



# 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.*

Volume 3 Issue 2

December 2006

## Dennis Stonewall, Chief Executive Officer

Holiday Greetings!

Warm wishes accompany my note and as we prepare for the holiday season I can't help but recount the reasons that I have come to love the school-communities we serve:

We love our teachers and appreciate everyone that supports their endeavor for providing endless opportunities for students to learn, live and model the type of citizenship that will sustain and grow a better tomorrow.

We're thankful for our mayors and for their vision as we witness the transformation of the surrounding area into service centers that are prepared for addressing the future.

We're grateful to our people in uniform here and abroad and for the sense of calm they bring from the time lights grow dim until we're greeted by another day.

How fortunate RLAS-116 is to be surrounded by both county and local Park District's whose vision has made for family things to enjoy for years to come.

We are blessed to be nestled among so many caregivers that faithfully serve so tomorrow and the year to come will be beneficial for all. Thank you for everything you do with a wish from me for this holiday that includes an abundance of peace, joy and happiness!

Happy Holiday Season!

## Calendar of Events

### December 22

Winter Break Begins

### January 8

School Resumes

### January 12

2nd Quarter Report Cards

### January 15

Martin Luther King Day  
No School

### January 18

School Improvement Day  
Early Dismissal  
BOE Meeting 7PM

### January 25

SFA Meeting 7PM

### February 1

BOE Meeting 7PM

### February 15

School Improvement Day  
Early Dismissal  
BOE Meeting 7PM

### February 19

Presidents' Day  
No School

### February 22

SFA Meeting 7PM

### March 1

BOE Meeting 7PM

### March 5

Casimir Pulaski Day  
No School

### March 8

School Improvement Day  
Early Dismissal

### March 12—23

ISAT Testing

### March 15

BOE Meeting 7PM

### March 19

End of 3rd Quarter

### March 22

SFA Meeting 7PM

### March 26—30

Spring Break

### Board of Education

Ann Welk  
*President*

Delores Anderson  
*Vice-President*

Hal Davis  
*Secretary*

Tonesha Baker

W. Guy Finley

Annette Negrete McGinley

Nanci Radford

### School Finance Authority

Dr. Douglas Parks, *Chairman*

George Lingel, *Vice-Chair*

Robert Traxler, *Secretary*

Bish Krywko

Rosa Reyes-Prosen

Dennis Stonewall  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Dr. Janet Elenbogen  
*Chief Educational Officer*

Walter Korpan  
*Chief Financial Officer*

### District Administration

Patrick Alcock  
*Operations & Maintenance Manager*

Tim Bagby  
*Transportation Manager*

Dr. Sandi Brunati  
*Interim Assistant Superintendent  
of Pupil Support Services*

Gabriella Greene  
*Asst. Administrator of  
Bilingual & ESL Services*

Michael Kastler  
*Director of Technology*

Debra McDougale  
*Upper Grade Special  
Services Administrator*

Dr. Dennis Pauli  
*Assistant Superintendent of  
Curriculum & Instruction*

Susan Pritzker  
*Director of Health Services*

Jeanne Rennie  
*Elem. Special Services Administrator*

Katie Reynolds  
*Director of Elementary Learning*

Mytzy Rodriguez-Kufner  
*Director of Bilingual/ESL Services*

Lana Soldat  
*Director of Upper Grade Learning*

Nancy Whittall  
*Human Resources Manager*

## Dr. Janet Elenbogen Chief Educational Officer

Snow is all around us and winter is in the air! The excitement at the schools is evident. Our schools have featured band and choral concerts, assemblies, projects, family reading nights, the Sailor dinner and even a trip back in time with a Madrigal dinner.

School participation in the Business to Business Fair hosted by the Chamber of Commerce was a real success. Our students represented their schools with great enthusiasm that was a delight to all.

Our high school students are planning for the future. High School programs such as Reality 101, Career day at Motorola, and Schuler Scholar field trips to local colleges and universities help to pave the way. The Round Lake

Middle School is also working on goal setting and linkages with the high school programs.

The focused mapping of the curriculum continues and feedback from staff and administrator alike are very positive. Our professional development has included collaboration with recognized professionals in the areas of differentiation of curriculum and instruction, literacy, special education and Response to Intervention, English Language Learners, curriculum mapping and assessment.

Magee Middle School will be transforming from our oldest school to our newest school. The architects for the project, Gilfillan Callahan Architects, Seater

Construction Company, construction managers for the school district and the District staff have been working together on this project. Regular meetings have focused on the function and design elements, with a strong sense of the importance of meeting the needs for educational programs and service delivery to our school learning community. A key concept in this project is the emphasis on flexibility in the design components that will provide exciting learning environments for the children of Round Lake Area Schools.

At this time of year when 2006 comes to a close and we greet 2007, we send our best wishes for a joyous holiday season filled with the warmth of family and friends.

## Walter Korpan Chief Financial Officer

Round Lake Area School District #116 received an early present on Tuesday, Nov. 14. The school district was awarded the status of Financial Recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education. School districts in this category require little or no financial review by the state board. This is the highest category of a public schools' financial strength. The Illinois State Board of Education issues a financial profile for all public school districts in Illinois. The profiles range as follows:

a. Financial Watch - the highest risk financial category. This is the category where the State Board of Education monitors school districts very closely and

offers technical assistance.

b. Financial Early Warning - This is the category where the State Board of Education monitors school districts very closely and offers proactive technical assistance.

c. Financial Review - School districts in this category will be given limited review by the Illinois State Board of Education and are monitored for potential financial downward trends.

d. Financial Recognition - These school districts require little or no review by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Round Lake Area Schools - just a short 5 years ago - was on the financial watch list owing \$14,000,000 in short term debt and over \$90,000,000 in long term debt. Today, the district has eliminated short term debt and has reduced its long term debt to approximately \$70,000,000. The school district has improved our image not only financially, but has also improved its educational opportunities for students. We have been able to attract higher caliber staff members to lead our students. We have also improved our buildings environment inside and out. These are remarkable achievements of which the community can be proud.

## Dr. Dennis Pauli

### Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

#### **Discover a Step by Step Process to Assist Your Child with Writing**

If students are to make knowledge their own, they must struggle with the details, wrestle with the facts, and rework raw information and dimly understood concepts into language they can communicate to someone else. In short, *if students are to learn, they must write.*

—National Commission on Writing, 2003

Expository writing is the most commonly used form of writing in classrooms. When students are describing, explaining, informing, or persuading they are engaged in expository writing. This form of writing is a mode of communication students will use for the remainder of their lives.

Often, too much time and energy is spent on completing basic writing tasks with unsatisfactory results. Teachers and parents alike need practical strategies for teaching the expository process. Step by step guidelines which break down the writing process into understandable parts are necessary to help students master the art of expository writing. The following process, modified from *Step Up To Writing*, by Maureen Auman, has been used effectively in classrooms throughout United States.

First, students organize ideas and information into an outline. Teaching students how to create a plan is essential. Outlines should include: main idea or topic; key ideas or sub-topics; and details which support each sub-topic. The colors of a traffic signal provide a visual aide to assist students in completing outlines accurately. Green identifies the topic or main idea, yellow identifies the subtopics or key ideas, and red identifies supporting details.

Primary students are capable of producing outlines which include a green main idea, two yellow subtopics, and up to three red details supporting each subtopic. Older students are encouraged to integrate additional subtopics and supporting details.

Example—Primary Student Outline

- I. Vacations (green)
  - II. Disney Cruise (yellow)
    - III. Shows (red)
    - III. Meals (red)
  - II. Chicago (yellow)
    - III. Museums (red)
    - III. Navy Pier (red)

Once students complete an outline they are ready to begin writing their paragraph or essay. The introduction is first and includes a topic sentence or thesis statement and preview or projected plan. Students write on green colored strips to distinguish the introductory part of a paragraph.

Primary students use simple topic sentences while older students use more complex thesis statements. A preview statement or projected plan follows the topic sentence in the introduction. This sentence informs the reader of the subtopics or key ideas. Students also write their preview on a green strip. A third and optional sentence in the introduction is called a writer's comment. This sentence helps the writer make a personal connection with the topic. Writer's comment is useful when students are writing personal narratives.

Adding the key ideas or subtopics is the next step of the expository paragraph. Using subtopics from their outline, students write transition sentences on yellow strips. Each sentence includes a transition word. Younger students will use basic transitions such as, first—next—then, while older students learn to use more subtle transitions such as synonyms or repetition. The transition words signal the reader that a new key idea is being introduced.

Next, details are added to the paragraph or essay using pink strips. The details correspond to the student's outline and should provide adequate support for each subtopic. Younger students may have one or two red supporting ideas for each subtopic while older students will have additional support.

The final part of the paragraph or essay is the conclusion. It should not introduce new ideas, but remind the reader of the topic and key points from the paper. Green strips are used to write the conclusion.

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# Building Highlights

## Beach Elementary

Round Lake Beach Elementary School has been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education and Governor Rod Blagojevich as an ILLINOIS SPOTLIGHT SCHOOL for 2005. This Achievement award is earned for exemplary performance in closing the achievement gap, meeting high standards, and opening a world of opportunities.

In fall 2003 the Illinois State Board of Education launched a recognition program, Spotlight Schools, for high poverty schools where high academic performance is closing the "achievement gap." Located throughout the state in urban, suburban, and rural locations, 316 Spotlight Schools earned honors in 2005. They exhibit achievements that are contrary to the conventional wisdom that test scores will reflect demographics despite local efforts.

Criteria for selecting these schools are rigorous. All schools must be making Adequate Yearly Progress. At least half the students are from low-income families and at least 60% must be passing the state achievement tests.

The Spotlight Schools demonstrate that low-income students and schools with limited resources can show impressive academic performance. These schools with

resources can show impressive academic performance. These schools know how to help all students succeed.

On Thursday, November 6, Beach School celebrated their first FAMILY READING NIGHT. The evening was a celebration of reading with an emphasis on the importance of reading aloud to your child. In the weeks prior to the Family Reading Night, every teacher read aloud to their class the short novel: KNIGHTS OF THE KITCHEN TABLE. The School Staff hoped to engage family conversations about the story, particularly if more than one child attends Beach School. After reading the story, classrooms selected a part of the story for a presentation for the Family Reading Night. All school families were invited to tour the school and enjoy the common theme of Knights, dragons, giants, kings, and queens. It was a memorable event enjoyed by staff, students, and many families.



## Round Lake Middle School

Congratulations to the Round Lake Middle School Soccer Team who went undefeated in the Northwest Suburban Grade School Conference this soccer season.

The following team members played hard to achieve 1<sup>st</sup> place:

Jorge Areteaga # 30, Jonathan Guadarrama # 20, Marcos Guilu #14, Roy Lopez # 23, Junior Martinez #3, Antonio Moreno #15, Jose Moreno #12, Giovanni Navarrete #24 (capt.), Francisco Para #31, Andrew Rodriguez #32, Michael Rosenbaum #5, Jordi Rubio #19, Emanuel Salgado # 22, Eduardo Sanchez #35 (co- capt.), Timurbek Umarbaev #41, Claudio Vargas #14.

The team finished the season with a 9-0 record due to the diligence of the powerful defense of Michael Rosenbaum, Giovanni Navarrete, Emanuel Salgado, Roy Lopez, as well as goalies Eduardo Sanchez and Claudio Vargas.

Our powerful midfielders and forwards also contributed to the team's success especially the scoring power of Junior Martinez and Jordi Rubio.

Coach Ruscheinski would like to thank the team, their parents and the staff and students of Round Lake Middle School who by their support contributed to a great season, and a second undefeated year!



# Building Highlights

## Round Lake Senior High School

### Freshmen Participate in "Real Deal" Program

On Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> over five hundred freshmen students at RLHS participated in the "Real Deal" program in the main gym. The "Real Deal" program is designed to educate young people about healthy life choices, financial responsibility, and the importance of post-secondary education in terms of their future success. The program was a very large undertaking, involving months of preparation, planning, and training. The preparation and execution of the "Real Deal" program involved volunteers from the Lake County Health Department, CLC, Round Lake area business men and women, our high school guidance and social work staffs, student leaders from the National Honors Society and the International Club, NICASA, Round Lake Area Schools District Office, along with various other high school staff and students.

During the event, students were assigned fictional occupations, given a salary of "monopoly" money, and were asked to visit tables designed to represent anything from a car dealership, a real estate agency, a grocery store, a bank, a daycare, even a college. They had to make their way to all of the tables, managing their money, and educating themselves about the real life responsibilities and possibilities facing them in their future. Students were also educated at various tables about healthy life style choices and the consequences of engaging in unhealthy activities. In addition to this, students came into contact with volunteers from various organizations to learn about services available in the community such as United Way, the Round Lake Public Library, and NICASA.



On December 19, RLHS hosted its 4th Annual Holiday Dinner for 200 sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

### Round Lake High Goes to College

On Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, twenty two Round Lake High School Schuler Scholars visited Lake Forest College in the morning and Northwestern University in the afternoon. The purpose of the visit was to acclimate these future college bound students with the process of selecting a college of their choice and how to complete the application process. The students saw first hand a small college with its make-up, then the experience of a major university which includes leaving home. The students visited with advisors, teachers, coaches and college students. "The students were completely in awe during the first visit" said Mr. Dyer. "During the second visit, they asked more questions now that they were more comfortable". Future college visits are being scheduled to show the students the vast majority of choices available to them.

### Susan Pritzker Director of Health Services

The cold and flu season are upon us so here are some tips to staying healthy:

Dress appropriately. It is always good to layer to avoid overheating when going from inside to outside. Recess is held unless the temperature is 10 degrees or below. Children need to be prepared to participate in recess. According to the district wellness policy recess is a necessary and integral part of the day. Children will need a doctor's note to miss recess.

Wash your hands frequently. Many germs are airborne but they are also spread by hand to hand contact.

Use a tissue when coughing or blowing your nose. Then, dispose of it in a garbage bag.

Make healthy food choices to help boost your immune system this winter.

If you are sick please stay home. The contagious period is usually the first 24-48 hours of the illness. Also, stay home until you are fever free for 24 hours!

### Emergency Planning Continues

The emergency planning committee has been hard at work preparing our school plans for review with the police and fire department. The state has a new law in place this year that all school emergency plans must align with first responders. The ER committee has been reviewing our old plans and updating them to follow the Incident Command System model to handle an emergency. We are also following the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which is recommended by Homeland Security. The emergency committee includes staff members from all schools, finance department, food service, technology, human resources, bi-lingual, transportation and maintenance. Police officer Jason Matlock co-chairs the committee with Health Director Susan Pritzker.

## Dr. Dennis Pauli

Continued from Page 3

Students in second grade and higher may add a lead to their paragraph or essay. The purpose of a lead is to capture the reader's attention. Leads should be written on blue strips to distinguish the lead from the introduction. Strategies for leads may include:

- Ask a series of interesting questions
- Give a brief history of the topic
- Share a personal story relating to the topic
- Provide interesting facts

### Example of Second Grade Paragraph

Where is your favorite place to visit? (*Lead—blue*)

Our family has taken several vacations. (*Topic—green*)

The Disney Cruise and trip to Chicago were among the best. (*Preview—green*)

This summer we are going to Cancun. I can't wait!

(*Writer's Comment—green*)

First, we spent one week cruising on the Disney Magic. (*Details—red*)

The shows were great. The dinners were awesome.

(*Details—red*)

We then spent three days in Chicago. (*Transition Sentence—yellow*)

The museums were cool. Navy Pier had fun shops and games. (*Details—red*)

Our family has truly enjoyed some fun trips. (*Conclusion—green*)

These writing strategies can be modified to meet the needs of students at all grade levels. Teaching students the art of writing clear, organized paragraphs, reports and essays can be fun with the right strategies. Throughout the United States students have experienced exceptional growth when using a step by step multi-sensory approach for writing expository pieces. Watch their confidence grow and achievement soar!

## English Language Learner Program's News and Updates Corner

It is hard to believe that the holidays are upon us! In the last couple of months there have been great things happening within the English Language Learners Programs Department. We are happy to announce that our historic BPAC meeting on Gang awareness on November 29, 2006 boasted 125 parents in attendance as well as staff, administrators, community members, and village and state officials. It was historic in the sense that all five Village police departments came together as a panel to speak about gangs in the communities. Topics and information helped parents to become more aware on what gang members wear, the cycle of violence that surrounds that culture, as well as gave out an informational booklet on tattoos, and hand signs that are prevalent. Thank you to all who made an effort to make this event a great success, which included local judges, mayors, police departments, BPAC members and District 116 staff.

The December 14 meeting was held at Murphy. This was more of a festive event with dancing by the High School students. Ivan Flores, led a group of girls in dancing Salsa and Merengue dances.

Our next BPAC meetings are as follows: February 21, March 21, April 30th and May 10th. We are looking for more BPAC committee members. If you have children in the bilingual program and would like to help us to plan future events please contact Myrna Leal at 847-270-9036.

In the Academic arena, we are happy to report that both the Imagine Learning and Earobics Literacy Launch software are working well in the classrooms with our students. Teachers using the program are also happy with the growth that they have seen in their students.

Our Spanish for Educators and Spanish for Administrator classes have been going well and both Educators and Administrators are learning words and phrases that they are using in their settings.

Until next time, the English Language Learner Department wishes you and your family a safe and memorable holiday season and a Happy New Year!

## Round Lake Area Schools Community Unit District 116

| Administrative Offices  | Schools  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Administrative Service Center</i><br/>316 S. Rosedale Ct.<br/>847-270-9000<br/>Fax 847-546-3538</p> | <p><i>Round Lake Senior High School</i><br/>800 N. High School Dr.<br/>847-270-9300<br/>Principal, Dr. Jeff Brierton</p> | <p><i>Indian Hill Elementary</i><br/>1920 N. Lotus Dr.<br/>847-270-9970<br/>Principal, Dr. Kenneth Hyllberg</p> |
| <p><i>Educational Service Center</i><br/>801 Sunset<br/>847-270-9030<br/>Fax 847-270-9035</p>             | <p><i>Round Lake Middle School</i><br/>2000 N. Lotus Dr.<br/>847-270-9400<br/>Principal, Paul Flatley</p>                | <p><i>W.J. Murphy Elementary</i><br/>220 N. Greenwood<br/>847-270-9950<br/>Principal, Jeff Prickett</p>         |
| <p><i>Operations Service Center</i><br/>811 Sunset<br/>847-270-9040</p>                                   | <p><i>Beach Elementary</i><br/>1421 N. Ardmore<br/>847-270-9930<br/>Principal, Keel Vetere</p>                           | <p><i>Village Elementary</i><br/>880 W. Nippersink<br/>847-270-9470<br/>Principal, Elizabeth Sullivan</p>       |
| <p><b>www.rlas-116.org</b></p>  | <p><i>Raymond Ellis Elementary</i><br/>Central Park Dr.<br/>847-270-9900<br/>Principal, Bill Pritchard</p>               | <p><i>Early Education Center</i><br/>882 Nippersink<br/>847-270-9490<br/>Principal, Shahrhan Spears</p>         |