



# In The Round

Your Key To Round Lake Area Schools Community Unit District #116

*The Mission of the Round Lake Area Schools, a diverse and multicultural district, in partnership with our community is to develop successful life-long learners who can contribute to an ever changing global society by providing all students with high quality learning experiences.*

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## 33 Flags

*Written By: Dennis Stonewall, Chief Executive Officer*

These flags represent student birth nations from around the world at the high school. We have yet to look at the data for grades K-8 and a closer look will likely add to the flags. We have students that speak up to five languages and write and read in three. Every week I run into community members that have no idea just how global we've become at RLAS-116.

We represent at least 36 languages that are used throughout the day, evening and weekends. Chief among our objectives is to promote literacy for our second language learners. By 2020 this population will have increased by 47% for children between the ages of 5 and 13 for Round Lake and for other schools across America.

The springboard for their success will be cemented with a strong foundation for their native language. Assessment will continue as being essential for developing individual and group strategy. A child needs a solid language structure to communicate concepts and discuss abstract ideas. Research suggests that the relationship between native language and the acquisition of a new language is most effective when primary instruction in the native language leading to achievement in the language being acquired.

The purpose of acquiring a new language is communication, however, proficiency runs much deeper because it knits how the written language is understood to each of the functions associated with learning. Most basic would be the ability to

follow simple written instructions and more complex would be the employment of critical thinking skills.

Home-school communications play a significant role for developing structure within the foundation for both languages. Parents make a significant contribution when they help by using the language being learned as a primary communications tool. This really serves to promote a language-rich environment for all concerned.

Key to student success is our ability to create a learning environment where students are able to read, speak, listen and write with proficiency. Cooperative learning opportunities, tutoring, and teamwork are a few methods for successful language exchange and used effectively, they will lead to positive development.



The opportunities are endless for what we can do together for promoting student success. Chief among this is our ability to graduate meaning-makers. They will be the good citizens of tomorrow and the taxpayers for our future.

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## Spring's Forward Focus

*Written By: Dr. Janet Elenbogen, Chief Educational Officer*

District #116 extends a sincere "thank you" for the approval of the recent referendum question. These dollars will help us to provide additional space and quality settings for student learning. Your support and collaboration are so appreciated and essential, as we continue to build on our record of achievement.

The District continues to see improvements on a variety of measures. The Illinois Interactive Report Card data illustrates a 4 percent gain overall on statewide testing over the previous year. Student achievement overall in the District has been trending up. Every school indicated gains in student performance on state assessments ranging from 1-13 percent over the previous year's performance. Additional improvement trends were noted, as the truancy rate decreased by .8%, the dropout rate decreased by 1.7%

and the graduation rate increased by 6.6% over the previous year's measures. Each school received full-recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). We were notified by the ISBE that our transitional bilingual education programs met the Annual Measure of Achievement Outcomes. Last week we learned that we have an increase in our number of Illinois State scholars and proudly recognize 27 students who received this honor. We congratulate our students, teachers, and administrators and thank you for the key role that parents and community play in the positive changes at RLAS. As we complete this year's Illinois measures of achievement, we look forward to continued successes.

The District continues to use data to guide decisions. This has led to improvements in curriculum,

instruction, and programs such as Soar to Success, Read 180, and Club Z. Our professional development emphasis on differentiated instruction addresses the needs of all children. Training has also featured our new elementary science program, student information system, and new assessment approaches.

New faces in the District include our Director of Bilingual Education, Mrs. Mytzy Rodriguez-Kufner, who has already made a positive impact with recruitment efforts, student assessment initiatives, and new program ideas. We warmly welcome her to District #116.

With the end of the third quarter, we are actively planning for next year. Spring is here and we look forward to celebrating the many accomplishments of our students as we approach the final quarter of the 2005-2006 school year.

## 2006-07 Registration Information

*Written By: Walter Korpan, Chief Financial Officer*

Registration is very important for students. Having students register early shows responsibility in not only saving money but in making sure students are placed in their home school and have, if needed, transportation services on time. There are too many times that parents do not register early and are pressured to register on remaining dates. This forces parents and students to stand in long lines—usually when it is uncomfortably warm—only to find out that they were not prepared to register. That is, they have not paid past due fees, forgot to bring important documents with them (2 proofs of address and kindergarteners must have original birth certificate) or did not apply for waivers. These and other concerns will certainly cause havoc with registration.

This year, if students do not register online ([www.rlas-116.org](http://www.rlas-116.org)) between **March 1, 2006 and July 15, 2006**, or in person prior to August 2 they must make an appointment with the registrar. This will certainly delay the time that students will be allowed into school.

Registration for the 2006-07 school year began March 9 for grades 1-8 and on March 16 for kindergarten students. There were 1200 students registered for school. Additional dates for registration are:

**March 1 to July 15**—On-line ([www.rlas-116.org](http://www.rlas-116.org)) is ongoing.

Parents need to take advantage and register their children early in order to save \$25 in registration fees and have a better opportunity to attend their home school. Fees are \$85 for kindergarten, \$85 for grades 1-6, \$100 for grades 7 and 8 and \$120 for grades 9-12. There is an additional fee of \$6 for an assignment notebook. There is a \$6 lock fee for middle and high school students. The early registration fees are effective on-line through May 26, 2006

**On August 1 and 2** registration will occur for all grades (K-12) and for students who attend special education classes and bilingual students at the high school. The hours for registration on August 1 will be 1:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on August 2. These two dates will be the last time for students to register before school begins. If you have not registered your student(s) by this time, this will delay your student's ability to attend school on time. Fees will also be increased by another \$25 and bus service will be delayed by up to 7 days.

## Student Instructional Support Programs in Place in District 116!

*Written By: Dr. Jeff Schleff, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction*

A number of innovative student support programs have been introduced this school year. The purpose of what follows is to help provide information on how we are helping students progress in all areas of student achievement.

**READ 180:** Read 180 is a research-based program that combines technology, guided reading, and small group instruction to help struggling readers make gains in literacy comprehension. This program has been introduced to support selected 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Ellis School. It is also being used at Round Lake Middle School with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Developmental Reading Program.

**SOAR TO SUCCESS:** This innovative program is also designed to be used in small group settings. A teacher and not more than 10 students meet three times a week after school at Beach, Village, Murphy, and Indian Hill Schools to provide additional support to 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders who qualify for Title I reading support services. The program uses highly engaging quality literature and a secure and structured approach to lesson design.

**CLUB Z TUTORIAL SERVICES:** This program is the District's Supplemental Educational Services Program designed to provide support to low income students at Ellis School. This program is funded by designated Title I funds in accordance with NCLB requirements. The program consists of 22 ninety minute after school sessions offered by a tutorial firm called Club Z! Currently 38 students are enrolled in this after school program, and we are looking to expand the program to other Ellis low-income students not currently participating.

### ASSESSMENT

We all know that accurate and meaningful student assessment is a key to understanding the nature and extent of student academic growth. Assessment also helps teachers be informed about

the learning profile of students. This, in turn, helps teachers plan for effective instruction. While testing and assessment may sometimes make students anxious, what we learn from assessments cannot be underestimated.

**ISAT/IMAGE:** The low point of assessment administration was reached the past two weeks with this year's ISAT/IMAGE testing. The media has included reports about the challenges that districts have encountered throughout the state regarding the availability of test materials. ISAT and IMAGE are assessments for students in grades 3 through 8, and for the first time this year all students are being tested in reading and mathematics at every grade level. These tests have become "high stakes" in nature due to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) sanctions, financial and otherwise, that result when schools fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for more than one consecutive year. There is a silver lining to every cloud though. Despite significant delays in materials from Harcourt Publishing, District 116 schools have been able to administer the ISAT and IMAGE tests in accordance with the state protocol. Students have been tested in appropriate environments that have allowed them to do their best work. We look forward to receiving our test results in June or July of 2006.

**STANFORD/APRENDA:** The Stanford Achievement Test, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, was administered for a second consecutive year to all students in grades 2 through 8 from April 10 through April 13. This standardized test is unique to our other assessments. It provides what is referred to as "normative" data that allow parents, teachers, and administrators to compare the progress of our students to others across the nation in the areas of reading, language arts, social studies, science, mathematics, and spelling. The Aprenda test is the Spanish version of the test that is used by students in our English Language Learner (ELL) program. Test score results will be distributed to parents at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

## Calendar of Events

*April 26 & 27*  
PSAE Testing—for Juniors

*April 27*  
School Finance Authority Meeting  
7:00pm

*May 4*  
School Improvement Day—Early  
Dismissal  
Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm

*May 17*  
Senior Honors Night 6:30pm

*May 18*  
Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm

*May 22*  
Teacher's Institute Day—No School

*May 23*  
2nd Semester Exams Begin

*May 25*  
2nd Semester Ends  
4th Quarter Ends  
School Finance Authority Meeting 7:00pm

*May 26*  
Last Day of School—Early Dismissal  
(If no emergency days are used)  
Middle School Promotion 7:00pm  
Report Cards Sent Home

*May 27*  
High School Graduation 10:00am

*June 1*  
Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm

*June 15*  
Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm

*June 22*  
School Finance Authority Meeting 7:00pm

# Internet Safety — Blogs!

*Written By: Mr. Michael Kastler, Director of Technology*

There has been a considerable amount of press recently about ‘blogs’ (Web Logs) and children. The amount of information that kids are sharing with the world at large is frightening to concerned parents. And for good reason.

In February of this year, 7 girls at one Connecticut high school were propositioned by an online predator. He got information about how to contact them, what they looked like and what their interests were from a popular online ‘blogspot’ –

MySpace.com. Police commenting on this incident remarked that blogs are quickly becoming a sexual predator’s best friend. “[Blogs] are like E-bay or Amazon for the sexual predator. An online catalog of young

with pictures and all the information you need to target them.” In a recent survey, 1 in 5 children told the Justice Department that they’d received unwanted sexual advances online.

But the news is not all bad; blogs like MySpace and Xanga can be an important way for children to communicate ideas, ask questions, and express feelings and emotions that would be difficult in other settings.

The important thing to remember as a parent is that kids oftentimes do not understand or appreciate the danger of sharing personal information, and they should be

reminded that anyone on the Internet could access these sites, not just their friends and classmates. Some of the dangerous information your child may

be sharing on the Internet include pictures of themselves, their addresses, school schedules and cell phone or pager numbers.

Before you can educate your child, the first thing you must do as a parent is educate yourself. Find out what web sites your child or her classmates are using and log into them. Don’t forget – if Internet predators can find your child’s blog, so can you! Search through the sites to see what information your child and her friends are sharing. Use Internet search tools such as Google and Yahoo! to become familiar with the terms and topics being discussed.

It is difficult if not impossible to stop blog usage, so talk to your child about the dangers honestly and openly. For a concise listing of tips and information that you can use today, go to [http://www.rlas-116.org/gen\\_info/technology/InternetSafety.php](http://www.rlas-116.org/gen_info/technology/InternetSafety.php) (this page can be found on our District web site under ‘General Info’, ‘Technology’, ‘Internet Safety Tips’).



[http://www.rlas-116.org/gen\\_info/technology/InternetSafety.php](http://www.rlas-116.org/gen_info/technology/InternetSafety.php)

# CHARACTER COUNTS!

*Written By: Kathy Myers*

Good Character still counts in the Round Lake Area! BEST (Bringing Everyone’s Strengths Together) and CHARACTER COUNTS! will be hosting their second annual CHARACTER COUNTS! recognition awards on May 6, 2006. The Round Lake Area community works hard throughout the year to reinforce the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship and we want to celebrate these efforts. Students, adults and organizations will be selected and the winners will be honored at 11:00 am at the Round Lake Area Park District Ranger Police Station. Everyone is invited to attend the Award Ceremony.

At the Recognition Award ceremony, students will be painting picnic tables with

murals that represent their school and CHARACTER COUNTS! The picnic tables that were painted last year can be viewed at the Round Lake Area Park District Teen Center. This year the picnic tables will be placed in the playgrounds at each of the elementary buildings, Middle School, High School and St. Joseph.

CHARACTER COUNTS! also wants to thank Round Lake Beach for supporting Character Counts. Round Lake Beach recently painted their new water tower with the words “A Character Counts! Community”. What a wonderful way to reinforce that we are people of character in the Round Lake Area.



CHARACTER COUNTS! Picnic table painting at Award Ceremony last year.

## FAQs Frequently Asked Questions

Our schools often find that they are hearing the same questions over and over. We hope that you find this list of FAQs to be helpful. If you feel that there are other areas that need to be addressed in this newsletter, please contact us at 847-270-9000.

**Q: “We are going on vacation. What do we need to do?”**

A: According to IN THE KNOW: Vacations during the school year are discouraged because they interrupt the student’s learning opportunities. Parent/guardian(s) who must take a vacation during the school year must inform the school administration at least five (5) school days before leaving for a scheduled vacation. Absences due to vacation will be allowed for a maximum of five (5) days per school year.

K-6 students and/or their parent/guardian must make arrangements with their teachers for make-up work the day they return to school. Students will be given the same number of days that were missed for vacation plus (2) to turn in work.

7-12 students must get assignments prior to leaving for vacation and complete them before returning to school.

**Q: “What is the ACT (American College Test) and how can it help my child?”**

A: The ACT is America’s most widely accepted college entrance exam. It assesses high school students’ general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. This test is administered to all juniors on April 26 as part of the PSAE Test, Day #1 of the two day testing period. The multiple-choice tests cover four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science.

**Q: “What is the Explore Test and how can it help my child?”**

A: The EXPLORE program is designed to help 8th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. EXPLORE prepares students not only for their high school coursework, but for their post high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student’s future academic and career success. Some benefits include:

**A solid starting point**

As a high school intake measure, EXPLORE gives educators the means to structure high school planning and career exploration for students and parents. It serves as a baseline to monitor academic progress.

**Early planning information**

Through EXPLORE, students’ strengths and weaknesses can be identified early in their educational development, when they have the greatest opportunity to establish a four-year program of studies that will help them achieve their career and educational goals.

**Q: “What session will my child attend for kindergarten?”**

A: If you reside east of Cedar Lake Rd and north of Route 134, your child will attend the PM session. If you reside west of Cedar Lake Rd and south of Route 134, your child will attend the AM session.

**Q: “What happens if I want a different kindergarten session?”**

A: Sessions are based on home address only. Those who move to the opposite session will be afforded the opportunity to change if space permits. Each classroom can serve no more than 29 students at a time.

**Q: “Does someone need to be present at the drop off point for my kindergarten student?”**

A: Every child must be met at the drop off point by a parent or responsible person who knows the child. The responsible party can be a babysitter or family member. A child will not be allowed to get off the bus if no one is there to greet him. No exceptions please.



### Village Elementary

Thor, the Village Viking, visited Village School and presented a PowerPoint presentation to grades 3,4,5 and 6. His presentation emphasized the importance of doing our best on the ISAT and IMAGE tests. He also visited grades 1 & 2 in their classrooms. Thank you James Gustafson.



### Indian Hill Elementary

Pictured here is first grade student, Ashley Ironside. She is in Dr. Seuss wear because the school celebrated Dr. Seuss week with a variety of educational activities. Come visit Indian Hill to see the important role that children's literature plays in the instructional program every day!



### W.J. Murphy Elementary

Sabrina and Donna O'Loughlin get down with Dad (Paul O'Loughlin) at Murphy's 2nd Annual Father-Daughter Dance.



### Round Lake Middle School

This is the RLMS chorus after they performed in the IGSMMA Contest. Led by Mr. McGuire the chorus received a second place ranking as did the band conducted by Mr. Beagley.



### Raymond Ellis Elementary

Special Congratulations to Pamela Cisneros (Ms. Shiedlak's 6th grade) and Cristian Velez (Ms. Logan's 6th grade) for placing first and second in Ellis' Annual School Spelling Bee.



**Beach Elementary**

1st grade students perform the story *Frog and Toad* at the February PTO meeting. Beach PTO meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM.



**Early Education Center**

Mrs. Vioski's and Mrs. Hair's AM students get ready for the leprechaun hunt in their leprechaun ears.

**Round Lake Senior High School**



*First Impressions*—Laura Daily

Laura is a Senior and NHS student at RLHS. This drawing won a Best of Show ribbon at the North Suburban Conference Art Festival, and is one of the first oil pastels she had ever done.



*Untitled*—Allan Pacelt

Allan is a Senior at RLHS. He specializes in colored pencil drawings, as seen in this delicate portrait of a girl.



*Paradise*—David Castillon

David is a Freshman at RLHS. This oil pastel of a bird of paradise is destined to be a gift for his Mother.

## Round Lake Area Schools Community Unit District 116 Contact Information

Administrative Offices	Schools	
<p><i>Administrative Service Center</i> 316 S. Rosedale Ct. 847-270-9000 Fax 847-546-3538</p> <p><i>Educational Service Center</i> 801 Sunset 847-270-9030 Fax 847-270-9035</p> <p><i>Operations Service Center</i> 811 Sunset 847-270-9040 Fax 847-546-7681</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.rlas-116.org">www.rlas-116.org</a></p>	<p><i>Round Lake Senior High School</i> 800 N. High School Dr. 847-270-9300 Principal, Dr. Jeff Brierton</p> <p><i>Round Lake Middle School</i> 2000 N. Lotus Dr. 847-270-9400 Principal, Paul Flatley</p> <p><i>Beach Elementary</i> 1421 N. Ardmore 847-270-9930 Principal, Keel Vetere</p> <p><i>Raymond Ellis Elementary</i> 720 Central Park Dr. 847-270-9900 Principal, Ben Rosenfield</p>	<p><i>Indian Hill Elementary</i> 1920 N. Lotus Dr. 847-270-9970 Principal, Marilyn Krajenta</p> <p><i>W.J. Murphy Elementary</i> 220 N. Greenwood 847-270-9950 Principal, Jeff Prickett</p> <p><i>Village Elementary</i> 880 W. Nippersink 847-270-9470 Principal, Elizabeth Sullivan</p> <p><i>Early Education Center</i> 882 Nippersink 847-270-9490 Principal, Shahranspears</p>