

Round Lake Area Schools DISTRICT 116

School • Community • Family
A Partnership for Education

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A Message from the Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ben Martindale

With the outstanding support of the community to a bond issue in April 2006, construction began in 2007 to rebuild John T. Magee Middle School. On September 21, 2008 John T. Magee Middle School was officially rededicated in an afternoon ceremony attended by over 100 citizens, students and staff. John T. Magee Middle School has once again become a beautiful, functional and technologically advanced building that now helps house the 6th, 7th and 8th grade population of RLAS-116.

This "new" configuration of grade 6 students both at Magee and Round Lake Middle School provides for a better transition from the elementary K-5 program before students enter the high school 9-12 program and also improves the continuity of curriculum and instruction for all of our schools. If you have not made it a point to stop by and visit Magee School, please do so. This school is a joint accomplishment that this community and school district should be very proud of.

August 18, 2008 marked the beginning of extended day kindergarten program for all of our kindergarten students. This "new" opportunity that provides extended instruction for our kindergarten students provides a significant positive contribution to all aspects of their educational

program. We expect that this program change will reap many positive benefits in the future for our students as they move through the district.

As of September 26, 2008 RLAS-116 had 7,158 total students enrolled across the district. This number reflects an increase of 100 students over the total one year ago. Even with the completion of John T. Magee Middle School, RLAS-116 remains close to full capacity at each of our schools. In order to help address future school needs the Board of Education commissioned a study to be conducted by representatives from the School Board, School Finance Authority, communities and staff. We soon will be soliciting for community participation to help on this task force. Three of the items to be carefully studied will be:

- student growth and instructional facilities;
- educational adequacy of existing support facilities;
- and financing options to address facility modifications.

In early October, the Board of Education and School Finance Authority will initiate discussion about future transition of Board governance. This discussion is the first step that will lead to the



phasing out of state supervision through the presence of the School Finance Authority Board. RLAS-116 has made significant accomplishments over the past few years and there is a finance curriculum and Board governance to warrant this leadership transition at this time. Both Boards will conduct meetings over the next few months to more specifically define those outcomes and objectives that reflect final accomplishment of a successful leadership transition by the RLAS-116 Board of Education.

I continue to be impressed with the dedication of students and staff along with the support of the Board of Education, School Finance Authority and citizens from each of our communities. We look forward to continual improvement this year in all of our academic areas and the continued building of strong relationships between our schools and our communities and families.

Round Lake Area Schools Community Unit District 116
316 South Rosedale Court
Round Lake, Illinois 60073
847-270-9000

Dr. Janet Elenbogen, Chief Educational Officer Honoring the Past and Celebrating the Future



The 2008-2009 school year has begun with excitement featuring a new building, new personnel, new programs, and strong curriculum initiatives.

At our dedication ceremony for John T. Magee Middle School held on Sunday September 21st, the speakers recounted the journey, the history of the building, and celebrated the hope for the future that comes from this accomplishment.

We actively sought new administrators and teachers for

a strong start of the 2008-2009 school year. The search began last spring with attendance at 13 job fairs, strengthening our student teacher program, enhancing the mentor program with Round Lake Academy, and adding the electronic application system. As a result of these efforts, we have had more applicants for vacancies this year, and we are recruiting top choices. These new staff members are a valued addition to the Round Lake learning community. It is our staff that shapes the future. Included in the new administration are: Mr. Eric Gallagher, principal of John T. Magee Middle School, Mr. Jason Cummins, Assistant Principal for John T. Magee Middle School, and Mrs. Lanelle Collins, Dean of John T. Magee Middle School. Round Lake Middle School welcomes their new Dean, Ryan Hawkins. The new dean at the high school is Mr. Aaron Butler. At the Early Education Center, we welcome Mr. Jack Melfi, principal. Indian Hill's new administrative team includes: Dr. Ken Rose, principal and Mrs. Sandy Kennedy, assistant principal. At Ellis Elementary, Mrs. Janie Metzger has joined us as the new assistant principal. Mr. Scott Lazar is the new assistant principal at Murphy Elementary school and Beach Elementary School. Our new leadership comes with energy and a focus on instruction.

For the first time, Round Lake Area Schools has an extended day kindergarten program. This program is a great addition to our early childhood programs, which also provide services for pre-school at risk

and early childhood educationally handicapped students (ECH). We are confident that these programs will provide a strong foundation for student success.

This year we continue to focus on literacy: Leading with Reading. We are using a professional learning communities format to focus on problem-solving and student-centered instruction. We are utilizing the services of consultants for support in our initiatives. The Regional Office of Education is providing support in the development of core academic vocabulary to enhance comprehension skills.

We have directed resources to the development of both classroom and school libraries. We are building these resources with a focused approach using the expertise of our reading coach. A needs assessment is conducted with attention to curriculum maps and supportive resources, award winning literature is included as well as books to meet the needs of English Language Learners. A plan is outlined for each school that includes the identification of books that are out of date. All books are then coded for easy identification with the accelerated reading program and our MAP assessments that use RIT scores.

At the high school, we are focused on the college readiness standards. The book *Crucial Conversations* is laying the platform for school improvement. Departments are continuing enhancement of curriculum mapping and are identifying and developing common assessments. These efforts are designed to ensure the delivery of instruction that prepares our students for advanced study and careers after high school.

An English Language Learner (ELL) task-force is being developed to examine effective models for instruction. The team will review our model and examine the strengths of other learning models in order to enhance instruction in this most important area.

The District is also taking the initial steps towards implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI). Administration and staff are identifying research-based interventions at three levels of need to address student needs.

The 2008-2009 school year promises to advance learning opportunities and improve education outcomes for the students of the Round Lake Area Schools.

Character Counts

In celebration of National CHARACTER COUNTS! week, everyone is invited to the Fifth Annual Character Counts Chili Supper Festival. The Chili Supper will be held on October 27th from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Round Lake Beach Civic and Cultural Center and is sponsored by the Round Lake Area Exchange Club, Round Lake Area BEST, and the Round Lake Area Schools. The entertainment will be bands and chorus from the Round Lake Schools and St. Joes.

All proceeds go to supporting programs for youth and families in the Round Lake Area.

- Kathy Myers

The Schedule will be as follows:

- St. Joes - 5:00 p.m.
- Community Band - 5:15 p.m.
- Ellis - 5:30 p.m.
- Village - 5:45 p.m.
- Hill and Beach combined - 6:00 p.m.
- 6th Grade Varsity Band - 6:15 p.m.
- 7/8 Concert Band - 6:30 p.m.
- Middle School Choir - 6:45 p.m.
- RL High School Chorus - 7:00 p.m.
- RL High School Band - 7:15 p.m.



Dr. James Tenbusch Takes the Helm as the New Chief Financial Officer for RLAS-116



Dr. James Tenbusch has taken over the responsibilities of Chief Financial Officer for District 116 since August 1, 2008. He replaces Mr. Walter Corbin, who served with distinction in the CFO position for a total of eight years before his retirement in July 2008.

Dr. Tenbusch is a seasoned school administrator with particular skills in financial

management and the integration of technology into Illinois schools. Prior to coming to the Round Lake Area School District, Dr. Tenbusch served as school superintendent since 1995. Over the past five years he was in charge of two distinguished school districts in northeastern Illinois: Hinsdale School District 181, and the Winthrop Harbor School District 1. Other superintendent postings included the LaMoille Community Unit School District 303 in Bureau County, where he worked for three years, Allen Township Community School District 65 in LaSalle County, where he worked for five years, while also serving as superintendent of adjoining Otter Creek-Hyatt School District 56. In these positions, Dr. Tenbusch also directed business operations for the districts, preparing budgets, levies, grant proposals, bond issues and financial reports.

Other administrative experience includes nine years as principal of Dillard Harris School in Joliet, where he also directed special education programming in the area of behavior disorders for students in four districts. Dr. Tenbusch also served for three years as executive director of The Day School, Chicago's oldest and most recognized alternative school. He was business

manager for two years at the School for the Treatment of Emotional Problems in children (STEP) in Chicago and also worked as the Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation at the Englewood Community Health Organization (ECHO) in Chicago. Dr. Tenbusch began his career as a school social worker.

Dr. Tenbusch's academic degrees include a Doctor of Philosophy from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied educational administration and policy studies. He also earned a Master of Social Work Administration and Bachelor of Social Work from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He has published articles in *Edutopia Magazine*, *The School Administrator*, the *Scholastic Administrator*, the *American School Board Journal*, *Electronic School* and the *Northern Illinois Consortium for Education*. Publications span topics from helping at-risk students to succeed, dealing with plagiarism in the electronic age, facing school choice, and training teachers in technology. He serves as a member of the Scholastic Administrator Advisory Board.

Dr. Tenbusch has expressed a philosophy of inclusive leadership. "I believe the primary purpose of a school leader is to foster an environment where individuals from many disciplines can work together cooperatively in the service of learners. Administrators should encourage staff participation in planning and decision-making at all levels in order to increase the possibility of the establishment of a shared vision for education of the children," he said.

Honors include the 2007 Outstanding Service Award from the Board of Education of School District 1, and the Educator of the Year awards from the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education in 1998 and 2000. Dr. Tenbusch continues to be involved in the Winthrop Harbor community, where he is a member of the Illinois Beach Sunrise Rotary Club, the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Winthrop Harbor Police Department, and the Coalition for Healthy Communities.

Something for Everyone @ your library®, Elena Lara, Public Relations Coordinator

Sunday Sampler Performing Arts Series – Free event on **Sunday, October 19th at 2:00 p.m.** Neil Tobin will give a mind-reading, metal bending, clairvoyant and clever performance. And did we mention scary? This program is intended for high school age and adult audiences only. Balloon Sculptor, Dale Obrochta will create magnificent balloon sculptures on **Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 p.m.** Free family concert on **Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 p.m.** The musical group *Jazz Spectrum* will be warming up winter and welcoming the holidays with a dazzling performance of rich harmonies and tight ensemble work. All ages welcome! Drop-in program.

Start Right: How to begin tracing your ancestors – Saturday, October 25th at 10:00 a.m. To register call (847) 546-7060,

prompt 3, or visit the Circulation Desk.

Conversation Café – We invite English Language Learners to practice their conversation skills. Saturday, October 18th at 10:00 a.m. and Monday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m. Drop in! Volunteers welcome. Call (847) 546-7060, ext. 143.

Free Thursday Night Movies @ your library® - All movies begin at 6:00 p.m. and are drop-in. You may bring your own beverages and snacks. We'll provide the popcorn! **October 16th – Spiderwick Chronicles (PG); November 6th – The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13); November 20th – Snow Buddies (G); December 4th – Scrooged (PG-13)**

Teens: Animé Club meets Saturday, November 1st at 1:00 p.m. - **Gaming Club**

meets Saturday, November 8th at 1:00 p.m. Contact Israel Mateos, ext. 114.

Blood Drive – Monday, November 17th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Your donation can make the difference between life and death. Visit www.givelife.org for donor eligibility guidelines. To make an appointment, call (847) 546-7060, prompt 4. Sponsored by the library and the American Red Cross.

Get Carded @ your library® - For more information about how you can get your free library card, call the Circulation Desk at (847) 546-7060, prompt 3.

Round Lake Area Public Library
906 Hart Road, Round Lake, IL
(847) 546-7060 (847) 546-7064 TDD
www.rlalibrary.org





Counselor's Corner

Homework Hints for Parents



Speaking from the perspective of a parent, I can say with nearly 100% certainty that we have all been frustrated by our children and problems with homework. Either they haven't written their assignments down or they "forget" the assignment or they don't complete it properly. So, as a parent, what can you do to help if your child isn't doing well in school?

1. When you are having a calm moment with your child, discuss your concerns about homework and school.

2. Set up a time and place for homework. Try to stick to a schedule and do homework the same time every day.

3. Check your child's agenda every day. Put completed work back into the book bag when it is completed.

4. Create a homework contract with your child. Include rewards and consequences for homework completion.

5. Keep in regular contact with your child's teacher and guidance counselor.

Please remember, you do not want homework problems to interfere with your relationship with your child. Creating a plan with love and respect will go a long way toward developing a trusting and honest relationship.

- Nicole Bihn
Guidance Counselor

Calendar of Events

October 23

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

October 30

School Finance Authority Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

November 4

Election Day / Teacher Institute Day / No School

November 6

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

November 11

Veterans' Day / No School

November 14

2nd Quarter Mid Quarter

November 18

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

November 19

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00pm at Magee

November 20

School Finance Authority Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

November 26

Non Attendance Day

November 27

Thanksgiving Day / No School

November 28

Non Attendance Day

December 4

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

December 5

School Improvement Day / Early Dismissal

December 16

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

December 18

School Finance Authority Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

December 19

End of 1st Semester

December 22 - January 2

Winter Break / No School

January 5

Teacher Institute Day / No School

January 6

School Resumes

January 19

Martin Luther King's Birthday / No School

January 20

School Improvement Day / Early Dismissal

January 22

Board of Education Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

January 29

School Finance Authority Meeting 7:00pm RLHS LMC

Village School Sees “Change”

“Change” seems to be an important word this year especially in the political arena. Village School has seen change this new school year. After our sixth grade classrooms moved to the middle schools, one early childhood class and three full day kindergarten classes took their place.

Change has also taken place in our Library Media Center. It is no longer a shared space, and is being used entirely for reading materials, multi-media resources, and a computer lab. It looks beautiful as many physical changes have also been made.

Along with the many new little people, Village welcomes many new staff members: Jennifer Lichter, Jane Alling, Orinthia McCoy, Karyn Leali, Jessica Christensen (former Round Lake student), Patti Setze, Scott Wilgamotte, Nathan Jokiel, Gail Doucet, April Gossett, Wendy Foley, Tammy Berkshire, Julie Biel, Jane Brennan, and Maritza Matinez-Diaz. They are a wonderful addition to an already terrific staff!

Congratulations to Mrs. Diane Leafblad for being honored by Walmart as “Teacher of the Year”! Nominated by Mrs. Shelley Trump, Mrs. Leafblad will receive \$100,00, and Village School will receive \$1,000.00 which will be used to enrich the school

John T. Magee Middle School Returns to District #116

It is our pleasure to announce that John T. Magee Middle School has re-opened!!! The new school is now open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8. On the first day of school, our students were welcomed by a beautiful new building, state of the art technology and a staff that is enthusiastic about students and their achievement!

Eric Gallagher, principal of John T. Magee Middle School spent many hours before the start of school planning the opening of the school with the staff. Expectations for student achievement and behavior were established well before the start of school. The staff created a 3 tier program of interventions to help our students that are at medium to high risk. Also, working toward instilling a spirit of community involvement in our students is our highest priority. This is an example set by John T. Magee many years ago.

The staff is excited about the promise of an exciting and inspiring future for the students at John T. Magee Middle School. We are committed to providing the best possible learning environment, so that our students have the necessary tools to become life-long learners and involved in the community.

library. An assembly in her honor was held on September 30.

The “ART SMART” Program has returned this year thanks to the generosity of the Village PTO and guidance of parent, Mrs. Shelley Trump. Three guest artists will work with students in grades K-5 throughout the school year teaching a variety of art techniques. The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council will hold its first Autumn Benefit Dinner at the Field Museum on November 11, 2008. Village students have been invited to create nature baskets to be used as centerpieces for the dinner tables. In addition, Museum Night, a huge success last year, will return in January featuring an exhibition of student artwork, music, refreshments, and a museum store.

Three assemblies have been planned to date:

October 30
“Arithmeticals” for K-5 students,
“Animal Artists”
and a Veterans’ Day Concert on November 10, presented by Mrs. Vetrano and the Village Chorus.

The Village Community looks forward to the year ahead along with all the events and activities that await us.

~Diane Korczynski



Early Education Center

The Early Education Center has evolved into a kindergarten only building this year. In years past, it has housed both early childhood students as well as a couple of first grade classrooms. This year there are twenty-two classrooms of our youngest students. There are ten general education classrooms, five ESL, five bilingual and two special education classes.

The district approved the extended day kindergarten for the 2008-2009 school year. This has allowed the students to take on a full load of curriculum including literacy, writing, math, social studies, science and independent skills including social and verbal interactions with classmates. Did we tell you that the students have also added lunch and recess? All of these learning opportunities have made for a busy hub of activity at the EEC.

Along with our new students, have come many new staff members. Mr. Jack Melfi is the new principal, who worked in the area twenty years ago when he worked for SEDOL and the hearing impaired program. Our new general education teachers are Kathy Lifton and Mirna Venegas. In the ESL program, we would like to welcome Jose Escobedo. In our bilingual department we have Zoraya Torres, Isnedy Escobar, Nathaly Huerta as new teachers and Sandra Lopez as an educational assistant. Sarah Williams has come on board in the Special Education department as has Lorissa Lambert as a long term sub until December. We all look forward to a great year of “Little People, Big Ideas, and Bright Futures!”



