



Awarded the  
INSPIRA Award  
of Excellence

## Board of Education Approves Closing of Charles Quentin School for 2009-2010

After weeks of reviewing the report and recommendations of the school district administration regarding a short term and long term plan for the school district's facilities, and several Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings discussing the issue, at its regular April 24 meeting, the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education approved the closing of Charles Quentin Elementary School at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year.

The recommendation to close the school was based upon the district's short and long term facilities plan, which examined a number of factors, including:

- Current and projected enrollment figures that show a continued declining student enrollment



- Available student seating capacity within the five other elementary schools
  - Age and condition of Charles Quentin School
  - The limited financial resources of the school district
- Volunteers Needed for Boundary Committee**

Knowing that the consolidation from six to five elementary schools necessitates the creation of new school attendance boundaries for the 2009-2010 school year, the Board of Education is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the CUSD 95 School Attendance Boundary Study Committee. Parents, community members, teachers and support staff living within the boundaries of CUSD 95 who would like to be considered for membership on the committee are encouraged to submit an application to serve. Applications are available on the school district's

Cont. on pg. 2--See *Charles Quentin*

## May Whitney Environmental Test Results Show No 'Toxic Mold' Problem as Alleged by Chicago Union

Recent allegations of "toxic mold" at May Whitney Elementary School made by the Chicago-based union SEIU Local 1, **Gustavo Gomez**, an Aramark custodian, and several others appear to be without merit judging by the results of extensive mold testing that was done March 21 by Environ, a full service environmental health and safety consulting firm with expertise in industrial hygiene, asbestos services, environmental audits, indoor environmental quality and other related areas.

Even though previous air samplings conducted last fall and in February showed no problem with mold, **Mary Kalou**, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations for Community Unit School District 95, asked Environ to conduct an independent mold investigation in response to concerns raised by a small group of residents regarding the August test results. The District first learned of the concerns of the Aramark custodian

after the March 21 testing had been scheduled and over 6 months after his alleged discovery.

As part of their investigation, Environ conducted visual inspections of 16 classrooms/areas, took air samplings of six classrooms/areas, and conducted carpeting sampling of four classrooms/areas.

According to the report provided by Environ, which was shared with the Board of Education at its April 24 meeting, "Based on the findings of the visual inspection and testing there was no indication that mold growth was a problem in the representative areas included in this survey."

The report also noted the following:

- Overall, clean classrooms were observed during the visual inspection of all selected rooms.

Cont. on pg. 2--See *May Whitney Results*

## Shapiro to Lead Seth Paine School



Cameron Shapiro

In a unanimous vote at its April 24 Board of Education meeting, the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education approved

Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson's**

recommendation of **Cameron Shapiro** as principal of Seth Paine Elementary School. Shapiro will replace current principal **Laura Gammons**, who is leaving District 95 for a position in another school district at the end of the current school year. While Shapiro will start July 1, he plans to meet with parents, students and staff before that date.

"We are excited to have Mr. Shapiro joining our team," said Dr. Knutson. "With his experience as an assistant principal, summer school principal and dean of students, he will be a real benefit to Seth Paine School and our entire school district."

Shapiro is currently the Assistant Principal at Friendship Junior High School in Des Plaines, IL, where he had previously also served as a summer school principal. He has also served as the Dean of Students and a sixth grade teacher in McHenry, IL.

Shapiro holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Eastern Illinois University, as well as Master's degree in educational leadership from Saint Francis University in Joliet, IL.

## May Whitney Results *cont.*

- Minor discoloration of ceiling tiles were found in a few classrooms and in the library area. Tests for moisture content found these tiles to be dry at the time of the survey, with no visible mold found in these areas.
- Inspection above ceiling tile found no evidence of mold.
- Air sample results contained typical spore levels and genus distributions commonly found indoors and outdoors, with overall levels being very low.
- Results of dust samples from carpets analyzed for fungal content showed typical fungal levels. An uncommon mold, *Aspergillus sydowii*, was found in a single classroom carpet at a very low rate of 8%. These levels would not be considered evidence of mold growth in carpet. If mold growth were occurring, then higher levels would be expected.

The report also offered recommendations to reduce the risk of future mold growth, including replacing discolored ceiling tiles and future monitoring for these areas to ensure that no recurrent moisture problems exist.

After sharing the information with the Board of Education, Kalou placed the full Environ report on the district's website ([www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)) so that staff, parents and the entire community could review the results.

"We had this mold investigation done so that we could offer reassurance to our students, parents and staff," said Kalou. "Baseless allegations, such as the ones made by Mr. Gomez, SEIU and others, serve no purpose other than to scare people. Hopefully, people can now read the facts and ignore the fiction created by others."

The full Environ report entitled: *Mold Inspection and Testing – May Whitney Elementary School* can be found under the "Updates" section of the main page of the district website [www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org).

## Charles Quentin *cont.*

website at [www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org), or can be obtained from the CUSD 95 Administration building located at 400 S. Old Rand Road, Lake Zurich, IL. Completed applications should be returned by May 23, 2008 to:

**Mrs. Marsha Smyser**, Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent

CUSD 95

400 S. Old Rand Road

Lake Zurich, IL 60047-2459

The school district will select committee membership in order to have a balanced representation of the entire school community. The committee—which will meet up to four times a month in the evening between July and mid-December—will develop options for redrawing the attendance boundaries for the elementary and middle schools, ensuring that the adjustments are global in nature, with the intent of serving the best interests of all students. The options will be presented to the Superintendent for his review. He will then make a final recommendation for school attendance boundaries to the Board of Education.

## Board Approves New CQ, SA Administrators for 08-09



**Claudia Mall** Education, at its April 24 meeting, approved Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson's** recommendation to appoint current Charles Quentin School Principal **Claudia Mall** as the principal of both Sarah Adams School and Charles Quentin School for the 2008-2009 school year.

As part of that recommendation, the school district will be adding an assistant principal at each of the two schools for next year to assist Mrs. Mall. The Board approved **Stefan Ladenburger**, a former kindergarten teacher and current third grade teacher at Spencer Loomis School, as the



**Stefan Ladenburger**

assistant principal of Charles Quentin School for next year, and **Julie Riddick**, currently a seventh grade language arts teacher at Middle School South, as the assistant principal at Sarah Adams School for next year.

Both Ladenburger and Riddick are looking forward to starting their roles as assistant principals.

"It is a great opportunity for me to start my administrative career in this district," said Ladenburger. "I am really looking forward to this experience and I thank Charles Quentin and Claudia Mall for welcoming me to their community."

"I am so excited for the opportunity to join the Sarah Adams community," said Riddick. "I look forward to a great school year!"

"Having Claudia Mall as the principal of both schools will give the students at Charles Quentin the stability that is essential for them," explained Dr. Knutson. "It will also allow her to make a smooth transition to Sarah Adams School, while also providing both schools with the benefit of an additional school administrator."

## Grease is the Word at Middle School North

Gossip about two gangs, the Pink Ladies and Burger Palace Boys, summer romances and the use of unfamiliar phrases like "Boog-e-dy boog-e-dy boog-e-dy" echoing through the hallways of CUSD 95 Middle School North don't seem to concern teachers and administrators.

North students aren't preparing for a rumble, they are practicing for their performance of the well-known musical *Grease* scheduled for May 1-3 at 7:00 p.m., at the Middle School North auditorium in Hawthorn Woods. Tickets are available at the door for only \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

This year's show has a large cast of 72 middle school students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, as well as a stage crew of approximately 30 students.

Aside from famous songs, a familiar love story, and a fifties feel, the performance will include a fluid set with multiple levels and "Grease d Lightning" modified to fit on the middle school stage.

Students are at the center of the production having not only contributed their acting and singing talents, but also their choreography, carpentry and electronic skills. Students built sets and helped to plan dance numbers and will run crew, lights, and sound during the performance.

The performance of this familiar musical will leave the audience feeling like this group of kids does "go together" and will remind them of their own high school years. A wop-baba-lu-bop!

## Dist. 95 Ed Foundation Offers 'Click and Pledge'

The School District 95 Educational Foundation in Lake Zurich now accepts donations online via its "Click and Pledge" option. Donations can be made in any denomination and charged to a credit card. Visit the organization's Web site at [www.district95foundation.org](http://www.district95foundation.org) or click on the foundation's link from the district's website at [www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org).

The District 95 Educational Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization working with District 95 to support activities that enhance, enrich and supplement instructional opportunities for students consistent with the school district's core values and mission. For information, call **Jim Jennings**, foundation liaison, at (847) 540-5494, or **LeJane Carson** at (847) 884-0000.

## Parent University a Grand Success

Middle School North and Spencer Loomis Elementary School provided the backdrop for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent University held last month on March 8. Over 175 parents attended the day-long event which featured keynote speaker, **Dr. Michele Borba**. Dr. Borba presented down to earth parenting advice through her award-winning book *Parenting for Character: Raising Socially Responsible Kids Who Do the Right Thing*.

Responses from attendees on Dr. Borba's presentation were positive from every angle: "Excellent speaker!," "very enthusiastic presenter, gave great advice, tools and tips to take home and try," "parents and teachers, extremely useful information!"

Some of the other presenters spoke on topics regarding boys, anger, the 'social jungle', Special Education and Individual Education Plans (IEP's), helping your child cope with stress and frustration, homework, and sibling rivalry, just to name a few. The day was an extremely useful way for parents to network and come together to learn new ideas to help them in their everyday life to work with their children.

Some of the ideas were common sense practices, but as we get busy in our everyday lives, we forget the main objective – to show our children just how much we do love them by giving them a small part of ourselves. By spending a few minutes a day with your child and giving them your undivided attention, you can show them that you are proud of them and your time allows them to see how important they are to you as a parent. A little bit of your time makes a big difference.

The Parent University committee hopes to see you next year as the community celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> year of Parent University, where parents encourage parents and knowledge is shared to make our community and world a better place.

---

## Summer School Deadline April 30

Parents interested in enrolling their children in this year's summer school enrichment courses are reminded that the deadline for registration is April 30. The completed registration form and tuition payment for courses should be mailed to District 95 Summer School Office, 66 Church St., Lake Zurich, 60047, Attn: **Gail Drake**.

No phone registrations can be accepted. Students eligible for Skills Enrichment have until April 30 as well. For more information, contact Gail Drake, (847) 540-3400. The brochure and registration form can be downloaded from [www.lz95.org/pubs/Summer\\_School/summerschool08.htm](http://www.lz95.org/pubs/Summer_School/summerschool08.htm).

## Volunteers Renovate LZHS Concession Stand



Pulling together is what the Lake Zurich Community is all about. On March 11, 2008, the Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) concession stand located at the south end of the football stadium was vandalized. Reacting quickly to the restoration work that was needed to be done, a Beautification Committee was formed. The committee, spearheaded by **Beth Piff** and **Tracey Soucy** from the Lake Zurich Quarterback Club, wanted to bring the concession stand back to a safe, healthy and fun place to enjoy a bite to eat before a sporting event.

On Sunday, April 6, 2008 Head Football Coach **Brian Stortz** and 24 football players were on hand to kick off the beautification project. The team members removed the supplies and equipment, allowing Aramark Corporation to come in and thoroughly clean and sanitize the facility getting it ready for the next phase of beautification.

**Brian Bellville**, a sophomore at LZHS, will design and coordinate the repair of the interior for his Eagle Scout Project. He is meeting with members of the Beautification Committee to discuss the interior layout and present a plan for implementation. The exterior painting and repair work was done by 20 students from Lake Zurich High School Habitat for Humanity Group on April 23 and 24.

"Many organizations have volunteered to help with the project," said Piff. "We owe a special thanks to American Chartered Bank, Beatty Decorating, Culvers, Clare and Clare Law Firm, Lake Zurich High School Bear Boosters, Pathmann Paint, and Rosati's Pizza for their donations toward this project."

Piff said she is overwhelmed with the positive reaction from the business community, students and adult volunteers. "Our community should be proud of the students who are willing to commit their time to turn this unfortunate situation into a positive for the LZ community," she said.

Ms. Soucy added, "we love to host High School events at our field and we are happy to be able, through the combined efforts of many, to return the concession stand back into a great place to gather before and during a sporting event."

*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.

**Annette Jacobsen**,  
Editor  
**Jim Jennings**,  
Publisher  
(847) 540-5489  
[jim.jennings@lz95.org](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org)  
[www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)  
Copyright (c) 2008



# The Mill

April 25, 2008

*Rumors and inaccurate information seem to fly faster than the speed of light. Left unchallenged, such misinformation is often mistaken for fact. The Mill is designed to answer such questions, rumors and issues with factual information.*

**Q:** *There is an email letter being sent around to some parents in the school district stating that the Board of Education is voting on a “late start” proposal that would require elementary and middle schools to start an hour later each week beginning next school year. The email also stated that the school district will not be providing transportation and that students will have to wait outside the school on “late start” days. Is this rumor true?*

**A:** The e-mail you speak of correctly reflects that creating Professional Learning Communities (PLC) was one of the top 5 priorities to develop this school year as part of our Strategic Plan. Professional Learning Communities have been proven successful and some top educational researchers have indicated that it is one of the few educational initiatives that has been successful in raising student achievement over time. Many other area school districts have been successful in their efforts and we have had promising initial success at our own high school following the PLC model for a short time. Unfortunately, that is one of the few accurate assertions included in the e-mail.

There is no proposal on the planning table or even in discussion to take one hour per week away from instructional time in any of our schools. We do have a planning group that has taken various models out to the staff members of middle schools and elementary schools for feedback. Two of those models involved a Late Start as the e-mail indicated, but the other two looked at modifications to our current early release schedule. While we are clearly still in a planning stage, the only model we are giving any serious consideration to at this point is a model that modifies our current early release calendar so as to be the least disruptive to instructional time. Even with that stated, we have not finalized a model to present to the Board of Education. Just as importantly, we also would be seeking feedback, through our PTO’s, from parents before any formal recommendation would be made to the Board of Education for implementation.

The error riddled e-mail indicates that the “Late Start” proposal would also include no transportation for elementary students and that parents would be responsible for transporting their children to school in the mornings. It also indicated that some schools had already decided that students arriving early would not be allowed into their schools and must remain outside. There are absolutely no legs for that rumor to stand on in even the most hypothetical case. Any model that has been considered or will be considered in the future would absolutely include transportation for eligible students.

We are presenting an update to the Board at the May 8 Committee of the Whole meeting on where the school district is in the planning phase, but no recommendation has been finished or presented publicly or privately to the Board of Education for their approval.

I ask everyone to try to share this clarification of information with others so that we can work together to stop the spreading of inaccurate information.

—**Brian Knutson**, Superintendent

*The Mill is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. We encourage you to send us your questions, rumors and issues. However, due to the volume of questions, not all may appear in this publication. Issues that would be considered confidential personnel matters will not be discussed by this publication. **Rumors, questions and issues can be sent to: Jim Jennings, (847) 540-5489, jim.jennings@lz95.org.***