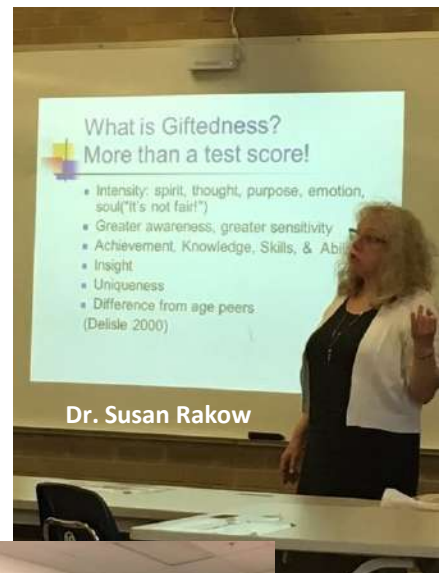


Gifted Update

Gifted Programming Evening Meeting

On Wednesday, May 9, 2018, an evening parent meeting was hosted at Greenview Upper Elementary for students in grades 3—8 who are a part of gifted programming in SEL and for their parents. Parents had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Susan Rakow, a licensed professional clinical counselor with the Family Achievement Clinic. The title of her talk was “Joys and Challenges of Parenting Gifted Children.” During the parent presentation, ALPHA and STEP UP students enjoyed a Game Night and had fun interacting with a variety of students. Also during the evening, parents had the opportunity to gain more information about gifted learning in the classroom and view highlights of student projects. Overall, the Open House presentation provided both parents and students an informative and engaging experience.



The power point that Dr. Rakow used during her presentation is available on the SEL gifted webpage.

STEP UP Grade 3 Mrs. Gina Arnold

The students had an amazing first year at STEP UP. They have made new friends and pushed themselves to accomplish great things.

All students have completed their "New Animal" reports. They did a wonderful job researching and compiling the information to create their reports. They were able to use their research, as well as the SCAMPER technique, to create a unique piece of work. The students also had the opportunity to create a clay model of their rare animal.



STEP UP Grade 4 Mrs. Gina Arnold

The fourth grade students did an unbelievable job on the Toy Company Simulation. They learned a valuable life lesson of how important it is to contribute as part of a team to achieve a common goal. Throughout the simulation, the students had to write and speak descriptively and persuasively, while drawing conclusions based on observations. Each of the three teams created a unique board game complete with directions, game board, pieces and cards. They conducted market research and analyzed their results to help them meet the needs of their potential consumers in the competitive board game market. The students are looking forward to playing the games they created.



Fourth grade award winners in Continental Math League Competition.

1st place: Thomas Denk
2nd place: Lukas Alexander
3rd place: Isabelle Gallo

STEP UP Grade 5—8 Mr. Bell and Mrs. Arnold

The fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders culminated their philosophy units by attending a philosophy symposium hosted by John Carroll University's philosophy department!

On Friday, May 4th, some of our ALPHA and STEP UP students attended an enrichment seminar on the John Carroll campus. This enrichment opportunity enhanced our continual study of S.T.E.A.M. related concepts and exposed our students to the field of philosophy!

The study of philosophy offered quality critical thinking skills to our gifted students. It was impressive how the students responded and held their own during the seminars: College level material for 10-13 year olds! There were several critical thinking activities and student presentations.

The 8th graders had to choose a topic: Realism, Idealism, or Materialism and defend their position on each. Grade seven, did a role play using the story of Icarus to defend a philosophical paradigm. Grade six (Alanna Silverman) wrote a skit on free will and retold the story of Oedipus. Another group of sixth graders, created their own memes with philosophical humor. The fifth grade STEP UP students

participated in impressive presentations. They amazed the crowd with their knowledge, poise and charisma. Student presented what they learned about famous philosophers and interpreted famous quotations or they participated in debates while dressed as their favorite philosopher.



STEP UP Continental Math Mrs. Gina Arnold Grades 3—5

All STEP UP students in grades 3—5 participated in the Continental Math League Competition. Throughout the year, the students have been graphing their results after each round of the competition and setting goals to achieve their personal best. Awards and medals were handed out in class. Award winners in the competition by grade are:

Grade 3:

1st place: Noah Banks
2nd place: Jason Krestel
3rd place: Stella Roller

Grade 5:

1st place: William Butler and Elijah Morgan
2nd place: Brian Spahiu
3rd place: Owen Thompson
and Nomar Tobias



Grade 4 see previous page.



ALPHA Math—Grade 3 Mrs. Marcia Armbruster

The ALPHA Math third graders explored many math topics this spring that involved higher level thinking. Face Factory gave the students an opportunity to work with money and create their own characters whose facial features and accessories had dollar values. Fun-tabulous Math Puzzles involved the students in in-depth multiplication, division, fractions, and algebra problems. The students worked with Venn diagrams and Euler circles to analyze and work out problems with intricate sets and subsets. They also solved challenging Magic Squares and Magic Star puzzles, which involved patience, persistence, and mathematical deductive reasoning skills.



ALPHA READING—Grade 3 Mrs. Marcia Armbruster

The 3rd grade ALPHA reading students at Adrian, Rowland, and Sunview continue to work together in a virtual classroom using Kidblog, a private, secure blogging site for schools where teachers and students can share reading and writing via blog discussions. The students have finished reading, discussing, and blogging about the chapter book *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. Their final blog posts concentrate on the character development of the two main characters, and the students' writing reflects this in how their analysis and evaluation skills through their writing have developed over the course of the year in ALPHA reading.

ALPHA reading third graders were introduced to Storybird, a creative writing website that allows students to use artists' illustrations with their own original poetry, short stories, and chapter book writing. The students' writings can be read by our entire ALPHA reading virtual class, and students also have the ability to read others' works on the site. Storybird is theirs to keep, and I encourage students to write creatively over the summer!

For home use this summer, here are the sites for both Kidblog and Storybird: (Students' passwords are the ones we used this school year).

Kidblog: <https://kidblog.org/class/alpha-reading-2017-2018>

Storybird: <https://storybird.com/>



4th Grade ALPHA Math Mrs. Marcia Armbruster

Greenview 4th grade ALPHA Math students continued working with Mrs. Arnold's STEP UP class for the Continental Math Challenge. They are participating in solving these higher level problems and the analysis, evaluation, and peer teaching that go along with this experience. In addition to this challenge, the students participated in a Math March Madness and a Mental Mathletics Competition, as well as taking the \$100 Word Challenge. Students also engaged in a Rubik's Cube observation and exploration activity and math art project for their end of the year experience.



5th Grade ALPHA Math Mrs. Marcia Armbruster

ALPHA Math 5th graders participated in a Math March Madness Competition and the \$100 Word Challenge. As a culminating activity for the study of ancient civilization number systems, the students are creating their own original number system and including its creative "history", the origin of its symbols, and creating challenge problems for the class to solve.



6th Grade ALPHA Math Mrs. Marcia Armbruster

Greenview 6th Grade ALPHA Math students also participated in the \$100 Word Challenge, and wrapped up the school year with a unit on Fibonacci and the Fibonacci Number Sequence. The class acted out an in-depth math problem called "No Neighboring Teachers" which helped them discover the number sequence on their own. They then viewed videos of the history of this sequence, its relationship to phi and the golden ratio, did Fibonacci swirl graph drawings, and researched how Fibonacci numbers occur naturally in nature, music, outer space, and in the human body.



I would like to thank all of the parents for your kindness during my absence when I broke my arm and elbow. I'd also like to thank Mr. Armbruster for doing such a great job filling in for me! Happy summer vacation to all, and I'm looking forward to working with so many of your wonderful children next year! -Mrs. Armbruster

ALPHA Reading—Grades 4—6

Mrs. Gina Arnold

ALPHA Reading students in grades 4—6 have completed their third and final WordMasters Challenge. Awards and medals have been handed out. The students worked very hard mastering the higher level vocabulary while using the relationship between words to better understand the individual words.

Top Cumulative Students

4th grade:

1st place: Thomas Denk

2nd place: Kaylee Moran

3rd place: Kate Bowser, Makayla Carthon, Delaney Miller and William Stanford



5th grade:

1st place: William Butler

2nd place: Lorah Farren

3rd place: Azariah Holt



Grade 6:

1st place: Jaimmy Herron

2nd place: Caitlyn Crismor

3rd place: Lillian Anderson

Push-In Co-Teaching Report 2018 Mr. Robert Bell

Co-teaching is an educational approach whereby general education teachers and the gifted intervention specialist work together to deliver instruction. The two educators work as partners and are responsible for meeting all students' educational needs.

Some examples implemented in the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year using co-teaching /push-in is incorporating enrichment opportunities. The seventh grade honors science classes used the wonderful resources of Cleveland and attend a plate tectonics seminar at the Natural History Museum. They were able to view 3-d models and hear lectures from the highly trained and traveled professors who work at the museum. The trip also allowed students to tour other exhibits at the museum.

Grade seven and some eight graders attended the play *Beehive* which was highly entertaining and more importantly a historical reenactment of the sixties, which is the content of their novel *Wednesday Wars*. Talented woman, many from Baldwin Wallace, sang, danced, and relived the sixties experience.



Coordinator's Corner



"Children of exceptional gifts and talents are present in South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools. The vision of South Euclid Lyndhurst is to see each of these learners develop potential, without limitations, through an environment of challenging and meaningful learning experiences."
Taken from SEL vision statement for gifted programming on SEL website.

This quote from the SEL website reflects the desire for strong programming for students who are identified as gifted in this district. The credit for the strength of gifted programming in South Euclid Lyndhurst can be attributed to the passion and expertise of the gifted intervention specialists, the collaboration with classroom teachers, and the support of building and central office administrators. Also important to the success of the gifted programming in South Euclid Lyndhurst has been the interest and input from supportive parents - and, of course, wonderful and unique students with whom to work.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of the gifted program in this district for the past four years. I have enjoyed working with many different groups of people as we refined and expanded the program.

After 45 years as an educator, it is with mixed emotions that I feel it is time to step away. I am sure that I will continue to do something in the education arena, but I will also have more time to pursue some personal interests. And my grandchildren - Megan, Ellie, Matthew, Jack and Charlie - will get to see more of their grandmother.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during my years in South Euclid Lyndhurst. Please extend that support to the new gifted coordinator in the district. With the strong staff that is in place, I am sure that the gifted programming in the district will remain strong.



If things did not change - there would be no butterflies.

Thanks again for all you do to support our gifted learners.

Sincerely,
Debra Barrickman
Gifted Coordinator

South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools

Debra Barrickman, Ph.D.
Gifted Coordinator
Greenview Upper Elementary
School
1825 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Phone: 216-691-2023
Email: Barrickman@sel.k12.oh.us