



Awarded the INSPRA
2006 Award of
Excellence

One Call Reaches Thousands in D95

Parents in Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 received a surprise but welcome phone call from Communications Director **Jim Jennings** on the afternoon of October 10.

With his computer and one phone call, Jennings was able to reach more than 4,000 telephones and more than 3,000 email addresses of the school district's parents to inform them of afternoon school bus delays caused by a traffic accident that had brought down a power line, creating traffic delays throughout the area.

Jennings was able to make that call because of *School Messenger*, the district's new Internet-based parent alert system. The system allows school district administrators and school principals to contact all parents and staff by phone and email to share important information on emergencies, important school events, reminders, and even to take quick surveys. The School Messenger service



allows the district to reach parents at their home, work and cell phones, as well as by email.

School Messenger was selected to be the district's parent alert provider after Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** and the Board of Education decided to find a better way to communicate with parents during an emergency. **Crystal Steker**, Director of Technology, Telecommunications Manager **Bob Shellenberger** and Jennings reviewed numerous companies providing the instant alert service before recommending School Messenger.

The new communication service is expected to provide schools and the district with an effective way of reaching parents, and judging by the number of emails and phone calls received after the October 10 message was sent, the service is already a hit with parents.

"Thank you for making sure that we are informed," wrote Jennifer, a parent in the district. "Hopefully all of our families appreciate that our

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MSS Principals Show They Can Stick it!

Middle School South Principal **Dave Gardner** and Assistant Principal **Chad May** showed their school spirit and an amazing ability to levitate when they were duct taped to the school wall by the school's students.

Don't worry, it wasn't a student uprising. The duct tapping was the culmination of the school's highly successful magazine drive, the school's major fund raiser for the year. Any student who turned in five or more magazine orders was given a piece of duct tape and then used it to tape Gardner and May to the wall of the school's entry. As of press time, the two of them were still hanging (literally) at the school. Loyal school staff members promised to check on the two of them "sometime" over the weekend.

Right: Principal **Dave Gardner** "hangs" around MSS.

Far Right: Assistant Principal **Chad May** tries to talk a student out of duct tapping him to the wall.



MSS Musicians Selected for IMEA



Congratulations to the following South Music students for being accepted into the IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District 7 Junior Honors Orchestra and Band.

IMEA Band 7th grade

Mike Schmitt,
Trumpet

8th grade

Savannah Haeger, Clarinet; **Jared Cooney**,
Clarinet; **Dana Lehmann**, Percussion

IMEA Orchestra

6th grade

Ellen Zhao, violin

7th grade

Soham Ali, violin

Nick Plewtong, violin

Mark Noll, cello

Angela Ufheil, string bass

Michael Zhang, viola

8th grade

Tobias James, cello

Miya Kakuda, violin

Da-Som Kim, violin

Annika Sundberg, viola

These students were selected based on their preparation of the music at the IMEA auditions. The IMEA Band auditions were held at Attea Middle School in Glenview on September 29 while the Orchestra auditions were held on October 2 at Haven Middle School in Evanston. Students will be participating in the Festival on Saturday, November 3 at Maine West High School in Des Plaines. The festival concert begins at 3:00pm

School Messenger (cont.)

children's safety is the priority and that we are fortunate to send our children to school in a district that values both that and good communication."

"How wonderful that this type of information is distributed so quickly," wrote Terri in an email. "Your efforts are greatly appreciated."

Currently the School Messenger system contains the emergency contact information for each student's family. However, soon all school district staff will be added to the system as well.

To date, administrators in the district's Transportation Department and at May Whitney Elementary School have been trained to use School Messenger. Other schools and departments will be trained in the coming weeks.

"With the help of School Messenger, we will continue to improve our communication with our families and staff," explained Jennings. "Our goal is to keep all of our stakeholders informed about important information regarding their public schools. School Messenger is just one of the communication tools we are using to achieve that goal."

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CQ Students Prepare Goodie Bags for Hospital



All of the first graders at Charles Quentin Elementary School recently made Halloween goodie bags for the patients at Good Shepherd Hospital. The bags were donated by Trader Joes, while the foam die-cut Halloween pumpkins, cats, ghosts, bats, etc. were donated by a CQ parent.



The grade level wide project was coordinated by first grade teachers **Suzanne Weider**, **Laura DeNova** and **Kim Tomczyk**.

Join the *Spirit of 95* Wall



We hope you remembered to pack your camera and school spirit wear for summer vacation. If you did, we want your favorite vacation photos featuring you and/or your family members donning their favorite school spirit wear. Whether you were in Europe, Mexico, Slippery Rock or here at home, we want to include you on the Spirit of 95 Virtual Spirit Wall! Simply email your favorite photo along with the names of those in the picture and a brief description to keycom@lz95.org. Check out the Spirit of 95 Virtual Spirit Wall at www.lz95.org/spiritwall.

Far Left: CQ Principal **Claudia Mall** (far right) examines the work done by the students in teacher **Kim Tomczyk**'s room. (photo by Annette Jacobsen)

MSN Science Students Seek Skate Park Investors



“Investors” seeking the newest, latest and safest designs for cutting edge skateboard parks visited Middle School North (MSN) today, October 12, to meet teams of skateboard designers (teams of MSN science students in **Jerry Clemens**' science class) and examine their latest designs for each team's proposed skateboard park.

Each team described and demonstrated their skateboard park and the physics involved to investors that included Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** and school board president **Kathy Brown**.

The winning design team members were: **Manuel Block**, **Talia Choi**, **Dominick Frelas**, and **Megan Snelton**.

The skateboard park presentations were the culmination of a science unit on “skateboard science.” The students worked in teams to explore the physics in the sport of skateboarding. The physics concepts that were incorporated into the lesson included potential and kinetic energy, heat, conservation of energy, friction, gravitational pull, inertia and force.

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