



## High School ACT Scores Increase

Student ACT scores at Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) for the 2005-2006 school year significantly increased over last year, and remain significantly higher than the statewide and national averages in all areas while testing more students than during the 2004-2005 school year.

LZHS students increased the composite score by three-tenths of a point from 22.5 in 2005 to 22.8 in 2006. The statewide average was 20.5 and the

national average was 21.1. According to Dr. Egan, the high school is implementing Strategies I and II classes this year which are specifically designed to address ACT testing. The teaching staff will also continue to incorporate ACT standards and strategies into the school's core curriculum. In addition, the school's *Late Start* program on Mondays will allow the school's course teams to continue their curriculum work.

Year	Total Tested		English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
2004-05	453	135,067	22.2	19.9	22.9	20.2	22.4	20.3	22.0	20.4	22.5	20.3
<b>2005-06</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>137,399</b>	<b>22.4</b>	20.2	<b>23.1</b>	20.3	<b>22.7</b>	20.6	<b>22.3</b>	20.4	<b>22.8</b>	20.5

### Labor Day Reminder:

All schools and offices in CUSD 95 will be closed Sept. 4 for the Labor Day holiday. Schools and offices will resume their regular schedules on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

national average was 21.1.

LZHS ACT scores increased in all content areas: English up .2, math up .2, reading up .3 and science up .3. The total number of students tested increased from 453 to 490.

LZHS Principal **Dr. Michael Egan** attributes the increase in ACT scores to a combination of students working hard and taking the testing seriously, along with teachers incorporating test taking strategies and ACT standards into their curriculum. There are also an increased number of students taking ACT prep classes.

"We are certainly pleased, but not yet satisfied with our ACT scores," said Dr. Egan. "We know that we can do better. Increased student achievement continues to be our goal at Lake Zurich High School."

**Dr. Brian Knutson**, Superintendent of Community Unit School District 95, was pleased to see the hard work of students and staff paying off with increased test scores.

"This increase in ACT scores is a great positive step for Lake Zurich High School," said Superintendent Dr. Brian Knutson. "Dr. Egan has set a goal of 24 on the ACT and this improvement is an indicator of progress towards that goal. The staff has been working together over the past couple of years to make progress and this should be great reinforcement of their effort. However, the students are the most responsible as they took the test seriously and the positive increase is an example of the great kids we have throughout our school district!"



## This Class was Smokin' ~~Hot~~ Cold!

Students in teacher **Jerry Clemens'** seventh grade classes at Middle School North got off to a smokin' cold and dry start of the school year as they experimented with dry ice as a way of understanding how molecules react with heat energy. An innovative teacher who believes in a hands-on approach to science, Clemens' classes can also look forward to building skate parks, studying flying golf balls and launching rockets as they study various scientific properties.

To find out more about Jerry Clemens and his science classes, visit <http://www.lz95.org/msn/faculty/jclemens/>.

## Kimono Fashion at MSS



On Friday morning, September 29, sixth-graders at Middle School South will be putting on an East Asian fashion show. In addition to kimonos from Japan, the show will also feature several outfits from China and Korea. All the outfits are out on loan from teachers, student families and members of the community and will be modeled by students. The show will be narrated by two sixth grade students who will educate the audience about each outfit.

Show organizers are anticipating an audience of over 250 people made up of fellow middle school students, teachers and parents. The September 29 show will run from 7:45 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. in the school cafeteria which will be transformed into a fashion showcase. The fashion show will feature a sixteen foot runway that will extend into the audience ensuring that every audience member has a good view of the two dozen authentic, colorful East Asian outfits.

Students and teacher sponsors will be holding a full dress/tech rehearsal on Thursday, September 28, from 2:30 until 4:00.

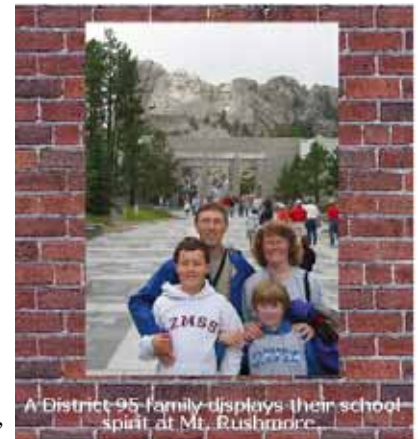
The East Asian Fashion Show is a part of the sixth grade students' six-week study of China, Japan and Korea. Later in the year, students will be studying India, Egypt, Africa, Greece, Rome, Europe and Latin America.

## Spirit of 95 Goes Live

Students, their families and district staff are showing their school spirit on the new Spirit of 95 web page. The pictures were received last spring after the Office of Communications & Community Relations asked staff, students and their families to send end vacation and other photos of them and/or their families wearing their school spirit wear. The idea came from a similar wall of fame website at a website for Eskimo Joe's, a popular collegiate hangout in Stillwater, OK.

You can view the Spirit of 95 web page by clicking on "Publications" menu on the district's main web page ([www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)), or go directly to it at [www.lz95.org/spiritwall](http://www.lz95.org/spiritwall).

To submit a photo for the Spirit of 95 spirit wall, email your photo(s) to [jim.jennings@lz95.org](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org). Please note that by emailing your photo, you are giving the school district permission to post it on the Internet and to potentially utilize it in district publications such as *THRIVE in 95*.



## SIGN of the Times

In an effort to be both environmentally friendly and not bury families under an avalanche of paper, Seth Paine Elementary School will begin piloting a web-based approach to keeping parents informed about their child's school. Beginning September 6, the school will offer parents a web page where they can access electronically the same information that would otherwise be sent home in student backpacks. According to Principal **Laura Gammons**, approximately 50 of the schools more than 300 families have signed up for the new communication method. The web page will include links to PTO information, school information, and it will provide a link to the district's new SIGN website. You can access the Seth Paine website at <http://www.lz95.org/sp/>.



SIGN (School Information Gathering Network) is a District 95 web-based initiative that allows parents to access the many flyers and other important information that outside organizations such as the YMCA distribute through the schools. SIGN was developed as a way to address the parent and staff complaints about the hundreds of flyers and brochures that are sent home through student backpacks. Often, there are so many flyers that it makes it hard to for parents to actually find the important school information.

According to **Jim Jennings**, Communications Director, SIGN will allow parents to access the flyers and other information from any computer or web-based device that has Internet access. From a stand-point of environmental stewardship, it is expected that SIGN will cut down on the amount of paper, ink and toner.

Beginning September 6, parents, students, staff and interested community members can access the SIGN website at [www.lz95.org/sign/](http://www.lz95.org/sign/). It is important to note that only those flyers that have been approved for distribution will be posted on the SIGN website.