



# The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Winter Edition 2019

## Grants Awarded to Southern Local Teachers

Three Southern Local School District educators received grant funding to further student learning projects in their classrooms.

The Jefferson County Educational Service Center awarded three \$600 Best Practice Grants to first-timers Tonyea Kellison and Eric Nejus of Southern Local Elementary and previous recipient Marylou Taylor of Southern Local High School for projects centered on writing, special education and science.

Kellison will use her windfall to conduct a Young Author's Conference and benefit about 420 students in grades K-6 at SLES. The event, which is set for April 16, will help students learn about the writing process and be inspired to read and write after attending a workshop by a noted children's author.

"I am so honored to receive this grant," Kellison said. "It gives our school an opportunity to do projects like this one that we would not be able to afford."

Kellison was inspired to do the project when second-grade teacher Holly Davis brought the idea to her attention.

Nejus plans to acquire standing double and single desks for the special education

resource room at SLES, which may help intervention students struggling with ADHD. About 45 special education students in grades 4-6 will benefit from the furniture and Nejus said the goal is to help them expend extra energy so they can focus.

"Recent research suggests that ADHD is linked to physical inactivity and that a sedentary lifestyle can aggravate ADHD symptoms. For children suffering from ADHD, moving and fidgeting is an important and natural way to relieve symptoms," he explained. "However, when seated there is no non-disruptive way for them to fidget. Standing desks allow children to move more, and many are even equipped with moving footrests that allow them to fidget while standing."

Nejus was pleased to receive the mini-grant and hopes to have the new desks by the end of December, and his goal is to provide 10 standing desks and two double desks in the resource room. With the average student sitting for roughly 4.5 hours each day, the standing desks will increase student concentration and allow eye contact with teachers, increasing overall engagement.

"Considering some of the great proposals I've seen from our school alone, I feel very honored for mine to have been selected. I would like to thank JCESC for their generosity, commitment and dedication to improving education."

Meanwhile, Taylor will use her latest grant to create a physics bridge project that teaches students about stress, forces and pressure. The "Balsa Bridge Testing" project expects to impact more than 80 students in grades 9-12 from her physics and physical science classes and she hopes to implement it around the third quarter of the school year.

"The goal of this equipment would be to give students a visual and practical experience with planning, construction and testing bridges while looking at various forces and stress points," she noted.

Taylor, who received a mini-grant two years ago, was excited about the latest disbursement for her project.

"I am very humbled and grateful for this grant and for the support for our students from JCESC," she said.

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## Board Recognition

The Southern Local Board of Education met to organize on Jan. 9, respectively naming Jay Cole and Linda Morris as president and vice president. Officials also observed School Board Recognition Month for January and received certificates of appreciation during the session. Pictured are, front from left, John Sawyer and Morris. Back: Cole, Kip Dowling and Mike Abraham.





Members of the Southern Local High School Leadership Committee traveled to Beaver Local High School on Jan. 10 to learn about the facilities and activities and gather ideas for SLHS. Pictured are students from both schools including, front from left, Emma Palmer, Katelyn Bailey, Ivy Winters, Jenna Riccardo, Addison Guildoo and Alexis Rhodes. Middle: Mary Quinn Cook, Trisha Brown, Bryan Anderson, Madison Ours, Aubrianna Mellott, Riley Felton, Sydnie Holden, Garrett Givens and Victor Duncan. Back: Nate Barber, Jayce Sloan, Cameren Grodhaus and Jaden Kiddey.

## Leadership Committee Visits Beaver Local

### *Southern Students Meet with BLHS Pupils to Gather Ideas for School Betterment*

Southern Local High School students took a trip to Beaver Local High School on Jan. 10 to exchange ideas and find ways to improve their campus.

Ten members of the school leadership committee headed to the site and met with other students to discuss such topics as school spirit and student involvement. Among the committee members were Aubrianna Mellott, Alexis Rhodes, Riley Felton, Victor Duncan, Bryan Anderson, Jayce Sloan, Cameren Grodhaus, Katelyn Bailey, Trisha Brown and Ivy Winters, who were paired up with 10 BLHS students and attended two classes before joining their peers for lunch.

Mellott and Rhodes, who are both seniors, said they learned a lot from their visit and are pondering ideas for implementation at Southern.

"We went to learn how the school operated and about school spirit and student involve-

ment," said Mellott. "The principal talked to us about getting students to go to games and they have a Varsity Club."

"They need their varsity letter or pay \$1 to get to go to a game, so the club is not just for athletes," Rhodes added.

Rhodes said they also looked at the facility and learned about technological tools that aid education.

"We looked at the technology and the teachers have MacBooks that sync to their TV's," she commented. "The technology seemed like a big convenience."

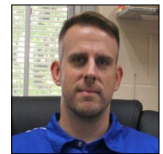
Other outstanding factors included the colorful schematics of the building and its versatility. Mellott noted that classrooms were separated with a mobile divider which could open up the space into a common area. She and Rhodes agreed that the trip was very helpful in formulating plans for Southern.

"I think it helps a lot to go to other schools because it gives ideas to better this school," Rhodes said.

Previous committee members have traveled to Western Reserve and Columbiana High Schools last year and another excursion could be set for May.

## From the Principal's Desk

By  
Tony  
DelBoccio



Southern Local High School is partnering with a behavioral health agency called The Red Zone. With parents' approval, they will assist students in developing coping skills, building positive self-esteem, addressing academic concerns and conflict resolution skills among other issues. If anyone is interested, please call the school office.

Meanwhile, the ACT test will be taking place at the end of February for all juniors.

### CALENDAR DATES

**Jan. 25: Junior High Dance**

**Feb. 2: Winter Homecoming**

**Feb. 19 Waiver Day  
(No School)**

## Southern Partners with The Red Zone

Southern Local High School is joining forces with The Red Zone to help students facing life challenges.

The Red Zone, which is based in Mahoning County, is a CARF-accredited behavioral health agency that helps youth and families develop long-term strategies to cope with mental and behavioral health issues. The site offers comprehensive and multidisciplinary substance abuse and behavior health services and will have a representative at the school regularly to work with students.

Nancy Saling, SLHS guidance counselor, said Southern is the first school in Columbiana County to participate with

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Southern Local Elementary art teacher Kimberly Adams is putting the focus on schools with her Take Pride 3.0 project. She and a group of volunteers spent their Thanksgiving break adding color and inspirational statements to an estimated 100-foot hallway at the high school with more updates in the works over the next two years throughout the complex.

## Showing School Pride

Southern Local is taking pride in its school with an artistic initiative that is meant to inspire and excite.

A group of teachers and students volunteered their time over Thanksgiving break to begin an ongoing venture to transform school hallways and walls into canvasses full of color and quotations. Elementary art teacher Kimberly Adams is spearheading Take Pride 3.0, her latest project to bring art into the community in a unique way. Adams' first two efforts added a mural to the village of Salineville as well as decorative fences created by students that dot the town, but her latest quest literally takes her back to school.

Her three-phase 3.0 plan focuses on updating the complex with designs and inspirational phrases as well as improvements on the exterior, and some of the work started last month. The first project consists of painting the high school hallways and restrooms, as well as the elementary halls and restrooms, and the estimated completion date for the entire project is summer of 2020. The second segment includes marking the Tribe Nature Trail and sixth-grade students will create clear indicators for the safety of students and community members utilizing the path and a finish date is targeted for next spring. The third and final project involves elementary students painting river rocks that reflect their individuality. The rocks will be placed along three school entrances to

brighten the landscape and welcome students, staff and visitors. The high school FFA organization will assist with the installation and the work should conclude next spring for fall.

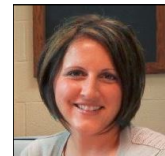
She, high school art teacher Laurie Ronshak and SLHS art club members Kylee Mehaffey, Trisha Wintermantel, Tawnya Bertram, Autumn Pelley, Addisyn Milhoan, Cami Chuey and Grace Haight spent upwards of 61 hours painting an estimated 100-foot stretch of hallway in the junior-senior high wing in blue and gold and adding vision statements and other words of inspiration to fill inhabitants with a sense of school pride. Phrases include "Tribe is...Trust, Respect, Integrity, Belief and Excellence" and "Creating Confident Communicators and Problem Solvers to Serve as Productive Members of Society."

And Adams, a 1998 Southern Local alumna herself, said people were already taking notice. "It's been a really positive reaction," she said. "We started the Wednesday of Thanksgiving break in one hallway. It was a lot of work but it was worth it. The kids' reaction... they thought it was the coolest thing. They were really excited."

She added that groups of two to 10 people worked intermittently throughout the week to complete the corridor, painting pinstripes and tracing projected letters on walls. Adams was

## Class Notes

By  
*Kristy  
Sampson*



The second half of the year has some exciting things in store for our students.

We will kick off February with our Jump Rope for Heart Assembly on Feb. 8. The Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser raises money for The American Heart Association and our community always shows up in a BIG way to support our Elementary School.

Staff and students will also be gearing up for testing with test prep activities in the classroom. Grades 3-6 will offer morning intervention for those students who need some additional preparation. Intervention information and permission slips will be going home in student folders at the end of January. The intervention will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from Feb. 26–March 28.

Additionally, the PTO will host our Valentine's Day activities on Feb. 13 and parent-teacher conferences will be on Feb. 14. Our staff will be participating in professional development on Feb. 19 and there will be no school for students on Feb. 15-19.

### *Programs Set at SLES*

Southern Local Elementary is gearing up for programs in February to help build character in students.

The school will host Lynsi Beagle, program coordinator for the Family Recovery Center of Lisbon, who will present the Aiming High Program for second-grade students each Wednesday from Feb. 6-27. Topics will include making good decisions, character building and how to be a good citizen. Sessions will be rescheduled in the event of school delays or cancellations.

Deputy Brandon Hoppel, school resource officer, is also expected to hold Kelly Bear programs for kindergarteners from Feb. 20 through April 10 and address such subjects as kindness, bullying, and being good listeners.

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## GRANTS (Continued from Front)

JCESC Superintendent Dr. Chuck Kokiko congratulated the recipients and said the JCESC was pleased to assist teachers with their innovative approaches to education.

"The JCESC is appreciative of our member school districts and enjoy giving back when the opportunity presents itself. Much of our time is spent with school administration as well as providing teacher professional development and the mini-grants are a way to have a direct impact on the classroom," he said. "The JCESC Governing Board is grateful to all of our applicants and the hard work teachers do each and every day. We look forward to continuing the program next year."

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the agency and an official would be on-site at least once a week depending on students' needs. She said Principal Tony DelBoccio learned of the program since it is located in his home county and wanted to offer another means to assist the pupils.

"It's another way to support our students," she said. "It's a program that will provide staff to meet with students and work on skills for academic and social success."

The agency's mission is to enhance the lives of communities by providing opportunities for youth, adults and families to obtain comprehensive therapeutic support through mental, behavioral or substance abuse treatment rooted in compassionate and restorative practices. For more information, call (330) 787-9180 or go online to [theredzoneoh.com](http://theredzoneoh.com).



### *Good Problem-Solving Skills*

Southern Local Elementary School hosted Cathy Grizinski, a representative of the HelpNetwork of Northeast Ohio, who addressed fourth-graders about good problem-solving techniques. Students learned to identify the problem and weigh choices to best resolve the situation, plus they were encouraged to tell someone if they have an issue.



### *Stuff a Cruiser*

Southern Local High School seniors Jayson Bott, Bryan Anderson and Trisha Brown, along with students of the law, yearbook and Crime and Punishment classes sponsored by Sharon Campbell and Jody Lockhart, participated in the Stuff a Cruiser toy drive in Salineville. The students began a community project on their own and collected toys at school, which were then delivered in early December. Pictured with the cruiser are, from left, Anderson, Salineville Mayor Linda Adams, Bott and Brown.

## PRIDE

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grateful to work with the high schoolers and added that she was approached by staff members to potentially volunteer. She plans to form a sign-up sheet for names, dates and times and work areas as the process continues.

"It was great working with the high school on the project. It was fun seeing [the students] out of the school element. You got to see them as a person and as an artist, and you got to see their styles," she noted, saying all kids could participate. "It's something that's going to lead them back. You may get kids who want to get involved who may not be an artist, but they want to be part of something bigger."

The hallway was formally dedicated with a small ceremony featuring the senior class once students returned from break, and she told them they were part of something historic.

Adams said those who leave Southern Local's hallowed halls should go out into the world and gain experience, but hopefully they would return home to share that knowledge, much like she did.

"It was exciting for me to give them a little of what I've learned. Southern Local and Salineville will welcome you back with open arms. To be able to give back to this learning community, it's a good feeling."