



MSN Students Build Patriot Day Memorial

Right: MSN teacher **Craig Podolski** and his students attach tiles to their Patriot Day memorial.

Middle School North (MSN) sixth grade teacher **Craig Podolski** and his students remembered the events of September 11, 2001 and those who lost their lives that day by creating a Patriot Day memorial.



Podolski came up with the idea on Sept. 8 while watching a football game at his home. He went to the local Home Depot to get the materials and then shared his idea with his fellow sixth grade teachers at MSN, who were excited to have their classes participate.

Each sixth grade student received a blank tile on which he or she wrote a word or drew a picture symbolizing America from their perspective. Words ranged from "freedom" and "brave" to "hope" and "faith," while drawings covered everything from the World Trade Center towers themselves, to Bald Eagles and American flags. Staff members from both MSN and Spencer Loomis School also decorated tiles. Once completed, the tiles were caulked and affixed to the wooden towers. To date, approximately 250 tiles have been decorated and attached to the memorial.

"I was interested in letting the students express their feelings on the event that most impacted the world during their lifetimes," said Podolski. "The guidelines were very loose, allowing the students' true feelings to come out. Needless to say, I was very pleased with the result. The project grew much larger than I ever thought it would."

The Patriot Day memorial will be on display in the MSN/Spencer Loomis Library beginning Monday, Sept. 18.

The mission of Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95 is to inspire all students to be passionate, continuous learners and to prepare them with the skills to achieve their goals and flourish as responsible, caring citizens in a global community.

Information for College-Bound LZHS Seniors

Appointments for seniors at Lake Zurich High School will be handled differently this year by the school's Guidance department.

To make the most efficient use of time, general information for college-bound seniors will be presented in small group informational assemblies in the small auditorium during the week of September 18. For each class period there will be two sessions offered at some point during the week. Seniors are able to attend a session during lunch, open periods or study halls. Students may not miss any class to attend. After attending a session, students needing more assistance are welcome to sched-



ule an appointment with their assigned counselor or the college counselor.

Another reason for scheduling an individual appointment is to discuss graduation credits and requirements. All seniors are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their counselor, whether or not their post-secondary plans include college.

A schedule of sessions will be mailed home to each senior along with other valuable information. Parents are welcome to attend any session and/or their students' individual appointments.

For more information, call the Lake Zurich High School Guidance Center at (847) 540-7058.

Eat to Help Cure Diabetes



Three District 95 kids are teaming up with Yogi's Pizza in Lake Zurich to help find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes. **Maggie Monson**, Middle School North, **Derek Rogers**, Charles Quentin School and **Drake Orser**, Middle School South, live every day with this terrible disease. It is a life filled with insulin shots, finger pricks and erratic blood sugars. This disease also affects 12 other kids in District 95 schools.

To help raise money to find a cure, Yogi's Pizza in Lake Zurich is holding three Monday fund raising days; Sept. 18, Sept., 25, and Oct. 2. Yogi's will generously donate a percentage of the days sales (including carryout) to The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Come one day or all three. No flyer is necessary.

Join an Action Team

Community Unit School District 95 is currently seeking staff, parents, students and interested community member volunteers to serve on action teams which will develop the necessary steps for successfully implementing the five strategies of the district's strategic plan which was renewed last spring and approved by the Board of Education on May 25. The five action teams include:

Staff Commitment
Community Commitment
Trust & Collaboration
Recruitment/Retention
Curriculum & Learning Opportunities



Action teams will begin meeting in October, with their final product expected in January/February.

The finished action plans will then be reviewed by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee before being submitted to the school district and its Board of Education.

If you are willing to participate on an Action Team, simply call the district's Office of Communications, (847) 540-5489. For more information, visit the district's strategic plan web site at www.lz95.org/strategic.

SIGN Up, Sign On



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 allows parents to access the flyers and other information from any computer or web-based device that has Internet access. From a standpoint of environmental stewardship, it is expected that SIGN will cut down on the amount of paper, ink and toner.

Parents, students, staff and interested community members can access the SIGN website at 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.

Fun, Food at MW Picnic



Show the Spirit of 95



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 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 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), or go directly to it at www.lz95.org/spiritwall.

To submit a photo for the Spirit of 95 spirit wall, email your photo(s) to 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*.

Sept. 21 Forum to Focus on Facilities

The school facilities of Community Unit School District 95 will be the subject of the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education Community Forum on Thursday, September 21, beginning at 7 p.m., in the West gymnasium of Lake Zurich Middle School South, 435 W. Cuba Road, Lake Zurich.

At the forum, board members and district staff will highlight the current status of school facilities, enrollment trends and other information. Much of the forum will focus on answering questions and gathering input from the community.

Board Vice President **Kathy Brown**, Board member **John Kropf**, and Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** will welcome the community and share a brief presentation about the current status of the district's schools before taking questions and feedback from the community. There will be no formal facilities plan presented. The forum is being held to inform the community about its

public school facilities and seek community feedback.

The forum on school facilities is one of a number of school board forums on various topics that have been held to both inform the community and gather community input on schools and learning related issues.

"Two-way communication is vital to the public's understanding and support of our public schools," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "Forums, such as this, allow us to both provide and receive information about our school facilities and district operations. It is through such open communication that we will make our schools even better environments for learning."

Community members should note that parking may be limited due to other school related activities at Middle School South and Isaac Fox Elementary School.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications, (847) 540-5489.

Sarah Adams School Holds 9-11 Remembrance



Are You in the Know?

A new school year brings new opportunities and fresh beginnings. So start of this school year by being in the know when it comes to news about your schools by joining the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network**.

Our Key Communicator (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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Communications & Community Relations
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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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