On December 11, approximately 100 individuals came together to focus on SEDOL as a whole and future growth to continue to provide exceptional services for students with exceptional learning needs. The collective group reaffirmed the SEDOL mission, vision, and belief statements. In addition, Mrs. Donnan outlined the varied roles of the SEDOL Governing Board, SEDOL Executive Board and the SEDOL Administrative Team.

The SEDOL Governing Board, led by President Carey McHugh (Wauconda CUSD 118 Board Member) and Secretary Jim Loris (Grant HS 124 Board Member) is comprised of one Board of Education member from each of SEDOL’s 31 Member Districts. The Governing Board is charged with approving the final budget and union contracts, purchasing and/or selling property and amending the Articles of Joint Agreement, as well as other charges. To learn more please refer to Governing Board Policy 2:20.

The Executive Board, led by President Joanne Osmond (Lake Villa District 41 Board Member) and Vice President Dr. Christine Sefcik (Superintendent of Grant High School 124) is comprised of four Governing Board members, four Member district superintendents, and the Regional Superintendent of Schools. The Governing Board annually delegates specific authorities to the Executive Board such as:

- Establish equal educational opportunities policy
- Evaluate educational programming
- Direct the Superintendent, through policy, in his/her charge of the District's Administration
- Enter into agreements with other boards, communities and agencies for the benefit of children
- Allocate among the Member Districts of SEDOL the housing of students in accordance with SEDOL approved policy
- Contract for services including, but not limited to, the district attorney, auditors, and architect
- Approve major expenditures and payment of obligations

Additional information highlighting the Governing Board Delegation of Authority to the Executive Board is available in SEDOL Board Policy 2:38.

Executive Board Policy 3:10 highlights how the Superintendent and District Administration will facilitate the implementation of quality education programs in alignment with Policy 1:30 which outlines SEDOL’s Mission Statement. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents work to oversee all students achieving their educational goals by managing fiscal and business activities, providing proper use of the District's real property and developing, implementing and evaluating programs for all SEDOL students.

As part of the collaborative meeting, ideas and feedback continued to be collected to address SEDOL's student growth needs. New ideas were shared with the SEDOL Administrative Team and are now being investigated. At its December meeting, the Executive Board directed the Administration to continue to explore all options available to support quality programming for SEDOL students while being able to guarantee access to SEDOL programs for all Member Districts.
In September 2015, Cyd Lash was honored to be recognized as an official chapter within the Stand for the Silent organization (SFTS). SFTS is an anti-bully and suicide prevention organization. The SFTS Coyote Chapter’s mission is to stand together not as individuals but as a group to empower others not to be bystanders to bullying. Our student members demonstrate this by caring about other people’s feelings and protecting victims by speaking up when anyone sees bullying in any form.

The Cyd Lash Stand for the Silent Chapter meets twice a month to discuss, plan, and implement goals and objectives related to anti-bullying. Students have designed posters that were displayed in the school to help build awareness and raise funds for both our Coyote Chapter and SFTS organization. Every year, student members have partnered with the Toys for Tots Marine program and the Cop on a Rooftop Special Olympics program by raising funds for those organizations. This year, SFTS raised $800 for Toys for Tots. More recently, our chapter provided a scholarship to a Cyd Lash Academy graduate who wrote an essay on how they displayed qualities of being an UPSTANDER. This year, we will participate in field trips to the Take A Stand exhibit at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, help pack food at Feed my Starving Children and buy toys for Marine’s Toys for Tots program.

Our SFTS Coyote pledge: “From this day forward, I promise to respect those around me as well as respect myself. I am somebody and I can make a difference. I can make another feel loved. I can be the helping hand that leads another back to the path of hope and aspiration. I will not stand silent as others try to spread hatred through my community. Instead, I pledge to lift up those victims and show them their life matters. I will be the change because, I am somebody.”

SEDOL students joined students all around the world by participating in the annual Hour of Code during Computer Science Week, December 3 - 9, 2018. The Hour of Code was initiated by the non-profit group code.org as a way to introduce students to Computer Science, to show that anyone can learn basic coding skills, and to broaden participation and interest in the computer field, especially by girls and underrepresented minorities. The organization’s vision is that every student in every school have the opportunity to learn computer science, just like any other core subject. Their annual initiative has grown to over 400 corporate partners and 200,000 educators worldwide, with approximately 10% of all students in the world participating. SEDOL students used problem-solving skills and various technology devices to program movement of characters through many activities such as mazes, puzzles, and social interactions. At the end of the week the students were presented with participation awards, but more importantly, it sparked an interest for them to continue to use the resources at code.org to build their programming and problem-solving skills.
Sensory Hour at Target

Many individuals with special needs have a difficult time going in the community due to multiple challenges, including sensory overload. Students and their families had a stress-free shopping experience on Saturday, December 1st. Laremont School teacher Andre Probst partnered with the Gurnee Target to provide families the opportunity of shopping one hour before the store officially opened up to the public. A sensory friendly environment was created with soft music, dimmed lights, and few people. The store provided extra staff on hand to help families shop. Thank you Gurnee Target for allowing families this fantastic opportunity!

Parents Day Out

Through the kindness of the Laremont faculty, Laremont parents were able to get some rest and relaxation. On Saturday, December 1st, some parents took advantage of having their children supervised by Laremont teachers, nurses, and staff for three hours. Parents had the peace of mind knowing their children were well cared for which allowed them the opportunity for respite. Approximately forty students and their siblings participated in this free annual event. The families were in awe and greatly appreciated the staff taking time out of their Saturday.

Laremont Donates to Lurie Children’s Hospital

For the past three holiday seasons, the students in the Exploring, Learning, and Participating Intermediate pod at Laremont School have helped make a difference in the lives of children at Lurie’s Children Hospital in Chicago. Given that many Laremont students are currently or have been patients at Lurie’s, the students gave back to their community by organizing a school-wide toy drive, collecting 115 toys to benefit the patients. The students made posters advertising the drive and displayed them throughout the school. Lurie’s was extremely appreciative and delighted to receive the toys as donations were down this season. The hospital shared how these toys would be distributed to patients to celebrate Christmas, birthdays, and recovery from major surgeries. This project allowed our remarkable students the opportunity to make a difference in their community.

Fun with Santa

Santa took time out of his busy holiday schedule to come greet Laremont students and their families on Saturday, December 1st in the school gym. Many families have challenges getting their children to the mall to see Santa. Organized by Laremont teacher Marie Petrillo, Fun with Santa allowed the children an opportunity to interact with Santa in a familiar, safe environment at their own level of comfort. Countless families took part in this annual free event. The families enjoyed donuts and juice and a picture of them with Santa. Fun was had by all!
Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) at SEDOL provides students with unique options for enhanced learning through a variety of curricular-based opportunities. To date, 15 teachers with ALOP students have taken advantage of the mini-proposal process that allows teachers to create their own classroom projects, while aligning to Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) standards. The focus is varied and may include art and music enrichment, community-based learning, social-emotional learning, vocational training, service-learning, STEM/STEAM, health, fitness and nutrition, character education development, entrepreneurship and/or character education development. Highlighted below are just a few of the many exciting ALOP-related projects students participated in this year.

Karen Martin and Cami Brydon’s students work with Chef Robert and other staff at Youtheage Culinary (Mundelein) through a Healthy Lifestyles Choices project. In addition to the intro to food service and sanitation and knife skills class, the students have been creating many fine entrees during their cooking sessions, such as stuffed pork chops and seared salmon with green beans.

Transition students for over a year been participating in Improv for Anxiety taught by Jessica Antes, from The Second City theater. Improv is used as a way of addressing social anxiety associated with work, school and family life through ensemble-based improv and cognitive behavioral therapy. In December, more than 50 students visited The Second City theater and saw first hand when they participated in a tour and learned about the other workshops offered there, (such as Improv for Autism, Character Building, and Communication). In addition to the tour, they also discussed vocational opportunities associated with the theater.

Transition students have been drawing from their experience working at local businesses, developing business plans and discussing options for entrepreneurship in their personal and professional lives. The students practiced entrepreneurial and collaborative skills in interior design while learning about careers in architecture from, Peter Graves of GravesDesignGroup. Mr. Graves created scaled drawings of Transition Center South, Atkinson and Seymour. Students worked on positioning furniture models to best suit the environment in which they work. This event will culminate with the actual redesign of each of the three Transition locations so they reflect a more community center feel.

Second year teacher James Captain has combined life skills with social-emotional learning by taking the CLA cooking curricula to the next level. He has been instrumental at designing a course to meet the varied needs of his students. Driven by student input, he began by teaching a Cultural Cooking class, and has since added Methods of Cooking and Restaurant Development. In Restaurant Development, students came up with a theme for the restaurant (Soul of Mexico), created a menu, learned about budgeting and planning and put together a Chef’s Table event where students cooked for more than 20 SEDOL staff. During this event, staff were invited to sample the student-perfected jerk chicken, tacos de carne asada w/elotes, southern mac and cheese and mango en vaso con tajín.

Mr. Captain noted that the courses inspired one student to enter the culinary arts program at the Lake County Tech Campus and another is furthering his learning to make cooking a career. In the future, Mr. Captain is planning an advanced cooking class through a partnership with the College of Lake County that will allow students to earn credits toward college.

ELS students from Ronnie Carbonara’s class took a trip to Bernie’s Books, where they volunteered their time to prepare books for distribution to low income families and school districts.

Maggie Jantczak’s class is in their fifth year of creating blankets for homeless youth. This project brings together mathematics, life skills and service-learning. The transition students are involved in all aspects of the blanket making from budgeting, to selecting materials, to blanket creation and delivery. The project culminates with a trip to One Hope United, where students get to gift their blankets to homeless youth and learn about the plight of those less fortunate.

Other ALOP Projects not pictured:
- As part of an art enrichment community service project, Ronnie Carbonara’s ELS students learned about color palettes while making ceramic pieces to gift to senior citizens. A later class will provide opportunities for students to actually work with and paint pieces with seniors.
- Funds from ALOP equipped kitchens at SEDOL’s Atkinson, Seymour and Transition Center South locations are providing new opportunities for students to practice vocational and life skills through the art of cooking.
- Music Therapist, Jan Brandes worked with Susannah Dee’s LASSO 2 students as they performed a holiday piece with bells.
- Transition students went above and beyond to solicit community donations and budget for their 2018 Thanksgiving Feast. Students practiced their cooking, hosting and communication skills as they engaged with staff. Collaboration, planning and holiday cheer created a memorable event enjoyed by all.
- ELS students from six classes attended Shrek, the Musical, at the Lincolnshire Marriott. In preparation for the community outing, several classes read different versions of the play with a special focus on plot variations, character and morality.
On December 17th, the Advocate Children’s Hospital Ronald McDonald Care Mobile visited Gages Lake School and Cyd Lash Academy. In total 16 students from Cyd Lash and 10 students from Gages Lake were seen. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provides free primary health care services. Services provided on the Care Mobile include physicals, immunizations, sick-child visits, and health education. The Care Mobile is 40 feet long, 8 feet wide and incorporates two patient exam rooms, a reception area and a medical records area.

Gages Lake School welcomes new Assistant Principal Michele Barkley. Ms. Barkley was a Special Education teacher in the Winthrop Harbor School District before she became the Director of Student Services for the District in 2013. Ms. Barkley has a Master’s degree in Special Education as well as a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership both from Northwestern Illinois University. She also holds a Director of Special Education endorsement. Ms. Barkley enjoys the outdoors, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

The Board recognized Julia McGarry, a student from Grayslake High School District #127, as November’s STARS student. Julia attends Transition Center South.

The Board recognized Physical Therapist Maria Dungca as November’s employee of the Month.

The Board recognized Speech Pathologist Sarah Hilton as December’s employee of the month.

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Pictured with Maria are: Tegan Dittmer, Supervisor of OT/PT Services and Superintendent Val Donnan.

Pictured with Sarah (l-r) are: Speech Liaison Lyn Edwards; Supervisor Tegan Dittmer; and Superintendent Val Donnan.
SAVE-THE-DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laremont Prom</td>
<td>Friday May 3, 2019 11:00am at Laremont School Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyd Lash Academy Middle School Graduation</td>
<td>Thursday, May 16, 2019 1:00PM at Cyd Lash Academy Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration ART Night</td>
<td>Thursday, May 16, 2019 6-9PM at Gages Lake School Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gages Lake School 6 grade send off</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 21, 2019 1:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHH Grayslake North High School Graduation</td>
<td>Thursday, May 23, 2019 7-9:00PM at Grayslake North High School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Orientation Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday April 18, 2019 6-8PM at SEDOL Administration Building in the Bay Room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyd Lash Academy High School Graduation</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:00PM at Cyd Lash Academy Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Recognition Night</td>
<td>Thursday, May 16, 2019 7-8PM at Gages Lake School Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laremont Graduation</td>
<td>Friday, May 17, 2019 1:00PM at Laremont School Gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project SEARCH Exit Ceremony</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 22, 2019 6:30-8:30PM at Sedgebrook in Lincolnshire, IL.</td>
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SEDOL FOUNDATION

WARREN TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

The Warren Township High School Student Athletic Leadership Team (SALT) and the Warren Wellness Ambassadors joined forces to help special needs children and young adults at SEDOL. Through their efforts over 1,600 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected for the Carole Brooks Backpack program.

HEART OF GOLD DINNER DANCE

Join the SEDOL Foundation on Saturday, March 9 for our 28th Annual heart of Gold Dinner Dance. This year we will be honoring Enchanted Backpack and Shawn and Eva Pfeiffer, founders of Pucks For Autism. For more information or tickets to the event, please contact Ann Subry at asubry@sedol.us or call 847.548.7032

ONE SPECIAL NIGHT UPDATE

One Special Night for Very Special Kids was held on Friday, November 9 at Viper Alley in Lincolnshire. Chaired by David and Donna Raye the '70's themed event featured the music of the Eagles and raised over $60,000 with $29,000 going to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Audiological Services programs at SEDOL.

SEDOL NEWS TEAM & CONTRIBUTORS:

Val Donnan, Superintendent
Stacey Gottlieb, Social Worker
Doris Marcinkus, Admin. Asst. to the Superintendent
Cecilia McKenzie, Resource Development Facilitator
Patricia Mendez, Bilingual Translator
Melissa Morreale, Teacher
Andre Probst, Laremont School Teacher

Donna Strollo, Technology Coordinator
Ann Subry, SEDOL Foundation
Caitlin Thompson, Data Specialist
Angelica Wenzel, Bilingual Translator

For more, Visit: www.sedol.us