



**Awarded the INSPRA  
2006 Award of  
Excellence**

## Sixth Graders Greek Study Ends in Fest

Right: Toga wearing Middle School South sixth graders examine Greek architecture during their Greek festival. (Story information and photos provided by Jack VanNoord.)

How much of our culture can we trace back to the Ancient Greeks? Quite a bit, as the sixth-graders at Middle School South learned during their five week study of ancient Greece. From democracy to architecture, from language to liberty, from poetry to philosophy, so much of what we call Western Civilizations has its roots in the city-states of ancient Greece.



Greece determined what foods the ancient Greeks raised and ate. As students learned, the rocky terrain of Greece was well suited to olive trees, grapes vines, and sure-footed goats.

In the weeks



On February 23, the sixth-graders at South culminated their Greek unit with a Greek Festival in South's cafeteria. Students dressed in Greek-inspired robes and sported nametags with their adopted Greek names such as Theodorkis or Leonadis. Students also had an opportunity to sample traditional Greek food such as olives, feta cheese, grape juice, pita bread and olive oil. Earlier, students had learned how the terrain of

leading up to the Festival, students learned about the Trojan War. They learned how the small, independent Greek city-states defeated the mighty Persian Empire against tremendous odds, not once-but twice. Students learned that the United States is a republic, not a democracy. Students learned to differentiate between the three different types of Greek Columns.

After Greece, the students will be studying ancient Rome.

## SL's Grant Seaholm Named State's Top Principal

**Grant Seaholm**



Spencer Loomis Elementary School Principal **Grant Seaholm** was recently notified that he has been selected as the winner of the prestigious National Distinguished Principal award for the state of Illinois.

By being chosen as the state award winner, he is now eligible for the national award. The statewide honor is given annually by the Illinois Principals Association (IPA).

As the National Distinguished Principal honoree for the state of Illinois, Seaholm will be honored at the annual Principals Professional Conference next fall. He will also attend the National Distinguished Principals program in Washington, DC.

In addition to the outstanding work he has done as principal at both May Whitney School and now Spencer Loomis School, Seaholm has been an advocate for children and public education at the state and federal level. He currently serves

as the Federal Relations Chairperson for the IPA, which requires him to spend time advocating on behalf of public schools in our nation's capitol.



Far Right: Principal **Grant Seaholm** dons his favorite hat and tux to bring to life the fictional character of Mr. Popper.

## Joanie's Closet Donation



Above: **Jenny Talley** (left) presents her Joanie's Closet donation to the May Whitney PTO.

**Jenny Talley**, a parent of a first grader and incoming Kindergartener, donated \$2,000 at the February 27 PTO meeting to *Joanie's Closet*, a program named after the school's nurse who worked diligently to ensure that students in need had access to clothes, supplies and

other necessities. Joanie passed away unexpectedly in August of 2006, but her love and dedication to the children of May Whitney School live on with *Joanie's Closet*.

Talley's Lake Zurich company, New Age Transportation, gave all of its 65 employees \$1,000 to donate to a charitable cause of their choosing. She decided "to help it grow" by using her tax refund to double the money. After meeting with May Whitney's PTO Board, she decided to make her donation to *Joanie's Closet*.

For more information about *Joanie's Closet* or to make a donation, contact May Whitney Elementary School at (847) 438-2351.

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## Fox Helps *Bookfriends Int.*



As part of their study and performance of African music, Isaac Fox fifth graders raised money for *Bookfriends International*, a not-for-profit organization founded by Lake Zurich residents **Steve & Paulette Kutschat** that provides books to African school children.

**Kiley M.** (above left), representing Isaac Fox fifth graders, presented a check for \$280.00 to Paulette, who has also served for 10 years as the piano accompanist for the Isaac Fox Chorus.

## 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 only \$10 for adults and only \$8 for students. For more info contact Michelle at (847) 951-9889 or email her at [mommyrip@comcast.net](mailto:mommyrip@comcast.net).

## South Celebrates Success

On February 17, the Lake Zurich Middle School South Music Department had an outstanding showing at this recent Illinois Grade School Music Association's Solo and Ensemble Contest.



Ninety-five music students participated from South's band, orchestra, and chorus programs. Fifty-five events earned a "Division I: Superior" rating from the adjudicators and ten events earned "Division II: Excellent" honors. Seven events were given the highest honor by achieving a "perfect score" on their performance. Students receiving this honor were **Evan Fojtik, Katrina Peterson, Alex Yang, Tobias James, Miranda Flores, Kirsten Noel, Kelly Poduch, Marc Truc, and Soham Ali**.

## Board Candidate Forums

The combined Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO's) of Community Unit School District 95 are hosting three community forums for the candidates running for the three open school board seats on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Wednesday, March 14, 7:30 pm**  
Lake Zurich Middle School North  
95 Hubbard Lane, Hawthorn Woods  
*Located in the presentation room*
- **Monday, March 19, 7:30 pm**  
May Whitney Elementary School  
120 Church St., Lake Zurich  
*Located in the gym*
- **Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 pm**  
Isaac Fox Elementary School  
395 W. Cuba Rd., Lake Zurich  
*Located in the cafeteria*

The three forums, which are open to the entire community, provide a great opportunity to learn more about the candidates who are running for the three open seats. Attendees can write questions to candidates on cards which will be selected and read by a facilitator. Each candidate will have an opportunity to answer the questions directed to them in an allotted amount of time.

For more information, contact **Lori Smith**, Middle School North PTO President, (847) 540-0718).

## 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](mailto:TeacherQuality@westat.com).

## Colorful Characters at SA



Sarah Adams Principal **Chris Finch** (the tall one in the back) poses with some truly colorful characters at the conclusion of the school's Character Counts assembly. (Photo provided by **Cheryl Eisenhuth**)

## IF Jumps Rope for Heart

Close to 100 fourth and fifth graders at Isaac Fox Elementary School jumped for heart health today, March 2, as a part of the American Heart Association's "Jump Rope For Heart."

"Jump Rope For Heart" promotes the value of physical activity to elementary school children while showing them they can contribute to their community's welfare. This is a time when children can establish the foundation for movement skills. These are also the years when positive learning experiences can help establish a positive attitude and appreciation for participating in regular, daily physical activity for life. By jumping rope and securing sponsors, students raise money for the fight against heart disease and stroke while learning about...

- The seriousness of heart disease and stroke
- The lifelong benefits of physical activity
- The importance of living a heart-healthy lifestyle.

Approximately 94 students formed 15 teams that jumped rope for three hours after school today to fulfill their commitment to their sponsors. Many students also set up online accounts to help them raise money for their efforts and these accounts have generated close to \$2,500 in donations!

# LZHS Poms National Finalists!

The Lake Zurich High School Varsity Poms Dance Team achieved unprecedented success at this year's National Dance Team Championships.

The LZHS Poms advanced into the finals of both the Large Varsity Hip Hop and Large Varsity Pom competitions. The LZHS Poms finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the Large Varsity Hip Hop Division and 18<sup>th</sup> in the Large Varsity Pom Division.

Coaches **Regina Hope** and **Lindsay Gillilan** are delighted with the team's performance: "We cannot begin to express how proud we are of our team. Our goal was to make it to finals for one routine and we did it with two! They worked hard for months perfecting their routines and it all paid off. The Lake Zurich Pom Squad has never made it to finals with two routines at the same time and never with Pom or Hip Hop. It was definitely a historical event."

The National Dance Team Championship was held February 2-4 in Orlando, Florida and was administered by the Universal Dance Association



(UDA). Participating in the finals secures the honor of camera time for the LZHS Poms on ESPN/ESPN2's television coverage of the National Dance Team Championship to be aired this spring.

The LZHS Poms promptly followed up their triumphant trip to Florida with two victories at the UDA's Illinois Dance Team Championship Northern Regional II hosted by Oak Park and River Forest High School on February 10. The LZHS Poms took first place in both the Large Varsity Hip Hop and Large Varsity Pom Divisions. In addition, the LZHS Poms won a special award from the judges for Best Crowd Appeal.

The team had been scheduled to compete in the February 25 Team Dance Illinois State Championships in Peoria. However, the team was unable to compete when the school district cancelled all activities for Saturday afternoon and Sunday due to blizzard warnings and hazardous driving conditions.

Left: The LZHS Varsity Poms - Front row: **Sarah Walding, Jenna Poulter, Caroline Pardikes, Lauren Napolitano, Audrey Ishikawa.** Second row: Coach **Lindsay Gillilan, Molly Jardine, Molly Pennino, Lisa Hacker, Danielle Leopardo, Jenn Schwantz,** Coach **Regina Hope.** Back row: Hip Hop Choreographer **Kasper, Nina Bianchi, Jaime Kowieski, Krista Aistars, Maureen Hagedorn, Lilia Berman, Jenna Smith, Megan Casady, Meghan Riccio,** Pom Choreographer **Alysia Anderson.**

## 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  
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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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