



# SEDOL NEWS

Exceptional Services for Exceptional Students

A newsletter for the Special Education District of Lake County

<http://www.sedol.k12.il.us>

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March 2008

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## Disability Mentoring Day Observed at Two Lake County Sites

In observance of Disability Mentoring Day, SEDOL Transition and PreVocational Program students had the opportunity to job shadow employees at Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc. in Vernon Hills, and The Olive Garden Restaurant in Gurnee.



*Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc.  
Mentoring Day*



*Olive Garden Mentoring Day*

This was the first year for Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc. to host students, but the day was an incredible experience for the seven students who participated. This opportunity was incorporated into the students' curriculum by allowing them to fill out applications and participate in mock interviews. Employees at Mitsubishi also prepared for the students' visit by participating in a Disability Awareness presentation by SEDOL staff. The following day the students toured the facility and shadowed an employee in their area of interest. Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc. offers a comprehensive line of factory automation solutions such as motion controllers, industrial sewing machines, and programmable logic controllers.

This was Olive Garden's third year of participation. The students served lunch to SEDOL administrative team and several special education coordinators from SEDOL's member districts. The students were able to practice their social and work skills during their experience.

The SEDOL Transition Program serves students 18-21 years old (after completing four years of high school). The program is structured to enhance the ongoing development of young adults toward the ultimate goals of independence, productivity, and self-satisfaction in their homes and the community.

Serving the children of school districts: Winthrop Harbor #1, Beach Park #3, Zion Elementary #6, Millburn #24, Emmons #33, Antioch #34, Grass Lake #36, Gavin #37, Big Hollow #38, Lake Villa #41, Community Consolidated School #46, Woodland #50, Gurnee Grade #56, Oak Grove #68, Libertyville #70, Rondout #72, Hawthorn #73, Mundelein #75, Diamond Lake #76, Fremont #79, Lake Zurich Unit #95, Kildeer Countryside #96, Aptakisic-Tripp #102, Lincolnshire-Prairie View #103, Fox Lake #114, Round Lake Unit #116, Antioch High School #117, Wauconda Unit #118, Mundelein High School #120, Warren Township High School #121, Grant High School #124, Adlai Stevenson High School #125, Zion-Benton Township High School #126, Grayslake High School #127, Community High School #128 and North Chicago Unit #187.

# Superintendent's Message

## Curriculum Development, Literacy, Assessment ...

In looking to the future over the next five to ten years, the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) must offer more support, technical assistance and program expertise to our member districts. The change in SEDOL's design (although not meant to be drastic) will cause us to undergo changes and modifications. We must become more of a support model, providing professional development and instructional best practices that will benefit member district teachers and ultimately the students with disabilities that they serve during the school year. Hopefully, the initiatives cited below will help explain how the changes will begin to occur and will allow us to shape, develop and implement programs that will be valued by SEDOL member districts.



*Dr. Bill Delp*

### **Mission:**

*Exceptional Services for Exceptional Students*

### **Vision:**

*"All learners to lead productive, responsible and healthy lives"*

### **Goals:**

1. *Providing Standards for Exceptional Services, which is an education-based customer service model for staff, parents and students.*
2. *Providing instructional models that focus on closing achievement gaps between students, driven by a continuous improvement process and appropriate accountability measures.*
3. *Providing cost effective services that are equitable across all districts.*
4. *Providing increased parent participation through direct parent training and involvement.*

## Summary of Program Design

### **Modifications:**

**Student Population:** Provide service to moderately and severely disabled students who SEDOL member districts are not able to serve.

**Curriculum:** Develop and implement a solid curriculum within all SEDOL programs that is designed internally and driven by state and national learning standards.

**Staff Development:** Deliver focused staff development on the SEDOL curriculum, crisis prevention intervention, instructional best practices, customer service, legal issues, current health topics/issues, technology integration and program design.

**Response to Intervention (RTI):** Member districts will be required to use the RTI process to identify exceptional students, and SEDOL must develop support systems to help districts implement the process effectively.

**Accountability:** Complete program reviews and audits of both SEDOL programs and member district programs. If we are to improve accountability and meet AYP, we must evaluate programs to ensure continuous improvement.

**Data-Based Decision Making:** Coordinate program development and support with member districts to better serve all special education students. We must continue to provide member districts with data and information that will allow for decisions to be made to improve instruction for all students, especially special education students.

**Parent Involvement:** Emphasize parent involvement, parent mentoring, parent liaison practices and parent education programs for SEDOL and member districts.

**Organizational Structure/Staffing Needs:** Review and continue to develop the organizational staffing model to reflect the changes that must be made to implement and monitor the instructional practices and curriculum for the students SEDOL serves.

**Housing Issues:** SEDOL is rapidly running out of center-based classroom space and must develop a plan to serve and meet the needs of our member districts.

**Board Governance:** With the changes in the composition of the Executive Board, (going from 7 to 9 members) and the interest Governing Board members have expressed to stay informed and involved, processes must be designed and developed to have functional working relationships. This needs to include a process for hiring the next SEDOL Superintendent.

**Financial Stewardship:** Efforts will be made to secure additional resources for SEDOL to ensure adequate funding for the district to provide the required level of services to students.

These initiatives are not in prioritized order. This is simply a list of ideas designed to begin modifying and expanding SEDOL's role in serving and supporting its member districts. Please feel free to provide input and suggestions to the items listed. You may submit your suggestions in writing to:

Special Education District of Lake County  
Attn: **Dr. William P. Delp, Superintendent**  
18160 Gages Lake Road  
Gages Lake, IL 60030  
wdelp@sedol.k12.il.us

# Board Highlights

## SEDOL EXECUTIVE BOARD 2007-08

This year SEDOL's Executive Board configuration has changed to a nine member board. SEDOL's Governing Board recommended the change from a seven member board last June. This change allows for more Governing Board representation and gives voting authority to the Regional Superintendent of Schools Roycealee Wood.

The nine member board consists of four superintendents, four Governing Board members and the Regional Superintendent of Schools.



*Governing Board members and district administrators have incorporated small group discussions during the Governing Board meetings to discuss such topics as budget, programs/services, transportation, and long-range planning. Mike Latham, SEDOL Supervisor is shown leading one such group.*

## Executive Board Members

*(Front left) Joanne Osmond, School Board member Lake Villa Dist. #41; Dan Coles, Superintendent Wauconda Unit Dist. #118; Jan Putbress, Vice President, School Board member Lake Zurich Unit Dist. #95; Rick Taylor, President, Superintendent Fremont #79; Sue Facklam, School Board member Community Consolidated Dist. #46; (back left) Diane Hanson, School Board member Gavin Dist. #37; Scott Thompson, Superintendent Antioch Dist. #34; Ben Martindate, CEO Round Lake Unit Dist. #116; Roycealee Wood, Regional Superintendent of Schools; and Bill Delp, SEDOL Superintendent.*



## SEDOL Student Named Infnitec Outstanding Student Award

Infnitec North, a division of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago, has selected one very special SEDOL student to receive their 2008 Outstanding Student Technology Award.

Laremont School student, Chayse Mumford, 8 years old from Gavin Dist. #37, has shown how he can master technology despite his multiple disabilities. He uses the Dynavox and two switches at one time to communicate.

"In one year, Chayse is scanning and uses the Dynavox and two switches at one time to communicate," said his teacher Julie Rohrbach. "We are so proud of him for his progress and skills. He also uses assistive software *Classroom Suites* and *Living Books* on the computer."



*Chayse and his teacher Julie Rohrbach.*

# SEDOL BRIEFS



## SEDOL Students Win at Winter Olympics

This year participants of the Winter Special Olympics had to be flexible with the weather changes but the hard work paid off for all participants.

"The smiles today were just great and helped you forget how chilly and muddy it was," said Gayle Johnson, coach of the Transition Special Olympic Team.

There were two groups of students participating from SEDOL. The first four participants are from the Transition Program. These students all participated in the area Winter Games and returned with three gold medals. Two of the participants went to the Illinois State Special Olympic Winter Games in Galena and returned with even more medals. The four participants were: Eric Lilleeng, Pavel Sedov, Lee Velasco, and Justin Martin.

The other SEDOL athletes participating in the winter games were from Laremont and sector classrooms. Participating students were: Tanya Cooper, Delilah Cvengros, Valerie Germain, Allison Juska, Kathleen Mayes, Anastasia Narkevitch, Camron Olson, Nicolette Oliva, and Corey Paskvan.

Two athletes from this group were also able to go to the State Winter Games in Galena and brought back a lot of experience and stories.

"We didn't come home with a lot of medals but that is not what Special Olympics is all about, said Erin Tidd, coach of the Laremont School Special Olympic group. "All the athletes did their best this season, whether at our invitational, the area games or at State!"

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A newly formed Parent Advisory Council has created a new mission statement:

**Our mission is to advance the educational lives of our children with special needs through communication, partnership and change.**

Keep a look-out for more parent involvement news to be forthcoming on the SEDOL website

[www.sedol.k12.il.us](http://www.sedol.k12.il.us)



*Relatives as Parents Program -- Dayle Friedman (left), SEDOL Social Work Coordinator and Dr. Carol DuClos, Program Review and Development Specialist (right) review the schedule for the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) with Rolanda Pyle, Associate Director for the RAPP at the Brookdale Foundation, funders of the SEDOL program.*

## Sam's Club Funds SEDOL Project Read Program

Sam's Club of Gurnee has granted \$1,000 to SEDOL for the purchase of instructional manuals. Literacy Coaches will utilize the manuals in training SEDOL teachers in the Project Read Phonics curriculum.

Project Read is a scientifically based research reading program that meets the five essential components of effective reading instruction. It is based on the research done by the National Panel and Reading First initiative established from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002. All strands of the curriculum are delivered through direct concept teaching, systematic sequencing of concepts and skills using multi-sensory strategies. Project Read curriculum is aligned to the instructional blocks of Put Reading First and the Illinois Learning Standards.

# SEDOL Foundation Update



SEDOL Foundation, 18160 Gages Lake Rd. Gages Lake, IL 60030  
847- 548-7032 <http://www.sedolfoundation.org>

## OVER 220 ATTENDEES HELP MAKE THE 2007 SEDOL FOUNDATION WINE EXPERIENCE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER

Event raises \$37,000 to help local special needs kids experience a fuller life

Over 220 of Lake County's most caring and enthusiastic residents raised their wine glasses and their auction bids to help make the SEDOL Foundation's "2007 Wine Experience" its most successful ever.

The event, which was held at Lake Forest's Knollwood Country Club on November 3, raised more than \$37,000 to help provide Lake County special needs children with custom educational programs, vocational resources and social opportunities.

Attendees enjoyed a world-class sampling of wines (provided by DiCarlo's Fine Wine and Spirits in Mundelein, PRP Wine International in Elk Grove Village, and Grand Cru in Arlington Heights), along with gourmet hors d'oeuvres and decadent chocolates from Ethel's Chocolate Lounge.

"We really had a lot of fun putting this event together, because everyone is so enthusiastic about helping Lake County's special needs kids," said Event Co-Chair Joe Charneske.

"People were coming up to me at the event and asking when and where we are going to have our 2008 event, so they can put it on their calendar," added Co-Chair Tracey Soucy.

There are currently more than 2,600 children in the Lake County School system who have physical, mental and emotional disabilities that require

individualized services not covered by taxpayer dollars.

Anyone interested in supporting the SEDOL Foundation, or getting a jump on next year's event, is encouraged to visit <http://www.sedolfoundation.org> or call the SEDOL Foundation's Executive Director Ann Subry at 847-548-7032.



*SEDOL Foundation Wine Experience event attendees:(from left) Tom Aldrich (Chairman of the SEDOL Foundation) and Karen Aldrich, Wilma and Bill Delp, SEDOL Superintendent.*

## "Help Them to Hear" Fund Established

More than 400 children in SEDOL's 36 member school districts have been identified with a partial or complete hearing loss. Hearing aids could cost \$1,500 to \$6,000, which is cost prohibitive to many families.

Now there is help for families who can't afford this cost. David and Donna Raye of Lake Forest, owners of The Goddard School in Third Lake, have funded a \$10,000 grant that will provide financial assistance to families that don't qualify under state agencies or other areas to purchase hearing aids or other hearing devices.

Raye, a SEDOL Foundation board member, had a hearing disorder as a child that led to delayed speech development and self-esteem problems.

"There is so much technology and so much opportunity that no child should be faced with difficulties of not being able to hear properly," said David Raye.

The Rayes plan to endow the program annually but also would like to see others come forward to help fund the cause. He is most excited that there will be no administrative costs associated with any donation. The entire amount will go to the children.

The program will be coordinated by SEDOL's audiological services department. Eligible students must be enrolled with SEDOL to apply.

To support the "Help Them to Hear" program, visit the foundation website, [www.sedolfoundation.org](http://www.sedolfoundation.org) or call 847-548-7032.

# SEDOL Grant Update

## Grant-O-Rama 2008

### Looking Beyond our Horizons

As part of the quarterly SEDOL Governing Board meeting, SEDOL and the SEDOL Foundation presented "Grant-O-Rama 2008" that highlighted the new and innovative programs and accomplishments supported by competitive grant awards during the 2007-08 school year. Over 30 programs were highlighted during the evening for Governing Board members and Foundation Board members.



## GRANTS 2007-08

<i>Agency/Organization</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Donation</i>
Bowling Foundation	Bowler's Education in-school program	\$1,300
Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents (RAPP)	Support programs for Relatives as Caregivers	\$ 10,000/2 yrs.
Carol M. White Physical Ed Program (PEP) Grant	Physical Education Equipment & Supplies for all APE Itinerant Classes	\$131,000/ 3 yrs.
Fire Prevention & Safety Grant	Fire Prevention & Safety	\$39,875
Grand Victoria Foundation	Scholastic RED Training Teacher Literacy Program	\$59,400
Henrietta Lange Burk Fund	Playground Equipment for the SEDOL Playground Expansion Project.	\$10,000
Infinitech CSC Learning	Reading Intervention Tech Products	\$10,000
ISBE Language Instruction Program	Programs to serve students from culturally & linguistically diverse background.	\$51,900
ISBE Learn & Serve America 2008	Service Learning projects combining academic with community service	\$11,500
ISBE Alternative Learning Opportunities Program	Cyd Lash Academy and Transition Programs to help students achieve the Illinois Learning Standards	\$668,600
Macy's North at Hawthorn Center	Early Childhood Family Literacy Project	\$4,000
Illinois State Board of Education Parent Mentor Project	Provide support, training and ongoing technical assistance to parents & school district personnel related to the referral, identification & educational services for children with special needs.	\$30,000
Sam's Club	Project Read Curriculum	\$1,000

# SEDOL BRIEFS

## MACY'S NORTH, HAWTHORN CENTER AWARDS SEDOL COMMUNITY GRANT

SEDOL was recently named Macy's North at Hawthorn Center 2007 community partner and awarded their 2007 store grant.

The SEDOL Foundation was also awarded the 2007 Macy's grant of \$4,000 for use in the Early Childhood Family Reading Project. This project is a collaboration of students, parents, and staff from the following SEDOL programs: Sector Early Childhood, Ureche Early Childhood Center, Cyd Lash Academy, Gages Lake School, John Powers Center, and Sally Potter School. This project will be supported by partnerships with local public libraries, local writers of children's books, and local businesses.

The project will provide training for parents to stimulate and expand language, literacy, and child/parent communication. Parents will be provided an introduction on reading aloud to their children. All parents will be asked to commit to read to their children daily, up to six days a week. They will have books and activities to take home.

Students from Cyd Lash Academy, Gages Lake School, John Powers Center, and Sally Potter School will write, illustrate, and bind lending library books for the Early Childhood families. They will also publish the books on a website for teachers and parents to download.



*SEDOL student Alison Rund receives a 2007 Chicago Marathon finishing medal from Arnold Bynum. Mr. Bynum presented the award to Alison with her classmates in attendance.*

## Marathon Medal for Laremont "Champion"

The 30th Annual 2007 Chicago Marathon attracted 45,000 runners but for one special needs child in Lake County there was only one runner she and her family were cheering for and that was Arnold Bynum, 52, of Zion. Arnold runs the 26.2 miles with a personal accomplishment in mind but he also needed additional inspiration.

This year his inspiration was for Alison Rund who he became close to through their mutual affiliation at the Lakeland Evangelical Church in Gurnee. Alison, 15, of Gurnee, is a student at Laremont School. During a school assembly, Arnold presented Alison with the medal he received for finishing this unusually brutal marathon. "Arnold has a personal goal to participate in the marathon but he wants to always share his triumph," said his wife Michelle.

This was Arnold's fourth Chicago Marathon. According to Michelle, Arnold has always been athletic in high school and college and he still runs ten miles a day all year-round. So this year's unusually hot and humid weather did not affect him. "He always tells me 'The hotter the better.' He loves the heat," said Michelle. Arnold did suffer dehydration and lost ten pounds from his accomplishment, but after one day of recuperation he was back to his usual routine of working at Abbott Labs and exercising.



*Mark Heckmon, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduces SEDOL's 2006-07 Employee of the Year, Debra Thomas, at the SEDOL-Wide Institute Day on August 22, 2007 at the College of Lake County. Debra is a Learning Opportunities (LOP) teacher at Mechanics Grove School in Mundelein Elementary District #75.*



## Student Chosen King

With the support of his "Best Buddies" club members and all of the students he has befriended, Francis Padoan, a SEDOL ELS student and Vernon Hills High School senior, was chosen Turn-About-King at the Winter Assembly.

Francis was escorted into the assembly hearing the entire school members clapping and chanting his name. He received a standing ovation when his name was announced as the king.

"This is the best day of my life!," said Francis. "I always wanted to be king and now I am. I am so happy!"

## SEDOL Calendar of Events

- March 8 - SEDOL Foundation Heart of Gold Dinner Dance**  
Concorde Banquets, Kildeer.
- March 24-28 - Spring Break**
- April 12 - Special Education Job Fair 2008**  
9 a.m. to noon - Cyd Lash Academy
- May 3 - Laremont Auction**  
Concorde Banquets, Kildeer
- May 15 - Cyd Lash Academy Blood Drive**

The SEDOL Executive Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the SEDOL Administration Building.

### Upcoming meetings:

3-20-08; 4-22-08; 5-22-08; 6-26-08; 7-24-08.

The SEDOL Governing Board meets quarterly, 7:00p.m. at Laremont School.

### Upcoming meetings: 5-28-08.

As dates and locations sometimes change, call 847-548-8470, ext. 218 to confirm.

### Published by:

*The Special Education District of Lake County  
18160 Gages Lake Road  
Gages Lake, IL 60030*

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