



**SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST SCHOOLS**  
5044 Mayfield Road  
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124



**SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST SCHOOLS**

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# The **ARC PRIDE**

*A publication designed to build community pride and awareness in the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools*

## **SEL SPOTLIGHT**

Reserved for noteworthy accomplishments of members of the SEL Schools



### **MRS. RUMAE WATKINS-CLARK, BRUSH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER**

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools congratulates Brush High School teacher, Ruma Watkins-Clark, who was named the "Head of the Class" winner for the month of November by the Cleveland Cavaliers. She was honored with a surprise presentation in her classroom, and was very touched by the recognition. The Head of the Class honor is presented by the Cavaliers to recognize teachers in Northeast Ohio for making a difference in the lives of their students, both inside and outside the classroom. She has been a very important role model through her leadership and guidance of the MAC Scholars program, in which many of our most notable student leaders participate.

*"Mrs. Watkins-Clark personifies a teacher who is dedicated to student success, both inside and outside the classroom," said District Superintendent Linda N. Reid. "This is a special recognition from the Cleveland Cavaliers, and the SEL Schools honors her as well."*

Mrs. Watkins-Clark was nominated by SEL School Board President Mrs. Cassandra Jones, who wrote an essay on her behalf for mentoring the MAC Scholars program over the past ten years, and seeing it grow to help

many students. Consequently, at her surprise presentation, Cavaliers' mascot Sir C.C. and "Hype Man" Ahmaad, paid a visit to the classroom of Mrs. Watkins-Clark, and made a presentation which included a super-sized ticket to a Cavaliers home game and a \$500.00 donation to use towards her classroom. In addition to receiving two tickets to an upcoming game, she also received two complementary passes to the Court Club and was recognized on court prior to a recent home game. As the presenters for the Cavaliers unveiled the honor, Mrs. Watkins-Clark pulled out her authentic Cleveland Cavaliers winter coat! The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools wishes to thank Mrs. Watkins-Clark for her character and the endless hours she has invested in the MAC Scholars Program. Thank you for being an example for other Arcs to follow!

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **SEL SCHOOLS CONTINUES IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN**



Linda N. Reid  
Superintendent of Schools

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools continues to aggressively implement the district's Strategic Plan: Destination 2018. Evidence of progress is becoming more and more visible. The district is making distinct strides toward the achievement of each goal, and this plan, which serves as a guiding document for the schools, has helped greatly in light of the statewide changes to public education.

Most notably, the SEL Schools has developed and implemented an internal structure that allows district staff to proactively address academic situations. This deliberate effort helps the district work towards its accomplishment of Goal #1, which focuses on "Teaching and Learning." Teacher-based-teams (TBTs) have been instituted at each of the district's buildings, which allow teachers to meet regularly and review data in a given subject. These data points include students' performances on tests, improvement scores and other information that permits the TBTs to identify trends and modify instruction based on students' academic need. If intervention and/or enrichment are necessary for a student, it can be implemented much more efficiently as these teams are constantly reviewing real time data. TBTs report regularly to Building Leadership Teams (BLTs). BLTs further monitor student growth in response to teacher instruction. Various district staff, including building principals, serve on the BLTs, where the primary task for this group is to identify global issues that affect the entire building when it comes to teaching and learning. These BLTs then make reports to the District Leadership Team (DLT), which includes Central Office district personnel, who get involved with issues of notable scale and magnitude.

This enhanced model of communicating information, starting at the most engaged level of student-to-teacher interaction, and flowing up through the decision-makers for the entire district can only have a positive effect on the students of the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools. This framework for continuous improvement helps to ensure that

Superintendent Linda N. Reid makes remarks at a Public Forum on the New State Report Card hosted by the SEL Schools



teachers, building administrators and District leadership are focusing and monitor their progress toward annual student growth as outlined by our Strategic Plan.

We, as a district, intend to remain proactive and prepared in light of the statewide changes, with the implementation of this new internal structure for reviewing data and making curriculum-based decisions in the future.

Goal #2 of the Strategic Plan relates to Communications and Partnerships with a focus on enhancing internal and external communications. Communicating with various stakeholders has always been a primary goal of the district, however we are reviving our approach to sharing good news. Through initiatives such as rebranding our academic and athletic logos, this newsletter, more frequent updates to our website and the use of social media, we feel as though we are on the path to achieving this goal. In addition, continued public forums, such as the one held on October 23, 2013 regarding the state report card and the use of our new building profile sheets, continue to bring a greater level of district knowledge to the community.

It may be cold outside, but Arc Pride continues to burn strongly among our student population and our staff. Please join us, as we continue on the path toward fulfilling our vision of becoming The Destination School Community. All the best in the new calendar year!

*Linda N. Reid*

# BOARD BRIEF

## THE SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**President** Lisa Marko  
**Vice President** Cassandra Jones  
**Member** Stefanie Rhine  
**Member** Alfreda Wynne  
**Member** Ori Akrish

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Board of Education continues to be excited about the newly implemented MAPS & STARS benchmarking capabilities. This new standard not only provides vantage points of students' educational progress but also permits the collaboration among the Teacher-Based, Building & District teams to better serve the entire student body. The Board thanks the staff for truly welcoming the brainstorming opportunities to have more direct input with the planning of lessons and the new tools that are providing them with up to date data on where students are, at any current point in time. This is a breath of fresh air compared to receiving test results AFTER the students have transitioned onto the next grade level.

In addition, the Board gives a heartfelt welcome to new Board Member, Ori Akrish. Ori brings a broad depth of insight to SEL. He has a business background that features an educational component. As we welcome Mr. Akrish to the Board, we also would like to wish our departing member, Mr. Bill Kent, a fond farewell. After 8 years on the board, Mr. Kent will be taking a step back to focus more time on family and business. In departing the board, Mr. Kent strongly encourages the community to get even more involved in running for office and attending public meetings. Just as his own children were the primary drivers for his involvement, he sees a great

opportunity for others to get involved, not only on the school board, but for the P.T.A. as well. Your involvement, according to Mr. Kent, is good for the community and good for the students. He wishes the very best to the Mr. Akrish in his new role, and his colleagues on the Board of Education.

On a final note, The Board of Education also wants the community to know all of methods by which the district is communicating with the communities served by our district. The schools are consistently improving the manner in which we communicate to the district, and increasing the number of tools with which it is communicating. Our cable-access channel, AV/TV is frequently conducting interviews, recording sessions that are being broadcasted on Time Warner 22, U-Verse 99 and streaming on the Web. Stay tuned for SEL On Demand, coming soon as well! In addition, the district's website and presence on social media venues is being constantly monitored and updated, and we are happy to hear the positive feedback from those in the community. Clearly, these efforts are becoming more and more noticeable. As a district, the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools is assertively communicating more information on a more frequent basis, since one of our primary tasks is to keep everyone abreast of what's taking place in our school.

## The SEL Schools... TREASURER'S REPORT



**Treasurer**  
 Paul J. Pestello

**Though the SEL Schools continues its commitment to reporting the news about district finances in a conventional sense, the community also needs to be aware of the various alternative funding sources from which the district has benefitted during the last twelve months. These sources come through federal or local grants that the district has pursued for specific uses or purposes. The six entities below are among those that have provided the SEL Schools with alternative funding in the last 12 months, totaling nearly \$1 Million in extra funding. Those outside funding agencies are listed below:**

**Race-to-the-Top: approximately \$400,000**  
 These federal dollars are primarily used to implement the new Common Core standards, including the professional development of our staff, ensuring the understanding of the new components of the state report card and improving instructional wherewithal through an extensive database warehouse of information. This allows the district to review and analyze data and helps to implement the new teaching and administrator evaluation system, with efficiency.

**Legacy Village Grant: approximately \$30,000**  
 This grant has been generously provided by the foundation at Legacy Village, and is considered to be a "teacher-driven grant," meaning that money is given to pilot various new programs that teachers have in mind for students. This specific grant has been issued to help improve technology in the classroom.

**Farm-to-Fork Grant: approximately \$92,000**  
 This grant comes as the result of a strong partnership between Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the USDA, to help bring fresh and local produce to our students throughout the school year. Specifically, this funding will help provide the district with the installation of a walk-in freezer and a blast chiller, to prepare food that is obtained by our partner, Red Basket Farms, and keep it fresh all year long. The district will also receive

a wrapping machine for the food it receives. This partnership has yielded more than \$170,000 in grants during the last three years, helping to finance our food services capital expenditures.

**Safe Routes to School: approximately \$440,000**  
 With a partnership between Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Cities of South Euclid and Lyndhurst, the SEL Schools will benefit from this grant which identifies and prioritizes areas around our schools where safety can be enhanced. The funding will go towards sidewalk improvements, crosswalk enhancement and new signage. In addition, \$40,000 will be reserved for programming that the district will use to promote safety throughout the district.

**Scoreboard Corporate Sponsorships: approximately \$45,000**  
 With the installation of a new scoreboard at Korb Field and the resurgence of Arc Pride, the opportunity presented itself to seek corporate sponsors to advertise to the Brush Arc supporters who attend these events. The district pursued gate-sponsors, created "the Power Corner," and other various promotional items, which were funded by sponsors of the district. Commercials were also played on the scoreboard to promote our corporate partnerships. All of this has entirely funded the scoreboard, with no additional cost to the taxpayers.

**Andrew Simon: approximately \$5,000**  
 This generous benefactor of the SEL Schools has given more than \$40,000 over the years in the form of donations to Rowland Elementary School, with the stipulation that the money be used for technology improvements in the classroom.

The SEL Schools will remain on the lookout for such additional funding, to supplement the tax dollars it receives for additional opportunities for our students. For more information, you can always contact my office at (216) 691-2012.

# FEEL THE POWER!

This section is devoted to showing the community the "Power of Arc Pride," and how our students are shining in their academic and co-curricular endeavors.



## MEMORIAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHARE THOUGHTS ON PATRIOTISM, RECEIVE HONOR...



A recent writing contest asking students to thoughtfully explain 'what Patriotism means,' has provided a handful of Memorial Junior High Students with the opportunity to earn high honors, and the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools congratulates them for their efforts. Entitled the Patriot's Pen Youth Writing Competition and sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Memorial Junior High students were asked to pen what patriotism means to each one of them. The local Women's Auxiliary administered the program to

our SEL students, where a total of 57 essays were submitted for judging. Four of those individuals, Elliot Fain, Megan Rhine, Rebecca Rossi and Damon Thomas, Jr, earned the top winner prize of \$100, and had their essays submitted to the state level competition. Additionally, eight other Memorial Junior High Students earned Honorable Mention. The SEL Schools congratulates each of these students for taking time to reflect on the importance of patriotism, and thanks the Language Arts and Social Studies teachers for promoting the contest.

## ROWLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONORS ITS OWN AND ALL VETERANS WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

In recognition of Veteran's Day this past year, Rowland Elementary School participated in a touching ceremony led by a veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who is currently studying to be a teacher. During this ceremony, two other special individuals who are part of our Rowland family were recognized as well. Led by Sergeant Gregory Hawver, an 8 1/2 year combat veteran in the U.S. Army and flanked by Rowland's very own veterans, Mr. Kijinski and Mr. O'Brien, the school was led in the Pledge of Allegiance and then listened to a presentation about what it means to be a veteran.



Sgt. Hawver, who has served 4 years in active duty and the past 4 years in the reserves, is currently studying to be a special education teacher, and is also a student of Rowland instructor, Ms. Danesha Parker, at Cleveland State University. When he graduates in the spring, Sgt. Hawver will exchange the leadership of his platoon, for leading

a classroom of special needs students. During the presentation, students submitted questions to their teachers, and the ceremony was followed by a brief question-and-answer period. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Sgt. Hawver presented Mrs. Bussey and the entire school with a United States Flag that was flown on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks for 9 minutes and 11 seconds in Afghanistan. In all, the presentation was meaningful, and students certainly had the opportunity to see firsthand how very important recognizing our veterans past and present, is to our country. Thank you to Sgt. Hawver for presenting and an expression of gratitude to him, Mr. Kijinski and Mr. O'Brien for their service to our country!



## SUNVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONTINUES STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS



Sunview Elementary School continued this past holiday season with its long-standing tradition of honoring the men and women who serve our country through the Stockings for Soldiers program. Spearheaded by first grade teacher Jaime Bloom, and with the

support of Principal Arika Taylor and the PTA, this program collects stockings that are filled with non-perishable, everyday items for our soldiers. The participants in the program stuffed stockings with items such as hand wipes, deodorant, soaps, batteries and socks. This year,

Sunview helpers collected more than 175 stockings and donated them to DeJohn Funeral Home, another program partner, who then sends these items overseas. According to Ms. Bloom, the program instills the importance of giving during the holiday season to people who are in need the most. Once again this year, Sunview students played an active and eager role in helping to serve the men and women who serve our country. Way to go Sunview students!

