



Christina School District • 600 North Lombard Street • Wilmington, DE 19801 • www.christina.k12.de.us

# *Congratulations Christina Graduates!*



## Christina in the News

### Broad Foundation Awards Christina \$1.5 Million

The Christina School District will receive \$1.5 million from the Los Angeles-based Broad Foundation to support the district's education reform efforts. The grant is the largest given to the district by a national foundation. The money will be paid out over the next three years and will support the District's ongoing reform efforts, including central office and human resources reforms. *Read more, page 7.*

### Brader Library Honored with National Award

Henry M. Brader Elementary School (Brader) has been named a national winner in the District Award Single School Category by the American Association of School Libraries. Brader was one of two elementary schools in the country to receive this award. The library media program at Brader serves 920 students, and is a source of growth and development for students, teachers, the community, and the school curriculum. The National School Library Media Program of the Year Award honors exemplary school library media programs that fully integrate the school's curriculum. Brader's Library Media Specialist, Sharon Brubaker, states that the media program at Brader is open and flexible. What makes it so unique is that the Library is an active part of the school where staff members collaboratively teach authentic units of instruction. *Read more, page 3.*

### Gauger-Cobbs' Kevin Sun Wins National Skating Championship

Gauger-Cobbs Middle School student Kevin Sun was the Intermediate Men's National Figure Skating Champion at the Junior National Figure Skating Championships held in Jamestown, New York in early December. Sun competed with 35 top skaters from around the country and moved up from third place to win a gold medal as the top finisher in the Intermediate Men's division. "It was the best I've ever skated," Sun said. His free-skate program included a triple toe-double toe, triple Salchow, triple toe, and double Axel-double toe.

### Downes Elementary Team Competes in International OM Event

A third/fourth grade student team from Downes Elementary came in first place in a state Odyssey of the Mind competition held in March. They were invited to attend the World Finals and represent Delaware and the Christina School District in Boulder, Colorado in May. Students competed in the Laugh-A-Thon event, which featured an original skit entitled "Oh Great Remote Control." *Read more, page 2.*

## Board Receives Feedback on Three Options



### *New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families*

### *Community Conversations Scheduled for June 20 and 22*

At the May 24 Board of Education meeting, the report "New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families" was presented to the Christina School District community. The report outlines three options that explore new ways of delivering the highest quality education possible to all students. Following the presentation to the Board and public, the District hosted a series of six "Community Conversations" in late May and early June to provide a means of gathering public input about the options. Members of the community were also invited to share feedback through an online feedback form on the District website, by phone, by email, and by mail.

District staff continue to gather public feedback on the report and the three options. Many who shared feedback had questions about the logistics of transportation, guidelines for choice, the impact on current students, changes to current attendance boundaries, and whether a combination of the options would be considered.

Continued public input into the options will allow for the development of a recommended plan to be formulated and presented to the Christina Board of Education on June 28, 2005. A final plan will be submitted to the Board for approval on July 20.

**- Continued on page 5**

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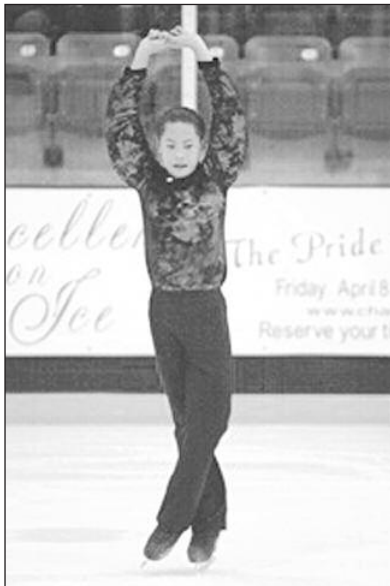
# NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

## Downes Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Team Places First in State, Travels to International Competition

A third/fourth grade student team from Downes Elementary came in first place in a state Odyssey of the Mind competition held in March. They were invited to attend the World Finals and represent Delaware and the Christina School District in Boulder, Colorado in May. Students competed in the Laugh-A-Thon event, which featured an original skit entitled "Oh Great Remote Control." Student team members included **Diana Advani** and **Joseph Krusko**, third grade; **Ravi Barua**, **Mike Czerwinski**, **Selby Seador**, and **Madelyn Warren**, fourth grade. Coaches were parent volunteers **Suresh Advani**, **Yolanda Chetwynd-Advani**, and **Gitu Barua**. The teacher sponsor was **Rick Waterhouse** and Excel teacher **Lisa Wilson** also assisted with coaching. The team raised funds to attend the World Finals competition in May, but did not place at that event. An Odyssey of the Mind team from **Gauger-Cobbs Middle School** also placed at the state competition, earning third place in the Laugh-A-Thon category.

## Gauger-Cobbs Student Kevin Sun is 2005 National Skating Champion

Gauger-Cobbs Middle School student **Kevin Sun** was the Intermediate Men's National Figure Skating Champion at the Junior National Figure Skating Championships held in Jamestown, New York in early December. Sun competed with 35 top skaters from around the country and moved up from third place to win a gold medal as the top finisher in the Intermediate Men's division. "It was the best I've ever skated," Sun said. His free-skate program included a triple toe-double toe, triple Salchow, triple toe, and double Axel-double toe.



## Christiana District Players Compete in Blue-Gold All Star Games

Seven Christina District high school basketball players were chosen to compete in the Blue-Gold All Star Basketball Games held in March. The games are sponsored by The Opportunity Center, Inc., and are played at the University of Delaware Carpenter Center. The games feature the top 30 female and top 30 male senior-year basketball players in Delaware. The Boys teams included **Cory Lemon** and **Khyle Nelson** from **Glasgow High School** and **Rashad Williams** from **Christiana High School**. The Girls teams included **Nicole Babes** and **Melissa Johnson** from **Glasgow High School**, **Shakira McNair** from **Christiana High School**, and **Dante Hudson** from **Delaware School for the Deaf**. Coach **John James** from **Glasgow High School** served as an assistant coach for the event.

## "Orchestrated Performance" Features 150 String and Orchestra Students



The Shue Strings of the **Shue-Medill Middle School** and the **Newark High School** Orchestras presented an

"Orchestrated Performance," a joint concert held on Sunday, February 27 at Newark High School. Almost one hundred fifty student musicians from six orchestral ensembles performed classical works by Telemann, Beethoven, Sibelius, Bartok, Hindemith and Faure as well as contemporary selections by Newbold, Holsinger and Smith. The concert featured a work for elementary, middle and high school string ensembles, and included instrumentalists from twelve Christina elementary schools. Student composer **Sam Peters** led the NHS Symphonic Orchestra in a performance of his most recent work, "An Evening Out."

## Councilman Tackett Honors Bancroft Students



Seven students from Bancroft School received a resolution from Councilman David Tackett to recognize and applaud the values of both citizenship and scholarship. The students were selected by their social studies teacher, **Kalia Reynolds**, to attend the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, DC. Students honored by Councilman Tackett included **Ashley Verbonitz**, **Brandon Ross**, **Emily Wolter**, **Maria Oei**, **Taylor Russell**, **Shaun Martin**, and **James Turner**. Tackett also visited Bancroft School, where he stressed the importance of education and achieving your personal best. Bancroft School extends its warm thanks to Councilman Tackett for highlighting the achievements of these deserving students.

## Bayard Students Named Finalists in Nationwide Investment Essay Contest

**Lamar Jones** and **MacKenzie Winn**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Bayard School, were named finalists among more than 4,000 entrants in the second national "InvestWrite" Stock Market Student Essay Contest. Lamar and MacKenzie were two of only 30 students nationwide honored for their analysis of the investment potential of various publicly traded stocks, their overall understanding of the stock market, and the manner in which they expressed their investment ideas in essay form. Lamar investigated "Hot Wheels" and its parent company, Mattel, Inc. MacKenzie also wrote about Mattel, Inc. on the topic of Barbie Dolls. The competition is sponsored by the Foundation for Investor Education, a nonprofit organization.

## Shue-Medill Honor Society Gives Back to the Community



The National Junior Honor Society adopted four families who would not have had a happy holiday season this year. The group expanded their efforts to include four families this year by opening The Giving Tree to faculty and staff. The group also collected cans for the Newark Area Welfare Committee. The group also held a Have A Heart Campaign to raise money for Tsunami relief efforts.

## McVey Celebrates RIF Community Reading Challenge

Students and staff at McVey School showed their love of reading in February through participation in many exciting activities connected to the 2005 RIF Community Reading Challenge. The school held a Kick off Pep Rally on February 11, then over the next week and a half held a read-aloud event at Borders Books, two library card drives at the Newark and Bear Libraries, and a Teddy Bear Read-A-Thon in the McVey Library. Special guests at the annual I Love to Read Day Celebration were Representative Mike Castle, Attorney General Jane Brady, Senator Steve Amick, and Antoine Oakley from the office of Senator Biden. Reading Resource teacher **Dianne Nichols** was the organizer for the events.

## Christiana High School Events Showcase Health, Careers

Christiana High School students took part in two events in March that highlighted health and safety and career development. A Health and Safety Fair featured volleyball and basketball games between Christiana High School staff and students, and exhibits by over 25 health agencies, hands-on activities, door prizes, aerobics demonstrations, and a 1-mile walking tour. A Career Fair held at Christiana High School highlighted almost 60 area employers representing everything from cake making to construction to counseling. The event was held in the gymnasium, and CHS business students participated in two career sessions during the fair.

## Gallaher Elementary Awarded \$2,500 Technology Grant

Gallaher Elementary School received a grant for \$2,500 from Best Buy for integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. The funds will be used to enhance the AlphaSmarts program, which will integrate the use of video and computer applications. Awards were presented to schools that make learning fun by creatively integrating technology to sustain or enhance existing educational programs.

## Newark High School FFA Team Places First in State

The Newark High School FFA Floriculture Team spent many hours after school and on the weekends studying as a team and working with their advisor, **Andrea Leventry** to master the material. The team overall placed first in the state and will be representing Newark High School and the Delaware FFA at the National Competition next October. This is the first time that students from Newark High placed first in this competition. Individual Student Scores included: **Christine Hare** 1st place, **Michelle Truong**, 4th place, **Stephanie Frazee** 7th place, and **Heather Teel**, 9th place. The Dairy Foods team also did well, placing fourth in the state overall. That team was coached by **Richard Morris**. **Tara Morris** placed 9<sup>th</sup> in that event.

## Delaware School for the Deaf Students Collect Food for the Needy



DSD's Junior National Association of the Deaf student organization hosted a special event called "Stuff the Bus." Students collected many, many boxes of non-perishable food for the Food Bank of Delaware, which serves needy people. The feeling of giving to the community was a wonderful experience for the students. Students participating in the food drive include **Natalie Vela**, **Lashaunda Tingle**, **Victoria Trice**, **Donald Steele**, **Bryan Ward**, **Jaime Lynn Witz**, **Amber Narmore**, **Craig Goodman**, **Mathew Ward**, and **Keenan Brown**.

"News from Schools" - continued on page 3

# NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

"News from Schools" - continued from page 2

## Glasgow High School BPA Helps Terry Center Children

The Glasgow High School chapter of the Business Professionals of America held a party for children at the Terry Center in December as a community service project. About 30 BPA members participated in the party, which provided decorations, food and gifts. Members of the BPA invited the Terry Center children to visit Glasgow for the day, where they played games in the gym, had pizza and other snacks, and presented gifts from Santa. Thank you to **William Conley** for playing the role of Santa for the event. An extra special thank you goes to **Peg Dawson** who had her classes also contribute presents for the children and the Center.

## "Prize Patrol" Visits Wilson Elementary

The Delaware Department of Education Prize Patrol

rewarded Wilson Elementary School in March for their efforts in the "Delaware Reads About..." literacy program. The program is a statewide partnership between the Delaware Division of Libraries and DOE. One elementary, middle, and high school in each county earning the highest number of points through participation in reading activities earned the surprise visit from the "Prize Patrol." Wilson was rewarded with balloons, book baskets, and a congratulatory certificate.

## McVey School "Launches a Dream" and Learns about Aerospace

Twenty-four students from McVey Elementary School had the opportunity to serve as Space Shuttle Astronauts, Crews, and Support Teams on two virtual space shuttles provided by the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation in April. All students were given the opportunity to participate in some aspect of the Launching a

Dream project. Two crews simulate pre, in-flight, and post-shuttle activities. Students traveled to Dover Air Force Base to complete the virtual shuttle launch. Launching a Dream is an annual statewide program coordinated by Dr. Stephanie Wright. Teachers **Cheramy Farina** and **Phronsie Fleck** coordinated the program. The project successfully integrates science, math, technology, and career options into the curriculum.

## Downes Elementary School Third Grade Team Recognized as "Superstars in Education"

The third grade team at Downes School has been honored with a Superstars in Education Award presented by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. Their project, "Know Your History" was one of six applications chosen statewide out of a pool of 58 total applications. A recog-

"News from Schools" - continued on page 4

# Secretary of Education Scholars Honored

Top students from Delaware's 32 public high schools were honored on May 4 by government and education officials at the annual Secretary of Education's Scholars Dinner held at the Sheraton Inn and Conference Center in Dover. The scholars were nominated by their principals and selected for being the exemplary scholars of the

graduating Class of 2005. Many students recognized have received awards of state, regional or national significance.

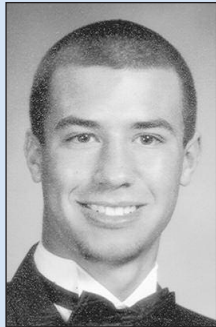
Secretary of Education Valerie A. Woodruff said the dinner is meant to give recognition to the students for their many achievements and to encourage them to con-

tinue to strive for excellence. "The public high school seniors we recognize this evening truly exemplify academic success as well as school and community involvement. These young men and women not only have performed exceptionally well academically, but are deeply involved in their schools and in their communities."

### Christiana High School

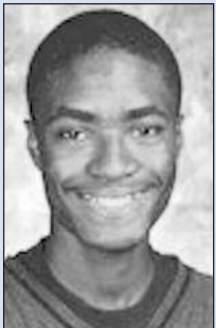
#### Harold Beeson

Son of Rick and Alana Beeson of Bear. Harold, known to his friends as Ricky, is one of the finest students at Christiana High School. He has maintained a top three ranking throughout his high school career while staying active in many school activities. Ricky has played 4 years of lacrosse serving as captain his 11th and 12th grade years, ice hockey all four years, and football his freshman year. He is a member of the FFA and is currently the historian. He is also a member of the National Honor Society. Ricky is looking to become a physical therapist through the University of Delaware. Christiana High School is very proud of Ricky and all of his accomplishments.



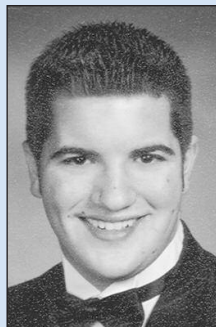
#### Stephen Felder

Son of Richard and Gail Felder of Bear. Stephen represents the best of Christiana High School. Stephen has maintained the top ranking in his class for all four years of high school. He also has been very active in our band program which has traveled up and down the coast winning numerous awards. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Stephen is planning to attend Temple University and will pursue a degree in pharmacy. His academic pursuit and drive for excellence has won him a Temple Scholar Award amounting to over \$40,000. Stephen is an outstanding young man. Christiana High School is extremely proud of him.



#### Robert Greathouse

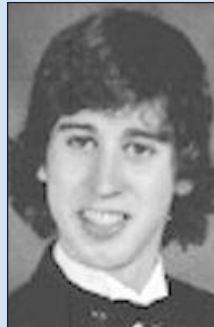
Son of James and Theresa Greathouse of Newark. Robert is one of the top students at Christiana High School. His accomplishments are widespread. He has been active in FFA where he currently serves as the vice president. He is also a member of the German Club where he serves as president. Robert is active in Business Professionals of America and also the National Honor Society. He has been involved in the school's musicals for the past four years. Robert has been accepted at the University of Delaware and plans to major in agriculture and biotechnology.



### Glasgow High School

#### Timothy Dorsey

Son of Kay and Dennis Dorsey of Middletown. Tim is currently ranked third in his class with a GPA of 4.55. His academic achievement is also reflected in his involvement in the National Honor Society, the Governor's School for Excellence, World Affairs Seminar, Glasgow High School Scholastic Award winner in English, World History, Environmental Science, U. S. History, and Chemistry, and multiple honor roll recognitions during his high school career. Tim currently or has been a member of our cross country team, swim team, and drama club. One significant accomplishment is his long standing involvement with the Bear YMCA in their Teen Leaders Club. Tim has volunteered his time to help youngsters ages 6-12 in the YMCA sports programs. Tim will be attending the University of Delaware this fall to major in business.



#### Karen Mayer

Daughter of Barbara and Michael Mayer of Bear. Karen is currently ranked first in her class with a GPA of 4.67. Her academic prowess is further demonstrated in her participation in the National Honor Society, and receiving many awards and recognition that include Michael Ferguson Scholarship for DSTP performance in grades 8 and 10, and attending the Governor's School for Excellence. Karen is an outstanding athlete on Glasgow's field hockey team (captain 2004), soccer team (captain 2005), and swim team. Karen will be attending Ohio State University where she will major in pharmacy. The Glasgow High School community is extremely proud of her superior academic and athletic accomplishments. We look forward to hearing about her future accomplishments.



#### Mallory Onisk

Daughter of Julie and Dale Onisk of Bear. Mallory's most significant accomplishment is the fact she has learned to balance all she has to do and still performs at the high levels she does in academics and other activities. Mallory is second in her class with a GPA of 4.56. She has received numerous state awards, school awards, and other recognition including the Newark AAUW Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, honor roll all her years at Glasgow High, the Glasgow High School Excellence in Economics Award, Excellence in English Award, and Excellence in Chemistry Award. Mallory has been named first team All-State in swimming, and first team All Blue Hen Conference in swimming. Mallory will be attending South Dakota State University where she will be majoring in pharmacy.



### Newark High School

#### Melissa Day

Daughter of Robert and Joan Day of Newark. Melissa has sustained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school, ranking first of 375 while taking highest-level classes. Accomplishments include participating in the Governor's School for Excellence, Music Leadership Training for marching band section leaders, Science Olympiad (as a 7-time medalist), and National Honor Society. She pursues many interests: playing trumpet in three musical ensembles, being Editor of the school literary magazine, contributing in drama club, remaining treasurer for Astronomy and Aeronautics Club, and taking photography courses. Outside school, she takes tennis lessons, volunteers at the Iron Hill Museum, and is an avid reader. Melissa will major in Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware via full merit scholarship.



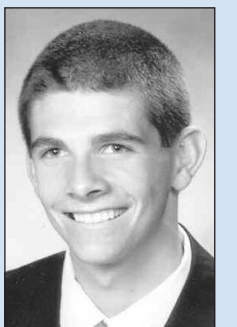
#### Brianne Marie Mulrooney

Daughter of Charlotte and Peter Eggink of Newark. Brianne has taken a very rigorous course load during all four years at Newark High School while playing three sports each year, and maintaining a cumulative grade point average of a 4.0. Brianne has also been an active member in the Newark High School Band all four years. She has many interests outside of school. She is very fond of horses and rides whenever she gets an opportunity. She is also involved in her church. Brianne is a remarkable student who has achieved and will continue to achieve great success. She plans to attend the University of Delaware and major in biological science. Her ultimate career goal is to be a pediatrician. We are confident that Brianne will be a very successful doctor in a few years to come.



#### Mark Sausen

Son of Thomas Sausen and Robert and Carol Abel of Newark. Mark has achieved an unweighted 4.0 cumulative average during his high school career while taking predominately honors and AP courses. Mark was named Outstanding Student in Chemistry last year. This year he has demonstrated outstanding athletic and leadership abilities as captain of three sports: soccer, indoor track, and track and field teams. Mark has participated in our school's Sportsmanship Committee and National Honor Society. Mark attended Boy's State last summer. He has a strong moral character and has a positive outlook on life. Mark will attend the University of Delaware and aspires to be an orthopedic surgeon.



## NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

# Congratulations Class of 2005!

High School commencement ceremonies were held the week of June 6-10 in the Christina School District. Newark, Glasgow, and Christiana High Schools held their graduation ceremonies at the University of Delaware's Bob Carpenter Center. Delaware Autism Program and Margaret S. Sterck School held ceremonies on June 9 at Kirk Middle School. The Groves Adult High School graduation ceremony was held on June 10 at Newark High School.

Diplomas were presented by members of the Christina Board of Education. Board members are Brenda C. Phillips, President, John Mackenzie, Vice President, James R. Durr, George E. Evans, Esq., Beverly A. Howell, and Cecilia Scherer. Senior administrators in attendance included Dr. Joseph Wise, Superintendent, Jeffery Edmison, Assistant Superintendent, Thresa Giles, Assistant Superintendent, David Sundstrom, Assistant Superintendent, and Maurice Pritchett, Assistant to the Superintendent.

### Newark High School

The 112<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony for Newark High School on June 6 featured a performance of the National Anthem sung by members of the class of 2005, including Alyse Brock, Marta Dybowski, Frank Gillette, Luke McCloskey, and Jennifer Myers. Class President Andrew Hitchcock gave the student address. Valedictorians for the class of 2005 were Melissa Day, Kendra Dawn Modzelewski, Brianna Marie Mulrooney, Colleen Poynton, and Mark Thomas Sausen. The ceremony was presided over by Newark High School's Principal, Dr. Emmanuel Caulk.

### Glasgow High School

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony for Glasgow High School on June 7 featured student addresses by Sahara Parks, Senior Class President, Derrika Richardson, SGA President, and Susan Martin, National Honor Society President. The ceremony was highlighted by a performance of an original piece of music, "To Thine Own Self Be True," written by teachers Chris Celfo and Jane McFann. The song was performed by the Senior Choral Ensemble. The Valedictorian for the Class of 2005 was Karen Mayer. The Salutatorian was Timothy Dorsey. Glasgow High School Principal Todd D. Harvey presided.

### Christiana High School

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual commencement ceremony for Christiana High School on June 8 featured a welcome by Elisha T. Stewart and Kimberly A. Cooper, an introduction by Reava N. Potter, and a student address by Rahman A. Banks. The Valedictorian was Stephen P. Felder and the Salutatorian was Harold R. Beeson. Other student participants in the ceremony included Bhavika N. Patel, who gave the farewell, Kasaun Wilson, who led the Alma Mater, and Diane N. Cox, who led the tassel ceremony. The ceremony was presided over by Christiana High School Principal Scott Flowers.

### Delaware Autism Program

The commencement ceremony for Delaware Autism Program on June 9 featured music, introductions, and remarks by DAP teachers and administrators, and a presentation of certificates of performance by Board of Education Members Cecilia A. Scherer and Beverly Howell. Student gifts were presented to Special Education teachers Paula Doroshov, Allison MacKenzie, Anne Osborne, and Nancy Storch, and Speech Language Pathologist Diane Miles. Delaware Autism Program graduates included Christopher J. Baylor, Kevin M. Bolin, Katherine A. deLeeuw, Lauren E.V. Gebelein, David W. Greene, Demetrius K. Jordan, Patrick J. Murphy III, Mark T. Needles, Laura A. Pollio, Chaz O. Roberts, Letitia A. Rooney, Allison M. Shumaker, William D. Staley, and Thomas G. Stevenson, Jr.

### Margaret S. Sterck School

Margaret S. Sterck School - Delaware School for the Deaf celebrated its 33rd annual commencement on June 9 at Kirk Middle School Auditorium. The salutatory address was given by Adam Johnson, and Class president Leona Dugger also addressed her class. The valedictorian for the class of 2005 was Jeffrey Barnette, and Jaime-Lynn Witz presented the class gift. The ceremony was presided over by Ed Bosso, Director of Statewide Programs for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind Children, and Richard Pelletier, Delaware School for the Deaf Dean of Students. Members of the Class of 2005 included: Jeffrey Barnette, Keith Anthony Barr, Leona Waynette Dugger, Danielle Sharone Franks, Vaughn Grady II, Dante Evette Hudson, Adam Frederick Johnson, Jessica Juanita Lewis, Anisha McGhee, Xavier A. Robinson, Jaime-Lynn Witz, and Danielle Alise Woodward.



### Groves Adult High School

The James R. Groves Adult High School, Newark Center celebrated its 39<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremonies on June 10. The event was held at Newark High School and featured student speakers Eneroliza Castillo, Anita Jorge, Paula Laperriere, Chedine Miller, and Olivia Rittenhouse. Board President Brenda Phillips and Board members James Durr and George Evans conferred diplomas on the graduates. The Groves class of 2005 included Christopher E. Bell, Paula R. Blankenship, Eneroliza Castillo, Malerie R. Cummings, Stuart N. Day, Andrew L. Dixon, Erica L. Dugan, Jared A. Duphily, Johnna S. Gooden, Alisha C. Govens, Ronald T. Horton II, Bryan T. Johnson, Jeffrey L. Johnson, Jr., Anita L. Jorge, Bryan W. Kellagher, Joseph M. Kott, John D. Manley, Jodi R. Martino, Michael J. McCarthy, Megan E. McDonnell, Stephanie L. McMonigle, Chedine M. Miller, John C. Morganstern, Joshua D. Palmer, Joshua C. Phipps, John J. Ragnis II, Carrie L. Ray, Olivia A. Rittenhouse, Sean C. Santiago, Kristin H. Shabazz, Daniel E. Sollinger, Jennifer Springer, Afton T. Williams.

### "News from Schools" - continued from page 3

dition dinner was held on May 2 to honor the teachers and staff, and the team received an award of \$2,500.

### Cynthia Shermeyer Named Member at Large for TESOL

Adult education teacher Cynthia Shermeyer has been elected Member at Large by Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESOL) Adult Education Interest Section. This area of the organization is the largest section within TESOL, and is run by a board and three members at large. Shermeyer will serve in this capacity for the next two years. Her duties will include helping to plan conference sessions and handling other responsibilities for members throughout the US and Canada.

### Susan Mitchell Receives National Endowment for Humanities Grant

Newark High School English teacher Susan Mitchell has been accepted to receive a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities. The grant will allow her to attend a seminar entitled, "Shakespeare: Enacting the Text" conducted at the University of Delaware and in Stratford, England. Mitchell will spend a total of five weeks working with teachers from around the country. They will spend three weeks studying at the University of Delaware and the final two weeks in England.

### Sandra A. Manfredi Chosen as Outstanding Tech Prep Coordinator of New Castle County

Christiana High School Tech Prep coordinator Sandra Manfredi has been selected as the Outstanding Tech Prep

Coordinator of New Castle County. Ms. Manfredi is an instructor in the Business Education Technology Department at CHS. Tech Prep Delaware is a technical and academic post-secondary preparation program that allows 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to earn college credits while still in high school. CHS has articulation agreements with several institutions, including Delaware Tech, Wilmington College, Goldey-Beacom College, Delaware State University, and the University of Delaware.

### Jennifer Rhudd Receives Fulbright Grant

Kirk Middle School Technology teacher Jennifer Rhudd is a recipient of an award from the Fulbright Memorial Fund Program, and has been accepted as a participant for the October 2005 cycle. As part of this program, up to 600 teachers from all 50 states are selected to participate in a three-week study visit to Japan that is fully funded by the government of Japan. The program features visits to Japanese schools, cultural sites and facilities, and meetings with Japanese students and teachers.

### Elizabeth "Libby" Thomas Receives Award from National Nursing Association

Marshall Elementary School Nurse Elizabeth "Libby" Thomas, Med., RN, NCSN has been selected to receive a 2005 Recognition Award from the National Association of School Nurses. The award is given to individuals in recognition and appreciation for their support of school nursing services to the nation's children. Thomas was chosen because of her expert leadership in the review and revision of the Scope and Standards of Professional School Nursing Practices document, an essential reference for school nurses working at all levels.

### Newark High School Baseball Field Dedicated to Former Coach Francis Fulghum

The newly-renovated baseball field at Newark High School will honor former NHS baseball coach Francis Fulghum. Coach Fulghum served as baseball coach at Newark from 1967 until 1987. He led the team to state championships in 1970, 1971, 1974, and 1984. Two of Coach Fulghum's former players have gone on to coach their high school teams to state championships, Mel Gardner at William Penn in 1991 and Curt Bedford at Newark in 1996. Curt Bedford, who is in his tenth season as head coach at NHS, was on the Yellowjacket varsity baseball team as a freshman in 1987, Coach Fulghum's last season coaching at Newark.

### Keene Students Ride to the Bookstore in Style

Five limousines took approximately 40 Keene Elementary School students to Borders Books in June, to celebrate their meeting a 1,000 book reading challenge. At Borders, the students heard a story read by a representative from the Wilmington Blue Rocks and shopped for books before heading back to the limousines to return to school. Back at school they received a certificate, a book, and a reception in their honor.

Visit the Christina  
School District website:  
[www.christina.k12.de.us](http://www.christina.k12.de.us)

# DISTRICT NEWS

*Feedback Received on the Three Options - continued from page 1*

## Community Conversations Provide Insight

Those who attended the Community Conversation meetings in late May and early June to discuss the New Educational Opportunities report used interactive technology called Strategic Listening to anonymously share their opinions during the meeting. Participants recorded answers on individual keypad devices, and their answers were instantly captured and presented as graphs. This technology was used to create an atmosphere where everyone present had a voice in the discussion. Individuals were also given the opportunity to ask questions, and many of those questions were recorded. The recorded questions, data from the Community

Conversation meetings, and feedback submitted electronically and by mail and phone will be compiled for the Board to allow them to learn more about residents' questions and concerns, as well as positive and negative feedback generated by the three options. District staff will compile the data and publish it on the District website prior to the June 28 Board meeting.

To access additional information about the report, including attendance boundary maps, school capacity information, and descriptions of the three options being presented, please visit the District website: [www.christina.k12.de.us](http://www.christina.k12.de.us)

### *The Three Options for Consideration in the New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families Report:*

#### **Option 1: Elementary Learning Zones**

Option 1 creates three attendance zones for Kindergarten through Grade 5 students. Each zone includes an elementary school cluster made up of multiple elementary schools. To the greatest extent possible, assignments are made according to closer-to-home community areas, and simplified attendance boundaries have been created wherever possible for students moving from elementary school to middle school.

#### **Option 2: Programmatic Choice**

Option 2 assigns students to an elementary and middle feeder school. A primary component of this option is to propose open Choice enrollment opportunities for high school students. Under this proposal, eighth grade

students would select a high school based upon specialized programs that will be offered at each high school over the next few years. All high school students would be required to submit a Choice application to determine their high school assignment.

#### **Option 3: Traditional Attendance Boundaries**

Option 3 assigns students to an elementary, middle and high school feeder. To the greatest extent possible, school assignments are made according to closer-to-home community areas; however, it was not possible to create simplified attendance boundaries for some elementary or middle schools. School Choice opportunities would remain available in accordance with the District's Choice Guidelines. Choice transportation would be provided according to the Guidelines.

## Community Conversations Scheduled for June 20 & 22

Community Conversations are designed to assist the Board of Education in the decision-making process by involving parents, students, residents, and other stakeholders in a conversation about options for our District's future.

Facilitators will present the report, "New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families: District-wide Grade Reconfiguration and Expanded Choice Options for K-12"

*Please plan to attend the Community Conversations scheduled on the following dates:*

**Monday, June 20, 2005**  
7-9 p.m., Shue-Medill Middle School Cafeteria

**Wednesday, June 22, 2005**  
7-9 p.m., Bayard Intermediate School Cafeteria

## We Want Your Feedback

### *New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families*

The Christina School District invites you to share your feedback on the New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families report and the three options being presented. These options include:

- Option One: Elementary Learning Zones
- Option Two: Programmatic Choice
- Option Three: Traditional Attendance Boundaries

Each option has the potential to increase the quality of educational programs offered by the District and to attract additional students to the District. Public input into the options will allow for the development of a recommended plan to be formulated and presented to the Christina Board of Education on June 28, 2005. A final recommendation will be presented to the Board for adoption on July 20, 2005.

#### **To Share Your Feedback**

Individuals are encouraged to share feedback with the District in a variety of ways:

**On the Web:** An electronic feedback form is available on the district website: [www.christina.k12.de.us/NewOpportunities](http://www.christina.k12.de.us/NewOpportunities)

**By Phone:** Please call the Telephone Feedback Line at 552-2670

**By Email:** Please send email to [feedback@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:feedback@christina.k12.de.us)

**By Mail:** A mail-in feedback form is available on the New Educational Opportunities for Christina Families publication available in all district schools, or you may request additional copies from the Christina School District Public Information Office: 552-2620

## Christina School District Construction Update

| Project Name                  | Start Date        | Scope of Project  | Target Completion Date | Construction Budget | Project Update Spring 2005 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Main Street/ NETWORKS Project | Projected July 05 | Renovations and new addition to 83 E Main street          | July 06                | 5.5 M               | In progress                |
| West Park                     | 4/04              | Overall renovation  |                        | 4.9M                | Completed                  |
| Albert Jones                  | 4/04              | Overall renovation  |                        | 5.2M                | Completed                  |
| Brookside                     | 6/04              | Overall renovation  | August 05              | 4.9M                | In progress                |
| Pulaski HVAC                  | 6/04              | HVAC and electrical upgrade                               | May 05                 | 2.1M                | In progress.               |
| Kirk HVAC                     | 6/04              | HVAC and associated upgrade                               | May 05                 | 4.8M                | In progress                |
| DAP                           | 6/04              | 26000 square foot addition                                | May 05                 | 4.5 M               | In progress                |
| McVey                         | 5/05              | Overall renovation  | August 06              | 5M                  | In progress                |
| Gallaher                      | 4/05              | Overall renovation  | August 06              | 5.2M                | In progress                |
| Jennie Smith                  | 5/05              | Overall renovation with addition of kitchen and gymnasium | August 06              | 7M                  | In progress                |
| NHS HVAC                      | 5/05              | HVAC and electrical upgrade                               | September 06           | 5.7M                | In progress                |
| Elbert Palmer HVAC            | 3/05              | HVAC and electrical upgrade                               | December 05            | 1.8M                | In progress                |
| Glasgow Pool                  | 5/05              | New HVAC, lighting and plumbing upgrade.                  | July 05                | 850K                | In progress                |
| Drew Pyle HVAC                | 5/05              | HVAC and electrical upgrade in both buildings.            | July 06                | 4M                  | In progress                |

- Continued on page 6

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Christina Educational Enrichment Fund Hosts 12th Annual Success Banquet

The Christina Educational Enrichment Fund held its annual banquet on May 23 at the Bank One Center. Dozens of Christina students were honored for academic achievement, citizenship, and community service. The Christina Educational Enrichment Fund Board of Directors includes Fred Dawson, Les Dukart, Donna Friswell, Robert Kwapinski, John Mayer, Charles "Bud" Mullin, Wayne Nelson, James Regan, Butch Read, Gail Russell, and Superintendent Dr. Joseph Wise. Carla Grygiel serves as Program Director.

Many community members also contributed their time to serving on award committees. They included James Streit (Chair), Wayne Nelson, and Sharon Cantara for the Price/Cantara Award; James Regan (Chair), Bud Mullin, Wayne Nelson, and Margaret Catts for the Raymond T. Metts Award; Wayne Nelson (Chair) and Les Dukart for the Lend-A-Hand Award; Donna Friswell (Chair) Butch Read, Robert Kwapinski, and Fred Dawson for the Charlie B Friswell Award; and Les Dukart (Chair) John Mayer, and Gail Russell for High School Scholarships.

#### High School Scholarships

Jeff Barnette, Delaware School for the Deaf  
Jasmine Chambers, Glasgow High School  
Leona Dugger, Delaware School for the Deaf  
Elana Raiford, Newark High School

#### Asia Price-Nicole Cantara Memorial Award

Erik Trujillo, Bancroft School  
Himali Patel, Bayard Elementary School  
Erin Simmons, Brader Elementary School  
Tiana Jackson, Brookside Elementary School  
Samuel Johnson, Delaware School for the Deaf  
Erica McDermitt, John R. Downes Elementary School  
Faith Kaumbuthu, Gallaher Elementary School  
Crishelle Cobham, Albert H. Jones Elementary School  
Zachary Stimmel, Keene Elementary School  
Cassandra Ingram, May B. Leasure Elementary School  
Cambrielle Roberts, Maclary Elementary School  
Anh Nguyen, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School  
Julia Seamans, McVey Elementary School  
Malachi Singletary, Elbert Palmer Intermediate School  
Taylar Moe, Pulaski Intermediate School  
Christine Smith, Jennie Smith Elementary School  
Brandy Hudson, Stubbs Intermediate School  
Alexis Maxwell, West Park Elementary School  
John McKeever, Wilson Elementary School

#### William B. Keene Writing Award

Jessica Luo, William B. Keene Elementary School

#### Lend a Hand Award

Samantha Phelan, George V. Kirk Middle School  
Loile Brisco, George V. Kirk Middle School  
Monica Hackett, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School

#### Charlie B. Friswell Memorial Award

*Destination Flight Academy*  
Jordan Ortiz, William B. Keene Elementary School  
Mandoline Wunder, Jennie Smith Elementary School

#### *Destination Orbit Academy*

Kim Kalinowski, Gauger Cobbs Middle School

#### *Destination Space Academy*

Ege Aydede, Jennie Smith Elementary School  
John Baker, Mcvey Elementary School  
Cassandra Bonilla, Gallaher Elementary School  
Brilynn Brothers, Gallaher Elementary School  
Matthew Hill, John R. Downes Elementary School  
Daniel Holmes, Maclary Elementary School  
Aurora Madison, Jennie Smith Elementary School  
Ian Olsen, Mcvey Elementary School  
Oishiq Quabili, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School  
Nathan Stansberry, Jennie Smith Elementary School  
Benjamin Sydserrf, Mcvey Elementary School  
Cody Trask, Gallaher Elementary School  
Zachary Zuch, Brader Elementary School

#### Raymond T. Metts Jr. Memorial Award

George Bosques, Brader Elementary School

Ken'Nique Chandler, Brookside Elementary School  
Joy Smith, Gallaher Elementary School  
Kiana Martinez, Albert H. Jones Elementary School  
Josh Jones, May B. Leasure Elementary School  
Noah Conaway, Maclary Elementary School  
Brenden Agorilla, Marshall Elementary School  
Melanie Carcillo, McVey Elementary School  
Angelica Rivera, Jennie Smith Elementary School  
Jessica Vale, West Park Elementary School  
Christopher Dennis, Etta J. Wilson Elementary School  
William Blevin, Bayard School  
Nichelle Hall, John R. Downes Elementary School  
Katie Yingling, Elbert Palmer School  
Meghan Amin, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School  
Gia Rivera, Keene Elementary School  
Jazmen Richards, George V. Kirk Middle School  
Anthony Castro, Pulaski School  
Kiana Waters, Stubbs School  
Xavier Robinson, Delaware School for the Deaf  
Chaz Roberts, Glasgow High School  
Chapell Boone, Newark High School

#### HOSTS Award

Asia Tillison, Bancroft School  
Marquan Bradshaw, Pulaski School  
Jessica Zavala, Stubbs School  
Cameron Pierre Brown, Elbert Palmer School  
Neonta Winters, Bayard School

## Students Recognized by Latin American Community Center

Fifteen Christina School District students were recognized by the Latin American Community Center this spring for excellence in academics, community service, and athletics. Students from throughout the state participated in this celebration, which drew the largest crowd to date with more than 100 students nominated statewide. City Councilman Sammy Prado of the 5th District, New Castle County Executive Chris Coons, and Dr. Jaime Rivera from the Division of Public Health attended the event. **Esteban Pilonieta** from Christiana High School received special mention for his academic

achievements. Students honored included:

**Christiana High School:** Gustavo Hernandez, Esteban Pilonieta, Valentina Pilonieta, Maria Valasquez.

**Glasgow High School:** Marco Conongo, Ligia Correa, Eneida Guzman, Sergio Medina, Grace Quezada, Alma Rios, Vanessa Romero, Norayde Tovar, Sophia Velez.

**Newark High School:** Marco Bedolla-Pantoja, Stephanie Juarez.

## District Announces \$1.5 Million Grant from the Broad Foundation

The Christina School District will receive \$1.5 million from the Los Angeles-based Broad Foundation to support the district's education reform efforts. The grant is largest given to the district by a national foundation. The money will be paid out over the next three years and will support the District's ongoing reform efforts, including central office and human resources reforms.

"In just one-year as superintendent of the Christina School District Dr. Joseph Wise tripled the number of students enrolled in advanced placement classes at the high school level," said Dan Katzir, managing director of The Broad Foundation. "This success proves the district's commitment to providing a quality education for all students, regardless of race or economic background. We are pleased to support the district's ongoing reform efforts."

Superintendent Wise stated, "We are enormously grateful for this investment in our aggressive reforms for kids in the Christina School District. The Broad Foundation is providing exemplary leadership and investment in our nation's urban school districts. It is an honor for our school district to be associated with the vision and leadership of Eli and Edith Broad."

"I am thrilled that the Christina School District has received this important funding, which will go a long way in supporting the district's reform efforts," said Senator Tom Carper. "This award is proof of the dedication, hard work and commitment the district has shown toward its students."

In April, 2004 the Christina Board of Education adopted a Transformation Plan to support its vision of dramatically increasing achievement for all students. The reform efforts inherent in the Christina Transformation include a set of Superintendent's Performance Targets, large-scale organizational initiatives to improve service and efficiency, and structural and operational initiatives to enhance opportunities for learning at all levels. For more information about the Broad Foundation grant, please contact the Public Information Office at 552-2610.

## Christina School District Construction Update - continued from page 5

|   |   |   |  |                 |                            |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Bancroft HVAC                             | 5/05                                      | HVAC upgrade. Complete air conditioning install thru the building | July 06                                | 4M              | In progress                |
| New Elementary School                     | 8/05                                      |   | July 06                                | 14M             | In progress                |
| New Middle School                         | 7/05                                      | 100,000 square feet out of 160,000 square foot building           | July 06                                | 6.7M fit out    | In progress                |
| Sarah Pyle Academy for Academic Intensity | 5/05                                      | New elevator and power upgrade. New finishes.                     | August 05 Phase 1<br>August 06 Phase 2 | 1M over 2 years | In progress                |
| Christiana High HVAC                      | Design June 05<br>Construction May 06     | HVAC and electrical upgrade                                       | August 07                              | 7.8M            | Scheduled to start in 2006 |
| Downes Elementary                         | Design June 2005<br>Construction May 2006 | Overall Renovation  | August 07                              | 5M              | Scheduled to start in 2006 |
| Maclary Elementary                        | Design June 2005<br>Construction May 2006 | Overall Renovation  | August 07                              | 5.4M            | Scheduled to start in 2006 |
| Wilson Elementary                         | Design June 2005<br>Construction May 2006 | Overall Renovation  | August 07                              | 4.9M            | Scheduled to start in 2006 |

# SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

## Board Honors 2005 Citizenship Award Winners

On May 3, the Christina Board of Education honored six members of the staff and community with 2005 Citizenship Awards for their outstanding contributions to the district.

Board member **James Durr** presented an award to **Robert Laws**, Christina School District's Supervisor of Transportation. Laws has been with the district for 12 years and oversees the transportation of 18,836 students daily on 2,422 bus routes. Laws was praised for his professionalism in managing the district's transportation department, as well as for initiating the Worlds Of Wonder (WOW) Bus project. The WOW Bus is equipped with a mobile reading and computer lab and is the first bus of its kind in the nation supported by a public school system. Laws was also recognized for the district's outstanding safety record, and for his recognized leadership throughout the state.



Board Member James Durr (left) and Transportation Supervisor Robert Laws.

Board member **Cecilia Scherer** recognized **Arthur Wolf** for his service to the District. Wolf worked for the Sterck School for almost 32 years as a resident advisor, and also served as past president of the Christina Education Association. Through his work in the residence program at Sterck, Wolf was recognized for his exemplary commitment to students and for serving as a model for both students and staff. Sterck School Director Ed Bosso also praised Wolf for the consistently positive feedback he received about Wolf from Sterck parents.



Board Member Cecilia Scherer and former Sterck School Resident Advisor and CEA President Arthur Wolf.

Board member **Beverly Howell** presented an award to **Raymond Gardner**, a parent volunteer at

Downes School. Gardner was praised for his willingness to help out in whatever way he is needed at Downes, where he has also served in several leadership roles. Gardner was a participant in the Wellness Institute, and through his involvement helped the school establish



Board Member Beverly Howell and Downes School parent volunteer Raymond Gardner.

a fitness center, which is used and enjoyed by both students and staff. He also serves on the Safe Routes to School Committee, a statewide pilot program that is studying ways to improve safety for students walking and riding bicycles to school. Gardner was praised for being "the kind of parent volunteer that all schools would wish for." He and his wife have a first-grade student attending Downes and another child who will begin Kindergarten in the fall.

Board Vice President **John Mackenzie** recognized state representative **William Oberle, Jr.** for the positive role he has played in supporting the District through times of change. Oberle was praised for his leadership role in raising awareness and support for public education, and for his diplomacy in keeping the focus on the future of Delaware's children. Oberle has represented the 24<sup>th</sup> Representative District for 29 years, including three years as House Majority Leader. He is currently speaker pro tem for the House.



Board Vice President John Mackenzie (left) and state representative William Oberle, Jr.

Board member **George Evans** presented an award to **Lavina Smith**, who served as principal of Elbert-Palmer School for almost 10 years and was recently named Headmaster of the District's new Sarah Pyle Academy for Academic Intensity. Smith was praised

for her outstanding leadership at Elbert-Palmer, which was designated a Superior School in 2003 and earned a Commendable designation in 2004. Smith was also recognized for her well-respected role in the community, and for creating a school climate that set high expectations for achievement for all students.



Board member George Evans and Lavina Smith, former principal of Elbert-Palmer School and current Headmaster of the Sarah Pyle Academy for Academic Intensity.

Board President **Brenda Phillips** recognized **Dr. Michael Walls**, former superintendent of the Christina School District. The award was accepted by his wife, Judy Walls. Walls has played an instrumental role in several key initiatives for the district. He currently serves as Vice President of State and Federal Initiatives for the HOSTS organization, and has served as past chair of Junior Achievement of Delaware. Walls was praised for the key role he played in forming the Christina Educational Endowment Fund, which later became the Christina Educational Enrichment Fund, and his service as president of the Christina Partners for Excellence, which now has investments from local corporations and national foundations in excess of \$3.4 million.



Board President Brenda Phillips (left) and Judy Walls, receiving the award for her husband, Dr. Michael Walls, former superintendent of the Christina School District and president of Christina Partners for Excellence.

## CHRISTINA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS 2005-2006

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Board Agendas are available on the District website prior to the meetings ([www.christina.k12.de.us](http://www.christina.k12.de.us))

July 20, 2005  
Wilson School  
14 Forge Road, Newark, DE

November 15, 2005  
West Park Place School  
193 West Park Place, Newark, DE

February 14, 2006  
Brookside School  
800 Marrows Road, Newark, DE

May 2, 2006  
Stubbs School  
1100 N. Pine Street, Wilmington, DE

August 10, 2005  
Glasgow High School  
1901 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE

December 13, 2005  
Sarah Pyle Academy for Academic Intensity  
500 N. Lombard Street, Wilmington, DE

March 14, 2006  
Elbert-Palmer School  
1210 Lobdell Street, Wilmington, DE

June 13, 2006  
Christiana High School  
190 Salem Church Road, Newark, DE

September 13, 2005  
Bayard School  
200 S. DuPont Street, Wilmington, DE

January 10, 2006  
Smith School  
142 Brennen Drive, Newark, DE

April 4, 2006  
Jones School  
35 W. Main Street, Christiana, DE

June 27, 2006  
Keene School  
200 LaGrange Avenue, Newark, DE

October 11, 2005  
Sterck School - Delaware School For The Deaf  
620 E. Chestnut Hill Road, Newark, DE