

# The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Spring 2018

## *Justus Black Keeps Family Tradition Alive with Win*

Southern Local Elementary sixth-grader Justus Black followed his siblings' footsteps to become the latest Columbiana County Spelling Bee champion, and it earned him a shot at the national competition this May.

Justus, the son of Dale and Hoi Wah Black of Wellsville, spelled his way to victory during the 59<sup>th</sup> annual event in Lisbon on March 7. After 21 rounds—11 of which involved a battle against his older brother, Silas—the younger Black ended the two-hour contest and beat out all 45 competitors to win the trophy, plus the opportunity to compete among nearly 300 kids at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

His final word was "rhetoric" and he said he was both surprised by and proud of his accomplishment.

"It felt pretty good," he commented, saying he also liked besting Silas, who won the county bee last year and the school competition in February.

Southern Local's spell-off concluded after an impressive 32 rounds, and most of the 16 participants in grades 5-8 were eliminated within the first 10 turns while the remainder went down to the wire between the two brothers.

Justus is the last of his siblings to compete while the county bee was his first big event. His win carries on the tradition set by eldest sister Jasmine, who earned the title while representing the Edison Local School District in Jefferson County in 2015. Today, she is a junior at SLHS and was followed by their other sister, Harmony, an SLHS sophomore who won the Columbiana County bee in 2016. Both of them advanced to the national bee. Success remained



**Justus Black**

in the family when Silas, who is currently an eighth-grader at SLJHS, received the trophy last year and finished in 44<sup>th</sup> place at the nationals. The 2018 county contest was his last and he shared co-runner-up honors with Connor Hooper, a seventh-grader from Wellsville.

Justus said he prepared by practicing with sister Harmony for about an hour or more each day, and although he may be the last child in his family to head to Washington, he was feeling no pressure. Spelling may definitely be one of his strong suits, but he prefers numbers over letters and said math was his favorite subject.

He received an all-expense paid trip with one chaperone to the national bee, as well as the Samuel Louis Sugarman Award, a 2018 United States Mint Proof Set and one-year subscriptions to Britannica Online Premium and Merriam-Webster's Unabridged Online Dictionary. Meanwhile, his trophy will be on display at Southern Local.

## **Southern Local Sets District Showcase for March 22**

It's that time of year again as Southern Local Schools highlights its buildings during the Ninth Annual District Showcase.

The upcoming event will be held on March 22 from 5-7 p.m. and will feature classroom projects, vendors, an art show and musical performances, to name but a few offerings, as a way to recognize students' accomplishments during the past school year.

Organizer Laura Krulik, district special education coordinator, said dozens of health and community groups will provide services and information at booths in the gym and activities will occur throughout both buildings. Krulik is overseeing the local agencies while school nurse Heidi McIntosh is heading up a health fair. Among the groups participating are the Family Recovery Center, Be Smart (Traffic Safety) Coalition, ADAPT

Coalition, Community Action Agency Head Start, Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services, Columbiana County Mobility Management, Ohio Valley College of Technology, St. Elizabeth's Mercy Health Center of Youngstown, Utica Shale Academy, Ohio State University Extension Office, Lisbon Community Health and Wellsville First Christian Church's Celebrating Freedom program. The agenda includes the Southern Local High School Football Team's pasta dinner fundraiser from 4-6 p.m.; a performance from the high school choir in the Southern Local Elementary gym at 5 p.m.; art awards in the high school cafeteria at 5:30 p.m.; a fourth-grade recorder concert at 6 p.m.; and a spring musical showcase in the high school cafeteria at 7 p.m. A basket raffle will also be conducted in the high school

gym to benefit a local charity, while the baseball team is also conducting a fundraiser of its own. Families can also enjoy browsing at the book fair in the SLES library or meet some furry and feathered friends at the high school FFA's petting zoo.

Krulik said the showcase gives the public a glimpse of what students have achieved throughout the year and also interact with community organizations.

"The open house is for the community to come see what their students have been working on," Krulik said. "It's also to help community agencies connect with families. There's always a great turnout and positive feedback."

She added that the first event was held in 2009 and it has drawn hundreds of people each year.

# Senior Projects Focus on Community Service

Some senior projects at Southern Local High School are putting the focus on community service with collections underway to help people and animals alike.

Aria Wellington and Cheyenne Joy are holding separate campaigns through March to benefit the Way Station in Columbiana and the Columbiana County Dog Pound. As part of their senior project for Ron Sines' English class, the students took the option to perform hands-on projects and write a three-page reflection paper about their experiences. They began seeking donations this winter to help their respective causes and said contributors have been responsive.

Wellington, the daughter of Ian Wellington and Tracy Amato of Wellsville, said she was inspired by a lifelong act of donating to charity. She wanted to help men, women and children with her project and began a clothing drive for the non-profit ministry on Jan. 22.

"The clothes will be given to people who have had a house fire, faced domestic violence or other personal needs or are referred by a church," she explained. "Ever since I was little, my mom, sister and I have donated clothes, so I grew up around giving."

She is collecting everything from shirts and socks to pajamas and dress clothes at both the high school and the Bombshell Beauty Salon in East Liverpool, while the campaign runs until late March.

"It's really amazing and I'm overwhelmed by the response," she continued. "It will actually be donated around mid-April."

Wellington has been a member of the school's National Honor Society, yearbook staff, softball team, student council and Blue Crew plus she takes advanced placement courses. She plans to attend Youngstown State University and become a pediatric nurse anesthetist. Meanwhile, she hopes to continue helping others through charity.

"I do plan to continue donating my clothes and helping people who need it," she commented. "It's just a good feeling."

Joy, the daughter of Jennifer and Ronnie Joy Jr. of Salineville, had held a longtime love of animals that extends to participating in the veterinary science technology program at the Columbiana County Career and Technical Center. Her project started



**Southern Local High School students Cheyenne Joy, left, and Aria Wellington are collecting items for community causes as part of their senior English projects. Joy is accepting items to help the Columbiana County Dog Pound while Wellington is holding a clothing drive for the Way Station of Columbiana.**

on Dec. 15 and hoped to collect some much-needed items for the county pound.

"The reason I'm doing this is I've loved animals since I was little. I love animals and I love learning about animals," she said.

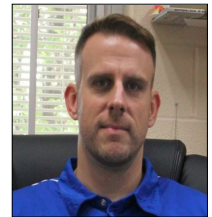
Joy has been gathering cleaning products, treats and other goods and said about 100 dogs were housed at the facility. While the collection box is at SLHS, she is also taking items at CCCTC to help her four-legged friends. The drive will run until March 30 and the items will be donated in April.

"I've been mainly getting blankets, bleach, food, floor cleaner and laundry detergent," she said. "I job shadowed [at the pound] and I really fell in love with it. The dogs would come up to me wagging their tails and it made me happy to see them happy."

Joy, who also participates in FFA at CCCTC, said her other passion is working with children. After graduation, she plans to study elementary education but her college choice remains undecided.

# From the Principal's Desk

By  
**Tony  
DelBoccio**



As March begins, we are now at the end of third quarter.

Moving forward, we, students, and parents begin to become enthusiastic about the oncoming over a warmer climate, vacations, end of the school year, etc. However, we must remain focused on the goal(s) for June. Whether, the goals were athletically, academically, and/or personally related. This is the time of year where all the hard work is paid off and quitting should not be an option.

It has been a great year and we would like nothing more than to finish, better than how it started. As a reminder, if anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask or call.

The upcoming testing schedule is below:

**April 17 & 19– ELA Testing**

**April 24 & 26– Math Testing**

**April 30–May 1– Gov't, History and Science Testing**

## NHS Inducts 25 New Members

Southern Local High School inducted 25 new members into the National Honor Society on March 8. Pictured are, front from left, Laci Growe, Emily McDonald, Emily Grace, Ethan West, Caleb Glover, Amya Willis, Kennedy Pisarsky, Aubrianna Mellott and Sydney Cusick. Second row: Hannah Hayes, Harley Kidder, Jasmine Black, Amber Korbel, Austin Roberts, Garrett Rodgers, Victor Duncan and Gary Naylor. Third row: Cara Davis, Madison Berta, Amanda Bowling, Katelyn Bailey, Nicholas Paxson, Nicholas May, Riley Felton and Trevor Wintermantel. Fourth row: Mattisyn Infanti, Stella-Ruby Karcher, Anna Sevek, Allison Forbes, Alivia Brothers, Alexis Rhodes, Samantha Michael, Joey Dickson and Trevor McCaffrey. Fifth row: Aaron Timms, Skylar Lewis, Taylor Williams, Toni Laney, Aria Wellington, Hannah Curtin, Kaley Nicholson and Megan Haught.



# Sixth-graders Conclude DARE Program

An annual program on drug abuse resistance education concluded with an assembly for 67 sixth-graders at Southern Local Elementary School.

Students wrapped up an eight-week session on March 7 with DARE Officer Jen Tucker, a deputy at the Columbiana County Sheriff's Office, and their day included receiving certificates of graduation and a pizza party paid for by Sheriff Ray Stone since the CCSO provides the program, as well as an assembly in the school gym. The students also heard a cautionary tale by Brandi, an inmate at the county jail, who explained how bad decisions led to addiction and ultimately landed her behind bars.

Brandi said she was once a normal teen-ager who was involved in sports, but she ended up consuming pain pills and cocaine. Those choices negatively impacted her life and closest relationships.

"Doing drugs has taken everything from me," she said. "I have lied, cheated and stolen from everyone I loved and who loved me. That's what addiction does. People will think it won't happen to them but it can. You do it and it will mess up your life and you will lose friends and family."

Brandi urged the students to stay in school and make good decisions so they don't follow the same dark path.

"If I would have said no, I wouldn't be in jail. You have to



**Lt. Alan Young of the Columbiana County Sheriff's Office and his K-9 partner, Jesy, visited Southern Local Elementary School on March 7 as 67 sixth-graders graduated from the DARE program provided by the CCSO. Students wrapped up their eight-week session with a pizza party paid for by Sheriff Ray Stone and an assembly featuring a display of Jesy's skills, as well as a cautionary tale on the consequences of drug use by a female inmate at the county jail.**

make sure you are strong enough to say no," she added. "I never graduated. If you say no, you can be successful. I wish I would have. I wish I could go back and be where you guys are and pay attention. It was the worst mistake of my life."

Deputy Tucker shared a few

words and it was crucial to say no to drugs.

"We need to make good decisions, make goals and reach these goals," she said. "Use those strategies and stick together and say no."

Lt. Alan Young and his K-9 partner, Jesy, then displayed the four-legged crimefighter's skills in detecting drugs and tracking a suspect. Lt. Young explained to the students how he trained with Jesy, a German Shepherd he received from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and her abilities on the job.

"She learned discipline and is trained to detect drugs and track suspects," he said, adding that he gives her commands in the Czech language. "She cost the county \$13,000 but paid it off the first year [with the cases]."

Jesy's exhibition included detecting a hidden cache of drugs and subduing a combative suspect portrayed by Lt. Brian McLaughlin, director of the Drug Task Force of Columbiana County. Lt. Young then held a question-and-answer session with the students.

Larry Rudloff, SLES guidance counselor, described how people who lived during the Great Depression and World War II were known as the Greatest Generation and he encouraged today's youth to take the right path to success.

"You guys are the future, so make the most of it. You make good choices and good things happen."



## Young Artists Recognized

Southern Local Elementary students were showcased among roughly 10 schools during the Columbiana County Educational Service Center's 2018 Student Art Show on March 1. Pictured are, from left, fourth-grader Skyler Brletich, who earned reserve best of show; second-grader Delaney Beadnell, who earned honorable mention for her grade level; and sixth-grader Tyler Rawlings, who won best of show in the middle school division. Rawlings and Brletich received trophies and Rawlings's artwork was also sold and displayed at CCESC.

## Class Notes

By  
**Kristy  
Sampson**



Spring has sprung!

The last portion of the school year is here! Student attendance is very important this time of year. Staff and students will be preparing for the state assessments for grades 3-6. It is very important at this time of year for school and home to partner and encourage our students to give their best efforts in the classroom today while test prep is going on in order to see rewards when completing the state assessments in April. If you have any questions regarding the testing schedule or the process, please feel free to contact the office.

We hope to see all of you out at District Showcase on March 22. I encourage you to visit your child's classroom to see what they have been working on. Mrs. Hart will also have the Book Fair open in the Library during District Showcase.

As we wrap up the year, we appreciate your support for our students!

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**End of Third Nine Weeks–  
March 9**

**Elementary Spring Book Fair–  
March 19-23**

**District Showcase– March 22**

**Grades 3-6 Language Arts  
Testing April 18 & 20**

**Grade 5 Science Test– April 25-  
26**

**Grade 3-6 Math Testing–  
May 2-3**

# HPAC Hosting 5K Walk for Obesity Awareness

The Southern Local High School Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) organization will hold a special event this month to address the important topic of obesity awareness and is calling on community members to take a step for health.

Organized by member Harmony Black, the Prevention is Just One Step Away 5K Walk will be held March 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school track. The event is free and individuals can sign up to get moving and support the health and well-being of themselves and others.

“Last year, I was thinking about focusing on a charity but another HPAC member suggested doing a 5K walk for obesity awareness. I think it’s important,” said Black, who is being assisted by sister and fellow member Jasmine Black. “We are looking for participants and hoping to raise awareness.”

Organizers noted it was not a race and trophies will not be presented, but the real reward is supporting health. However, walkers will receive a 5K bracelet for each lap they complete and will get a dozen for the entire trek. Youngstown State University students are expected to attend while community outreach agencies were also being contacted to take part.

Advisor Nancy Saling said the organization, which is now in its fourth year at the high school, has promoted awareness in the past on such issues as heroin addiction and depression.

This year, each of the members took on different subjects to highlight in the school and community, including autism and heart disease.

“We have three different projects under the umbrella of awareness and they will have tables set up at the 5K Walk,” she commented.



**Members of the Southern Local High School Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) organization are gearing up for the Prevention is Just One Step Away 5K Walk on March 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school track in Salineville, where students and community members are encouraged to take part and help promote obesity awareness. The event, which is not a race, will also include health-related information and provide bracelets for completing laps. Pictured are, from left, advisor Nancy Saling and members Harmony Black, who is organizing the event, Jasmine Black, Somer Madden and Karlie Blissenbach.**

HPAC member Somer Madden’s platform is autism and she has been in contact with the Autism Society of Ohio to aid that cause, while fellow member Karlie Blissenbach is taking on the issue of heart disease.

“I basically wanted to make sure people weren’t aware of what autism is. I think people don’t understand it,” Madden said. “The Autism Society of Ohio in Youngstown raises money and works with kids with autism. I am looking to work with them.”

“I chose the topic of heart disease because a few of my family members have suffered from heart disease or heart-related issues,” added Blissenbach. “I did research and found

that statistically heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States.”

For her part, Blissenbach organized CPR training for senior class members and hopes to provide blood pressure and CPR information at the 5K.

The SLHS HPAC is the only one of its kind in Columbiana County and began as an outreach effort from NEOMED to encourage interest in the health profession. All four of the school’s members said they are interested in the field and plan to take part in NEOMED’s annual Scholar Days event, where they will present posters on their subjects on April 29 in Rootstown.

## Scholastic Book Fair Benefit Is Going to the Dogs

This year’s book fair at Southern Local Elementary School is definitely going to the dogs with a special collection set to benefit the Columbiana County Dog Pound.

School librarian Donna Hart said the Scholastic Book Fair will run from March 19-23 with the theme “Paws for Books,” at which time selected classes can peruse books, bookmarks, posters and other items on Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Friday, the library will be open for cash purchases and prize winners from drawings during the week. Students will also be asked to donate pet food and cleaning supplies to support their four-legged friends who are still awaiting forever homes, plus the children will make blankets for the pooches to keep them warm. Among the items requested are dog food and treats, chew toys, collars and leashes, bleach, fleece blankets, canned dog food, Lysol, Mr. Clean floor cleaner, scented laundry soap, dog bowls and paper towels.

“We’re going to partner with the Columbiana County Dog Pound and Dog Warden Heidi Pecorelli is going to bring her own dog [during the District Showcase on March 22] to do tricks,” Hart said. “We’re going to take donations and everyone who brings in a donation will get a free ticket for a drawing to receive \$50 worth of free books for themselves and \$50 worth for their classroom.”

A special drawing will be held during the District Showcase from 5-7 p.m. and Hart said a poster contest is set with five winners being selected on March 13 to receive books worth between \$5 and \$25.

Proceeds from the book fair will help supply new literature to the library and classrooms. Those who cannot make it to the event can still order online through Scholastic Books from March 12-23 and items will be shipped for free in the student’s name to the school. To order, go to [www.sles.southern.k12.oh.us](http://www.sles.southern.k12.oh.us) and click on the Scholastic icon.