



**Awarded the INSPRA
2006 Award of
Excellence**

May Whitney Goes From Woe to Wow!

Right: **Dr. Deb Bruemmer**, Principal of May Whitney School (far right), greets parents and students at a special school preview event.

September 5 was the start of a new school year and marked a new area for May Whitney Elementary School as its more than 400 students and staff members were relocated to the building formerly known as the Annex.

The original May Whitney Elementary School building was closed after heavy rains on August 6— combined with a 36-hour power



school and district staff members, Aramark and Sodexo employees, and community and business volunteers, who stepped forward on behalf of the children of May Whitney School.

“There were many overwhelming challenges to overcome with this last minute relocation,” said Dr. Brian Knutson, Superintendent. “Yet,

Right: Staff member **Sarah Hudson** loads up another box of learning materials at the old May Whitney School.



Far Right: **Marsha Smyser** (seated), helps some of the hundreds of parents and students who previewed the New May Whitney School.

outage caused by a lightning strike—caused flooding in the back hallway and in the cafeteria. That was followed immediately by the need for emergency asbestos

remediation and the discovery of the black mold known as Stachybotrys. This being the third time that the mold has been found in the building over the last 15 years, plus continual flooding problems,

led to the school district’s decision to close the building and move the students next door to the Annex, now known as the New May

Whitney Elementary School.

The complete relocation of the students and their materials was done five days sooner than expected thanks to the May Whitney School Parent-Teacher Organization and other school parents,

because of the positive ‘can do’ spirit of our May Whitney School staff and parents,



along with the generosity and hard work of so many from our community, we were able to

Far Right: Kindergarten Teacher **Kim Berk** greets a new kindergartner on the first day of school at the New May Whitney School.



Right: Board of Ed. President **Kathy Brown** (right), carries supplies into the New May Whitney School.

Whitney Elementary School. The complete relocation of the students and their materials was done five days sooner than expected thanks to the May Whitney School Parent-Teacher Organization and other school parents,

Right: A young learner takes out her supplies on the first day of school.



overcome those challenges and open the new May Whitney School location days

earlier than projected.

I have never been more proud of a school staff and a community than I am of May Whitney School and the hundreds of people who gave so much for our children. It shows just how much this community values its children and its public schools.”

Far Right: **Roger Bramble**

Right: **Mary Kalou**,
Assistant Superintendent
for Business & Operations.

Kalou Named New Asst. Supt.-Business



In a unanimous vote (6-0) at a special September 13 Board of Education meeting, the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education approved Superintendent **Dr.**

Brian Knutson's recommendation of **Mary Kalou** as Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.

Kalou replaces **Raelynn Roman**, who has been serving as the interim Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations following the resignation of **Jonathan Hitcho**, who left for a similar position in another school district. Kalou's first full day as Assistant Superintendent will be October 1, although she will be spending some transition time with Roman before that date.

"I'm excited to be working in a district committed to excellence and helping students become lifelong learners," said Kalou. "I look forward to the contributions I can make to the administrative team."

"We are excited to have Ms. Kalou joining our team," said Dr. Knutson. "She has extensive experience in both the private sector and public education. She will be a real benefit to our school district."

Kalou is currently an Executive Vice President for Prime Mortgage Financial, Inc., in Skokie, IL. She has also served as the Assistant Superintendent for Business for the Arlington Heights School District 25, and as the Director of Accounting for Maine Township High School District 207 in Park Ridge, IL.

Kalou, a certified public accountant (CPA), holds a Type 75 Standard Chief School Business Official administrative certificate, as well as a master's degree from Northern Illinois University, and a bachelor's degree from Loyola University

Queen's Representatives Coming to Hear LZHS Band



The Executive Director of London England's New Year's Day Parade, **Bob Bone**, and the Queen's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London, **Roger Bramble**, who will lead England's annual parade, will be making a formal visit to Lake Zurich High School on the morning of September 24, at approximately 10 a.m., to meet with students and administrators, while watching the award-winning Lake Zurich High School Marching Band (LZHS) perform. The visit is a prelude to the LZHS Band's upcoming appearance in London's New Year's Day Parade.



Each year in the fall, the Lieutenant decides upon a select number of groups that it wishes to visit in the USA in connection with London's New Year's Day Parade. Such visits are designed to inspire and reconfirm the importance of the invitation to the groups, like the Lake Zurich High School Marching Band, who have been invited to participate in the parade. Bramble is always accompanied on these visits by Bone and the Director of Protocol for the Parade, **Geraldine Bone**.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our students, our school and our entire community," said **Joshua Thompson**, LZHS Band Director. "We're really looking forward to having these very important guests meet with our student musicians."



In total, 173 students and chaperones are expected to fly to England on December 27 and they will return January 3. In addition, the LZHS Wind Ensemble will perform in concert at a church in England.

January 1, 2008 is not the first appearance of the LZHS Band in the parade. They also marched in the 2003 parade. However, they were at the very end of the parade and most



of the spectators had already left. Thompson has been promised better placement for their upcoming appearance in the popular parade.

While at Lake Zurich High School, Bramble and Bone will meet with school and district administrators, school board members, as well as community and business leaders.

Watch Your School Board in Action on Google Video

Thanks to Google and the Internet, residents of Community Unit School District 95—and anyone else around the world that has an Internet connection—will be able to watch previously videotaped school board meetings in their entirety on Google Video (www.video.google.com). The meetings have been placed online to make it more convenient for community members to learn about their school district and its operations.

“One of this year’s goals for the District and the Board of Education is to more effectively communicate with our entire community, said school board president **Kathy Brown**. “Posting our meetings on the Internet not only allows us to reach further into the community, it also affords interested community members the flexibility to ‘virtually attend’ our meetings whenever their busy schedules allow - not just when our schedule dictates.”

To access the meetings, interested persons can simply go to Google Video (www.video.google.com) and type in “CUSD 95” into the search engine. Currently, the June and August 2007 school board meetings are available for viewing. In addition, the August 20 & 27 May Whitney School Parent Information meetings are also available for viewing on Google Video.

The videotaping and posting of the videos is being done by the district’s Office of Communications & Community Relations. For more information, contact the Office of Communications & Community Relations, (847) 540-5489, or email keycom@lz95.org.

Join the Spirit of 95 Wall



We hope you remembered to pack your camera and school spirit wear for summer vacation. If you did, we want your favorite vacation photos featuring you and/or your family members donning their favorite school spirit wear. Whether you were in Europe, Mexico, Slippery Rock or here at home, we want to include you on the Spirit of 95 Virtual Spirit Wall! Simply email your favorite photo along with the names of those in the picture and a brief description to keycom@lz95.org. Check out the Spirit of 95 Virtual Spirit Wall at www.lz95.org/spiritwall.

CUSD 95 Seeks Your Help in Implementing New Strategic Plan

The renewal of the five-year CUSD 95 Strategic Plan has been completed thanks to the hard work of the volunteers who served on the community/district steering committee and its action teams. Now the school district needs your help to implement the strategic plan. Specifically, volunteers are needed to serve on the strategic plan’s implementation teams. Each implementation team will cover one of the following five strategic areas:

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

Those willing to volunteer for one or more of the five implementation teams, can either email the Office of Communications & Community Relations at keycom@lz95.org with your name, work address, work phone, home phone, and email address. When sending your email, please indicate on which of the five teams you are willing to serve. You can learn more about the district’s strategic plan and the implementation teams by going to the district’s strategic plan website at www.lz95.org/strategic/.

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