



Awarded the
INSPIRA Award
of Excellence

SD 95 Educational Foundation Donation Improves Home-School Communication



Above: **John Sfire** unveils the new HAC system at a Nov. 18 news conference.

Right: Parent and Foundation board member **Sandy Smith** and her son, **Jordan**, check out the home page of the school district's new HAC.

Tuesday, November 18, before a crowd of more than 50 parents, students, teachers and administrators, the School District 95 Educational Foundation unveiled the eSchool Home Access Center (HAC), its latest and biggest

donation to the schools of Community Unit

School District 95. The nearly \$20,000 technology enhancement interfaces with the school district's current student management systems (SMS), allowing parents and guardians to have 24-hour access to their child's grades, class schedule, homework and other important information.

The purchase of the HAC was made possible by a generous donation by School District 95 Educational Foundation chairman **John Sfire** and his wife, **Bobbi**, and additional funds donated by the school foundation itself.

"It was important for us and the foundation to support a district-wide initiative that would benefit

all children," said Sfire. "Bobbi and I feel strongly that this Home Access Module will provide just such a benefit to every child and parent of School District 95."

District 95 Superintendent Dr. Brian Knutson is equally excited about the HAC.

"This donation of the eSchool Home Access Center by John and Bobbi Sfire and the School District 95 Educational Foundation allows us to enhance the parent-teacher-student collaboration by giving parents 24-hour access to their child's grades and other data," said Knutson. "With this new access, parents can work more proactively with their child and

the teacher to ensure the child's success in school."

The eSchool HAC has been eagerly anticipated by many parents within the district, as well as school staff. With the system, parents no longer have to wait for progress reports or a

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Foundation Student Grants Promote Learning and Help the Environment

Recently, the School District 95 Educational Foundation, for the first time, awarded three Student Innovation grants to student-created projects that incorporate environmental awareness.

Recycling Station

The Isaac Fox "Green Team" and teacher **Peg Higgins** received \$468 to establish a recycling station for the Isaac Fox cafeteria. The grant money will be used to construct a sink cart and purchase recycling containers for plastic and aluminum beverage containers in the cafeteria.



The Green Team consists of 28 students who currently work on collecting paper for recycling at Isaac Fox and they want to expand their school recycling program to include plastic and aluminum. The sink cart is modeled after a unit currently in use at Middle

School South and **Bob Vossel**, the Applied Technology teacher at MSS who created the cart, will help the Green Team with their construction.

Paper & Cafeteria Recycling

The Spencer Loomis Student Council and third grade teacher Bill Spicer received \$500 for

Student Grants cont. on page 4.

Right: The Isaac Fox Green Team and teacher **Peg Higgins**. (photo provided by **Lori Smith**)

MSS Duo Wins Judges Choice Award



Right: **Jack Boliaux** and **Jacquelyn Brown**. (photo courtesy of **Courtney May**)

The speech teams for Middle School South and North traveled to Lincoln Junior High in Naperville on Saturday, Nov. 1, for the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Speech and Drama Competition. The teams did quite well in a variety of performance pieces.

Middle School North had four individual monologues, four duet acting groups, two improv groups and one small group acting. The North students scored four ones, six twos and one three in their competitions.

Middle School South had two original monologues, three duet acting groups, four improv duets and one small group acting. South students scored seven ones and three twos in their competition.

In addition, two South students were awarded the coveted "Judge's Choice Award," which is given to the one performance per judge that stood out as exceptional. Congratulations to **Jack Boliaux** and **Jacquelyn Brown** for their achievement and to all the talented members of both the Middle School North and Middle School South Speech and Drama teams.

Upper Far Right: The father of a May Whitney fifth grader gives teacher **Dana Ladenburger** a donation for the class shopping trip.

Far Right: Teacher **Rocky Kleinschmidt** and three fifth graders choose a coat as a gift for a family in need.

Lower Far Right: May Whitney School Fifth grade students look for clothing with teacher **Brenda Bollman**.

MW 5th Graders Shop for Families in Need



On Thursday afternoon, November 20, May Whitney fifth grade students and their teachers met at Wal-Mart to shop for presents for a family the fifth grade had

adopted for the holidays from Catholic Charities.

To raise the money for the shopping spree, the students brought in

gently used items and sold them at school during lunches. The fifth grade teachers and their students do this heart-warming exercise each year. The May Whitney fifth graders are taught by teachers **Brenda Bollman**, **Dana Ladenburger** and **Rocky Kleinschmidt**.



Nominations for Teacher Hall of Fame

Each June, the National Teacher Hall of Fame honors five of the nation's most outstanding teachers. In addition to permanent recognition in The National Teacher Hall of Fame museum, each inductee will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for a student in the inductee's school district who plans to pursue a degree in education and \$1,000 in educational materials from the Pearson Learning Group for the inductee's school district, in addition to other items. For more information and to nominate a teacher for this honor, visit www.nthf.org/nominate.htm. Nomination packets must be postmarked by January 2, 2009.



MW Hosts 10th Annual Thanksgiving Day Play



The students in **Megan Guerrero's** second grade class at May Whitney School kicked off the Thanksgiving celebration a little early with their 10th annual Thanksgiving Day play. There were three morning performances during which Guerrero's entire class performed the story of the pilgrims arriving on the Mayflower, naming Plymouth Rock, and sharing a meal with the American Indians. Two narrators assisted in telling the story of the history of Thanksgiving Day, while cast members—dressed in pilgrim or Native American costumes—endearingly performed their lines. The final act of the play incorporated three Thanksgiving songs sung by the children.



Foundation Donation *cont.*

parent-teacher conference in order to know how well their child is performing in school. With

access 24-hours a day, parents can look at their child's grades (in grades 6-12), attendance, homework and other data.

The HAC is currently being piloted with a small group of teachers at Lake Zurich High School and a team of teachers at Middle School South. It is expected to be available district-wide by next school year.

The School District 95 Educational Foundation is an outgrowth of the school district's latest Strategic Plan. As a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization, the Foundation is an independent organization working with District 95 to support activities that enhance, enrich and supplement instructional opportunities for CUSD 95 learners consistent with the school district's core values and mission.

For more information about the School District 95 Educational Foundation or to make a tax-deductible contribution to the foundation, contact **Jim Jennings**, foundation liaison, at (847) 540-5494 or **LeJane Carson** at (847) 884-0000, or visit its website at www.District95Foundation.org.



Left: **Crystal Steker** (left) explains the new HAC system to parents, students, staff and community members at the Nov. 18 unveiling.

Far Left: May Whitney second graders dress as "Pilgrims" (upper left) and Native Americans (lower left) in a play about Thanksgiving. (photos and information provided by **Annette Jacobsen**)

Where are they now? - Jennifer (Van Der Bosch) Lyons



Jennifer (Van Der Bosch) Lyons, a 1985 graduate of Lake Zurich High School, was recently named WGN-TV assistant news director.

"Success and growth have followed Jennifer every step of the way as she advanced up the ladder at WGN-TV," commented **Greg Caputo**, WGN-TV news director. "I'm looking forward

to Jen's judgment, leadership, and advice to help us grow and develop as a leading news organization in Chicago."

Lyons has worked at WGN-TV for nearly 15 years and has handled virtually every job in the news department during that time. Prior to WGN-TV, she worked at WHO-TV in Des Moines, where she

produced several newscasts. Lyons got her start at KWQC-TV in Davenport, Iowa where she created the 6:30am newscast. She received her BA in journalism/mass communication from Iowa State University.

"My career dreams began in the radio speech class Miss Grennan (Gummerson) taught so many years ago," said Lyons.

Lyons has won numerous awards for excellence in TV news, including the Silver Dome Award for Best Television Newscast and the 2000 First Place Silver Dome for coverage of the Walter Payton Memorial Service. In 2004 Lyons received the Second Place Silver Dome for Best Evening Newscast and an Emmy for Outstanding Feature Series in Hard News. Jennifer has been married to **Dale Lyons** since 1989 and they have six children: **Marie, Gregory, John Paul, Clare, Michael, and Casey James.**

Left: **Jennifer Lyons**, Class of 1985. (photo courtesy of WGN-TV)

Student Grants *cont.*

paper and cafeteria recycling at Spencer Loomis School. The grant allows them to expand the informal recycling program at Spencer Loomis by adding additional paper recycling bins in the hallways and plastic, aluminum and Styrofoam recycling in the cafeteria. The student council will initially collect recyclables until the program expands to include other students and they will monitor the building's progress each week.

Butterfly Pavilion

The Charles Quentin Student Council and teachers **Mel Fox** received \$500 to purchase nine (9) butterfly pavilions to raise and release butterflies for the Charles Quentin closing ceremonies at the end of the school year. Until the butterflies eventual release, the students will learn about the life cycle of the butterfly as they hatch and develop. After their release, the butterflies will aid in pollination of the area and the Charles Quentin students will believe that every butterfly they see over the summer is one they helped raise, allowing them to remember their days at Charles Quentin School. All 362 students at the school will be

involved in the project as the 18 classrooms will pair up to share the 9 butterfly pavilions.

Help Our Schools, Donate Today



As an independent 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, the School District 95 Educational Foundation gathers and disburses resources to Community Unit School District (CUSD) 95 and its schools in order to support activities that enhance, enrich and supplement instructional opportunities for CUSD 95 learners consistent with the

School District's core values and mission. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation, you can do so via the foundation's website: www.district95foundation.org. District 95 employees can also donate through the school district's employee payroll deduction program. Contact either Human Resources or Communications for a copy of the payroll deduction form.

Left: Teacher **Mel Fox** (holding check), her Charles Quentin grant partners, foundation board member **Lori Smith**, Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** and Assistant Principal **Stefan Ladenberger**.

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:

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