



**Awarded the INSPRA
2006 Award of
Excellence**

CUSD 95, Culver Win Excellence Awards

Right: **Ron Culver** receives his LZACC Outstanding Educator award from Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**.

Far Right: CUSD 95 Board Vice President **Kathy Brown** receives the LZACC Magnet Award from **Steve Anichini** of Lake Zurich Culver's, the 2005 Magnet Award winner.

Take Our Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out our 2006-07 Stakeholder Survey at www.lz95.org. The link is under the "Updates" section on the main page.

Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 won the Magnet Award and Lake Zurich High School drama teacher **Ron Culver** won the Outstanding



Educator Award in the prestigious 2006 Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce (LZACC) Excellence Awards program. The awards were presented during a special ceremony on Saturday, January 20, at Concord Banquets, Kildeer, IL. The reception and awards presentation were followed by a welcome reception and dinner. CUSD 95 Board Vice President **Kathy Brown** accepted the Magnet Award on behalf of the school district.

According to the LZACC, the prestigious Magnet Award honors that "business or organization whose products and services attract customers to the Lake Zurich area or who create and maintain jobs in the Lake Zurich area." While this award usually goes to a local business, LZACC members understand the important role its public schools play in making the Lake Zurich area attractive to both families and businesses looking to relocate to the area.

"This recognition is a great example of how our entire community works together to make the Lake Zurich area a quality place to live," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "Our schools would not have the success we have without the many



partnerships we have established within our community to support achieving our mission. We are grateful for the recognition and we share it with our entire community."

Culver was honored as the "first among equals" from a field of 11 nomi-

nees, all of which this year were District 95 educators. According to the LZACC, the Outstanding Educator Award honors the educator who has "demonstrated exceptional efforts and skills in the improvement of the educational experience of students."

In addition to the school district and Culver, the following 12 people, were award nominees in the following categories:

- **Outstanding Educator:** Nancy Caceres, Patrick Flynn, Renzo Fontana, Gail Galter, Jane Hyla, Colleen Johnson, Lou Leitner, Sue McBride, Meghan Mowinski and Josh Thompson
- **Outstanding Government Employee:** Karen Logan
- **Outstanding Public Servant:** Gary Robillard, Board of Education President

The LZACC Excellence Awards are presented annually to honor and recognize local businesses, governmental employees, elected officials, not-for-profits and educators for outstanding service and performance during the year, and for helping to make the Lake Zurich area a better place, to live, learn, work and play.

The Perfect Season at LZMSS

What a great season! Only a few games into the season the Lake Zurich Middle School South (LZMSS) basketball team could only hope for an undefeated season. Oh, yes, the team had the talent and the drive, but each player knew that it was going to take a lot of hard work and focus to make this season one they would not forget.



After winning all 16 of their regular season games, this team was headed for the Suburban Middle School Conference Tournament held in Wauconda. Coach **David Grimm** certainly kept the team focused throughout the tournament.

The final game of the conference tournament

Right: First Row: **Leavon Head, J. J. Raffelson**. Second Row: **Austin Reitsch, Mike Nutter, Drake Orser, Kyle Miller, Jacob Brinlee, Mike Murphy**. Third Row: Coach **David Grimm, Colin Evans, Mitch Dudek, Trevor Donahue, Peter Papastratakos, Mike Boyd and Greg Allen**. (Photo provided by David Grimm.)

Cont. on Pg. 3 -- See *The Perfect Season*

Pinocchio, the Musical



“Honesty is the best policy” is just one of the many lessons to be learned from the engaging fairy tale *Pinocchio, A Musical Adventure*. Travel with Pinocchio as he meets Kitty and Fox and finds out he should have listened to his father’s advice: “Don’t talk to strangers.”

Pinocchio, A Musical Adventure opens January 26 at 7 p.m. with additional shows on January 27 at 2 & 7 p.m. The last show is January 28 at 2 p.m.

Advanced ticket prices are only \$8 for adults and only \$6 for children (through high school) and seniors. Tickets at the door are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. Call the ticket hotline at 847-540-4740 for reservations.

Kindergarten Info Night



Parents who reside within the boundaries of Community Unit School District 95 and have children who will be entering kindergarten next school year are encouraged to attend Kindergarten Information Night on February 7, beginning at 6 p.m., at their local elementary school. There, they will receive information on the registration process and learn more about their child’s future school.

Those parents who register by March 1 will receive their bus assignment (which also lets them know whether they have a morning or afternoon session) in

May. Those who register after March 1 will not know their assignment until much later in the summer.

Parents can pick up registration materials from any elementary school within District 95.

For more information, contact your local District 95 elementary school:

Charles Quentin School	847-438-2420
Isaac Fox School	847-540-7020
May Whitney School	847-438-2351
Sarah Adams School	847-438-5986
Seth Paine School	847-438-2163
Spencer Loomis School	847-719-3300

Cultural Carnivale/Auction



The May Whitney PTO is hosting an exciting and fun filled Cultural Carnivale/Awesome Auction Event for its families on Friday, February 23, from 6:30-9:30 pm, at the school. The PTO’s goal is to raise enough funds through the auction to help offset the cost of

field trips, purchase some much needed school supplies, and to aid in enhancing their students’ educational experience at May Whitney School.

The school’s wonderfully diverse families will be sharing a taste of their culture by showcasing some finger foods, juices, fruits, appetizers, and desserts from their own cultural parts of the world. Community restaurants are also participating. There will

be food samples from many different parts of the world such as China, Mexico, Poland, Italy, Greece, U.S.A., Egypt and many other countries for savoring! Come celebrate the many tastes of May Whitney!



Some of the fabulous items generously donated to

be auctioned off that evening are:

- Autographed **Brian Urlacher** Bear’s Jersey
- \$250 Michael Thomas Salon gift certificate
- Gift card to The Chop Shop
- Weber Grill
- One year paid membership to Foglia YMCA
- Giemer’s Nursery Gift
- Walker Bros. Gift
- Huge Gorilla
- Family passes to Arlington Race Track
- Kohl’s Children’s Museum Family passes with a book
- Mary Kay Cosmetics Gift Basket
- Southern Living Home Décor
- Wildcat Wear
- 2 Cubs tickets, and much more!

Contact **Sandy Stephen**, 847-438-6450, or **Jean Louise Lilly**, 847-726-1826, if you have any questions or if you would like to make any donations or contributions for this event.

Action Teams Meet Feb. 5

Community Unit School District 95 is still seeking staff, parents, students and interested community member



volunteers to serve on action teams which will develop the necessary steps for successfully implementing the five strategies of the district's strategic plan. The plan was renewed last spring and approved by the Board of Education on May 25.

The five action teams and their leaders include:

Staff Commitment: **Dr. Deb Bruemmer, Bob Vossel**

Community Commitment: **Ellen Schnur, Grant Seaholm**

Trust & Collaboration: **Kara Dohman, Rocky Kleinschmidt**

Recruitment/Retention: **Stefan Ladenburger, Noreen Rabe**

Curriculum/Learning Opportunities: **Dr. Nate Carter, Leslie Kovich**

A meeting of all action teams will be held on February 5, beginning at 7 p.m., at Middle School North. Those who have not yet signed up for an action team can come to the meeting and sign up there.

The finished action plans will then be reviewed by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee before being submitted to the school district and its Board of Education.

For more information, visit the district's strategic plan web site at www.lz95.org/strategic.

The Perfect Season *Cont.*

against Hawthorn North Middle School was a testament of just what this team is made of. At one point the team trailed by 14 points in the first half. At halftime, LZ was behind 19-15. With less than two minutes left in the third quarter, **Kyle Miller** stole the ball to start the come back. **Leavon Head** then hit a three-pointer to close the gap. With less than 30 seconds left in the game Lake Zurich's Michael Boyd hit a three-point shot to tie the game and put the game into overtime. This was Lake Zurich's time to put on their defensive stop with **J.J. Raffelson** defending the basket while Head and **Jacob Brinlee** controlled the floor. A quick basket by **Mitch Dudek** and two free throws by **Michael Boyd** won the game for Lake Zurich 34-31. The Lake Zurich bench did not go unrecognized as they were the greatest inspiration to their teammates on the floor!

After it was all over, Lake Zurich Middle South had gone undefeated with a 19-0 record!

LZ Dancers in New York

The Lake Zurich High School Orchestis Dance Company, under the direction of **Michelle Riportella**, recently traveled to New York City for further dance training. The girls danced at the

Broadway Dance Center, were interviewed and asked to dance in Times Square, interviewed with an original Rockette dancer, and toured Radio City Music Hall. While in New York, the girls trained under the present cast of "Chicago" that is performing on Broadway. They also trained with **Jamie**

Jackson who has danced under such artists as **Madonna** and **Janet Jackson**. The girls were excited and honored to be able to further their training in New York City with such remarkable artists.

The LZHS Orchestis Dance Company will be holding their show, "Dance to Live" on February 8, 9 and 10, beginning at 7pm, in the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School. This year, the dance troupe is asking for donations for two charitable organizations: the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Habitat for Humanity International. Raffle tickets are only \$1 each for many gifts and prizes which will be awarded at the end of the show. General admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students. Come and join them for a full night of entertainment!

For further information contact **Michelle Riportella**, 847/951-9889.



Right: Orchestis dancers pose on the streets of New York City. (Photo provided by Michelle Riportella)

Teaching Stars Sought

Nominate an American Star today! The American Stars of Teaching honors outstanding classroom teachers who have demonstrated a commitment to improving student achievement, using innovative instructional strategies, and making a difference in the lives of their students. Nominations will be accepted until April 1, 2007 at <http://www.t2tweb.us/AmStar/Nominate.asp>. One teacher will be selected from each state and the District of Columbia and will be announced in the fall of 2007. For more information contact TeacherQuality@westat.com.



Share Your Opinions, Take Our Stakeholder Survey

Businesses and residents within Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 will soon receive a postcard encouraging them to take a few minutes to log onto the CUSD 95 web site and fill out the annual Community Unit School District 95 Stakeholder Survey. The survey link can be found on the district's web site (www.lz95.org) under the "Updates" section of the main web page. The district would like all surveys completed by February 12. Those residents and businesses who would like to fill out a hard copy paper survey can request one by calling (847) 540-4969 or by emailing

keycom@lz95.org. To

help inform the community of the survey, nearly 16,000 postcards are being mailed out to every residence and business within the school district's boundaries by the school district's Office of Communications & Community Relations.

The 37-question survey is designed to gather community information and opinions regarding the district's nine schools, its curriculum, strategic plan and other aspects of school operations. The completed surveys will be helpful as the district and its Board of Education work to align limited

resources to best meet the educational needs of the children and the communities served by the school district. The results of this year's survey will be compared with the results of previous surveys.

According to Superintendent Dr. Brian Knutson, it is important for everyone to complete the survey.



"It is important that all residents fill out the survey," said Dr. Knutson. "The information the community provides us through this survey will benefit our children and our schools by helping us to better align our limited resources to best meet the educational needs of our students and our communi-

ties."

According to Jim Jennings, Director of Communications and Community Relations, the survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. The analysis of the data collected from the surveys will be shared with the Board and the communities it serves later in the school year.

Become a Key Communicator

Get in the know about your public schools by joining the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network** (KeyCom).

Our KeyCom program is a network of community residents, leaders, opinion shapers and watchdogs whose opinions are well respected by friends, colleagues and neighbors. We are not looking for cheerleaders, but people who care about our schools and want to be kept informed and are then willing to share that information with others.

As a Key Communicator, you will receive timely, factual information via a regular newsletter e-mailed to you about the work we're doing and



the issues affecting your school district and your schools.

Because this is designed to be a two-way communications network, we encourage you to give us your input and share your opinions. As a KeyCom member, your responsibility will be to share the information with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

To become a Key Communicator, simply call,

email or fax:

**Community Unit School District 95
Communications & Community Relations
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-2459
Phone: (847) 540-5489
Fax: (847) 438-6702
jim.jennings@lz95.org**

THRIVE in 95 is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. Story submissions are greatly encouraged.

Annette Jacobsen,
Editor
Jim Jennings,
Publisher
(847) 540-5489
jim.jennings@lz95.org
www.lz95.org