



Awarded the
INSPRA Award
of Excellence

Morvaji Surprised with Golden Apple

Dan Morvaji, a sixth grade social studies teacher at Middle School North, was focused on teaching his classroom full of students when a group of 15 adults stormed into his room, effectively bringing his lesson to a surprising halt. Surprise quickly turned to excitement as Morvaji learned that he was one of only 10



colleagues who push me to be my best, and the supportive parents and administrators I've had wherever I've been. It is a day in my life I will never forget."

In addition to the basket full of delicious apples he received today, Morvaji will receive a tuition-free spring-term sabbatical at Northwestern University; a personal computer from IBM; \$3,000; and membership in the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which now has inducted 220 expert teachers who work together to ensure that all children have the excellent teachers they deserve.

Morvaji, the only Lake County winner, was one of 10 winners for 2008. In addition to Morvaji, there were six teachers at five Chicago schools; one Cook County suburban school; one Kane



County school; and one Will County school. A total of 850 teachers from Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will Counties, were nominated for the award, which was first presented in 1986.

Morvaji and the other award winners will be honored at an award ceremony on September 6 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, which will subsequently be aired as a one-hour prime-time special on WTTW/Channel 11.



Chicago-area winners of the 2008 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in grades 4 through 8. The award was presented by representatives of the Golden Apple Foundation, which is dedicated to recognizing and developing excellence in teaching.

"I'm truly humbled by the whole experience," said Morvaji. "It was a thrill my parents could be here to celebrate with me, and everyone has been so kind. Honestly, I really wanted the award more for all those people that have helped me get to this point in my teaching career . . . my parents who helped me get through college, the students who I've learned so much from, my former and current

Dust Wins Law Day Competition



The Judges of Lake County from The Administrative Office of the Nineteenth Judicial Court recently chose Middle School North seventh grader **Carly Dust** as their first place winner of this year's Law Day Competition. This year's theme for the essay was *The Rule of Law-What it means to you*. Carly wrote an exemplary essay on the value of education in our school system and the importance of democracy. Before accepting her award, the Judge read an excerpt from her essay pointing out the importance of having an education in the community.

MSN Eighth Graders Advance to Semis in Writing Comp.



Congratulations to Middle School North eighth grader writers **Jillian Jones** and **Alex Skowran**. These students made it into the semi-final round of the 2008 National Reading and Writing Competition, called *Letters About Literature*. In this competition students were required to read literature and write to the authors about what the experience of reading their novels meant to them.

Letters About Literature is a nation wide contest presented by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and sponsored by the Illinois Secretary of State, and State Librarian, **Jesse White**.

CQ Catches Cub Fever



The fourth grade teachers at Charles Quentin School organized a fun and educational fieldtrip to Wrigley Field to see a Cubs game in mid-April. According to teachers **Mel Fox** and **Lisa Peterson**, the students had a great time and learned a lot!

Middle School South Band Gets Superior Rating

The Lake Zurich Middle School South's Sixth Grade Band received a superior rating which is the highest rating awarded from three judges at the Lake County Live competition held April 12 at the College of Lake County. Out of the seven bands that competed in their division, the Middle School South's sixth grade band finished third overall. South's band was the highest rated sixth grade only band.

For the competition, the sixth grade band performed *Incantation & Ritual* by Brian Balmages, *Dona Nobis Pacem* arranged by Schubert, and *Mystic Dance* by Michael Sweeney.

Ed Koehler is the Director of Band at Middle School South. During his 12 years at Middle School South, the bands have consistently received superior ratings at organizational contests.

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
www.lz95.org

Copyright (c) 2008

CUSD 95 Staff **CELEBRATE!** Success

There was laughter, tears, tissues and a lot of music as the staff members of Community Unit School District 95 gathered at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Lake Zurich High School on the morning of May 1 to honor retirees, applaud award winners, and recognize years of dedicated service.

The annual Staff Recognition Program kicked off a day of school improvement planning on a day when students were not in school. Starting with a short music video set to “Get the Party Started” by Pink, Superintendent Dr. Brian Knutson kicked off the event which recognized 11 award winners in four categories, those who have achieved specific years of service (10, 15, 20, etc.), and the 12 staff members who are retiring at the end of the school year. This year’s honorees, by category include:

Distinguished Service Award

Rich Maionchi, Assistant to Transportation Department

Laura Matuszewski, Teacher’s Aide, May Whitney School

Shirley Schaal, Payroll Specialist, Administration Center

Meritorious Service Award

Jennifer Barz, English Teacher, Lake Zurich High School

Sue Moyer, Resource Teacher, Spencer Loomis School

Jack VanNoord, Sixth Grade Teacher, Middle School South

Teachers Make a Difference Award

Robin Dishkin, Kindergarten Teacher, May Whitney School

Sherry Fisher, Seventh Grade Science Teacher, Middle School North

John Keyzer, Applied Arts Teacher, Lake Zurich High School

Kathi Surdynski*, German Teacher, Lake Zurich High School

* *Posthumous Award*

Gary W. Robillard Leadership Award

Andrea Bonkowski, Supervising Nurse, District 95

Retirees

Pat Altman, Fourth Grade Teacher, Spencer Loomis

Billye Blum, Registrar, High School

Nancy Caceres, Kindergarten Teacher, Isaac Fox

Donna Coninx, Art Teacher, Middle School North

Deb Gummerson, English Teacher, High School

Amy Medved, Eighth Grade Teacher, Middle School South

Mary Ann Nemecek, Curriculum Coordinator, Administration

Terry Peraino, Fourth Grade Teacher, Isaac Fox

Cheri Pinchot, Eighth Grade Teacher, Middle School North

Julie Sundin, Music Teacher, Charles Quentin

Linda Techter, Math Teacher, High School

Jim Yrigoyen, Guidance Counselor, High School

Years of Service

10 Years of Service

Rhonda Baumhardt, May Whitney, District Printer

Karen Borchert, Middle School North, Special Education Aide

Jennifer Brausam, May Whitney, First Grade Teacher

Sheri Brizzee, Isaac Fox, Second Grade Teacher

Cathy Church, Spencer Loomis, Third Grade Teacher

Robin Dishkin, May Whitney, Kindergarten Teacher

Sue Doczi, Sarah Adams, Fourth Grade Teacher

Kathy Drake, Middle School North, PE/Health Teacher

Jennifer Eberle, Middle School South, Gifted Teacher

Mike Egan, High School, Principal

Karen Filippi, Middle School South, Nurse

Shirli Gajda, Middle School North, Seventh Grade Teacher

Terri Gebhardt, Sarah Adams, Early Childhood Aide

Blaine Gorelik, Middle School South, Home Economics Teacher

Nancy Grobarek, Seth Paine & Isaac Fox, Social Worker

Megan Guerrero, May Whitney, Second Grade Teacher

Jackie Haney, Middle School North, Eighth Grade Teacher

Ryan Keegan, Middle School South, Eighth Grade Teacher

Kathi Keirans, Isaac Fox, Occupational Therapist

Diane Kramer, Transportation, Bus Driver

Karen Logan, Transportation, Director

Suzanne Lyons, Seth Paine, Fifth Grade Teacher
Cynthia Milone, Middle School South, Seventh Grade Teacher

Amy Murray, Isaac Fox, Fifth Grade Teacher

Michelle Pisauro, May Whitney, Second Grade Teacher

Ian Silverman, High School, English Teacher

Marsha Smyser, Administration Center, Assistant to the Superintendent

Bryan Spencer, Isaac Fox, Third Grade Teacher

Richard Thompson, Transportation, Bus Driver

Michele Vida, Isaac Fox, Second Grade Teacher

Linda Watson, High School, Social Studies Teacher

15 Years of Service

Marla Bronstein, Middle School South, Spanish Teacher

Jill Brooks, Isaac Fox, Principal

Leah Enright, High School, Spanish Teacher

Pat Ledvina, Middle School North & Spencer Loomis, Technology Aide

Sue Key, Middle School North, Eighth Grade Teacher

Liz Moore, Sarah Adams, First Grade Teacher

Sharon K. Price, May Whitney, Fourth Grade Teacher

Jane Raday, Charles Quentin, Third Grade Teacher

Mary Reitsma, Spencer Loomis & Seth Paine, Orchestra Teacher

Julie Schlereth, Transportation, Bus Driver & Fleet Specialist

Beth Schwartz, Middle School North, Computer Technology Teacher

Marge Strand, Middle School South, Gifted Teacher

Dan Strickler, High School, PE/Health/Driver Ed Teacher

Sheila Tanner, High School, Social Worker

20 Years of Service

Deborah Block, Transportation, Bus Driver

Rhonda Fischer, Sarah Adams, Fifth Grade Teacher

Sherry Fisher, Middle School North, Seventh Grade Teacher

Sue Lindquist, Charles Quentin, Second Grade Teacher

25 Years of Service

MaryAnn Eiserman, High School, English Teacher

30 Years of Service

David Grimm, Middle School South, Seventh Grade Teacher

Ron Jacoby, High School, Science Teacher

Phil Stanko, High School, Science Teacher

Linda Techter, High School, Math Teacher

35 Years of Service

Sandie Edwards, Seth Paine, PE Teacher

Steve Ellis, High School, Math Teacher

Joe Kedzior, High School, Applied Arts Teacher

Jennie Stanonik, Seth Paine, First Grade Teacher