

# Strongsville



## School News

*John Krupinski, Superintendent*



Motivational speaker Anthony Robbins stated, “I believe life is constantly testing us for our level of commitment, and life’s greatest rewards are reserved for those who demonstrate a never-ending commitment to act until they achieve. This level of resolve can move mountains, but it must be constant and consistent. As simplistic as this may sound, it is still the common

denominator separating those who live their dreams from those who live in regret.”

As we begin this second semester, we remain resolute in working toward our District goals: Student Achievement and Financial Prudence. Together we will achieve these goals. As always, your support of your child’s education is critical to that success.

Issue 3: January 2015



**Find us on [Facebook!](#)**

[www.facebook.com/strongvilleccs](http://www.facebook.com/strongvilleccs)

**Find us on [Twitter!](#)**

<https://twitter.com/SuptKrupinski>

***“We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn.”***

***Mary Catherine Bateson***

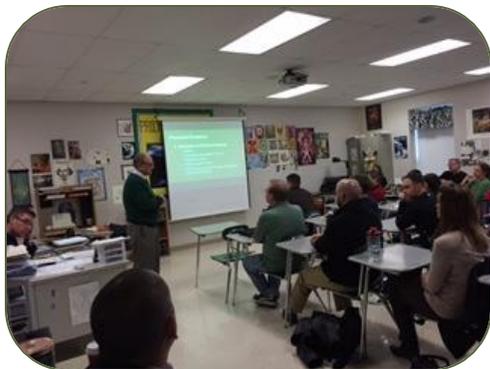
## Holiday Fun!

District-wide, students and staff celebrated the holiday season through community projects, seasonal artwork, and classroom activities.

Special thanks to all the family members who volunteered their time to help out!



**Continued Pg. 4**



*Superintendent Krupinski discusses the future of SCS with staff (above) and thanks the PTA for another great holiday luncheon (below).*



## A Vision for the Future

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we offered a half day of Professional Development to our certified and classified staff. Presentations included Guided Reading, the Co-Teaching Model, Google Trainings, Project Based Learning, Differentiation with Technology, PARCC Assessments, Suicide Awareness, and many other practical and professional sessions.

The well-attended session led by Superintendent Krupinski and Assistant Superintendent Ryba was “A Vision for the Future.”

Some topics addressed were District Goals, Student Achievement, and Financial Prudence.

During an overview of the Ohio Improvement Process, they discussed the importance of a systemic plan and a focus on curriculum alignment and resources; state testing and assessments; co-teaching and inclusion; balanced literacy, and instructional technology.

In the area of Financial Prudence, they addressed stressors on district finances, including inflation, utilities, stagnant revenues, insurance costs, and loss of funding due to the expansion of charter and eSchools.

The District is committed to providing our students a strong education and will continue to do so responsibly and with excellence.

---

*Cameron Ryba, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Staff Development*

## Facilities Update



*New Middle School Gym Roof Trusses*

Our Construction projects continue to move forward. Area “D” of the Middle School, which is the main office, kitchen, mechanical rooms, and locker rooms has been enclosed. Contractors can now work inside that area to install concrete floors, interiors block walls, mechanical equipment, and ductwork. The gym roof trusses have been installed along with the roof decking.

At the high school, contractors put up the temporary walls between the work zone and the school. The “600 wing” demolition of ceiling tiles, light fixtures, some interior walls and windows went very quickly over the break. They also established the materials laydown area to the west side of the high school. This will be the location for most deliveries, contractor parking, and the construction trailers. This area along with the 700 and 800 wings of the school should be completed for the beginning of the next school year.

---

*Mark Donnelly, Director of Business Services & Technology*



## Balanced Literacy

### *Balanced Literacy*

SCS is pleased to announce that we are implementing a *balanced literacy* approach to reading instruction in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in every classroom. In late December, each K-6 student should have brought home a parent letter explaining these changes.

As the name suggests, it is a balanced approach to reading and writing instruction that uses a variety of techniques to provide each student instruction at his/her appropriate level.

However, what you will probably hear most about is the *guided reading* part. Teachers will be shifting away from providing whole-class instruction using a reading textbook. Instead, teachers will begin using a method designed to meet individuals' learning needs through the use of leveled readers (picture books, short stories, and novels).

The District has purchased more than 5,900 fiction and nonfiction leveled reading books for each elementary school, which are to be used specifically for classroom guided reading instruction. These reading activities take place in the classroom, so the books won't be coming home.

However, your child may still have reading homework from other sources as we know how valuable

reading at home is for children. Students will continue writing, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar as well as handwriting (grades K-3). However, it will all be structured in the environment of a balanced literacy approach. If you have questions, please communicate with your child's reading teacher, the building principal, or me. We are excited to move toward this approach in our District and look forward to continuing to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of your child.



### *Students work at a Reading Station*

Erin Green, Director of Curriculum and Talent Development

Holiday Fun: Cont. Pg. 1



## Guest Principal Update

Dave Riley, Albion MS

The students and staff at Albion Middle School continually look for creative programs to further promote our efforts within the classroom setting. Seeking partnerships with local businesses within the Strongsville community, supporting student-friendly canned food drives to benefit the Strongsville Food Bank, or reaching out to participate in nationally-sponsored activities helps to create a memorable and successful school year for everyone.

Recently, Albion Middle School participated in the annual Play 60 Challenge sponsored by the Cleveland Browns/NFL Play 60.

Albion Middle School had 159 participants in this year's event and logged in 399,213 total minutes for the month of October. **Logan Starek** (7th grade) logged in 8,690 minutes total, was the "top scorer" at Albion MS, and was one of the top 11 students in northeast Ohio. **April Pillar** (7th Grade Physical Education teacher) had one of her classes log in a total of 73,715 minutes and was one of three teachers recognized in northeast Ohio for her dedication to health and fitness.

As a result of Logan's and April's tremendous accomplishments, they were recognized by the Cleveland Browns and NFL during halftime ceremonies at Cleveland Browns Stadium on December 7th.



## Staff Seen Around



## Board of Education



- Carl Naso, President
- Richard Micko, Vice President
- Duke Evans
- George Grozan
- Jane Ludwig

***Believe in Ohio Assembly***

*“Will You Be a Competitor or a Bench-Warmer?”*

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Johnathan M. Holifield spoke to over 400 high school students about the “Believe in Ohio program,” STEM (STEAM), Entrepreneurship, and Innovation.

Mr. Holifield, a former running back for the Cincinnati Bengals, is a nationally recognized leader on the subject of the Innovation Economy. He serves as a subject-

**Grant Initiatives**



*Guest Speaker Jonhathan Holifield and John Klipfell, Exec. Director of Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio*

matter expert for the Ohio Board of Regents Subcommittee on Inclusive Competitiveness.

Students were encouraged to prepare for the future by being creative and coming up with new ideas to impact their world; by being critical thinkers and collaborators; by being able to communicate effectively. The Believe in Ohio program will help with this process by providing the tools students and staff need to write plans, engage in research and analysis, and present their ideas at a competitive level.

Based on the number of student

plans submitted, the school may receive up to \$25,000 in grant monies and an additional \$10,000 in local award monies. Cash and scholarship opportunities will also be available at regional and state levels.

Believe in Ohio is also working to actively recruit mentors for our students, and we are pleased to note that The Strongsville Chamber of Commerce, City of Strongsville, Business Advisors of Cleveland, and The Ohio Academy of Science are working with our high school staff and the students.

For more information:

<http://goo.gl/3Hvo3s>



*State Representatives Michael Dovilla and Marlene Anielski with Brent Painter, Director of Economic Development for Strongsville*



*Dr. Geza Varhegyi, CCC STEM Advocate and HS Science teacher Andy Bruening*



*Over 400 SHS high school students attend a “Believe in Ohio” assembly*