



Eric Crossan Photography

Appoquinimink Report

Two new schools open as construction continues across the district



Eric Crossan Photography

The Townsend Early Childhood Center opened on August 20, 2008. More than 500 parents, children and community members joined us for a tour of the building and a chance to greet teachers. The site's Lead Administrator Lucia Weathers offered a warm welcome to guests. Her sentiments were echoed by Superintendent Tony Marchio and members of the Board of Education, who thanked the community for the referendum support which made this project possible.

This summer also saw the completion of capital construction projects at Brick Mill Elementary (a new serving line), Everett Meredith Middle School (locker renovations), and Louis L.

Redding Middle School (locker renovations). Meanwhile, Appoquinimink High welcomed its first students, incoming ninth and tenth graders.

With these projects completed, our focus has shifted to the construction of Bunker Hill Elementary School, set to open in Fall 2009. Thanks to clear weather, the project is on schedule and on budget. Foundation and steelwork have been completed. Roofing and exterior sheathing are under way. The structure will be fully enclosed by winter, allowing work to continue on interior finishes: drywall, wiring, ceilings, paint, cabinetry... Look for news this spring about our August 2009 dedication of the school.

Cover Photo: A crowd gathered for the dedication of the Townsend Early Childhood Center on August 20, 2008. Bottom: Lead Administrator Lucia Weathers greets families at the new school.

Inside you'll find news about college testing, free parent workshops, technology in the classroom, the artist in residence program, events in our schools, and opportunities to get involved!

The Appoquinimink Report offers information and updates to friends and supporters of Appoquinimink Public Schools. To request a copy, contact the Public Information Office at (302) 376-4109.

New gains bring growing pains

Despite reports of slowing home sales, the Appoquinimink School District continues to experience strong growth. The district gained more than 500 new students for an increase of 6.2 percent this fall. With two new schools opened (Appoquinimink High, Townsend Early Childhood Center), and a third building, Alfred G. Waters, transformed into a Middle School, much-needed relief in those grades will be realized. But, as anticipated, our elementary schools face large enrollments.

A temporary reprieve will arrive when Bunker Hill Elementary opens in Fall 2009, but data indicate that one new school will not be enough to meet the ever-growing demand. That is why we have applied to the Department of Education for a *Certificate of Necessity* for future construction needs. Approval of this document would pave the way for us to go to our community with a request for a new elementary school, an addition to Olive B. Loss Elementary, a serving kitchen at the Appoquinimink Early Childhood Center, and

renovations to Townsend Elementary School.

These plans are in keeping with the district's 10-year Master Facility Plan, which was developed with support and advisement from the Towns of Middletown, Townsend and Odessa; New Castle County; Delaware's Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources.

Copies of the plan, which were sent home with students last year and are posted on our website, will be redistributed again this year. In addition, the district will be contacting area Homeowner's Associations and civic groups to request an opportunity to present information at an upcoming meeting. To schedule a presentation for your group, contact the Superintendent's office at 376-4101.

Bunker Hill Elementary opens in Fall 2009. The new school has a capacity for 840 students. Located at 1070 Bunker Hill Road, it sits adjacent to Appoquinimink High.



No more excuses... It's time to get ready for

PSAT Testing

On October 15, Appoquinimink High Schools will offer free PSAT testing for Sophomores. The tests provide data on how your child performs against other college-bound students, a chance to qualify for National Merit Scholarships, and the opportunity for teens to improve test-taking skills.

FREE FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

Financial planning for college starts now! Appoquinimink's Parents Academy is offering a FREE workshop on College Financial Planning geared toward grade PK-8 parents. With the help of trained professional Meg Tallman, we'll review the concepts every parent needs to understand in order to pay for college without sabotaging their own ability to retire. This session is being offered Monday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appoquinimink Training Center, 118 S. Sixth Street in Odessa (just past the intersection of Route 13 S. and Route 299). Advance registration is not required. Child care will be available. Call 376-4111 for more information.





Support your child in mathematics

On October 13, Math Specialist Laura Grass will offer parents a review of state standards including the major concepts covered in grades K-8. Our goal is to provide a window into mathematics instruction and help parents with information and support. As part of the session, Grass will explore one idea in depth to show how a lesson is deepened and enriched with each successive year of study. Guests are encouraged to bring paper and pencil and ask questions! This free workshop is being offered through the Parents Academy. Join us on October 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appoquinimink Training Center, 118 S. Sixth Street in Odessa (just past the intersection of Rte. 13 S. and Rte. 299). Advance registration is not required. Child care will be available. Call 376-4111 for more information.

7 for college

Discover the Career Center at your local high school

Did you know that our Career Centers are available to students & parents seeking information about college and/or jobs?

Thanks to referendum support, our high schools feature the latest in online and print resources on topics such as career/major selection, scholarships, colleges/universities, interview and resume building skills, and much more. Centers are staffed by trained counselors whose focus is to assist students (and their families) as they make important decisions about life after high school. Use of the Career Center is available by appointment and special opportunities including college visits will be planned over the course of the year.

To schedule one on one or small group counseling contact:

Middletown High
Craig Bilinski, Room 2010, (302) 376-4164
craig.bilinski@appo.k12.de.us

Appoquinimink High
Monica Parker, Room B137, (302) 449-3842
monica.parker@appo.k12.de.us

Meet our new mascot, the "Shark"

Over the summer, incoming sixth, seventh and eighth graders at Alfred G. Waters Middle submitted more than 30 suggestions for the mascot at their new school. The first week back to class, students had a chance to view the top four contenders and select a favorite. The winner was the AGW Sharks, featuring a bold blue and silver design donated to the school by local firm, Promotions Plus. Principal Jim Comegys explained that the mascot is part of the excitement of developing the middle school's character and vision. It's the latest, and most visible element, in a number of initiatives that have included the writing a mission statement, conducting team building for new students and staff, and the formation of a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE Continued from page 1

The summer, major renovations will begin at four other buildings: Cedar Lane Elementary, Silver Lake Elementary, Louis L. Redding Middle and Middletown High. The district will be installing a new HVAC system and boilers, adding fire sprinklers and handicap-accessible bathrooms, and tie-ins to water and sewer lines at Cedar Lane. At Silver Lake, the office will be remodeled to provide more room for parents and staff, the 37-year old cafeteria floors will be replaced, a new partition will safely separate the gymnasium and cafeteria, and a covered walkway will be added. At Middletown High, a new Animal Science Lab will be built, the Construction Trades Lab will be expanded, the Family & Consumer Science Lab will receive a professional-grade kitchen, and wear and tear issues will be addressed. Finally, the parking lot at Louis L. Redding Middle School will be reconfigured with separate pick-up and drop-off areas and 54-year-old hall lockers and locker room lockers will be replaced.

The projects at Cedar Lane and Silver Lake will cause temporary relocation of office staff next summer. Note: Both Cedar Lane and Middletown High projects will continue into the school year.

Regular construction updates are offered monthly at the Board of Education Meeting.



Delaware's first O Ambassadors

Middletown High Senior Brittany Christopher wants to make a difference in the world. Last spring, she applied to Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network to form an O Ambassadors Club at her school, the first public high school in the state to apply for admission. The year-long initiative will be the focus of her Senior Project. Supported by MHS staff, Brittany will recruit fellow students to join her in exploring four millennium development goal themes: poverty, education, health and sustainable development. Specific fund raising and awareness activities will be assigned by the national organization, which will be adapted by Brittany and her fellow club members to meet the interests and abilities of the student body. An enormous box of resource materials has just arrived at the school, signaling the start of this exciting new initiative. We're proud of Brittany and her school, as they take the theme of international education to heart.

Computer evaluation tool piloted

Three schools: Townsend Elementary, Everett Meredith Middle and Middletown High will be partnering with the Northwest Evaluation Association, a national non-profit focused on improving K-12 assessment, to pilot an online tool for student assessment this year. The program, called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) will evaluate a student's growth over time and across grade levels. Participants take the test on a computer, which means questions can automatically adapt – getting easier or harder – based on responses. Results will be available to teachers within 24 hours and will provide an accurate view of each student's level of mastery in reading and mathematics (when compared against the state standards), as well as identifying areas for improvement.

Townsend, the fastest-growing school in our district, was a natural choice for the pilot. The school welcomed 122 new students this year, a gain of 25 percent. The tests are proving invaluable as we work to quickly and accurately evaluate these new students and institute the support they need to successfully join their peers in our classes.

Secondary schools Everett Meredith Middle and Middletown High are administering the test to students in grades six through ten in early October. Armed with this information, teachers and administrators will be working to develop targeted plans and strategies to help every child progress.

Proposals sought for new state test

If you've been following the news, you know that the Department of Education will be seeking proposals for a new standardized testing tool in late 2008. Like the MAP test, the new test will be computer adapted, offer a report within 24-hours for teachers, measure performance growth between fall and spring, and determine if test-takers are at, above, or below the recommended grade level by adapting questions based on student responses. Because the tests will be offered on the computer, it is believed they will take less time to administer and be more economical. As in the past, tests will include both state & nationally-normed items to give a picture of how our children perform at the local and national level. The new test is set to roll out in 2011 when the state's current contract expires.

The world is our campus

Global competition and connectivity are changing the world around us, challenging us to establish a school system that educates its students for success at the highest international levels. To meet this challenge, ASD has begun purposefully integrating international content & 21st Century technology into the subject matter taught in all grades & schools.

To signal this important focus, we have a new logo for our district. It features a globe (interconnectedness) in the shape of an apple (education), cradled in supportive hands (community) and includes references to both High Schools – blue for Middletown & maroon for Appoquinimink. Look for the new artwork to begin appearing in communications this fall.



RideShare makes carpooling easy

This fall, Appoquinimink partnered with RideShare Delaware to promote a voluntary carpool matching service to our parents. Interested families can contact the RideShare office with a request to be entered into their School Pool database. Matches with other Appoquinimink families sharing the same school commute are provided via mail or email, then it's up to individual families to formalize the arrangements! This environmentally friendly, cost-conscious initiative was highlighted in The News Journal in a September story that included an interview with Silver Lake parent Amanda Fitzgerald, a School Pool fan and participant. If you'd like more information, call 1-888-RIDE-MATCH or visit www.ridesharedelaware.org.

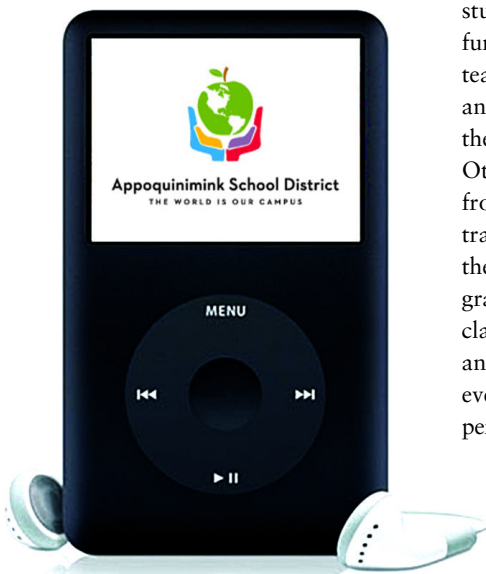
October 11, voter registration deadline

The Department of Elections has asked school districts to remind parents "...You can register to vote, update your address, find out about absentee voting, and answers to many other election-related questions at the Department of Election's website <http://electionsncc.delaware.gov>. The site includes links to election offices in nearby states and the other Delaware counties for friends, co-workers and college students you may know. You can also call the Department at (302) 577-3464."

Webcasts & podcasts now available

A number of our schools now use webcasts & podcasts to communicate with students and parents. In fact, schools have a healthy competition

going to see who can make the best use of this technology. When Alfred G. Waters Middle School opened this fall, administrators posted an orientation video to help introduce students to their new building. The fun, five-minute clip offers images of teachers and staff talking, laughing and dancing to popular music as they issue a welcoming greeting. Other webcasts include highlights from recent PTA meetings; a parent training program about how to use the Home Access Center to find grades, attendance records, classroom assignments and more; and plans to post footage of special events including pep rallies, performances and plays at the school.

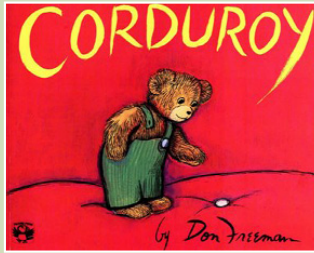


ASD Retiree Luncheon

In November, Appoquinimink will begin a new tradition with a holiday luncheon for teachers and other educational staff who retired from active service during the 2007-2008 school year. Honorees include: Julie Atkinson, Shirley Bowler, Maryellen Brown, Kathy Cioffi, Sharyn Gambino, Carla Garrison, Melanie Giangrant, Susan Judd, Horacio Lewis, Joyce Pyle, Yvonne Scott, Doris "Dee" Smith, Lesley Sparks and Sally Cochran. Their combined experience represents 334 years of educational leadership – an average of more than 23 years per person. If you would like to send members of the group a congratulatory note, please contact the Human Resources Office at (302) 376-4128.

Record-setting attempt

On October 2, the Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center took part in a world-record setting attempt. Our Center was one of thousands of schools nationwide to participate in the Read for the Record Campaign. By encouraging hundreds of thousands of children and adults to read the same book on the same day, supporters aim to make early education a national priority. Guest readers this year included more than 200 teens from Alfred G. Waters Middle School, as well as administrators, teachers, parents, and community volunteers. Our thanks to all our guests for a marvelous job bringing the 2008 official campaign book, *Corduroy* by author Dan Freeman, to life for young children.



Calling all companies

Middletown High is looking for local business people to participate in their Third Annual Career Fair on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Organizers hope to attract between 30-50 exhibitors, including law enforcement, health services, agriculture, natural sciences, management & administration, manufacturing, technology and more.

“Our goal is to interest teens (in a possible career) and let them know what they need to do in high school to prepare,” said Craig Bilinski, the event's lead coordinator.

“It's a wonderful opportunity to meet young people and challenge them to think about opportunities with your organization,” he continued.

“By bringing resources & prospects to our students we can broaden their horizons and inspire them to be successful in school,” agreed Donna Mitchell, MHS principal.

Space is FREE, but limited. The event includes breakfast and lunch for exhibitors. For information, contact Craig Bilinski at 376-4164, craig.bilinski@appo.k12.de.us.

School Business Partners make a difference!

On October 8 and 9, the district's business partners, a group of more than 50 committed organizations, will be meeting with administrators at the Teacher Training Center for a strategic planning session. Schools are seeking three to five high-profile initiatives where the partnership between school and business can make a lasting difference for our students. For more information or to become involved, please contact your local school or the Superintendent's office at 376-4101.

Renzulli Learning arrives in Delaware

Teachers at Cedar Lane Elementary are introducing students to Renzulli Learning this fall. Developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli, the Director of Research for Gifted and Talented at the University of Connecticut, the web-based program begins by creating an individualized assessment of each child's interests & preferred methods of engagement. Using this information, teachers can then create personalized lesson plans offering students an opportunity to explore more than 20,000 online and offline resources selected for their ability to stimulate interests and abilities. Resources are safe, appropriate for the classroom, and increase content and concept retention due to the personalized relevance of a topic.

This customized approach makes learning fun and effective. The program, which is used in more than 2,000 schools in the U.S. and abroad, is new to Delaware. It has been proven to raise test scores in reading, comprehension, math and science, especially among socio-economically disadvantaged students.

Best of all, the activities can be accessed from school, home, a child care center, the library, or anywhere an internet connection is available.

Each student's projects and records will be stored in a Talent Portfolio, an individualized learning environment that provides a record of progress. It is accessible anytime, anywhere and can transport student information from grade to grade.

A corresponding Parent Site will allow adults to see what their children have been learning, monitor their progress, & participate in supportive assignments. In fact, family participation is considered an important component of the program.

After testing the new program at Cedar Lane this year, we hope to expand Renzulli Learning to other elementary schools. To learn more about a recent study on Renzulli Learning and increased test scores, visit www.renzullilearning.com or contact Curriculum Director for Elementary Schools Dr. Debbie Panchisin at 376-4270.



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Host families needed for visiting artist program

As we move into year two of our International Education initiative, we will be introducing an *Artist In Residence Program* for grades 7 and 8 at all three Middle Schools.

Our first guest will be a master craftsman from the city of Volterra, Italy, a region renowned for its alabaster stone carving. During a two-week program in each school, students will:

- Learn about the historic, economic & cultural influence of the art form
- Discuss motivation and the development of artistic ideas with a professional sculptor
- Develop knowledge of, and appreciation for the tools and techniques used to sculpt alabaster
- Gain an awareness of objects, from the ordinary to the extraordinary, created from the stone
- Learn the qualities & characteristics of the medium that make it so useful to artists
- Work with an artisan to create a small piece for exhibit and to keep
- Participate in an exhibition of student work

Activities supporting the visit will be integrated into Social Studies, Language Arts and Related Arts. Each school will set up a dedicated workspace for the program.

BACKGROUND

This summer, Appoquinimink art educators Nancy Petrella, Jayne Riblett and Sue Petrucci travelled to Italy to take part in a cultural exchange organized by The Delaware Commission on Italian American Culture in conjunction with the Department of Education. During the 14-day visit, the teachers had an opportunity to meet with

representatives from the Town of Volterra and explore international resources that could be shared in the classroom. When Petrella mentioned the idea of collaborating on an Artist In Residence Program, her request was met with enthusiastic support. Details of the visit will be formalized later this fall when Dottore



Alabaster carving from The Museo Storico dell'Alabastro (Historic Alabaster Museum) housed in a restored 12th century convent in Volterra. Photograph courtesy of Walter S. Arnold, sculptor.

Alberto Giannetti, Representative of Delaware in Italy is in Wilmington to help officiate at an opening of an Italian Cultural Affairs Office on the City's Riverfront.

BECOME A HOST FAMILY

We are seeking host families to share American culture & lifestyle with our guest during the six-week residency. Opportunities are available for one or two-week stays. Responsibilities include: a separate bed and a quiet place to study; daily meals with the family; some local transportation; communication, encouragement and sound advice; treatment as a member of the family. For more information, contact Nancy Petrella at nancy.petrella@appo.k12.de.us.

Summit Bridge closing for a week

As reported in our local paper, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be closing Summit Bridge (Route 896, Middletown) to traffic for one week this winter while extensive repairs are conducted. The closure will affect school transportation. A representative from the Corps of Engineers will be attending the October 14, School Board Meeting to offer more information.

Afterward, any decision on the possible effect to schools will be shared with parents, staff and area child care centers.

New website!

The Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center is about to become the first PK-K building to have a website. By late fall, www.clecc.org will feature news & announcements, an online calendar, hotlinks to teacher emails, greetings from the principal, a photo album, the nurse's "nook," and more. We invite you to visit the new site and contact us with your thoughts.

School Board Meetings

Appoquinimink's Board of Education meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Teacher Training Center located at 118 South Sixth Street in Odessa. The public session begins at 7:00 p.m. A schedule and information can be found on the district website, www.apposchooldistrict.com under the BOARD button. Meeting dates for the 2008-2009 school year are: October 14, November 18, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 21, May 12, and June 9.

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Appoquinimink School District

THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

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- Alfred G. Waters Middle School**, 1235 Cedar Lane Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 449-3490
- Appoquinimink Early Childhood Center**, 502 S. Broad St., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 376-4400
- Appoquinimink Training Center**, 118 S. Sixth St., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 376-4128
- Brick Mill Elementary School**, 378 Brick Mill Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 378-5288
- Bunker Hill Elementary**, 1070 Bunker Hill Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, Opening Fall 2009
- Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center**, 1221 Cedar Lane Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 449-5873
- Cedar Lane Elementary School**, 1259 Cedar Lane Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 378-5045
- Olive B. Loss Elementary School**, 200 Brennan Blvd., Bear, DE 19701, (302) 832-1343
- Silver Lake Elementary School**, 200 E. Cochran St., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 378-5023
- Townsend Early Childhood Center**, 10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend, DE 19734, (302) 378-9960
- Townsend Elementary School**, 126 Main St., PO 369, Townsend, DE 19734, (302) 378-5020
- Everett Meredith Middle School**, 504 S. Broad St., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 378-5001
- Louis L. Redding Middle School**, 201 New St., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 378-5030
- Middletown High School**, 120 Silver Lake Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 376-4141
- Adult Continuing Education Programs**, 120 Silver Lake Rd., Middletown, DE 19709, (302) 378-5037

ECRWSS
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Elementary feeder pattern changing in 2009-2010 when Bunker Hill Elementary opens

Use the **SCHOOL LOCATOR** feature on our website, apposchooldistrict.com/transportation/locator.cfm for information specific to your home.

Last spring, after a series of successful presentations to parents and the public, Appoquinimink's Board of Education approved new attendance zones for elementary schools. The plan, which goes into effect in the 2009-2010 school year, reflects the addition of Bunker Hill Elementary, set to open in August 2009.

Later this fall, the district will be mailing families a letter confirming school assignments for 2009-2010. In the meantime, feeder pattern information for next year is available



on our website. Simply go to the **TRANSPORTATION** button and scroll down to the **SCHOOL LOCATOR** feature where you will be asked to enter your street address.

Choice applications

District schools participate in the statewide School Choice Program based on available seating capacity. While every attempt is made to satisfy the requests of families residing within the district, fast-paced growth severely limits our flexibility in the matter. Applications for the 2009-2010 school year will be available in schools and on our website beginning Oct. 31. Families have until Jan. 14, to submit completed applications. Requests received after the deadline will not be processed but will be added to a waiting list where they may be revisited at a later date. For more information, call (302) 376-4105.

Capacity issues prevent the following locations: Cedar Lane Elementary, Olive B. Loss Elementary and Alfred G. Waters Middle from accepting new "choice" applications for 2009-2010. Students currently "choiced" into these locations may reapply for admission.

The Appoquinimink School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, national origin, or other legally protected categories in its educational programs, activities, employment, or student admissions policies or practices. Inquires regarding compliance with the above can be directed to: **Section 504 Contact:** Kittie Rehrig, Supervisor of Student Services, Appoquinimink School District, 118 South Sixth Street, Box 4010, Odessa, DE 19730. Telephone 302.376.4111. Section 504 Coordinator's Responsibilities: To coordinate the Appoquinimink School District's efforts to comply with the disability discrimination laws. **Title IX Contact:** Matt Fallis, Director of Personnel, Appoquinimink School District, 118 South Sixth Street, Box 4010, Odessa, DE 19730. Telephone 302.376.4275. Title IX Coordinator's Responsibilities: To coordinate the Appoquinimink School District's efforts to comply with and carry out the District's responsibilities under Title IX, including any investigation of any complaint alleging noncompliance with Title IX or alleging actions which would be prohibited by Title IX.