

ROSELLE SCHOOL Bulletin



A Publication of the
Roselle Public Schools

Winter 2016/17

7 Roselle Schools in the Top 38 Healthiest Schools in the Tri-State Area

The seven Roselle schools nationally recognized earlier this year for their efforts to make school a healthier place for students and staff were formally honored for being among the top 38 healthiest schools in the Tri-State area.

At a commemorative event took place at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City on December 9, 2016, the Portland, OR-based Alliance for a Healthier Generation recognized the schools for their ongoing efforts to raise awareness about healthy eating and exercise.

The Alliance recognized Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School and Principal Andreea Harry with Silver Certification status. Abraham Clark High School, Grace Wilday Jr. High School, Harrison Elementary School, Kindergarten Success Academy, Leonard V. Moore Middle School, Washington Elementary School all received Bronze Certification.

Polk School led the way in Roselle, first receiving Bronze status in

2015 before being elevated to Silver this year. The remaining schools are all expected to apply for Silver Certification next year.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation was founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation and works to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity and to empower kids to develop lifelong healthy habits. The Alliance partners with schools, companies, community organizations, healthcare professionals and families to lead a healthier generation.

"We are thrilled as we diligently work to ensure that our students and staff are focusing on the impact of healthy choices, with the belief that healthy habits can only positively impact intellectual growth, said Asst. Superintendent Dr. Dana E. Walker. "We embrace educating our students' minds, bodies and spirits. All of our efforts are interconnected and purposeful! As we focus on healthy options daily, we are changing our present conditions and the world's future!"



ACHS TOY DRIVE BRINGS CHRISTMAS HOME FOR LOCAL NEEDY FAMILIES – Abraham Clark High School National Honor Society and Student Government opened their toy drive in the high school cafeteria, collecting new or gently-used toys for children at the Children's Specialized Hospital!

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The Roselle Board of Education



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Dr. Richard R. Corbett

Interim Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Dana Walker

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction



Rhonda N. Curry

Business Administrator, Board Secretary

A Message from the Superintendent

By Dr. Richard R. Corbett, Interim Superintendent of Schools



To the Roselle Public Education Community:

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Roselle Board of Education and the entire Roselle community for giving me the opportunity to lead the Roselle Public Schools at this critical time. I would also like to personally thank Roselle Board of Education President Candi Young for her guidance and leadership as well as to former Superintendent Dr. Kevin West for positioning our district for success as we continue to build.

I have served my communities in several capacities over the course of my life, including time spent as a Merchant Marine and as an ordained minister, but the last 23 years of my life have been dedicated to public education and to my students.

There is nothing more rewarding than lighting a child's path to a brighter future and I very much look forward to bringing that energy to Roselle. Working with our parents, teachers and staff, board members, our community leaders and the entire Roselle community, we can make a positive difference for our students. With the help of this supportive community, we can light up the town!

The second half of the 2016-2017 academic year is going to be critical from an administrative standpoint. As such, I've outlined some key priorities for my first 100 days as superintendent:

- Analyze the effectiveness of current strategies aimed at improving student achievement and addressing the achievement gap. What are we doing now? Is it working? Why or why not?
- Enhance the district's governance by establishing a transparent, trusting and collaborative relationship with the Board of Education.
- Review the district's organizational structure, policies and procedures and determine whether the district's operations are efficient and support student achievement.
- Create a positive school climate and culture centered on teaching and learning.
- Engage ALL sectors of the Roselle community as we pursue our mission to prepare students for college, work and life.

These are ambitious goals, I know, but I am supremely confident in the dedication of our faculty and staff, as well as their knowledge and talent to meet these goals. I can't do it alone, but I know we can do it together!

An Invitation on Behalf of Mayor Christine Dansereau, the Roselle Borough Council, Roselle Public Schools, and the Roselle Community.

A Musical Tribute to Love & Unity In Celebration of

Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING

January 17, 2017 Abraham Clark High School Auditorium
6:30 to 8 p.m.



Special performances include Roselle's own Leading Tones and the Interscholar Choir of Washington Elementary, Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary and Harrison Elementary Schools





Parent Participation is Promising!

Parents have the position and ability to be the most influential force in their child's life. No matter how young or old the student, when a parent is closely connected to his/her child's schooling and teachers, the student's chances for success are almost always increased.

Here in Roselle, we recognize value parent partnerships and continue to provide events to foster strong relationships. Administrators and teachers continue to show our commitment to making connections beyond the traditional – and very important, Back to School Nights.

Some of the events that have already transpired this year both to educate and to enjoy each other as learning partners have been:

- **HISPANICHERITAGEANDCULTUREAPPRECIATION NIGHT:** This wonderful event at Harrison Elementary School was complete with music, food, and dancing.
- **PARCC PARENT NIGHT:** This event was organized with the goal of providing an overview of New Jersey's standardized tests with breakout sessions tailored for parents of elementary, middle and high school students.
- **PARENT RESOURCE NIGHT:** This night featured a variety of workshops including Internet Safety and Your Child, Homework Assistance and Motivation, ESL Parent Advisory Meeting and Academic Interventions.

- **GIFTED AND TALENTED INFORMATION NIGHT:** This support parents' understanding of the application process for John Hopkins University eligibility.
- **LITERACY NIGHT:** This event featured an active parent workshop geared to provide helpful strategies to face some of the tough challenges of parenting.
- **WATCHDOG DAD EVENT:** This was designed to help dads understand their role in the education process.

We are off to an exciting start with increased parental involvement –and we want more! To those who have already joined us, thank you for strengthening our relationship with your child through your engagement! For those who have not attended yet, no worries - we hope to see you soon! Please pay attention to the flyers and phone blasts and mark your calendars.

Also, we would like to extend an invitation for your ideas. If you have a thought for a parent/school event, I encourage you to reach out to your school's principal, PTA or my office and share your idea. No one has all the answers but we are certain that when we work together, our children will be more successful! The greater the numbers – the greater the impact!



MONDAY, JANUARY 16,
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
observance - schools closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17,
Schools closed
(staff in-service)

For a full 2016-2017 schedule, visit
WWW.ROSELLESCHOOLS.ORG



Rotary Club Honors Roselle Rams Captains, Coaches

Congratulations to the Roselle Rams and the Roselle Park Panthers for being honored by the Roselle-Roselle Park Rotary Club on November 17!

Coaches and players heard from former NFL wide receiver Lonnie Allgood, who discussed teamwork and academic integrity.

The Rams and the Panthers will face each other in Roselle Park this year for the 99th annual Thanksgiving Day contest, a rivalry which is among the oldest in the state, according to Abraham Clark High School Principal Rashon Mickens.



Abraham Clark High School Honors Local Heroes

On Monday, November 7, Abraham Clark High School Principal Rashon Mickens presented plaques in honor of Roselle Mayor Christine Dansereau, Board of Education President Candi Young, O.E.M. Co-ordinator and Firefighter Robert Stephens, Deputy O.E.M. Deputy Co-ordinator Sgt. Helder Freire, Roselle Police Cpt. James Loprete and O.E.M. volunteer Juan Sierra.

The recognition was a result of the quick response from Borough agencies to clean up a graffiti incident which occurred at the high school just two days prior to the first day of school.

"I was informed that our school had been vandalized... with derogatory words and phrases. It was very upsetting," Mickens said.

At a loss for what to do, Mickens said he was grateful for the swift response from his Borough partners.

"There was a host of people to ensure that this building was a safe, clean, secure and nurturing environment for the first day of school. We talk about building a stronger community for a brighter future, and this is where it all begins," Mickens said.



LOCAL HERO — Sgt. Helder Freire of the Roselle Police Department was among the many public safety professionals honored November 7 at Abraham Clark High School for their quick response to a September 2016 graffiti incident.



WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND AT THE POLK SCHOOL: On Thursday, December 8, Santa Claus arrived at the Dr. Charles C. Polk School to set up his workshop and meet with parents and students to give their holiday wish list!

And here's a fun fact: The Yeti displayed with Santa and his elf were part of Sax Fifth Avenue's 2013 holiday window display! Through a parent connection to the district, the display was donated to Polk for this special occasion!

Congratulations to our Students of the Month!



SEPTEMBER 2016

Scarlett Aguayza, Pre-K, Roselle Preschool Annex
Brenden Rivera, Kindergarten, Kindergarten Success Academy
Christopher Mayers, 4th Grade, Harrison Elementary School
Rodginald Sully, 4th Grade, Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School
Anthony Persaud, 3rd Grade, Washington Elementary School
Alycia Searwar, 5th Grade, Leonard V. Moore Middle School
Raciely Rodriguez, 7th Grade, Grace Wilday Junior High School
Christiana Iferika, 12th Grade, Abraham Clark High School



OCTOBER 2016

Angelina Mendez, Pre-K, Roselle Preschool Annex
LaQuan Sheffield, Kindergarten, Kindergarten Success Academy
Erika Luna, 3rd Grade, Harrison Elementary School
Amiyah Graham, 3rd Grade, Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School
Ayden Moreau, 1st Grade, Washington Elementary School
Jared Walters, 6th Grade, Leonard V. Moore Middle School
Anaya Hairston, 8th Grade, Grace Wilday Junior High School
Germain Cruz, 12th Grade, Abraham Clark High School



NOVEMBER 2016

Leo Labat, Pre-K, Roselle Preschool Annex
Crystal Viola, Kindergarten, Kindergarten Success Academy
Sophia Nieto-Soto, 2nd Grade, Harrison Elementary School
Catalina Andrade, 2nd Grade, Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School
Matthew Alcaraz, 2nd Grade, Washington Elementary School
Montana Dixon, 6th Grade, Leonard V. Moore Middle School
Mary Jane Luise, 7th Grade, Grace Wilday Junior High School
Robert Stephens, 12th Grade, Abraham Clark High School



DECEMBER 2016

Isabella Borbon, Pre-K, Roselle Preschool Annex
Allen Caotes, Kindergarten, Kindergarten Success Academy
Rich Champagne, 1st Grade, Harrison Elementary School
Brianna Sanchez, 1st Grade, Dr. Charles C. Polk Elementary School
Elyse Lovelace, 1st Grade, Washington Elementary School
Tahree Bishop, 5th Grade, Leonard V. Moore Middle School
Flora Pierre-Louis, 8th Grade, Grace Wilday Junior High School
Caroline Cordero, 12th Grade, Abraham Clark High School



Roselle Recognizes Faculty and Staff with Perfect Attendance

At its October 17, 2016 meeting, the Roselle Board of Education honored several district staff members for their exemplary record of perfect attendance during the 2015/2016 school year! Those honored were:

- **ADMINISTRATION:** Dr. Kevin West, Former Superintendent of Schools
- **ROSELLE PRESCHOOL ANNEX:** Ms. Jaime Rutkowski
- **KINDERGARTEN SUCCESS ACADEMY:** Ms. Carol Jackson, Ms. Claudia Anderson, Mr. Terron Riddick, and Ms. Carolyn Whittaker
- **HARRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Ms. Kathryn Makely and Ms. Stefanie Pilles
- **DR. CHARLES C. POLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Ms. Gloria Carter-Hopkins and Ms. Debra Ann Williams
- **LEONARD V. MOORE MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Ms. Michele Robertson
- **ABRAHAM CLARK HIGH SCHOOL:** Mr. Thomas Garrett, Mr. Johnny Rodriguez, and Mr. Michael Smith.



Roselle Officials to Keep Close Watch on Turf Field

Following a slew of national reports concerning a prominent field turf manufacturer, FieldTurf, Roselle Borough officials in December assured residents that the Sylvester Land field on Columbus Avenue has not shown any of the premature wear and tear.

While FieldTurf did manufacture the Duraspine material used on the Sylvester Land field, Roselle Borough Administrator David Brown said the field has been properly and consistently groomed and maintained since its 2010 installation.

Brown added that the Borough nor the Roselle Board of Education have received reports of any premature wear and tear, nor have they detected any.

“Maintenance of the Sylvester Land Field is par for the course; we would immediately know if it were failing us,”

Brown said.

While FieldTurf has been scrutinized in the national media, Brown noted that only one in five fields have reportedly shown premature deterioration.

Brown added that the field is still under its eight-year warranty.

“If there is an issue, we will take all action available to us to immediately remediate any field damage related to any malfunction,” Brown said.

“Roselle’s athletics and its recreational programs are immensely important to our residents and to the Borough. We take this issue very seriously and will continue close monitoring of all our recreational assets,” he added.

Abraham Clark High School Students Take Part in Workshop for Drug Prevention, Sex Education

On November 21, Abraham Clark High School hosted the first of five workshops geared to educate students about safe sex in a relationship, the choice of abstinence, pregnancy prevention, STI prevention, HIV prevention, and the negative effects of drugs and alcohol.

The event featured half a dozen groups comprising two seniors leading freshman through each subject area. The program, the Teen Prevention Education Program (Teen PEP) is a collaboration among the Center for Supportive Schools, HiTOPS, Inc., and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

The program model is designed to:

- Offer stakeholder teams effective resources and strategies to create a culture of positive peer pressure where responsible sexual decisions are valued.
- Provide faculty advisors with increased knowledge and abilities to effectively teach sexual health to students in an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- Give peer educators the information, communication skills, and confidence to be effective sexual health advocates and leaders among their peers.
- Equip students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to avoid STIs, HIV and unintended pregnancy.
- Provide parents/guardians with the knowledge and skills to appropriately discuss sex and sexuality with their children.



Teen PEP is implemented in high schools as a course for-credit that meets daily (or the equivalent) and in organizations as an after-school program. Carefully selected junior and/or senior students are enrolled in the Teen PEP course and provided with educational training that addresses a range of topics related to sexual health. The peer educators, in turn, conduct a series of structured workshops with groups of younger peers, faculty, and parents.

Teen PEP is a voluntary program that is implemented across New Jersey and North Carolina. The program was developed in 1995 through a collaboration of the Center for Supportive Schools, HiTOPS, Inc., and the primary sponsor, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Roselle Respects Diversity



The Harrison Elementary School held their 1st annual “Good Character” parade October 28. The theme this year was “Respect Diversity.”

All students and staff gathered at the front of the school on Harrison Ave. The parade route consisted of once around the block starting from Drake Ave. and ending on 3rd. Ave. Students from the Abraham Clark H.S. marching band and color guard along with the Junior R.O.T.C. color guard participated in the event.

Members of the student council held up signs spelling out RESPECT, while students in each grade level carried small flags represented by a different color.

Roselle Board of Education and Board President Candi Young Honor Departing Roselle Superintendent Dr. Kevin West

Roselle Board of Education President Candi Young and other board members commemorated former Superintendent Dr. Kevin West in November for his service to the Roselle Public Schools.

Dr. West became Superintendent of Schools for the East Orange Public Schools on December 1, 2016.

“We are so happy for you and we hope you continue to grow and do all that God has called on you to do,” Young said before presenting a plaque to Dr. West in his honor.

Dr. West called his departure and new endeavors “bittersweet,” but said he was proud of what his administration accomplished during his five-year term and that the district would be left in good hands.

“It’s good to be able to leave knowing the progress that we’ve made together,” West said. “Roselle has some of the most phenomenal students, staff, and parents I’ve ever encountered during my 34 years in education,” he added.

West also applauded the members of the Board of Education. “When you have a board of nine people we’re going to have differences, but I think we all agree we accomplished great things. I’m happy and I’m very emotional: the Roselle community has given so much and I take those memories with me and I’ll have those with me always,” he said.”



WE’LL MISS YOU, DR. WEST — Roselle Board of Education President Candi Young and members of the Roselle Board of Education honored department district Superintendent Dr. Kevin West in November for his five years of service. In August, West was hired to head the East Orange Public Schools. His last day in Roselle was December 1. Thank you, Dr. West, for your service to Roselle!

Roselle Chamber of Commerce Honors Two from District



The Roselle Chamber of Commerce held its community service and awards dinner December 13. Among the honorees were the district's own Dr. Nathan Fisher, principal of the Kindergarten Success Academy, and Mary Ellen Moffitt, the district's Gifted & Talented Coordinator.



Dr. Fisher was honored as Principal of the Year and Ms. Moffitt was awarded as Educator of the Year. They were recognized in a special dinner at the Central Park restaurant in Roselle.



MONSTER LITERACY NIGHT—What a great night at Harrison Elementary School for Monster Literacy Night. Games, dance, arts and crafts and our book fair all came together for an outstanding event!

CONGRATULATIONS ON AN AMAZING SEASON TO OUR 2016 ROSELLE RAMS! - Athletic Director John Schmid and Rams football Coach James Williams, Abraham Clark High School Principal Rashon Mickens, Superintendent Dr. Richard Corbett and the Roselle Board of Education recognized the Rams' historic, 10-win season December 20. The Rams, who finished 10-1, were 5-0 in their Valley Division, earning them the Division Championship in the Mid-State 38 Football Conference.

