



# The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Fall Edition 2017

## *New Teachers Welcomed to Southern Local Schools*

Southern Local Schools hasn't just welcomed new students to class but a few new teachers, as well.

Seven new educators have joined the staff this year and instruct everything from preschool to high school. Newcomers include preschool teacher Erin Newburn and fourth-grade intervention specialist Jessica Hall at Southern Local Elementary School and intervention specialist Andrew Vulgamore, English teacher Kyle Exline, math teachers Victoria Neske and Jordan Wrask and Spanish teacher Karla Calderon at the high school.

Newburn graduated from Leetonia High School in 2000 and earned a degree in computer technology at Kent State University's main campus. She married while in college and was a stay-at-home mother to her three sons. Ten years later, she decided to follow her mother's footsteps and become an elementary schoolteacher. Newburn received a degree in early childhood education from Kent State University-Salem in May of 2016 and shortly afterwards worked as a substitute kindergarten teacher at SLES. She was pleased to return and said she enjoys the atmosphere.

"I love it. The administration is amazing and very helpful," she added. "I knew I wanted to be a teacher but my passion is technology."

Hall graduated from Lisbon High School in 2008 and received a degree in French and education from The Ohio State University in 2011. She was a substitute teacher at Crestview and Beaver Local Schools and served two years at Bocks Academy in East Liverpool. Hall became an intervention specialist after receiving her master's degree from Capella University and plans to marry fiancé Ron Coleman in October. She enjoys being part of Southern Local Schools and working with the fourth-graders.



**Southern Local Schools has some new and familiar faces on board after adding seven teachers to its staff this year. Pictured are, front from left, Karla Calderon, Victoria Neske and Jessica Hall. Back: Andrew Vulgamore, Jordan Wrask and Kyle Exline. Not pictured is Erin Newburn.**

"I love it and I love being around the kids," Hall added.

Meanwhile, Vulgamore grew up and worked across the Ohio River in Chester, W.Va., graduating from Oak Glen High School in 1996 and then West Liberty State College (now West Liberty University) with a bachelor's degree in social studies in 2003. He served for two years as a permanent substitute teacher and worked one on one with children who had severe behavioral disorders. Vulgamore then went on to Buckeye Online School for Success in 2006, where he was responsible for ordering curricula and computers and also taught financial literacy, psychology and sociology. Vulgamore eventually earned a master's degree in special education from Western Governors University of Utah in 2015 and presently coaches football at East

Liverpool, where he resides with wife Dana and their three children.

He said Southern Local was his first intervention specialist's post and he works with students in grades 7-12. He is excited about the new position.

"I love it here. The staff and students have been amazing and helpful and everyone has been so understanding," he said. "It seems like a very close-knit school and I really enjoy it here."

Kyle Exline has returned to his old stomping grounds after graduating from SLHS in 2012. Exline, who resides near Wellsville, was active in SLHS sports and served as captain of the football team his senior year. He graduated from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., with a

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## *Unseated*

Southern Local High School volleyball player Anna Sevek and football player Ethan West battled it out for one of the final seats during a game of musical chairs a pep rally on Oct. 27, but Sevek ultimately claimed victory was the last one sitting at the finale. Students gathered to cheer on the football team as they faced Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas that evening and the volleyball team as they headed to the Division IV district finals that Saturday.

## *Logston Breaks Sister's CC Record*

Southern Local High School freshman Hannah Logston celebrated a special milestone when she competed at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spartan Invitational cross country matchup in Boardman on Sept. 16.

Not only did Logston earn 21<sup>st</sup> place out of nearly 280 female runners in Division III, but she also broke her sister's record set back in 2004. Logston held a time of 20 minutes, 48.2 seconds at the conclusion and bested older sister Amanda Bowman's own score of 21:14 that was set more than a decade ago. Logston said it was a bit of competition that inspired her and she had been waiting for this moment for a long time.

"I felt really good. It's been my goal ever since I started cross country in the seventh grade," she said. "Ever since I was little, I knew I wanted to be in cross country and I wanted to be just like her."

Meanwhile, Bowman was on hand for the achievement and her reaction was one of pride.

"She wanted me to do it and she was always hoping I would," Logston commented.

Sports are definitely in the family's blood as Logston's father, Phil, played football and her uncle Mick Logston was a record-holder in track. Additionally, she plays basketball and track for SLHS but her ultimate goal is to head

to state for her running prowess. Logston also gives plenty of credit to coach Kathy Randolph for preparing her for events.

"She is the best coach I could ask for," she said. "I know I'm going to get better because she pushes me."

Randolph was equally pleased with Logston's accomplishment.

"Hannah is a born runner. She is one of those individuals who loves to run and does it with ease," Randolph said. "She works hard at every practice, giving 100 percent each time. She is still learning to be mentally strong but she has a lot of heart and wants to learn. Hannah is happy with what she has accomplished but isn't satisfied as she has bigger goals to reach. It is an honor to have the opportunity to coach someone like Hannah."

Logston conditions with regular workouts to build speed and mileage and also lifts weights to prepare her body for meets. All of her work has paid off thus far since she has amassed more than 50 ribbons and 20 medals, as well as a trophy for a third-place finish in the East Palestine Rotary Meet.

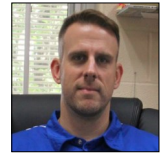
Most recently, she placed second at the EOAC League meet in East Palestine with a time of 21:39, which also earned her first team EOAC honors in the process.



**Hannah Logston**

## From the Principal's Desk

By  
Tony  
DelBoccio



As we close in on the end of the first semester, the beginning of the year has been very positive for Southern Local student athletes and the community.

In regards, to our athletic programs, we have increased our wins in most sports and still have one team remaining. Our fall sports have assisted in elevating the expectations here.

Academically, we have been very fortunate with our additional electives this year. The student response has been overwhelmingly positive. Some of those classes include leadership, sports, literature, test prep and more. Our core courses and the interims have provided a clear picture that academics are becoming increasingly more comprehensive and reaching all learning styles.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Nov. 2: Last Hit**

**Nov. 8: Fall Banquet**

**Nov. 10: Veteran's Day Assembly**

**Nov. 15: Meet the Indians**

**Dec. 1: Blood Drive**



**Denise Kuhlman, prevention specialist with the Family Recovery Center, addresses sixth-graders at Southern Local Elementary School about effective communication as part of the Aiming High program's "Too Good for Drugs or Violence" series. FRC representatives are in the school through mid-November and will address grades 5-6 about responsibility, tobacco use, assertiveness, peer pressure and identifying and managing emotions, among other topics.**

## **SLES Students Participate in Aiming High Program**

Students at Southern Local Elementary School are getting a lesson in making good choices through the month-long Aiming High program.

Denise Kuhlman prevention specialist with the Family Recovery Center of Lisbon, is holding four weekly sessions with fifth- and sixth-graders to discuss different topics with the goal of helping youth make better decisions, which ties into Aiming High's "Too Good for Drugs and Violence" series. She met with students on Oct. 18 to discuss effective communication and how it deters problems with others. Students took part in scenarios, games, visual aids and role playing to learn about verbal communication, body language and tone of voice.

"We are working with kids on developing better communication skills," Kuhlman said. "Part of it is having healthy relationships and friendships."

Using interactive lessons, she told students that people could be misunderstood and conflicts could arise if someone did not communicate clearly. She will continue giving informative lessons through Nov. 8 on such subjects as advertising techniques used to market tobacco products; communicating assertively to clearly express wants and needs; personal responsibility for decision making and resisting peer pressure; respecting yourself and others; identifying and managing emotions; peer pressure; and the harmful effects of gateway drugs.

Kuhlman said the program teaches kids how to make good choices in the long run.

"They have an idea to stay away from drugs but also learn the negative consequences of using them," she added. "We go to 10 schools within the county and are designed to work with grades K-6, but we've since added grades 7 and 8 and we'll begin working with the 10<sup>th</sup> grade."

## **Class Notes**

**By  
Kristy  
Sampson**



The school year has started off well and our students and staff are working hard every day to reach our goals.

As we move into the second half of the year, we will be working on preparing students for state assessments in grades 3-6. We welcome parent and community involvement with our Little Indians and their learning process.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please contact us. We appreciate your continued support of Southern Local Elementary!

### **DATES OF NOTE:**

**Oct. 31-Nov. 15: Fall Candle Sale**

**Nov. 15: No School for  
Preschool Students**

**Nov. 22-27: Thanksgiving  
Break**

**Dec. 4-8: Santa's Workshop**

**Dec. 21-Jan. 2: Christmas  
Break**

## ***Upcoming Presentations Highlight Importance of Safety, Good Character***

A variety of programs will be on tap through December for students at Southern Local Elementary.

November's program schedule includes "My Character Matters" on Nov. 1 for fourth-graders; "John's Choice: A Story about Honesty" on Nov. 2 for second-grade students; "The Great American Smoke Out" on Nov. 9 for sixth-graders; a visit from Scott Phillis of Norfolk and Southern Railroad to

talk about railroad safety with third-graders on Nov. 17; and the Ohio Optometric Association visiting with programs on "Sammy Safe Eyes" for kindergartners, "The Adventures of Rhet and Tina" for second-graders and "The Case of Vinny Vision" for third-grade students on Nov. 20. Cathy Grizinski will speak to fourth-graders about "Help Hotline/Phone Friend" on Nov. 21 and the month ends with "Bullies Are Not Welcome

in Our School" for sixth-graders on Nov. 29.

Sessions in December will feature Don Crum and Justin Magestro of Columbiana Gas with a safety presentation for fifth-graders on Dec. 1; Columbiana County Deputy Jen Tucker, school D.A.R.E. officer, speaking to fifth-graders in the cafeteria on Dec. 5; and pharmacist Starr Ensminger conducting poison prevention program on Dec. 7 for the kindergarten class.

# SLES Students Heading to Camp Fitch on Nov. 29

Roughly 70 fifth-graders at Southern Local Elementary School will be heading to Camp Fitch in Pennsylvania in November to get some hands-on learning outside the classroom.

The students will make the two-hour trek to North Springfield, Pa., on Nov. 29-Dec.1 where they will take part in a series of activities during the day an evening. Camp Fitch is a year-round camp on the shores of Lake Erie that is owned and operated by the YMCA of Youngstown. It was founded in 1914 and has hosted campers annually, starting as a seasonal camp but now operating throughout the year. SLES has been involved for about three decades but students have attended steadily for the past 28 years.

Fifth-grade teacher Dana Patterson took over duties from colleague Chris Thompson and will lead the students for a few days of fun and learning. Patterson and other teachers will instruct the morning sessions while eight Southern Local High School students will act as chaperones.

"They go through a series of stations throughout the three days," she said. "One is survival and another is wilderness.

There's also an obstacle course, horses, canoes and a scavenger hunt on the beach. The kids will even do a Lake Erie study to learn about it."

The group will also make candles and butter during their stay, but the event intends to build problem-solving and listening skills as well as responsibility and peer cooperation.

"The purpose is to experience outdoor education and Lake Erie in its natural setting," said Thompson, who led the school trip for 28 years. "It's hands-on activities and there is a lot of teamwork and cooperation on activities."

Students have raised money to attend through candy bar sales and Patterson said the survival station links to a current reading project her class is completing. Her pupils have been reading the tale "Hatchet," about a young plane crash survivor's tactics to stay alive.

While past camp dates were with shared schools from the surrounding area, Patterson said the SLES students will have the entire facility to themselves this time.

## *FFA Annual Fundraising Sale Under Way until Nov. 20*

The Southern Local High School FFA is holding its annual FFA Fruit, Cheese and Sausage sale until Nov. 20.

Twenty-seven different items are available and range in price from \$21-\$40. Some of the more popular goodies include an orange, apple and pear sampler for \$23, small navel oranges for \$26 and beef sticks or a cheese combo for \$27.

Delivery is scheduled for Dec. 6 in time for the Christmas season. For more information or orders, contact FFA advisor Shelley Pirogowicz at the school at (330) 679-2305.

## **Biannual Blood Drive on Dec. 1**

The Southern Local High School National Honor Society is partnering with the American Red Cross to hold a biannual blood drive on Dec. 1 in the school gym from 7:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Walk-in donors are accepted, while the event also helps graduating NHS members earn scholarships to continue their education. Another blood drive will be scheduled in the spring.

For more information, call 1-800-733-2767 (1-800-RED-CROSS) or go online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and download the blood donor app.

## **TEACHERS (Continued From Page 1)**

bachelor's degree in English education for grades 7-12 and served as a substitute teacher and tutor at SLHS before being hired this year to teach English to grades 9-12. He has also taken part in coaching, both as a student assistant for his college team and with the football and basketball teams at Southern. Exline also coached a youth football camp in honor of late SLHS football coach Dan Saling and established a memorial scholarship along with Saling's family that most recently awarded \$500 to a graduating senior.

He cited Southern Local coaches and teachers for inspiring him to become an educator, including Saling, Mike Skrinjar and Ron Sines and hopes to inspire youth himself.

"I love it. I like the familiarity with the students and getting to understand who they are and what it means to be an Indi-

an." Neske, of Canton, grew up in Dellroy and graduated from Carrollton High School in 2009. She received a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education with a minor in English from Mount Union College in 2013 and spent more than two years at Akron Digital Academy. She teaches eighth-grade math at SLHS, which is her first post at a public school.

"I like it a lot," she said. "I like the atmosphere and it's a lot like Carrollton where I grew up."

Wrask grew up in Guilford Lake and graduated from United Local in 2007, later earning a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in finance at Waynesburg University in 2011. He is currently engaged to Maddy Dowling and worked at Salem Regional Community Hospital before joining the district faculty. He teaches

Integrated Math 2 and 3 and Consumer Math for grades 10-12.

"It is the best decision of my career," Wrask said. "Everyone here is very accepting and it feels like a family."

Calderon, who hails from Mexico, attended Indio High School in California and Instituto Tecnológico of Matatipa, Mexico. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a master's in education and became a certified foreign language teacher in English and Spanish. She is married to Dennis Bowers and has one daughter, Katie Rumpel Calderon. Before joining the staff at Southern Local, Calderon was an instructor at the Utica Shale Academy and taught World Languages Spanish for grades 9-12.

"It's a great place to work," she said of SLHS. "Everyone has been very supportive and helpful."