



The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Spring Edition 2019

12th Annual District Showcase Draws Crowd

Southern Local Schools opened the doors for another successful District Showcase on March 21.

Hundreds of people, including students and family members, gathered for the 12th annual event and viewed displays, informational booths and performances. About 24 organizations provided information and activities in the high school gym, including ADAPT Coalition, Family Recovery Center, Southern Local High School HPAC, Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency/ARES, Crisis Response Team, Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services, Head Start, Help Me Grow, Wellsville Elks, the county Board of Developmental Disabilities, Columbiana County Educational Service Center, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Family and Children First Council and Red Zone. A health fair was also held on site with participation from the East Liverpool Health Department, Community Action Agency in Lisbon, East Liverpool City Hospital, Ohio Valley College of Technology, Southern Local school nurse Heidi McIntosh, Mercy Health Dental Van, Psycare, Akron Children's Hospital, East Liverpool City Health Nurse and Vibra Healthcare. In addition, the public could view student artworks and enjoy the SLHS FFA petting zoo.

The high school cafeteria was the scene of student performances, including the high school chorus concert "Broadway and Beyond," art awards and a preview of the spring musical "Disney's The Lion King Jr." Southern Local Elementary teacher Jim Reese also performed in a classroom while the high school football team held its pasta dinner moneymaker in the SLES cafeteria. The elementary gym was the scene of many raffles and other fundraisers for school and community organizations.

Among those on hand were the SLHS Cross Country, baseball and softball teams, Highlandtown United Methodist Church, Salineville Assembly of God, Fourth-grade



Top: Hope and Brandon Leek of Lisbon and their mom, Michelle, enjoyed meeting a three-week-old goat at the Southern Local High School FFA petting zoo during the District Showcase March 21. **Above:** Hundreds of people took part in the 12th annual event and viewed information and activity tables, fundraisers, performances and classroom displays.

Indian Store, and the freshmen and sophomore classes. Meanwhile, the crowds got a chance to peruse classroom displays and learn about projects students completed throughout the year while a book fair took place. **(Continued on Back as SHOWCASE)**

College Pathways Expanding at SLHS

Southern Local High School students can get a jumpstart on their future with new study pathways starting this fall through College Credit Plus.

The school will partner with Eastern Gateway Community College to offer a general Associate of Arts degree with health and education pathways that allow students to obtain college credit while still in high school.

Ron Infanti, who is overseeing the program at SLHS, said high school teachers will be trained by EGCC to facilitate the classes and a college professor will also instruct courses via teleconferencing. Details are still being finalized on classes being offered and the sequence of programs, but they will be available in the fall and spring and students can earn a minimum of 60-64 total credit hours.

Freshmen will study Art History I and Elementary Spanish I and II while sophomores can take Composition I and II, Intermediate Spanish I and II, U.S. History Formative and American Government. Courses offered to juniors include College Algebra, College Trigonometry, General Psychology, Intro to Sociology, Public Speaking and Intro to Literature while sen-

iors could study Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Introduction to Physical Science, Statistics, Medical Terminology, Personal Finance, Nutrition, Children's Literature, Foundations of Education, Instructional Technology, Intro to Exceptionalities and Educational Psychology. Another recommended for juniors and seniors in the health degree pathway is General Chemistry I, which is available in the spring. Each course offers three to five credit hours with the exception of Succeeding in College, which is offered to seniors in the fall for one credit hour.

"It will be a pathway with EGCC and students who come in their freshman year will have an associate's degree when they leave," said Infanti. "The beauty of this is the program is all done at Southern Local and they don't have to go to the college campuses, plus they can get high school and college credit."

Students can then venture into the health field or even study education after they graduate from SLHS.

"The goal is to build a pathway to the allied health and students will have their core classes done, so when they go

to EGCC they can go right into allied health. The administration felt we had to do more to help students be successful in life," Infanti said.

Once they head to college, they can major in nursing, dental hygiene and respiratory therapy to radiology. In addition, hopes are to establish education classes for seniors who are interested in becoming teachers.

"We want to open it up," he said. "We started looking at this last year but have been working on it since December."

In addition, EGCC has a reciprocal agreement with Kent State University and high schoolers can take classes with that school as well, but hopes are to expand the program to include Kent in the future. Since it is all part of the College Credit Plus program, there is no cost to the student and it also saves money when they further their education, plus credits are transferrable to any public college or university in Ohio.

Southern has participated in CCP for the past 10 years and currently offers courses through teleconferencing while students also travel to the college campuses. To participate, pupils must pass an Accuplacer test in April.

SLHS Calendar Dates

April 3: Student Council Men's Volleyball Tournament

April 5-7: The Lion King Jr.

April 26: Senior Prom

April 27: Grades 6-8 Father/Daughter Dance

May 17: Senior Picnic

May 21: Graduation Practice

May 22: Senior Breakfast & Senior Assembly

May 24: Graduation

STATE TESTING SCHEDULE

April 24-25: English/Language Arts (All ELA testing must be done by April 26.)

May 1-2: Math

May 8-9: Science

A.P. TESTING DATES

May 8: A.P. Literature @ 8 a. m.

May 9: A.P. Psychology @ Noon

May 10: A.P. History @ 8 a. m.

May 14: A.P. Calculus @ 8 a. m.

May 15: A.P. ELA @ 8 a.m.

Brett Hughes Named SOLE Program Ambassador

Southern Local High School teacher Brett Hughes is representing Ohio through a new initiative designed to support student learning.

Hughes, who teaches English and Language Arts at the junior high school, serves as an ambassador for Ohio through the Self-Organized Learning Environments (SOLE), a program which encourages students to be responsible for their learning and provides support for what they have learned. SOLE was designed to support self-directed education and was popularized by education scientist Sugata Mitra in the late 1990s.

Hughes is one of only 11 ambassadors for the initiative and, for now, is the sole representative for Ohio. He was tapped for the role this past year and spends time supporting students and teachers.

"My role as ambassador entails working with other ambassadors to improve the program, working with teachers on the program and



Brett Hughes

showing other teachers not only from our district, but other districts in the state how the program works," he explained. "I became involved through my use of the program and Cleveland State University's review of the work I have done led them to ask me to be an ambassador."

So far, he has not had to travel for the program, but there is potential for him to visit school districts throughout the state to promote SOLE and its benefits. He currently uses the method with his own class and planned to work with teachers from the Indian Creek Local School District.

Hughes, of Magnolia, graduated from Sandy Valley High School and Malone University and holds an elementary teaching license for grades 1-8 with emphasis in all subjects. He resides with his wife, Tracy, and their five children and is involved with the OHSAA as an official in four high school interscholastic sports.

SLES Teacher Reese is a Real Class Act

Southern Local Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Jim Reese has become known as a veritable music man for incorporating tunes into his Language Arts lessons, but these days current and former students alike are singing his praises.

Reese, a Calcutta resident who has taught at Southern Local for the past three decades, received the Dunkin' Donuts Class Act Award and was featured in news segment on March 20 on WFMJ 21. He was nominated by Paula Rose, the mother and grandmother of six former pupils. In her letter, Rose said her family recalled his use of music and poetry to bolster their learning skills. Reese was surprised by the news crew and visibly moved by Rose's kind words, saying that educating kids has always been important to him.

"Her daughter was in my first teaching class 31 years ago. They used a poem we'd recite, 'Equipment' by Edgar A. Guest, for their Bible study and framed a copy and gave it to me as a Christmas present last year," he reminisced.

The U.S. Army veteran and one-time mill-worker found his calling after losing his job in 1982. The father of five, grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of one had spent more than 12 years at Crucible Steel in Midland, Pa., until it closed that May and noted it was definitely a lifechanger.

"If the mill hadn't shut down, I wouldn't have become a teacher," he said. "I began working there at age 19 and went off to the Army. They held my job and I returned to the mill two years later. When the mill shut down, I started going to college. I've always worked with kids in youth groups and it was a natural fit to pursue a degree and become a schoolteacher."

Reese earned his degree from Kent State University and gained a substitute teaching position at Southern Local which became a full-time opportunity around 1989. Even then he used his guitar and gathered students for such melodies as "Bullfrogs and Butterflies," plus they would recite inspiring poetry. He still hears from previous students who remember the songs and recitations and it warms his heart to hear them call him their favorite teacher.

"They all ask if I still sing with the kids, so it seems to be a common thread. I took up the guitar when I was working in the mill and I used it at youth groups and Sunday school at church. I took it to school when I became a substitute teacher and the kids loved it and it just clicked. It makes it fun for kids and they want to learn," he continued. "I always tell the kids when they sing songs that they are



Southern Local Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Jim Reese was recognized with the Dunkin' Donuts Class Act Award from WFMJ-21 and featured in a recent news segment as an inspiration for past and present students.

actually reading. They do become more fluent readers and even though it's fun they are learning."

Students past and present say they are inspired by his style and he has become a role model.

Southern Local High School teacher and coach Mike Skrinjar, one of Reese's former pupils, used the "Equipment" poem as words of inspiration and hung a framed copy of a stanza in the locker room to build his team's spirits: "You can triumph and come to skill/ You can be great if only you will/ You're well equipped for what fight you choose/ You have legs and arms and a brain to use/ And the man who has risen, great deeds to do/ Began his life with no more than you."

Skrinjar said he learned much more from Reese than just the subjects in the classroom.

"He was one of my influences to be a teacher. He always gave me a love for sports and used to take us onto the basketball court and taught the team about handling adversity. We used [the poem] as motivation for overcoming adversity," he said, adding that a fourth-grader later memorized and recited the poem to his team during a successful season. "The best way he influenced me was how to conduct yourself as a respectable person and to be a mentor. I thought he was a perfectionist and took pride in what he did. He has always a professional and cared for the stu-

dents."

And Reese's current pupils are inclined to agree.

"He's a nice teacher and a perfect teacher," said Aiden Passage.

"All of us love his playing the guitar," added Dawn Helman.

"It's better when we all sing together," said Preston Pitts.

"I love when he plays the guitar," concluded Rylee Neice.

SLES Spring Calendar

April 9-10: Grades 3-6 LA State Testing

April 10: Spring Candle Sale Ends

April 18-22: Spring Break

April 30-May 1: Grades 3-6 Math State Testing

May 2-3 Grade 5 Science State Testing

May 8: No Preschool; Required Staff PD

May 13: Field Day for Grades 5 & 1

May 14: Field Day for Grades 4 & Kindergarten

May 15: Sixth Grade Field Day

May 16: Third Grade Field Day

May 17: Second Grade Field Day

May 20: Preschool Field Day

May 20-21: Preschool/Kindergarten Registration

May 22: PTO Funday

May 24: Last Day of School

Pride Project Continues in Elementary Building

People who enter Southern Local Elementary will notice a lot more color after volunteers brightened up a corridor for an ongoing community project.

About a dozen teachers, staff and students gathered at the school over the March 15 weekend to continue painting as part of the Take Pride 3.0 project spearheaded by SLES art teacher Kimberly Adams, and now the wall outside the cafeteria includes “Southern Local Elementary” signage and colorful arrows directing the way into the building. Work began late last fall when Adams and a group of volunteers, including high school art teacher Laurie Ronshak and some SLHS students, enhanced a 100-foot corridor in the high school building with inspirational words and eye-catching hues. Most recently, the opposite wall of that hallway was updated to include Indian artwork in honor of the school mascot.

“We had all staff, two elementary students and some high school students who assisted in two crews,” she said of the latest effort. “We did the hallway entry to the elementary school. We primed it on Friday and were able to paint on Saturday morning and afternoon and I finished the last few details with a couple of people that Sunday.”

The group included Adams, Ronshak, SLES teachers Niki Beadnell, Ryan Smith, Kathy Randolph, Holly Davis and Nikki Lewis, elementary students Delaney Bead-



Teachers, staff and students volunteered their time over the March 15 weekend to brighten up the corridor outside the Southern Local Elementary School cafeteria as a continuation of the Take Pride 3.0 project. Pictured are SLES teachers Niki Beadnell and Nikki Lewis, elementary student Kennedy Lewis, custodian Phyllis Maskaluk and SLES physical education teacher Kathy Randolph at work.

nell and Kennedy Lewis, high school students Kylee Mehaffey, Cami Chuey, Kaylee Howcroft and Hannah Boyd and custodian Phyllis Maskaluk. Adams added that the next portion will entail painting the hallway outside of the specials classrooms with picture frames on the walls, trees and the school fight song near the music room. However, that work may not occur until the end of the

school year. The overall project, which should conclude next year, includes painting the high school and elementary hallways and restrooms; marking the Tribe Nature Trail and adding safety indicators; and forming of path of painted river rocks at the school entrances. Adams was thankful for the aid.

“I thank the volunteers for all of their help, I couldn’t have done it without them.”



Kelly Bear Program

Columbiana County Deputy Brandon Hoppel, school resource officer at Southern Local Schools, is speaking to kindergarten students as part of the Kelly Bear program. Deputy Hoppel has been reading to kids, showing videos and talking about behavior, problem solving, staying healthy and saying no to drugs and alcohol. The seven-week program concluded in April.

SHOWCASE

(Continued from Front)

place in the elementary school library.

Organizer Laura Krulik, who serves as district special education coordinator, said it was another successful year for the showcase.

“We were packed,” Krulik said. “We had a few new vendors such as the Wellsville Elks, Vibe Healthcare and Red Zone and the people like coming out.”

“We had an excellent turnout,” added SLHS Principal Tony DelBoccio. “It’s great to talk to community members and listen to their

thoughts.”

“It’s great to see the kids bring their parents in and show off the exciting things they are doing in the classroom,” SLES Principal Kristy Sampson commented.

For at least one attendant, it was like stepping back in time.

“I taught here for 30 years,” said former educator Evelyn Thompson. “I have grandchildren here and have to come check up on them.”