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News

Coebourn Elementary flies flag of excellence

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BROOKHAVEN — When she arrives at school this morning, Madison Mazon will be sure to cast a long glance at the flagpole in front of Coebourn Elementary.

“When I look at that flag, I just feel really good inside,” the 9-year-old fourth-grader said Thursday. “I know that we all worked really hard for it.”

The flag that now flies just below the Stars and Stripes is no ordinary flag — it’s the mark of a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, and Coebourn is one of just a handful of schools in the nation to earn it this year. Thursday afternoon, nearly 400 students, teachers, board members and administrators gathered in front of the school to raise that flag for the very first time, and to celebrate everything that went into achieving it.

“Just being out here and seeing this is amazing,” Mazon said. “I’m really, really excited and honored.”

Of the nearly 140,000 schools throughout the United States, a little more than 300 were chosen as this year’s Blue Ribbon honorees. The nationwide program honors schools that are achieving at high levels or where the achievement gap is narrowing, as well as those schools whose students attain and maintain high academic goals.

Only 14 schools in Pennsylvania have earned the honor this year, and only one other — Rose Tree Elementary in Media — is also located in Delaware County.

Thursday, Coebourn officials gave students an entire day to celebrate the achievement, culminating with a special assembly and flag-raising ceremony in front of the school. Students marched into the assembly through a mass of Sun Valley High School cheerleaders and most of the marching band, dancing and singing along to the district’s fight song.

State Sen. Dominic Pileggi, R-9, of Chester, was on hand, as was a representative from the office of Rep. Joe Hackett, R-161, of Ridley Township.

“This is a great occasion,” Pileggi told the students, all of whom wore dark blue T-shirts emblazoned with the Blue Ribbon logo. “This is something you can look back on with pride.”

Pileggi presented school Principal Dr. Holly Acosta with a Senate resolution marking the achievement. Later, Superintendent Dr. George Steinhoff unveiled a \$3,000 donation from the district that will be used to purchase new books for Coebourn’s library.

“You are a special school,” he said. “We are so proud of what you have accomplished, and you should be proud of what you’ve accomplished. It took a lot of hard work. An award like this doesn’t come easily.”

Penn-Delco School Board President Anthony Ruggieri agreed.

“You guys did it,” he said. “You guys are the best.”

Grace Keeley certainly thought so. As she watched Acosta hoist the flag up the flagpole, she commended her classmates on the achievement.

“It feels awesome to be named a Blue Ribbon school,” she said. “We have great students and wonderful teachers, and I feel very pumped that my school got this awesome award.”

So does Madison Mazon.

“We studied hard and worked hard on our PSSAs, and our teachers worked really hard to make sure we were ready,” she said. “I’m having fun celebrating everything we’ve done.”

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