



**Awarded the INSPRA
2006 Award of
Excellence**

MSS Sixth Graders Buy Water Buffalo

Right: **Jerneece Bolden** (left) holds the money raised and **Evan Furlong** the book that led to their fund raising effort. (Story information and photos provided by **Joyce Montgomery**.)

In part, the mission statement of Lake Zurich school district reads, "...to inspire all students to be ...caring citizens in a global community." This winter, the sixth graders at Middle School South took a big step in achieving that goal. After studying life and culture on the continents of Asia and Africa, the sixth graders were moved by the plight of people in Asia and Africa who are suffering from



The students made a conscience decision not to hold fundraisers like bake sales, but decided that they would contribute the money themselves over the course of three weeks. The most common way to contribute was for students to toss into the fundraising bucket any change they had leftover from buying lunch.



want of food, medicine, and education. After investigating their various options, the sixth-graders decided to buy a water buffalo for a family in a poor village.

The fundraiser ended February 22 and when all the dimes, nickels and quarters were counted, the students had managed to raise \$300. Because a water buffalo only costs \$250, the students were also able to buy a flock of chicks and honey bees.

"I thought giving was important because other people needed it to stay alive and because we have so much," said sixth grader **Brianna Keefover**.

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New Education Foundation Offers Teacher Grants



Above: **John Sfire**, chairman of the new School District 95 Educational Foundation, talks with principals and district administrators about the foundation's new Teacher Innovation Grant program.

The newly formed School District 95 Educational Foundation kicked off its first funding initiative by attending the staff meetings at all nine of the schools in District 95 to outline for school staff its Teacher Innovation Grant (TIG) program. Certified staff in District 95 can apply for Teacher Innovation Grants which will be awarded in amounts up to \$2500 for programs and resources which encourage innovation in teaching over and above the level of any funding provided by the school district. Grants will be awarded and presented to winning staff at their home schools during the first week of May.

"While I know that the level of education that District 95 presently provides to our students ranks up there with the best, the Foundation has the opportunity to provide the resources necessary to move the education of our children to an even higher level," said **John Sfire**, Chairman of the School District 95 Foundation Board of Directors.

"This new foundation is a great example of our community partnerships working together to help us achieve our mission," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, who is also a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

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 the 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, contact **Jim Jennings**, foundation liaison, at (847) 540-5494. For more information about the Teacher Innovation Grant program, contact **Lori Smith**, Chair of the Grant Review Committee, at (847) 540-5494.

Apples to Zucchini



Elementary school students in District 95 will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of delicious fruits and vegetables every day during the week of March 12 as part of an event called *A to Z Salad Bar*.

A to Z Salad Bar is a participatory event that sparks students' interest by allowing them to see, touch, smell and taste a variety of fruits and vegetables that are not only good for them, but also delicious.

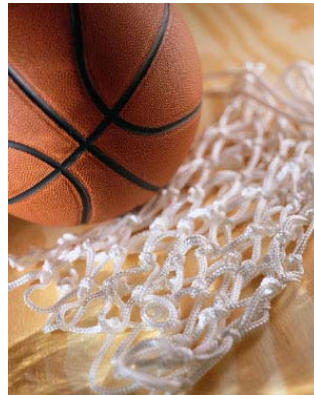
"Featuring fruits and vegetables from each letter of the alphabet throughout the week is guaranteed to generate excitement and also promote healthy eating and nutritional awareness," said **Kathy Taylor**, Food Service Director for Sodexo School Services. "Imagine their reaction experiencing Star Fruit for the first time!"

MSS Wrestlers Win!



On Saturday the wrestlers of Middle School South took first place at the sectional tournament. This is the first time in school history that MSS has won both a regional and sectional championship in the same year. Ten of the wrestlers qualified to attend the state wrestling meet to be held at Northern Illinois University March 9 and 10! Congratulations on another outstanding job of wrestling!

B-Ball Bash March 22



Parents, students and interested community members should mark their calendars for the 2nd Annual B-Ball Bash on March 22 at Middle School North. The B-Ball Bash will feature the faculty of Middle School South taking on the staff of Middle School North in a charity basketball game. This year, all proceeds will go to the Ryan York Foundation. Pre-game activities will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the tip-off at 7 p.m. in the MSN gym.

Last year's B-Ball Bash was standing room only with MSN beating MSS by only one point. More importantly, the event raised \$7,500 for Hurricane Katrina relief.

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.

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 multipurpose 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.

Buy a Buffalo *cont.*

A water buffalo is an invaluable resource for a subsistence farmer. The water buffalo will serve as a tractor in the farmer's fields.

Chickens lay up to 200 eggs a year. Extra eggs can be sold to pay for school, clothes and medicine. In the garden, chickens peck at unwanted bugs and weeds. Beehives require almost no space and once established are inexpensive to maintain. As bees search for nectar, they pollinate plants. Beehives can double neighboring fruit and vegetable yields.

"I am really proud of the kids," said sixth grade Social Studies teacher **Amy Cohen**. "The kids saw a need and were moved to action."

As part of their study of Africa, each student did an independent project on an African country. Part of that project was to list the five or six major issues facing that nation today.

During their six-week study of Africa, the students also listened to the music of Africa, learned about apartheid in South Africa, and memorized the countries of Africa.

Choir Concert March 12



LZHS Concert Choir

The Lake Zurich High School Choirs—including the Treble Choir, Men's Choir, Cadet Choir, Women's Chorale and Concert Choir—will perform their March Choir Concert on Monday, March 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Lake Zurich High School. The concert is free, although monetary donations will be accepted. The PAC is located at 300 Church St., Lake Zurich.

One of the highlights of the concert will be the choir performing Eric Whitacre's piece *Cloudburst*. According to **Nick Juknelis**, LZHS Director of Vocal Music, this piece is the most ambitious piece of music the Concert Choir has ever performed.

"Whitacre is a young, contemporary composer that often uses the texts of poet Octavio Paz," said Juknelis. "*Cloudburst*, which is sung in Spanish, invokes the rain. The choir will literally create a rain storm on stage. It is quite a piece of music and we are all very proud of it."

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.

LZHS Poms Capture State Title!

The Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) Varsity Poms Dance Team crowned its winning season with a victory at the Illinois Dance Team State Championship on March 4 in Bloomington, IL. The LZHS Poms captured first place in the Large Varsity Hip Hop division, giving them the title of State Champions, and placed second in the Large Varsity Pom Category.



In addition, the LZHS Poms won a special award from the judges for Best Crowd Appeal for their Hip Hop routine. The State Championship was administered by the Universal Dance Association (UDA). In February the LZHS Poms were finalists at the UDA Nationals with both their Hip Hop and Pom routines.

Coaches **Regina Hope** and **Lindsay Gillilan** are understandably proud of their team's unprecedented success.

"The team set forth goals that they wanted to achieve this year," said Gillilan. "All of which were

made possible by the dedication of these highly skilled dancers."

"We remained undefeated in the Hip Hop Category and all of our wishes came true at Nationals," said Hope. "Both our Pom and Hip Hop routines placed at an elite level to qualify us to compete with

the best of the best at Finals. It has been an incredible year to say the least. We feel very fortunate to coach such a talented team!"

Poms Sponsor Mr. LZ

The LZHS Poms will be hosting its very popular "Mr. LZ" contest themed 'I Love the 80's,' on March 15, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center of Lake Zurich High School. Tickets will be available at the door.

The proceeds from this event will support the team as they represent our community at the National Dance Team Championships in Orlando, Florida.

Left: First row: **Jenn Schwantz, Audrey Ishikawa, Meghan Riccio, Danielle Leopardo.** Second row: **Caroline Pardikes, Lisa Hacker, Molly Pennino,** coach **Regina Hope, Jenna Smith, Molly Jardine, Maureen Hagedorn,** coach **Lindsay Gillilan, Nina Bianchi, Krista Aistars.** Back row: **Lauren Napolitano,** hip hop choreographer **Kasper, Jenna Poulter, Sarah Walding, Lilia Berman, Megan Casady and Jaime Kowieski.**

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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