

Message from the Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ben Martindale



Dear RLAS-116, Parents, Families and Community Members:

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year! As the new Chief Executive Officer of Round Lake Area Schools Community Unit District 116, I am very excited for the opportunity to be in Round Lake and help in the continued improvement of Round Lake Schools.

In the past few years, Round Lake Schools has made tremendous growth in a variety of areas including establishing a greater sense of financial stability and offering new programs and educational opportunities as a step in developing a better school system.

This year we will be focusing upon improving student achievement at each of our schools. We believe that this goal can best be achieved with cooperative relationships between home, community and school where (1) the students are enthusiastic about learning and enjoy school, (2) high expectations are held for all students, (3) students are given many opportunities to succeed in a safe and stimulating environment, and (4) diverse views and cultures are represented and respected among staff, parents

and students.

In addition to maintaining and improving financial stability and elevating student achievement, we will also continue our focus on facility improvement. This past summer a construction project was included to provide air conditioning in most areas of all of our elementary schools. We will shortly initiate the beginning of air conditioning the remaining (non-air conditioned) areas of the high school. Next fall we will reopen Magee Middle School. This occurrence will provide the District with a new opportunity to expand its middle school facilities and in turn provide needed space for each of our elementary grade buildings.

I look forward to helping provide direction and support in each of these areas. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office. My direct lines are 847-270-9001 or 847-815-6308 and my email is bmartindale@rlas-116.org. Again, thank you for the opportunity to be part of the transformation of Round Lake Schools. We look forward to an outstanding year!

Board of Education

W. Guy Finley, President
Nanci Radford, Vice President
Annette Negrete-McGinley, Secretary

Tonesha Baker
Denny Driscoll
Tammie Hanna
Ann Welk

School Finance Authority

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

SFA Administrators

Dr. Ben Martindale, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Janet Elenbogen, Chief Educational Officer
Walter J. Korpan, Chief Financial Officer

District Administrators

Patrick Alcock, *Operations & Maintenance Manager*
Dr. Gwynne Kell, *Asst Supt of Pupil Support Services*
Leslie Lauritzen, *Manager of Transportation*
Dr. Phyllis Lubel, *Admin of Elementary Spec Services*
Ed O'Neill, *Admin of Upper Grade Spec Services*
Dr. Dennis Pauli, *Asst Supt of Curriculum & Instruction*
Katie Reynolds, *Director of Student Learning*
Mytzy Rodriguez-Kufner, *Admin of BIL & ELL Services*
Annette Rolls, *Director of Health*
Lana Soldat, *Director of Assessment and Student Data*

Health Services

The Health Services department has been busy making sure students are in compliance with their physical examinations for the 2008 school year. Please note that according to Public Act 95-0422, effective for the school year 2008-2009, students entering the 6th grade will be required to have a physical examination.

*"... 2008-2009
Students entering 6th Grade will
be required to have a physical
examination."*

Special Education Department

Our department is identifying and implementing activities to support initiatives which maximize opportunities for students with disabilities to have greater access to the general education classroom and curriculum. Workshops will be provided for all special education staff on using the new IEP forms; changes in the Illinois regulations; professional development on collaboration with general education staff and using the general curriculum; implementing interventions; data collection and using data to make team decisions, just to name a few. We are excited about the work being done with the entire special education department and look forward to accomplishing a lot on behalf of the students receiving special education services. - *Dr. Gwynne Kell*



Character Counts!

Round Lake Middle School welcomes Company A, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry, back from Iraq. Middle School Students made posters as a CHARACTER COUNTS! Citizenship activity in their home rooms to welcome Bob Weinger and his unit back from Iraq. Bob Weinger is the son of Sue Weinger, one of our fine teachers at the Middle School. The posters were used at the rally on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at the Chicago Armory.



Big Brothers and Big Sisters Mentoring Program. 50 Round Lake High School students signed up and have been trained to be a mentor for an elementary student at Murphy School. These outstanding High School students spend time one day a week with their "Little" doing homework, arts and crafts, and playing games. The Round Lake Area School District has partnered with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters agency for the past several years to bring this worthwhile program to our community. Several of the "Bigs" marched in the Homecoming Parade.



The PTO and Booster Club Need You!

Do you have time or talent that can be shared? Then join your student's school PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) or the Booster Club (High School). The members of these organizations are parents like you and teachers from the Round Lake Community. They volunteer some of their time and/or talents to help make our schools a better place for all the Round Lake children. Art programs, auctions, book fairs, ice cream socials, concession stand sales, ticket takers for athletic events, classroom tutors-these are

just some examples of how parents and teachers come together to help make District 116 a district that works like a family community. Just a little of your time is all it takes to make Round Lake Schools shine. Put a smile on your student's face. Contact the PTO president at your child's school, or Booster Club President at the high school, to find out how you can help your school today.



“A Community of Learners: Leading with Reading”

It is indeed an exciting time in Round Lake and it is inspiring to be a part of the great things happening in the Round Lake Area Schools. As we complete our first quarter of the 2007-2008 school year, we reflect upon the progress that has been made and the journey that lies ahead. The articles and photographs that appear in this Fall edition capture student learning experiences, community and cultural events, program initiatives, and the smiling faces of our hard working teams of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff.

We began the year with the theme: “A Community of Learners: Leading with Reading.” This theme expresses our use of the concepts and processes from the DuFour and Eaker Professional Learning communities model to focus on student achievement with a particular emphasis on the area of reading.

Professional learning communities emphasize that it is not enough to focus on what students are taught, but to ensure that students learn. Staff work together with the goal of learning for all students. The professional learning communities model uses assessment data to chart progress and guide instructional decisions. It is results driven. Staff and administrators are hard at work identifying and implementing intervention teams using the data from assessments.

We are committed to raising student achievement. Our work in the areas of recruitment of highly qualified staff, mentoring, professional development and support emphasizing research-based effective instructional strategies, mapping and alignment of curriculum to State standards, the use assessment to guide decisions, providing increased opportunities for learning including expanded summer programs and credit recovery, and an emphasis on reading across the curriculum have resulted in positive outcomes for students.

Our buildings and grounds also tell the story of improvements. The construction team is hard at work on the rebirth of Magee Middle School. The construction team indicates that we are on schedule. The air conditioned elementary schools were a welcome sight as we began the school year.

The energy of the first days of school has continued. It could be felt at the open houses, parent and staff meetings, and the fireworks of Homecoming. Together we will support student learning and continue to raise the bar for student achievement.

- Dr. Janet C. Elenbogen, Chief Educational Officer

Calendar of Events

November

- 1 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 6 - Teacher Institute Day / No School
- 15 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 20 - Mid Quarter Reports
- 21 thru 23 - No School
- 29 - School Finance Authority Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 30 - School Improvement Day / Early Dismissal

December

- 6 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 20 - 1st Semester Ends
- 20 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 21 - Winter Break Begins / No School

January

- 7 - School Resumes
- 17 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 21 - Martin Luther King / No School
- 25 - School Improvement Day / Early Dismissal
- 31 - School Finance Authority Meeting RLHS 7:00pm

February

- 7 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 8 - Mid Quarter Reports
- 15 - Teacher Institute Day / No School
- 18 - Presidents' Day / No School
- 21 - Board of Education Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 28 - School Finance Authority Meeting RLHS 7:00pm
- 29 - School Improvement Day / Early Dismissal

Online Meal Program

Round Lake Area Schools – with the assistance of Chartwells Food Service – operates a lunch program which serves approximately 5500 nutritious lunches per day. In addition, Round Lake Area Schools offers a breakfast program to all students grades 1-12. Students are offered breakfast at a cost of \$1.40 full price and \$.30 reduced cost. Parents who are approved for free/reduced price meals for the lunch program are then automatically approved for the breakfast program. It is proven that children who have a nutritious breakfast at the start of their day do better in school.

Round Lake Area School District #116 has changed the way parents pay and manage their child’s meal programs. *MealpayPlus*, a new software program, allows parents to gain access to their child’s breakfast and lunch accounts via the web or telephone. The software allows parents to view their child’s balance at any time, as well as check payment history. Email confirmations of payments and low balance reminders are automatically sent to parents. Payments can be made quickly and easily using a credit card (*Visa, Mastercard or Discover*), or check. The Wallet and Auto-Replenish features allow parents to set a low balance amount that will automatically replenish their child’s account when it reaches a specified balance.

MealpayPlus is really a win-win situation for parents, children and school administration. There are less processing headaches for schools, convenience and security for parents and safety for children

Parents can immediately utilize this service by visiting: www.mealpayplus.com, by calling 1-866-827-7555 or the Food Director, Al Gies, at 847-270-9317.

- Walter J. Korpan, Chief Financial Officer

Come Together and Enrich Your Life @ your library

Quality Family Time: Visit the Round Lake Area Library to sign up for the smartest card of all – a library card. It's your ticket to a world of opportunity and to quality family time. Why not come together with the entire family and enrich your life? Libraries have always been places where families spend time together. For more information about obtaining a free library card, contact the Circulation Department at (847) 546-7060, prompt 3.

Homework Help: We invite students to stop by our reference desks to get help finding books and information to assist them with completing their assignments. It is helpful when the students bring a copy of their assignment and instructions from the teacher, when visiting the reference desk.

"A library card has always been the most important school supply of all," says Elena Lara, Public Relations. "Kids can

come to the library to get homework help and check out books, but they can also check out free music, DVDs, and use the Internet to make after school life a little more fun. There's a lot happening at the Round Lake Area Library."

Performance Arts Series: The Sunday Sampler series will present magician Gary Fabjance, also known as The Amazing Gary. The performance offers a unique blend of amazing magic, hilarious comedy, and audience participation that is guaranteed to amaze and amuse both children and adults.

Sunday, November 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room – Drop In! Free Admission.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale: October 26th for members only; General Admission October 27th & 28th

Paige-Turner Bilingual Newsletter: Program listings for our Winter/

Spring 2008 season will be published in December. The newsletter is tentatively scheduled to deliver to residents in mid-December, with registration in early January. Visit the library regularly, or visit www.rlalibrary.org to keep current with sign-up information.

"Our goal is to provide you with a pleasant visit to the Round Lake Area Library," says Elena Lara. "Please stop by and tell us how we're doing!"



English Language Learner Corner

The start of the school year was really busy and as I take a little time to write this down, I know that we will soon begin the many projects that were planned over the summer.

This year we welcomed two new individuals: Mrs. Rosalind Muñoz as Language Assessor as well as Mr. Luis Ardon, our Community Language specialist. Mrs. Munoz will help to identify students who may need language services and Mr. Ardon will be help throughout the school district with interpretation services.

We will continue with last years projects as well as begin new ones. In the realm of academics we are working closely with the Curriculum and Instruction Department as well as the Special Education Department, formulating professional development activities for our staff that will help our students garner academic success. Endeavors include, but are not limited to the increased achievement in reading, math, and writing.

Through mentor academies we will strive to provide professional development for teachers in differentiating between a language and an academic need. There will also be courses on useful Spanish vocabulary and phrases as well as other languages in the mentor academies.

Our department strives to always provide the best education for our students regardless of their designation in any program. If you have questions or useful positive comments, please contact us at (847) 270-9452.

- *Mytzy Rodriguez-Kufner*

The Voice of the Community through the Parents of Round Lake Schools District

Welcome to the Round Lake Schools Bilingual Parents Advisory Committee column. According to the Illinois School Code, Article 14C, "...each school district shall establish a parent advisory committee which affords the parents the opportunity to effectively express their views ..."

The Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee is made up of parents whose children are enrolled in the English Language Learners Program, volunteers, teachers, counselors and members of the community. The purpose of BPAC is to give parents the opportunity to express their points of view, opinions, questions, concerns, and/or suggestions in the education of their children. Also, this committee is in charge of planning activities and informational meetings for the district's parents regarding the events of the district and community.

- *Myrna Leal*

Building Highlights

Round Lake Middle School

Three years ago four teachers, Ms. Erin Clark, Mr. Jason Connolley, Ms. Laura Cruz and Mr. Patrick McGuire, created a student mentor program at Round Lake Middle School. The original vision of the program was to start with a small group of 8th grade students that would “guide” the 7th grade students. Each year the Round Lake Middle School staff nominates a group of 7th grade students that have exhibited leadership potential and model the pillars of our Character Counts initiative. This year the mentor program received over 100 nominations of students who met the criteria.

The program starts each year in April with nominations and the training of new mentors. Teacher sponsors and mentors meet over the summer to prepare for the upcoming year. Each school year Round Lake Middle School begins with a 7th grade orientation that is planned and run by the mentors. Each mentor is assigned to a group of 7th graders and they are introduced at orientation. During the year the mentor and mentee form a relationship through a variety of activities where the new student feels as though they have a friend or peer in 8th grade that they can ask questions to if they have concerns. The mentor and their protégées have the same lunch periods and can use that time to get to know each other better. The mentors also host one 7th grade dance, a welcome to school dance, and one all school dance. The mentors provide tours and help throughout the year as new students register in our school. Throughout the year the mentors also participate in community events such as food drives, chili supper, and the high school homecoming parade.

Through the hard work of four teachers and a clear vision; the mentor program has become a reality at Round Lake Middle School. As this program continues to grow we hope to continue to see peer leaders emerge and students leading students to make appropriate choices with positives outcomes.



Ellis Elementary

There are exciting events happening at Ellis this year. The Ellis student council members have been elected and are selling new spirit wear shirts so everyone can show their school spirit. Student council raises money to help fund assemblies about Character Counts, Women in History and Abraham Lincoln. Student council is also collecting books for kids who don't have any at home, and hosting a contest to write a school song for Ellis. Ellis students and staff also participated in the Round Lake High School Homecoming festivities by entering a float in the parade.

Another exciting event at Ellis school is our (NCLB) No Child Left Behind Status. The ISAT tests have been received and Ellis students meet and exceed reading and math which means our school has made our (AYP) Annual Yearly Progress and Ellis is no longer on the Illinois State Board of Education's academic watch list! All kids learn here at Ellis and we're looking forward to even higher test scores.



Indian Hill Elementary

We are so excited for the new school year at *Indian Hill Elementary School!* Starting off this year we have eight new staff members: in fifth grade, we have Jamie Firfer, Corey Hendricks, and Dana Pfanzelter; in fourth grade we have Donna Shaffer; and in second grade Carrie Jewitt. *Indian Hill* also had the addition of three new bilingual classrooms: Trina Cisneros (third grade), Frank Corbiere (second grade), and Candace Pedraza (first grade.) This year we added four new classrooms to our building via a new mobile unit. With the addition of three bilingual classrooms and a new six grade classroom, *Indian Hill* is now filled with over 760 students, who are learning new things everyday!

In order to help our students improve their reading and literacy skills, we have devoted 120 minutes of uninterrupted time for each classroom to focus on Language Arts and Reading. And what happens if our students need additional help and support? We are addressing that by setting aside at least an additional 30 minutes everyday to reinforce concepts covered in the classroom. We hope that by focusing on how our students are learning, we will enable the teachers to address the individual needs of their students.

This year will also be our second year with a yearbook! Our teachers and staff are busy recording the memories the students will remember for years to come! Our very active and supportive PTO is planning fundraisers and assemblies to keep students interested in our school! We are again collecting *Box Tops for Education* and *Campbell's* soup labels. Last year we were able to make over \$1,100 from *Box Tops!* Our goal for this year is \$1,300! The money our PTO collects helps purchase items for the classrooms and help classrooms pay for field trips.

Speaking of field trips, the second grade students from *Indian Hill* have learned a lot about apples! The second graders took a field trip to the *Royal Oak Orchard* in Hebron, Illinois. Students learned about the life cycle, the structure, and the different varieties of apples. The students, teachers, and chaperones enjoyed a day of apple picking, an educational talk in a teepee, feeding farm animals at the petting zoo, and enjoyed walking around the orchard, discovering many fun things to do. After returning to school, each student donated one apple to make home made applesauce for their class! It was a wonderful day!



District Snapshots



Board of Education Update

As the leaves change and the temperature drops the coming of fall not only signals a change in the environment it brings with it a new school year. Changes have come to Round Lake Area Schools as well this year and your Board of Education is excited about the new opportunities a new school year brings.

First, and foremost, we are very pleased to welcome Dr. Ben Martindale as our new CEO. After an intensive nationwide search conducted by the School Finance Authority and the Board of Education working together, we were lucky enough to find a superintendent with the skills needed to lead Round Lake Area Schools right in our own backyard.

During the summer break several of our building projects were successfully completed and now our attention has shifted to Magee Middle School. Over the coming months the board will be making decisions with your input on a number of issues that arise when any district adds a new school. We will do all we can to give you convenient avenues to voice your thoughts to the board during this very important transition.

Over the past few years our schools have continued to make progress in our highest priority: student achievement. The school board's part in this process is developing effective governance strategies to support student achievement. To that end the board has partnered with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to conduct workshops, participate in training opportunities, receive coaching and update the district's policies and procedures. The board is committed to making this an ongoing process with our community, staff and IASB to improve our district.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we note the loss of someone close to our family here in Round Lake Area Schools. Army Specialist Keith Nurnberg, the husband of Mrs. Tonya Nurnberg at Village Elementary School was tragically killed in action last month while serving our country in Iraq. Our condolences go out to the Nurnberg family as well as the Village family for their loss. Arthur Ashe once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." Keith Nurnberg paid the ultimate cost for us; let us never forget his sacrifice.

If you have concerns or comments, please feel free to contact any board member or me personally. My direct phone number is 847-845-3098 and our email addresses can be found on the district website at www.rlas-116.org. Thank you and have a wonderful school year.

- W. Guy Finley, Board of Education President

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!...

...to all the students, staff and administration of the Round Lake School District, St. Joe's, and their families, for making the 4th Annual Chili Supper the event it was meant to be; a chance to showcase the Six Pillars of Character in action. As I walked through the event, I saw trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship represented by each and every one of you. You were true role models of the meaning of CHARACTER COUNTS at all times and in all places in the Round Lake Area Community. You have done our community PROUD, and we need to celebrate that, and continue to spread our message wherever we go. Thank you all again...families, friends, teachers, staff, parents, and community sponsors. See you at the 5th Annual Chili Supper!

Sincerely,

Nanci Radford, Chili Supper Chair



We Need Your Feedback!!!



Did you enjoy this newsletter?

What would you like to see in future issues?

Do you have any questions you would like to be addressed in our next issue?

Please submit responses to:

Round Lake Area Schools
316 S. Rosedale Ct.
Round Lake, IL 60073
Attn: Heather Bennett
or hbennett@rlas-116.org

