyville building in September. I would like to thank staff, students and parents for their patience and support during this difficult relocation

Once Phillip C. Showell Elementary has returned to Selbyville, the district will complete an extensive renovation project at the John M. Clayton building. Work at the site began in April and will continue through August 2010. Once renovations are complete, Frankford Elementary School will permanently relocate to the Clayton building. Classes will begin at the renovated facility in September 2010. We are very excited about these renovation projects and are confident that they will serve the educational needs of our students for years to come.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to address the state budget crisis that has garnered so many headlines in recent months. At the time of this newsletter's publication, we still did not know what impact the shortfall would have on our district in 2009-2010. However, I would like to assure parents that we will do everything in our power to address the budget crisis without impacting the quality of classroom instruction. The administration and Board of Education are committed to maintaining our high-quality educational programs during these difficult fiscal times.

Thanks again for another terrific school year and have a great summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Susan S. Bunting  
Superintendent

## IRSD Offices to be Closed on Friday in July and Aug.

As a cost savings measure, the Indian River Board of Education voted on April 20 to close all school and district offices on designated Fridays during July and August. In addition, the Board approved a four-day work schedule for 12-month employees during the same six-week period.

School offices and the Indian River Educational Complex in Selbyville will be closed on July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7 and August 14. These offices will also be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

It is anticipated that the Friday office closings will save the district about \$21,000 in energy costs.

Twelve-month employees will work extended hours

Monday through Thursday from July 6 until August 13. Employees will work either 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, they will work either 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The district will resume a five-day work week on August 17. All offices will return to their regular 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. schedules on that date.

## Board Alters June Calendar

At its regular monthly meeting on March 24, the Indian River Board of Education approved a series of changes to the 2008-2009 school district calendar. Friday, June 12, will now be a full day of school and not a half day as listed on the district calendar. This will be the last day of school for students.

In addition, teachers will have two additional days of inservice training on June 17 and 18. The last teacher day will be June 18.

The changes were made a result of the weather cancellations of March 2 and March 3.

### Indian River Board of Education

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Superintendent

The Indian River School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, domicile, martial status or disability in its programs and activities.

## Important Dates

### June 1

Sussex Central High School graduation, 7:30 p.m.

### June 2

Indian River High School graduation, 7:30 p.m.

### June 9-12

Final exams

### June 12

Last day for students (full day)

### June 18

Last day for teachers

## Black History Month Tribute



On Feb. 18, five Sussex Central High School students attended a special ceremony officially designating February as Black History Month in Delaware. The students were on hand as Gov. Markell signed the special proclamation at his office in Dover. Attending the ceremony were (from left) James Showell, Shamir Showell, Jalissa Jones, Timothy Showell, Sean Hopkins and Student Advisor Diaz Bonville.

## Celebrating the Bill of Rights



Students in Jessica Willing's third-grade class at Georgetown Elementary School recently staged a special performance about the Bill of Rights. Each student had a speaking or singing part in the play. Above, a group of students takes a bow with paraprofessional Diane Shockley.

## Referendum Cancelled

Please note that the Indian River School District's current expense referendum originally scheduled for Thursday, June 11, has been cancelled. Please disregard any notices referencing this event.

## District Employees Win State, National Awards

Michelle Peeling, an English teacher at Indian River High School, is Delaware's 2009 recipient of the Horace Mann Abraham Lincoln Fellowship.

This prestigious fellowship gives teachers the opportunity to study the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln and is awarded to only one teacher from each of the 50 states. As Delaware's winner, Peeling will attend a five-day institute this summer at Lincoln's presidential library and museum in Springfield, Ill.

Fellowship winners were chosen on the basis of their essays examining why it is essential to understand Lincoln's legacy and how Lincoln is still relevant in the classroom.

On May 5, Rich and Susan Collins of Horace Mann Insurance Co. visited Peeling's classroom to present her with a special plaque in recognition of the award.

### Boyd is Top Nurse

It's been a great school year for Long Neck Elementary School nurse Jane Boyd.

First, she was named the Indian River School District's Nurse of the Year and was honored at the April 28 Board of Education meeting. One week later, she was selected as the State School Nurse of the Year for 2009.

On May 6, the school hosted a special surprise reception for Boyd in the school library. The event was attended by Long Neck staff, colleagues and former school nurses of the year.

Boyd is a consultant for the Delaware Department of Education and serves on various committees such as the Delaware New School Nurse Orientation. She is a member of the Delaware School Nurse Association and is active within the district and state.

### Counselor of the Year

Dawn Brasure of Millsboro Middle School has



Michelle Peeling, second from left, receives her fellowship award from Rich and Susan Collins of Horace Mann and IRHS Principal Mark Steele.

been named Delaware's Middle School Counselor of the Year for 2009. She received the award at the Delaware School Counselor Association spring conference on April 28.

"It was a complete surprise. I had no idea," Brasure said.

Brasure has been a counselor in the Indian River School District for the past four years. Prior to joining the counselor ranks, she was a science teacher for 13 years. She was nominated for the award by Millsboro Middle School Principal LouAnn Hudson.

"Ms. Brasure consistently goes above and beyond for students and colleagues to provide care and understanding in times of need and distress," Hudson said in her nomination letter. "Ms. Brasure has an unconditional love that translates clearly to the students and staff that she touches daily. Her compassion, professionalism, integrity, knowledge and dedication set her apart from others in her field."



Jane Boyd



Dawn Brasure

# District Seeking Mentors

The Indian River School District is still seeking mentors for its schools.

Hundreds of students need caring mentors to help them make the most of their potential in school, in the world of work and in life. To be a mentor, you don't need any special skills, just an ability to listen and offer friendship, guidance and encouragement to a young person. Mentors meet with their student mentee for one hour a week during the school year. Volunteers can also choose the school in which they would like to mentor.

"Mentoring is one of the greatest opportunities to impact a child's life," said Ivan Neal, district administrator of community programs. "I personally mentor several IRSD students and love every minute of it."

Prospective mentors must submit an application with references, provide information for a background check, meet one-on-one with the district's mentoring coordinator and complete a three-hour training session. They will then be assigned a mentee at the school of their choice.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor should contact Ivan Neal at (302) 436-1000 or [ineal@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:ineal@irsd.k12.de.us). Applications are also available on the district web site, [www.irsd.net](http://www.irsd.net).

## Did You Know?

Southern Delaware School of the Arts received a perfect score on a recent state evaluation of its Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program. The score indicates that SDSA is implementing PBS at the highest, or "universal," level.

*"A Model of Excellence"*

## 2009-2010 Teachers of the Year

Karen Berry, Sussex Central High School  
 Krystal Bush, Phillip C. Showell Elementary School  
 Kevin Cash, Georgetown Middle School  
 Colin Crandell, Selbyville Middle School  
 Amy Denham, Millsboro Middle School  
 Jennifer Finnegan, Long Neck Elementary School  
 Mary Litchfield, Southern Delaware School of the Arts  
 Linda Maxwell, Frankford Elementary School  
 Richard Messick, Georgetown Elementary School  
 \*Heather Moore, East Millsboro Elementary School  
 Emily Pettyjohn, North Georgetown Elementary School  
 Christy Phillips, Howard T. Ennis School  
 Will Revels, Indian River High School  
 Tamara Soots, Richard Allen School  
 Pam Webb, Lord Baltimore Elementary School

\* - Overall winner



**Seated (L-R): Jennifer Finnegan, Karen Berry, Linda Maxwell, Heather Moore (overall winner), Tamara Soots, Krystal Bush, Pam Webb. Standing (L-R): Christy Phillips, Colin Crandell, Richard Messick, Kevin Cash, Amy Denham, Mary Litchfield, Emily Pettyjohn, Will Revels.**

## SCHS Students Kick Butts

Kick Butts Generation (KBG) continues to be an active club in the lives of students at Sussex Central High School. Formed in 2008, the club is sending positive messages to teens throughout the school.

With nearly 30 active members, KBG has participated in many fun activities to spread its message – "Don't Smoke!" Many teens from across Sussex County partook in this year's annual leadership weekend. The two days were packed with team activities and skill-building exercises that members are expected to pass on to anyone they know, whether it be a relative who smokes, a younger brother or sister who is feeling

peer pressure, or a friend who desperately needs help to end his or her addiction to nicotine.

Club members also organized fun-filled "Karnivals" at nearby elementary and middle schools, including Southern Delaware School of the Arts, North Georgetown Elementary and Millsboro Middle School. Students have even extended their outreach into the community to include the Georgetown and Oak Orchard Boys and Girls Clubs.

KBG has also been a tremendous help to students at SCHS. Currently, 10 students are involved in a smoking cessation group held within the wellness center.

## Showell Hosts Reading and Career Events

On February 5, about 200 students, staff and parents attended Phillip C. Showell Elementary School's Family Reading Night.

After dinner was served by the staff, children and their families traveled to different classrooms to enjoy books being shared by teachers. Students then enjoyed fun phonics and reading games while special "parents only" sessions were conducted. These sessions gave parents a better understanding of grade level expectations and highlighted activities they can do at home to boost their child's love of reading.

In other Phillip C. Showell news, numerous local community members volunteered their time to participate in the school's annual career fair on May 5. Among those in attendance were local veterinarians, construction workers, medical technicians, architects, chefs, postal workers, educators and health care professionals.

Fifth-graders learned about the world of work, as community members shared their time with students and helped them make connections between school and the world of work.



**Some special visitors were on hand for North Georgetown Elementary School's tobacco prevention fair on April 9. From left, SSG Bronte Wilson and SFC Stefan Talabisco of the Delaware National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, Miss Delaware 2008 Galen Giaccone, Mary Perno of the University of Delaware Center for Drug & Alcohol Studies, Denese Bell from the Division of Public Health and her helper/son Trey.**