



Awarded the INSPRA
2006 Award of
Excellence

23 Busses Damaged, Reward Offered

Schools in Community Unit School District 95 were open February 12, however, school busses were not able to run their normal morning routes due to wanton acts of vandalism that left 23 school busses—more than one-third of the entire bus fleet—with damaged tires. Nine of the vandalized buses were at the district's main transportation facility, while 14 more were damaged at the district's satellite bus facility. The busses were repaired and ready in time to take home the morning kindergarten students and for the afternoon bus runs.

Counting the cost of the repairs and related personnel costs, the vandalism cost the district approximately \$7,500. A cost the district hopes to recover once the vandals have been arrested and prosecuted. To help facilitate that outcome, the school district is taking the matter seriously; offering a reward of \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the vandal(s). Anyone with information about the bus vandalism



is asked to contact the Lake Zurich Police Department at (847) 719-1695.

"We apologize to our students, parents and the community for this significant disruption," said Superintendent Dr. Knutson. "These acts of vandalism were not mere pranks, but an attack on our entire community—a community

that places a significant emphasis on the daily education of its children. We cannot and will not tolerate such attacks on our district and our community, and we will prosecute the individual or individuals to the fullest extent of the law."

While the intent of the vandalism was most likely to cause the closing of school for the day, the quick actions of both the district and its parents kept the vandals from succeeding. Even though parents and care givers were forced to scramble to get their children to school, attendance figures were not significantly affected by the lack of bus transportation for the morning.

March Gets a Little 'Madder' at Middle Schools

March brings NCAA dreams for college teams and fans, but this year it brings basketball dreams for middle school teacher teams and students at least in Community Unit School District 95. On Thursday, March 22, the Middle School North (MSN) teachers will face the Middle School South (MSS) teachers in a rematch of last year's *Basketball Bash* at 7:00

p.m. in the MSN gymnasium. Admission to the *Basketball Bash* will be \$5.00 at the door. Students can pre-order t-shirts for the event. The \$14.00 cost



of shirts will also include the price of admission on the day of the game.

Pre-game activities organized by North's student council will begin at 6:30 p.m. so that students will not be left out of the competitive fun and dreams of school glory. Door prizes have been donated by the Chicago Shamrox professional LaCrosse team, the Chicago

Wolves, various businesses, and individuals. Wolves and Shamrox tickets as well as other items will be offered as part of a raffle. Conces-

CSI: Lake Zurich

The Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) and Career Advisory Council (CAC) Career Fair has taken on a different format this year. Through the support of the CAC leadership, there is no longer a one-day fair in the Tonelli Gym. The program is now a year-long event in which different career fields are featured each week. Local professionals are invited to volunteer their time at Lake Zurich High School for one of the days during the week in which their career field is featured.

There are two ways in which presenters can participate. One is to set up a table/booth in the cafeteria during lunch periods and speak with students as they approach. Another option is, upon teacher request, to visit classrooms and present information about their career field.

Some topics that are addressed are the educational requirements, previous jobs held, possible jobs available in the field, and other skills that may be needed to be successful.

Weekly schedules are made available to teachers and students and posted throughout the school and on the high school web page (under announcements) to inform the LZHS community about who will be visiting that week. Some of the upcoming weeks are:

- Week of February 26 - Science
- Week of March 5 - Automotive, Heating, Electrical, Plumbing

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, you can contact **Chris Chiakulas**, LZHS Career and Technical Education Coordinator, at (847) 540-4212.

Penguin Day at SL



Mr. Popper (**Grant Seaholm**) congratulates a group of penguins during the penguin trivia game at Spencer Loomis School. The school's third graders celebrated the completion of their study unit by playing trivia games, studying penguin-related web sites and other activities. The students and teachers also dressed up in black and white (some with feathers and beaks) to honor their fancy friends.

Orchesis Dance Benefit



The Lake Zurich High School Orchesis Dance Company will be performing not only in the Dance For Life Benefit at Wheeling High School, but will also be performing at the Red Beat Benefit, and will be holding their own Dance Fest Showcase on March 17, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School.

Dance companies that will be featured at this performance include: Midwest Dance Collective, Dancing Feet, Visceral Studio Company, Terpsichore Dance Company, Sabala Dance Ensemble, Grayslake High School Orchesis, GIA Dance Alliance, Dance Motion Dance Company, Bataille Partnering Dance Company, Xtreme Dance Force, and Forum Jazz Dance Theatre.

Tickets are \$10. Students are \$8. For more info contact Michelle at 847/951-9889 or mommyrip@comcast.net.

Basketball Bash (cont.)

sions will also be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Ryan York Foundation.

Although the North teachers won by a mere point last year, students and teachers from both North and South were winners raising over \$7,000 for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"We hope to make this an annual event where the middle schools of District 95 come together for one purpose to make a difference in the community. The desire is to put aside the rivalry and show that we are stronger as a united team, rather than as two individual buildings," said **Jeff Platt**, Middle School North math teacher and coordinator of this year's Basketball Bash.

This year's Bash is a joint effort between the teachers and administrators of Middle School North and South, the Middle School North student council, the North eighth grade Health Class Community Service Project, and the Ryan York Foundation.

In March, District 95 middle school students and teachers will be dreaming of basketball glory, but more importantly dreaming of making a difference in the lives of children who are impacted by cancer.

Action Teams Begin Work



Parents, community members, and staff met on the evening of February 12 to begin the action planning

process of the district's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. Five action teams were formed covering the areas of staff commitment, community commitment, trust & collaboration, recruitment & retention, and curriculum/learning opportunities.

The teams will meet from February into April to develop the action plans that are vital to actuating the district's five-year strategic plan, which was renewed last spring and approved by the Board of Education on May 25, 2006.

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.

Peace, Love & Drums

Nationally recognized drummer and Lake Zurich High School student **Hannah Ford** will perform her "Peace Love & Drums" show for the students at Middle School North on March 1.



Hannah's idea behind the Peace, Love & Drums show is to share her experiences as a young musician and take her audience through the multifaceted world of music and drumming. The show will cover jazz, funk/fusion, rock and vocals. Ford performs live on stage with prerecorded music tracks.

According to Ford, the show is for anyone who may have an interest in the world of percussion. Through her show, she reaches out to young people and shows them how fun and special music can be. For more information, visit www.hannahforddrums.com.

Left: **Hannah Ford**

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.

Wind Ensemble Concert



On Thursday, March 22, the Lake Zurich High School Wind Ensemble will be host its "First Annual Invitational

Wind Ensemble Concert" in the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC) starting at 7:30 p.m., and will feature the Johnsburg Wind Ensemble, the Lake Zurich High School Wind Ensemble, and the Western Illinois Symphonic Wind Ensemble (<http://www.wiu.edu/bands/ensembles/concert/wind/index.jsp>). The concert is free and open to the public.

February in Photographs



On February 2, before an appreciative audience of parents, staff and other fans, the students in teacher **Stacey Elliott's** third grade class at May Whitney School performed an original play of their own making about the life and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Middle School North science teacher **Jerry Clemons** gets down with kindergarteners at May Whitney School as part of his dinosaur puppets presentation.



Emily Winkler, a fifth grader at Charles Quentin School, was one of 10 winners in the *Kids With Heart* program sponsored by the Deer Park Town Center. A contest was run looking for young people in our local area who demonstrate outstanding character, care and compassion, helping to make their community and the world a better place. Emily and nine others were awarded a certificate and a \$100 gift card to the Deer Park Mall. The grand prize winner also received a check for \$500 to the charity of their choice.

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.

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13th Annual Celebration for Parents Encouraging Parents
Saturday, March 3, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lake Zurich Middle School North - Hawthorn Woods

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Derek Randel

Removing the Yelling From Your Home . . . No, Seriously!

Derek Randel, a nationally recognized parent coach, is coming to Parent University after receiving rave reviews from other parent organizations. Derek will guide parents in the strategies of setting boundaries, trusting your intuition, discovering your limits, examining parenting myths, and improving relationships with your children. Derek's program will give you concrete, practical parenting advice and solutions. He will help you to put the fun back into parenting so that you can enjoy your children.

Plus Your Choice of Breakout Sessions:

Bullying and School Violence
Wish It, Dream It, Do It!
When Kids Push Your Buttons
Is This Normal?
Do I Look Fat?
Now We're Talking
Bringing Children into Step and Blended Relationships
Building Successful Relationships With Kids
No! And You Can't Make Me!
Burnout: Implications for Parenting
A Sex Offender Among Us
NIA Movement Class
Turn Your "Picky Eaters" Into "Healthy Eaters"!
Making the Grade: A Step-by-Step Guide to College Funding
Saying "Yes" to "No": Setting Love Boundaries

Lunch from Oregano's is provided for all day attendees. Childcare is available.
Middle School North, 95 Hubbard Lane, Hawthorn Woods

Teachers receive credit for attending Parent University.

Parent University is sponsored in part by Foglia YMCA and Midtown Athletic Club

For Further Information

Access the Parent University website at: <http://www.lz95.org/parentu/parentuhome.htm>

Additional questions? Please leave a message at 847-540-4702. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

LZMSS PRESENTS...



FIRST IN LINE

&

Art for the Arts



Proceeds of the Art Auction will go to support
the Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation.

Silent Art Auction opens at: 5:30PM & Play: 7:00PM

Adults: \$8.00

Students: \$5.00

March 2-3

Friday & Saturday

For more information contact Tammie.Herrejon@LZ95.org.