



# 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 3

March 2007

## Dennis Stonewall

Indeed what a privilege it has been to be a small part of something better for the Round Lake Area School Community. Thanks to your helping hands along the way, we've moved along the path of better and because of you, the future holds promise for getting to best.

Meanwhile, my path has gone from better to one that is in need of personal attention. Due to personal health issues, I have made a decision to take on a different role of consultant till the end of the school year. Those closer to my age and perhaps near to retirement are more likely sympathetic to these issues.

The decision to take a different role to the end of the year that is less stressful certainly differs from decisions of the past. Previous decisions have always been made for outcomes, not for wishes of individuals. This change may seem contradictory to some who know my philosophy on customer service toward students, parents, staff and taxpayers but it is time for me to focus on my health.

With a continued focus for placing learning, students and teachers at the top, with accountability for on-time delivery of goods and services from support staff, and an accurate compass of the Board, I have every reason to believe the next log of this journey will be written in a positive manner.

Serving you has been my sincere privilege and honor. I have great confidence that with your help, this District and community will grow into something even better than it is today!

## Calendar of Events

**April 2**  
School Resumes

**April 5**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences—No Students  
3rd Quarter Report Cards  
Board of Education Meeting 7PM

**April 6**  
No School

**April 17**  
Teacher Institute Day—No School

**April 19**  
Board of Education Meeting 7PM

**April 25-26**  
PSAE Testing

**April 26**  
School Finance Authority Meeting 7PM

**May 3**  
Board of Education Meeting 7PM

**May 17**  
School Improvement Day—Early Dismissal  
Board of Education Meeting 7PM

**May 24**  
School Finance Authority Meeting 7PM

**May 28**  
Memorial Day—No School

**May 31**  
Last Day of School

### Board of Education

Ann Welk  
*President*  
Delores Anderson  
*Vice-President*  
Hal Davis  
*Secretary*  
Tonisha Baker  
W. Guy Finley  
Annette Negrete McGinley  
Nanci Radford

### School Finance Authority

Dr. Douglas Parks, *Chair*  
George Lingel, *Vice-Chair*  
Robert Traxler, *Secretary*  
Bish Krywko  
Rosa Reyes-Prosen  

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Dennis Stonewall  
Dr. Janet Elenbogen  
*Interim Chief Executive Officer*  
Walter Korpan  
*Chief Financial Officer*

### District Administration

Patrick Alcock <i>Operations &amp; Maintenance Manager</i>	Dr. Dennis Pauli <i>Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum &amp; Instruction</i>
Tim Bagby <i>Transportation Manager</i>	Jeanne Rennie <i>Elementary Special Services Administrator</i>
Dr. Judith Frank-Gonwa <i>Interim Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Support Services</i>	Katie Reynolds <i>Director of Elementary Learning</i>
Gabriella Greene <i>Asst. Administrator of Bilingual &amp; ESL Services</i>	Mytzy Rodriguez-Kufner <i>Director of Bilingual/ESL Services</i>
Michael Kastler <i>Director of Technology</i>	Lana Soldat <i>Director of Upper Grade Learning</i>
Debra McDougle <i>Upper Grade Special Services Administrator</i>	Nancy Whittall <i>Human Resources Manager</i>

## Dr. Janet Elenbogen, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Spring is right around the corner and our State assessment results from 2006 have been published. We are proud to announce many areas of improvement. This is due to the hard work of the entire learning community: students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators. Since 2004, at the District level, there has been an increase in the percent of students meeting and exceeding state standards. A total of 14.2% more of the students in RLAS have achieved this criteria. Of particular note, is the improvement at the Middle School and Ellis. Since 2004, a total of 17.1% more of the students met or exceeded state standards at the Middle School and at Ellis, 16.7%

more of the students met or exceeded state standards.

Other student outcome trends are showing positive improvement, as well. The graduation rate of 81.6% is up from last year by 12.1%. The dropout rate of 4.2% decreased by .5% from 2005 and is significantly decreased from the 2001 high of 10%. Our truancy rate of 2.1% is significantly lowered from the high in the 2000 school year of 16%.

RLAS are improving every day. These accomplishments are a credit to the Round Lake Community. It is indeed a pleasure to be a part of making a positive difference for the children of Round Lake.

### ISBE % of Students Meeting & Exceeding

<u>School</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<i>District</i>	50.8	54.9	65.0
<i>Indian Hill</i>	65.3	70.5	72.4
<i>Ellis</i>	54.3	60.0	71.0
<i>Beach</i>	54.8	64.7	70.2
<i>Village</i>	53.8	67.0	71.4
<i>Murphy</i>	63.0	64.5	70.2
<i>Middle School</i>	50.1	51.3	67.2
<i>High School</i>	30.9	34.0	33.5

## Walter Korpan, Chief Financial Officer

RLAS is preparing for registration for its returning students. A committee composed of administrators, secretaries and clerks reviewed registration procedures from last year to make proper corrections so that registration would run more smoothly. Parents were notified that they would have to pay all past due fees prior to registering their children early. Early registration provides parents an opportunity to save money and attend their home elementary school.

Informational flyers about next year's registration were sent to all parents.

Bilingual Education registration will be held at the child's attending school. Special Education students that attend SEDOL, out-of-District placement, early childhood or receiving speech and language services may only register at Ellis School.

Please note: All students (**including returning students**) MUST register.

Early Registration (Discounted Fee)	Kindergarten At Village	1-8 Grades at Attending Schools	9-12 Grades at High School	Special Education - Out-of-District (SEDOL, Private Placement, Parochial, etc.) at Ellis
April 5, 2007		1:30-7:00pm	1:30-7:00pm	1:30-7:00pm
April 12, 2007	4:00-7:00pm			

(LAST CHANCE) Location of ALL August Registrations at High School building ONLY! (LAST CHANCE)				
K-12 Registration (No Discount)	Kindergarten	1st-8th Grades	9th-12th Grades	Special Education - Out-of-District (SEDOL, Private Placement, Parochial, etc.) at High School
August 1, 2007	1:30-7:00pm	1:30-7:00pm	1:30-7:00pm	1:30-7:00pm
August 2, 2007	10:00-4:00pm	10:00-4:00pm	10:00-4:00pm	10:00-4:00pm

On-line registration for 1st-12th graders will ONLY be available March 1, 2007 through July 13, 2007.

REGISTRATION FEES	EARLY 3/8/07-5/30/07	FULL 5/31/07-Before School Starts	LATE After School Begins ONLY returning students
New Kindergarteners	\$85	\$85	\$85
Returning Kindergarteners	\$85	\$110	\$135
First - Sixth Grades	\$85	\$110	\$135
Seventh - Eighth Grades	\$100	\$125	\$150
Ninth - Twelve Grades	\$120	\$150	\$175

Additional fees MUST be paid at time of registration: All 1-12 students will pay \$6.00 assignment book and Middle & High School students will pay an additional \$6.00 hall lock. All 7th grade students must also purchase a gym suit.

## Come Together @ your library®

Submitted by: Elena Lara, Public Relations Coordinator  
Round Lake Area Library

### National Library Week is April 15—21 2007. Com Together @ your library®

There is a wealth of opportunity that can be found at the Round Lake Area Library. It is a place to come together for books, CDs, Videos, computer access, community interaction, and so much more!

### Science Fair Help:

The Round Lake Area Library has books, audio-visual materials, online databases and web links that can help your student with his or her Science Fair project. We also have 12 public computers in our Youth Services Dept. that have Microsoft Office Suite and Internet access. Students will need a library card to log onto a computer. Our reference staff is happy to answer questions about Science Fair materials and computer access. Contact the youth desk at 847-546-7060.

### BookNews—On-line Reader's Advisory Service

This service will give you access to free electronic newsletters about a wide variety of books for all ages. You can access the service via the **e-newsletter link** on the library's website at [www.rllibrary.org](http://www.rllibrary.org). You may also elect to have the e-newsletters delivered directly to an email address. To learn more about this service, call 847-546-7060.

### Celebrate!

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), known as Día, is a celebration of children, families, and reading held annually on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. For more information, visit: [www.ala.org/ala/alsc/diadelosninos.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/diadelosninos.htm) or [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).

"Our team of library staff is committed to providing you with the best service. We value your feedback, as it will enable us to better respond to your needs, concerns and suggestions," says Elena Lara, public relations coordinator. "Stop by and tell us how we're doing, or take a few minutes to fill out our Comment/Suggestion Form."

## Ready for College or Ready for Work: Same or Different?

- Lana Soldat, Director of Upper Grade Learning

As Director of Upper Grade Learning, I receive educational news and updates from many respected sources every week. There is a common thread in these news articles which is: schools should be working to prepare each student for entrance and success in college or the workplace upon graduation.

In a speech that Bill Gates, founder and chairman of Microsoft Corp. delivered to a governor's national summit on high schools, Mr. Gates said, in part: "Today only one-third of our students graduate from high school ready for college, work and citizenship. The other two-thirds are tracked into courses that won't ever get them ready for college or prepare them for a family-wage job—no matter how well the students learn or the teachers teach. This is not an accident or flaw in the system; it is the system...But I believe there are three steps that governors and CEOs can take that will help build momentum for change in our schools: 1) Declare that all students can and should graduate from high school ready for college, work and citizenship; 2) Publish the data that measures our progress toward that goal; and 3) Turn around failing schools and open new ones." Our governor, in submitting his plan for education, has called for higher standards. In Gov. Blagojevich's plan, he states: "By creating high expectations for graduation, students will do better in school and Illinois high school graduates will be better prepared to pursue higher education and to succeed in their careers. Higher standards will also improve the quality of Illinois' workforce, allowing it to meet the demands of current and potential Illinois employers."

In addition, in an executive summary from ACT, results of a new study show evidence that, whether planning to enter

college or workplace training programs after graduation, high school students need to be educated at a comparable level of readiness in reading and mathematics. High school graduates need this level of readiness if they are to succeed in college-level courses without remediation and to enter workforce training programs ready to learn job-specific skills.

These results convey an important message to U.S. high school educators and high school students: **We should be educating all high school students according to a common academic expectation, one that prepares them for both post-secondary education and the workforce.** Only then—whether they are among the two-thirds who enter college directly after graduation or those who enter workforce training programs—will they be ready for life after high school.

Although the contexts in which these expectations are taught and assessed may differ, **the level of expectation for all students must be the same.** Anything less will not give high school graduates the foundation of academic skills they will need to learn additional skills as their jobs change or as they change jobs throughout their careers.

As Director of Upper Grade Learning, I can assure you that our middle school and high school educators are working diligently in addressing curricular changes to raise the rigor and relevance for students in District 116. Our goal is for all students to be prepared...whatever their path in life.

Please feel free to call me as I welcome your questions or comments. And, Happy Spring to all!

# Building Highlights

## Village Elementary

The Village School faculty has developed three academic goals as part of a four-year school improvement plan required by the State of Illinois. The first of these goals is to increase by 10% the number of students in the "Meet and Exceeds Standard" category on the ISAT/IMAGE in reading. The second goal is to increase by 10% the number of students in the "Meets and Exceeds Standard" category in math. The final academic goal is to improve the overall school climate by improving attendance to 95% and maintaining a low suspension rate for the fourth quarter.

Our attendance for the first four months of this school year exceeded the 95% goal; however, the months of December and January are still a challenge, though they have improved over previous years. Students are recognized for perfect attendance at our quarterly Honor Assemblies, and the classroom with the highest monthly attendance receives recognition.

The Village School PTO has brought tremendous opportunity to our school by arranging art lessons with a professional artist for all classes in grades 1 through 6. Mrs. Andrea Zachotina has presented classes in the style of famous artists such as Georgia O'Keefe, Vincent Van Gogh, Frieda Kahlo, and George Seurat. Student artwork will be displayed on "Museum Night: on Friday, March 9th. Again this year, the 6th grade will do a class art project in our cafeteria consisting of a mural with a jungle theme. The art program is funded through the PTO "Auction and Fashion Show" which will be held on Friday, April 20.

We extend our thanks to Mrs. Dobre's sixth grade ESL class for managing our recycling program for the second year in a row. As a result of their efforts, Village School has been recognized by SWALCO with an environmental flag. SWALCO has also presented lessons to some classes regarding the importance of recycling.

- Marilyn Gruber



*Mrs. Andrea Zachotina gives instruction in water color technique to Mrs. Dobre's 6th grade ESL class.*

# Building Highlights

## Indian Hill Elementary

Indian Hill Elementary School has grown over the years with the addition of students and staff members. This year we have new leadership with the addition of Dr. Kenneth Hyllberg, principal, and Mrs. Amanda Stochl, assistant principal. We have many new staff members that joined us too. Our staff has been active and has started many new initiatives in our building this year.

Ms. Cornell has begun a new recycling program that not only helps conserve trees, but also earns money for our school. The money has been designated to help buy additional paper that may be needed during the year.

On of our new 6th grade teachers, Ms. Reed, has her entire class involved in a year long fundraiser: *Box Tops for Education*. Her students visit classrooms regularly to collect, and then count the Box Tops the children have brought in. Her students have created a monthly graph in the front hallway to track how individual classrooms are doing with the monthly graph in the front hallway to track how individual classrooms are doing with the fundraising. As an incentive, PTO gives a special prize to the classroom that brings in the most Box Tops for each month. A little healthy competition between classes in doing well as we have been able to raise over \$1200 from Box Top donations!

The halls are alive with the sound of music! Miss Franz has a following of young singers that take her lead in an after school chorus program. Their first performance took place before the winter holidays. They sang a medley of holiday songs and invited the audience to join in the carols. Afterwards, our PTO supplied cookies and punch. We look forward to their next performance this spring!

*Young Rembrandts* is a new art program that has been welcomed to our school. Young Rembrandts is an after school art program that teaches the process of drawing and allows students to explore another avenue of expression.

Our staff recognizes the importance of the community wide Character Counts program, and celebrated it earlier this year with a school wide assembly. Since that time, we have incorporated the Six Pillars into our daily routine and recognize students that show good character every day.

As we work to make an impression on our student's lives everyday, we have also made an impression on two area businesses. TAP Pharmaceuticals and Baxter Healthcare Corporation have generously helped fill some of our students' needs. Both of the companies have "adopted" us and have helped make the year a little bit brighter for many of the children in our school. TAP Pharmaceuticals contacted us earlier this year to see if they could help supply some Halloween costumes for our students. The students wrote a letter explaining what they wanted to be for Halloween and why. The wonderful people from TAP then returned to our school with boxes of over 150 costumes for the specific children who wrote letters! What an incredible gesture of generosity! Then, at Christmas time, Baxter asked if they could help make the holiday more enjoyable for some of our students. The students wrote a letter to Santa, and Santa worked wonders through the elves at Baxter! We had the entire office full of hundreds of presents for students and their families. Both companies have also set up donation boxes for school supplies which have allowed our students to have all the materials necessary to be prepared to learn. We truly appreciate all the marvelous help they have given us!



And what are we doing to keep track of all the wonderful memories we have created this year? We have a yearbook, of course! Mrs. Lokshin, Ms. Gray and Ms. Reed have been working hard to bring a yearbook back to Indian Hill. It will be our first yearbook in over ten years! We know there are many more wonderful things to come at Indian Hill and look forward to what our future holds.

- Mrs. Lokshin, 4th grade teacher & Dr. Hyllberg


  
 Dr. Hyllberg and employees from TAP  
 Pharmaceutical Products Inc distributing over 50  
 brand new costumes and pumpkins to Indian Hill  
 Elementary students. TAP employees generously  
 donated these items to help with *Indian Hill's*  
*Fall Festival Parade!*

## Counselor's Corner

- by Nicole Bihn, Guidance Counselor—Round Lake Middle School

Are you thinking about your future??? Take a moment and close your eyes. Imagine someone walking toward you. It's not you today, but you as you would like to be 10 years from now. What have you done over the last 10 years? What do you look like and how do you feel? What are you like? According to Sean Covey, author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, that is called, "beginning with the end in mind." This is what goal setting is all about. Think about it...if you don't know where you are going, how do you get there?

The best place to start is to begin doing some research to determine your strengths, weaknesses and interests. For students, one of the best resources is your guidance counselor. They have career interest inventories and can help you narrow down your choices. However, the Internet can provide you with a lot of help. Just type career interest inventories into your search engine and pick a site that meets your needs.

After you have determined your strengths, weaknesses and interests, set a long-term goal. Once the goal is set, the real work begins! You need to learn everything you can about your interest area, seek advice from experts, develop your skills in that area, make a timetable for

for completion of your goal and surround yourself with positive people that will encourage your efforts.

The most important thing to remember is that you need to picture yourself as a success! Once you have done that, the rest falls more easily into place. If you would like some help getting started, contact the guidance counselor at your school or talk to your child's teacher. Good luck!!! The possibilities are endless!!!!

