

**It's a  
NEW DAY...**

**There's a New Vision...**

**... In the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools.**

## ***Superintendent's Message***

# **A Year of Community and Accomplishment, as More than 300 Individuals Participate in District Planning Process**

As I write to you upon the close of the 2012/2013 school year, a sense of community and accomplishment prevails at the SEL Schools for the completion of another year of hard work and achievement. In my first year as your superintendent, we have accomplished a great deal together, including the passage of an important school levy, maintaining high academic standards in an era of reform, and initiating a few major district projects. I personally thank everyone in the SEL community that has worked extremely hard to welcome me to the district and for working together to achieve so much.

One of the largest accomplishments has been the strategic planning process, which recently culminated in the State of the Schools presentation on May 21, 2013. The strategic plan, entitled Destination 2018, is a summary collection of the work of more than 300 individuals from the community. As we continue to strengthen partnerships that will make our school district stronger and raise student achievement for all students, it is essential that everyone involved has a clear picture of where the school district is headed and how we will

measure our progress along the way.

The 5-year strategic planning process began in September 2012. Together, the Board and administration believes that the path to an exemplary school district is a journey that includes bold visions, transparent decisions and accountability for progress, all in the name of increased student achievement. Destination 2018 is a living document, which means that as we make progress toward our goals, the plan will be updated to reflect higher expectations or perhaps even new goals. As stakeholders in our school district, you can expect an annual report outlining our progress toward each goal and an honest reflection and corrective actions to be taken when we are not making adequate progress toward our goals.

We eagerly anticipate your participation along this journey. Soon, we plan to make Destination 2018 available to the public, and the community can also watch the State of the Schools presentation on AVTV. We need your partnership to meet our goals. There are a variety of ways in which you can be involved. Destination 2018 is a bold

statement of what our schools can achieve, and with your partnership, we will meet every goal for our students.

Congratulations to our students for another successful year. Have a safe and fun summer!

*Linda N. Reid*

Linda N. Reid



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

Changes Coming to SEL Schools in Climate of Reform Part II.....	Page 2
Update on Korb Field.....	Page 2
SEL Students Shine!.....	Page 3
More SEL Students Shine!.....	Page 4



# Culture of Reform Bringing About **BIG CHANGES** in District, Teacher and Student Evaluation at SE-L Schools

*Part II*

**A**s a follow up to the story that the district presented in the winter newsletter, this article further explains what the SE-L Schools are doing to prepare for the changes which are underway as it relates to academics in the state. The tide of reform has been widely reported in major news publications, and statewide elected officials continue to increase their dialogue about these changes to public education. The SE-L Schools will continue to communicate clearly about how these changes will impact the students and teachers, along with the overall district rating. We have also provided the public with substantial resources online, so that parents and students can prepare in advance.

Simply put, the increased rigor with which the reforms are being implemented is likely to impact the district's rating in the short term. Districts all over the state should anticipate lower ratings, due to higher standards by which schools will be evaluated. The criteria that would have yielded a "B" grade in the past, is now under newly implemented standards, a "D."

## What is SE-L Doing to Prepare for the Reforms?

To best prepare for the coming reforms, our teaching and administrative staff has conducted extensive reviews of curriculum in each of the core subjects, from Kindergarten all the way to grade twelve. The goal of reviewing the curriculum is to properly align it, with resources, technologies and supplemental materials. The changing demands on curriculum requires our teaching staff to look at what and when subjects are being taught during a school year. Also, the district will evaluate when in a student's academic career subjects are being taught. In other words, topics and skills that were traditionally taught in grade two will now be taught in kindergarten. Further, more material will be taught faster in algebra and students will be expected to absorb and respond to this new and enhanced standard of instruction. Finally, in our English classes, a complete realignment of what our students are reading has been undertaken. Books traditionally read in basic literature classes will be eliminated so that more emphasis on non-fiction can be incorporated. These reforms have prompted our teaching and administrative staff to devote a substantial amount of time re-aligning the curriculum to meet the new standards.

## What's Being Done For You to Prepare?

Parents and students need to take special note of these changes, and the SE-L Schools has prepared a comprehensive listing of resources for your information and preparation. Please visit the district's Web site, [www.sel.k12.oh.us](http://www.sel.k12.oh.us), click on "Departments" and then click on "Instruction," where visitors will find to the left of the page, a set of links entitled, "Parents Guide to the Common Core." Visitors will find resources from both the National PTA Association and the Council on Great City Schools, by grade level, so that parents can make sure they remain aware of coming reforms and how to prepare their students. Please take time to become familiar with these changes, the resources that the district has made available and ways that you and your child can prepare for next school year.

As always, the SE-L Schools will continue to communicate the updates from the state, what it has been doing to best serve our students and parents, and what you can do on your own.

## Korb Field Renovation Project Update

**W**ith a recent unanimous approval by the South Euclid Lyndhurst Board of Education, the school district is set to launch a planned overhaul to the field turf of Korb Field at Brush High School. The Korb Field Renovation Project is anticipated to begin later this spring with a planned completion timeframe of summer 2013. The current field turf has been in place since prior to the 2002 high school football season, or approximately 11 years, which is three years beyond the then-anticipated life of the turf. The conditions of the field have been rendered extremely worn and unsafe by district officials, for use. More than half of the student population at Brush High School utilizes the facility through classes or extracurricular activities. The project will also include the replacement of the scoreboard at the facility.

"This project has been deliberately planned for over the last several years, and the time has come for serious attention to Korb Field," said district superintendent Linda N. Reid. "Between our own internal use, outside use and the fact that the district is beyond the anticipated life of the current turf, the time to act on this project is right now."

Approximately 80% of the cost of the project, which has been estimated to be \$634,100, will come from rental fees which have been collected from outside entities for the use of Korb Field. Nearly \$500,000 collected in rental fees has been set aside in anticipation of the project. The balance of the cost will be covered by sponsorships and advertisers. The district has also developed a number of resources for public information, to help communicate the need and the specifics of the project. Those resources are available by contacting the district athletic offices at 216-691-2121, or by visiting the district Web site, [www.sel.k12.oh.us/KorbField.aspx](http://www.sel.k12.oh.us/KorbField.aspx).



Athletic director Mike Murphy and Head Football Coach Josh Wells inspect the new field turf as it is being installed at Korb Field

## Financial Report:

# Paul J. Pestello, Treasurer South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools Given High Marks for 2012 Financial Audit



The South Euclid Lyndhurst City School District recently underwent an annual financial audit for fiscal year 2012, which is required by the Ohio Auditor of State. The audit was conducted during the winter months by C&P Advisors, LLC (Ciuni & Panichi, Inc.). The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued

by the Comptroller General of the United States. The district's financial records and internal control procedures were tested and found to be in accordance with applicable laws and procedures.

The School District received an "unqualified" opinion which means that the district's financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects. The audit report also specifically noted "no management comments," "no citations" and "no recommendations" with regard to the district's financial

recordkeeping and internal control procedures.

The final report issued by C&P Advisors was submitted to the Ohio Auditor of State for its final review and was officially released without exception in February 2013. The official audit report can be seen on the State Auditor's website <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/Default.aspx>.

## Brush Junior Brandon McGhee Wins Distinguished Honor from Princeton University

Brandon McGhee, a widely accomplished junior at Brush High School, has recently been honored with the 2013 Princeton *Prize for Race Relations*, a prestigious distinction presented from Princeton University to a select number of students from across the country. McGhee was notified just prior to spring break, and serves as one of only a handful of honorees from two dozen locations in the country from which Princeton identifies and selects candidates for this award. Princeton established the coveted *Prize for Race Relations* nearly ten years ago for high school students who have demonstrated a commitment to improving race relations with integrity and character. Eligible applicants are students in grades 9 thru 12, who exhibit an understanding and a respect among people of different races within their communities. Applicants must also be nominated by 'supporters,' who are non-family-member teachers or advisers who have witnessed first-hand the applicants' commitment to improving race relations. Brandon's supporter and nominator was Brush High School language arts department coordinator, National Honor Society advisor and C.A.R.E. coordinator, Mrs. Sallie Fine. Brandon was honored April 25- 27, 2013, at the Princeton Prize Symposium at Princeton University. The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools commends Brandon McGhee for this renowned accomplishment.

### THE PRINCETON PRIZE IN RACE RELATIONS



Brandon was honored April 25- 27, 2013, at the Princeton Prize Symposium at Princeton University. The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools commends Brandon McGhee for this renowned accomplishment.

## Adrian Scholars and Rubies Visit Notre Dame College

Third-grade students participating in the Adrian Scholars and Rubies program visited Notre Dame College earlier this spring for an interactive day of education. Approximately twenty-four students, along with club advisors Sylvia Marshall and Bridgette Abbot visited the local college for an after-school tour of the campus. The visit to Notre Dame College provided students the opportunity to apply and discuss key concepts and skills they have learned in the Scholars and Rubies program in a real-life setting. The unique program is designed for third-grade students and includes two sections, Scholars (boys) and Rubies (girls). The main purpose of the Scholars and Rubies program is to encourage students to strive for academic excellence, and provide guidance in preparing them for future academic and career goals. The SEL Schools is focused on exposing even its younger students to meaningful, real-life experiences! Way to go!



# SEL Student Successes and Stories!

## Greenview Upper Elementary Sixth Grader Wins First Place in Statewide Essay Contest Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greenview Upper Elementary Sixth Grader, Rasaun Calhoun II, was recently selected as the First Place finisher in the sixth grade essay competition, entitled the *2013 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing & Multimedia Contest*, and sponsored by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, from more than 1,000 entrants statewide. Rasaun entered the contest earlier this year, along with others from Greenview Upper Elementary School. He was invited to attend a celebratory awards ceremony in Columbus, Ohio, where the winning entries were showcased and student contest winners were formally recognized for their participation and hard work. The ceremony included a guest speaker, musical entertainment and awarded students for their work to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A reception then followed the program. Congratulations Rasaun!

## Memorial 8th Grade Student Albert Green III Ohio Lottery's Student of the Month

Memorial Junior High Eighth Grader Albert Green III was recently selected as The Ohio Lottery's Academic All-Star for Northeastern Ohio for the month of March 2013. The All-Star Program is a *Partner in Education* initiative designed to recognize K-12 students for their academic achievement, community involvement and citizenship. Albert was nominated by his health teacher, Mrs. Sarah Budziak for his natural leadership, high academics and strong work ethic. Albert has served as captain of Memorial's football and basketball team. He has participated in "Fuel up to Play 60" where he volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland. Albert is excited for the award and thanks Mrs. Budziak for the nomination. Albert will receive an article on the Ohio Lottery's website, a Certificate of Excellence, and recognition at a community event. The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools would like to congratulate Albert Green III on this notable accomplishment!



## Sunview and Rowland Math-a-Thon Efforts Raise More than \$5000

Nearly 100 students at Sunview Elementary School and Rowland Elementary School have raised a combined total of more than \$5,000 while completing math problems, as part of the annual Math-a-Thon program to benefit Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The long-standing competition requires students to perform math problems in exchange for receiving donations, and this year at Sunview, the efforts took on special meaning as the school honored former student Devante Burns, who recently passed away after being a patient at Saint Jude's Hospital. All students at Sunview and Rowland were encouraged to participate, either through their math teachers or on their own. Those raising \$35 and under received a certificate of participation, those raising \$35- \$74.99 earned a certificate and a t-shirt, and those earning \$75 received these items plus a book bag. An awards assembly earlier this spring rewarded each of the students!



## Congratulations Brush Graduates!

Have a Safe and Enjoyable  
Summer Break!  
School Resumes on  
August 28, 2013!



Register Early for School by Calling  
216-691-2062 for an Appt.

### BROWN & GOLD CARD

Present your card at any  
Brush High School event  
for FREE attendance!

SE-L School District residents 55 and older are eligible for Brown & Gold Card membership. Present your card at any Brush High School event for FREE attendance. To sign up, stop by the Board of Education office at 5044 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst, or email us at [gardner@sel.k12.oh.us](mailto:gardner@sel.k12.oh.us) or call 216.691.2016.

## South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District Board of Education

**President**  
Cassandra Jones

**Vice President**  
Lisa Marko

William Kent  
Stefanie Rhine  
Alfreda Wynne

Stay up to date on SE-L events at [www.sel.k12.oh.us](http://www.sel.k12.oh.us) and by following us on Channels 22 & 99.

You can also follow SE-L on

