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Student Safety Job #1 for Transportation

Right: Seth Paine School Principal **Laura Gammons** escorts young riders to their school bus.

They are the first to greet the most students each morning and the last person the students see before arriving home. They are the transporters of our community's most precious cargo. They are the school bus drivers of Community Unit School District 95.

Each school day, most of the students in District 95 are greeted by the smiling faces of their school bus drivers, drivers who daily must navigate through constantly changing weather conditions, car accidents, detours, and road work delays, while also keeping an eye out for any students who might be misbehaving on the bus. They do this each and every day with a warm smile and a true affection for the children in their charge.

While they enjoy their jobs, the constant road work being done in and around Lake Zurich has provided constant headaches for school bus drivers and the other staff in the school district's Transportation Department. Parents and staff members who were at first understanding about



delays caused by the road construction, seem to be less understanding now.

"It's really tough for our drivers right now," said **Karen Logan**, Director of Transportation. "When all of the road construction first began, parents and teachers seemed to be more understanding about

why it was taking some of our buses a little longer to get our students to school and back home. However, as the road work has dragged on, we are getting more complaints from school staff and parents who seem to forget or don't care that our drivers cannot control the road conditions."

Instead of contacting the Transportation Department with a complaint, some parents and staff members have further delayed the drivers by directly complaining to the school buses while the students are on the bus waiting to go to either their school or back home. With at least some of the major road work nearing completion, it is hoped that the frustration will lessen.

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The mission of Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95 is to inspire all students to be passionate, continuous learners and to prepare them with the skills to achieve their goals and flourish as responsible, caring citizens in a global community.

Principals - For All You Do, This Fruit's for You!

Lake Zurich Middle School South Principal **David Gardner** (pictured at right) was in the middle of his weekly coffee meeting with school parents when he was interrupted by someone making a unique delivery—an edible fruit bouquet. Gardner was one of nine District 95 principals who were presented with luscious fruit arrangements made by the *Edible Arrangements* store.

The healthy gifts were a token of appreciation on Principal Appreciation Day (Oct. 20) from the



Board of Education and central office administrators, who spread out across the district to personally deliver the gifts. The *Edible Arrangements* bouquets were chosen because of their uniqueness and the fact that the healthy fruit is in keeping with the school district's updated Wellness policy.

In addition to the fruit-filled arrangements, principals were also treated to special gifts, cards and other displays of appreciation by school

PTO's, booster groups, teachers, students and parents.

Board Forum Provides Insights for Potential Candidates



Above: Board Vice President **Kathy Brown** (in red) joined with other school board members in explaining the role and responsibilities to community members during a special school board forum on Oct. 19. (photo by Dr. Brian Knutson)

While it may have only drawn a handful of community members, the October 19 CUSD 95 Board of Education forum on school board elections provided valuable insight to potential board candidates about the various aspects of a school board member's responsibilities and

what it takes to run a successful election campaign. Five of the seven current school board members were at the event to provide straight forward answers to the few community members who attended.

With three seats up for election next spring, the question remains: Who will run for the school board? That question remains unanswered at this point since no one, either incumbent or challenger, has yet officially declared their candidacy. However, there is still plenty of time to make such a declaration.

Below, is some basic information for those who may be thinking about serving their community and our children as a school board member.

CUSD 95 School District Governance

The CUSD 95 School District is governed by a Board of Education consisting of seven members. The Board's powers and duties include the broad authority to adopt and enforce all necessary policies for the management and governance of the public schools.

Board Member Qualifications

A CUSD 95 Board of Education member must be, on the date of election, a United States citizen of least 18 years of age, a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one year immediately preceding election, a registered voter and be neither a school trustee nor a school treasurer, or registered sex offender. A Board of Education member must also have filed an economic interest statement as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Some persons may be ineligible for Board of Education membership by reason of other public offices held or certain types of State or federal employment.

Board Member Term of Office

The term of office for a CUSD 95 Board of Education member begins within 21 days after the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in the odd numbered years and ends 4 years later when the successor assumes office.

Board of Education Elections

Elections conducted by the CUSD 95 School District are non-partisan elections governed by the general election laws of the state and include the election of Board of Education members, various public policy propositions, and advisory questions. Board of Education members are elected at the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years.

How to get on the Ballot

Those who may be interested in running for election, may secure the necessary forms from the clerk of the the Board of Education, **Marsha Smyser**, or from the County Clerk, either in person at the County building or from the County Clerk's website. The Lake County Clerk will announce the date on which any interested member of the community may begin circulating nominating petitions. The circulator of petitions must be a registered voter in Lake County. The first date to circulate petitions will be November 7, 2006. After the required number of signatures of registered voters living in the district has been secured on nominating petitions, those petitions may be filed with the Clerk of the Board at the District office beginning at 8:00 a.m. on January 29, 2007 until 5pm on February 5, 2007.

For more information, contact Smyser, (847) 540-4963.

A Very Good Deed Indeed



(Photo & information provided by Mary Pugliese)

On October 9, the scouts of Den 5, Pack 92, planted a beautiful maple tree in front of May Whitney School along Church Street. According to parent **Mary Pugliese**, the scouts worked hard and learned quite a bit as they planted and then tended to the tree. Pictured above from left to right are **Charles Strong** of Spencer Loomis School, **Shane Lentz** of Middle School North, **Richie Nickell**, **Bret Pugliese** and **Bennett Pugliese** of May Whitney School. The tree and all planting materials were generously donated by Hawthorn Gardens.

Safety Job #1 (cont.)



The week of October 14 was National School Bus Safety Week with the theme “*I see the driver, the driver sees me.*” With more than 5,600 District 95 students riding school buses, it is important that the students and the drivers of other vehicles keep that motto in mind year-round.

The need for such a safety reminder was made clear on Friday, October 20, when a school bus driving on a one-lane road in a construction zone encountered a car whose driver didn't seem to notice the whale-sized yellow bus until it was feet in front of her. The two vehicles were in a standoff for several minutes until the driver of the car realized it was easier for her to back up her car and let the school bus pass by. Such a delay, while short in time, caused the delay of delivering students back home that afternoon.

Unfortunately, with more than a million students in Illinois riding a school bus each day, such incidents are not a rare occurrence. It is also not always the drivers of other vehicles causing a problem. Even though students are given thorough training on proper school bus etiquette, their youthful exuberance can cause them to get careless. Students can come running out from behind any tree, bush or house. With the help of the entire community, such a youthful mistake need not be fatal.

With the students, school bus drivers try to emphasize to them to watch for the driver, watch for the driver's hand signal. Do not cross the road until the bus is stopped and the bus driver gives you a hand signal to do so safely.

With the community, the Transportation Department wants you to remember one thing: it's all about color. When you see yellow, be prepared to stop. Those flashing lights and stop arms on schools buses are not mere decorations. Student safety must be Job #1 for everyone. Besides, if you disobey bus signals, you risk facing a fine of \$150 and the loss of your license for 3 months.

Transportation - The Daily Numbers

- 5,630 student riders
- 107 routes
- 2,372 miles

Det. Tigers Get New Fans



Students in **Lisa LePage's** third grade class are excited about the World Series. Why? Their teacher is an avid fan of the *Detroit Tigers*. Born and raised in Michigan, LePage has been a *Tigers* fan for many years. Her students have been following the team and bringing in newspaper clippings. To help celebrate the team's American League (AL) Championship win, the students made their own tigers decorated with hats from the AL winning game. The Tigers will play the St. Louis Cardinal on Saturday, October 22. LePage and her students say “Go Detroit Tigers!”

Join an Action Team



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 include:

- Staff Commitment**
- Community Commitment**
- Trust & Collaboration**
- Recruitment/Retention**
- Curriculum & Learning Opportunities**

Action teams will begin meeting soon with their final product due next spring.

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.

If you are willing to participate on an Action Team, simply call the district's Office of Communications, (847) 540-5489. For more information, visit the district's strategic plan web site at www.lz95.org/strategic.

Far Left: A car and school bus meet on a one lane road in a construction zone. The car eventually backed up and let the school bus pass.

Above Left: Students in **Lisa LePage's** class show their stripes as they prepare for the World Series. (Photo and information provided by Lisa LePage.)

Pumpkin Metrics



The students in the above photo may look like some strange offspring of the fabled *Headless Horseman*, but they are really the seventh grade class of Lake Zurich Middle School North (MSN) science teacher **Jerry Clemens**.

As part of the class study on measurement and metrics, the students were asked to bring in pumpkins “the size of their head” to use for a mini metrics lesson. On Oct. 23 and 24, students will first calculate the density of their un-carved pumpkins, then the real fun will begin: carving!

Afterwards, the pumpkins will then be re-calculated to determine exactly how much of the “guts” and shell were removed during carving. Ratios will be determined in comparison to other’s pumpkins, seed counts, densities, along with examining tissues, organs, and those really strange indentations that occur on the outside of the shell. Proper narrative science lab reporting will be used along with qualitative and quantitative analyses.

In addition to the science of pumpkin metrics, the students learn about the history of pumpkin carving and listen to select songs from the pop group “Smashing Pumpkins” while they carve.

Never forgetting about English, the class also will discuss common mispronunciations such as: “I saw a picture of a ginourmous punkin at the liberry!”

A Challenging Course

The 14 freshmen and sophomore students who traveled to the Round Lake Area Park District (RLAPD) with teacher **Meghan Heinrich** on October 6 found that some courses are challenges of both the mind and body. In this case, it was a challenge course operated by the RLAPD.



The students, who are in Heinrich’s and **Jen Barz**’s Strategies I classes at Lake Zurich High School, joined their teacher, a chaperone, and three leaders from the RLAPD for a day of mind and body challenges that focused on one of the class texts: *7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens* by **Sean Covey**. The text’s first three habits: *Be Proactive*, *Begin with the End in Mind*, and *Put First Things First* were reinforced throughout the students’ four hours on the challenge course.

“Clearly, the students had a wonderful time and learned more about communication, prioritizing, strategizing and teamwork,” said Heinrich. “Moreover, they gained self confidence as they experienced success throughout the day.”

Included in their fieldtrip was time to process and discuss what worked and did not work for them on the challenge course. The students also had time to enjoy the day’s beautiful weather as they picnicked on the grounds of the RLAPD.

Based upon the success of this fieldtrip, it is Heinrich’s hope that more students will consider participating the next time the trip is offered.

Above: It takes teamwork to complete the RLAPD challenge course. (photo & information provided by Meghan Heinrich)

Are You in the Know?

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**

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