



Awarded the INSPRA
2006 Award of
Excellence

Right: U.S. Army Capt.
Drew Larson is escorted
to his send-off by
students of Seth Paine
Elementary School.
(photo by Annette
Jacobsen)

Seth Paine Sends Off Their Hero to Iraq

The students, staff and parents of Seth Paine Elementary School recently honored U.S. Army Captain **Drew Larson**, their favorite hero, with a special send-off as he prepared to leave for his third tour of duty in Iraq. The school has developed a special relationship with Capt. Larson thanks to third grade teacher **Colleen Johnson** and her students, who began corresponding with their hero several years ago.

In addition to the students, staff, and parents, other special guests at the Seth Paine send-off were Captain Larson's mother, his sister, and two nieces; **Dr. Nate Carter**, who was Captain Larson's fifth grade teacher; and retired Seth Paine teacher, **Judy Wagner**, who returned to play the piano for the event with current music teacher, **Michael Danz**, who played guitar while the students sang patriotic songs.

This is the school's first send-off for Capt. Larson, but it's not their first celebration for him.



Each year for the previous three years, they have welcomed him home during his visits from Iraq.

"Captain Larson has made a special effort to come to Seth Paine School each time he has come back to the area," said Johnson. "We have tried our best to support Captain Drew Larson by writing to him, sending him and his crew some packages,

and once when he was home we had fun calling him on his birthday."

For his part, Capt. Larson has sent Johnson's class emails and videos explaining what he and his crew do in Iraq, where he serves as medical helicopter pilot. He even carries some of their gifts with him every time he flies. Other gifts sent over from the class are shared with his crew members.

"The children have gotten to know him as their friend," said Johnson. "He is a remarkable person who deserves an A+ for his commitment and service to our country."

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/.

Far Right: **Dr. Michael Egan** is presented with a special gift by **Lord Roger Bramble**. Dr. Egan also presented Lord Bramble and **Bob Bone** with Bears spirit wear and other gifts.

Mystery Engulfs MSN Fall Play

There's a great mystery at Middle School North and the cast of the school's fall play want you to help solve it.

Set in the 1940s, 10 interesting characters are invited to Soldier Island for a weekend-long party. Unfortunately, upon their arrival, they find out that something far more sinister is afoot. One by one, the party guests are found dead, and no one seems to know who is responsible. Do you dare to find out? If so, they'll see you at the end of October.



And Then There Were None
By Agatha Christie
October 26 and 27

Tickets: Only \$3 for students/seniors, \$5 for adults

Cast:

Maya Abboud as Justice Wargrave
Jillian Jones as Vera Claythorne
Chris Helgeson as Phillip Lombard
David Sell as William Blore
Patrick Broderick as Dr. Armstrong
Keemia Soheil as Emily Brent
Jeremy Kraus as General MacKenzie
Megan Deppen as Rogers
Theresa Miller as Mrs. Rogers
Alex Cluster as Anthony Marston
Brian Suchy as Fred Narracott

Ensemble:

Alicia Edelman
Brian Hefferen
Jeffery Kornfeld
Anna Martin

Queen's Representatives Visit Lake Zurich HS



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, made a formal visit to Lake Zurich High School on September 24 to meet with administrators, parents, Board of Education president **Kathy Brown**, and--most importantly--to watch 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.

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.

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Howl Out at MS North



Middle School North (MSN) Principal **Dr. Nate Carter** and Assistant Principal **Mark Richter** started out the new school year on a fun note by giving away two bicycles. MSN student **Paula Krokos** received an award and won a bike “for being so helpful to other students in class” last school year. **Nate Grambo** also received an award and won a bike for “supporting and cheering loudly at the boys’ basketball game” last school year.

The bikes are part of the school’s *Howl Out* character recognition program (formerly the Wolf Pack Award) which was revamped last school year as a fun and effective way to recognize students who exhibit the six pillars of character.

MSN teachers have been provided with a pad of *Howl Out* awards. When they see a student exhibiting one of these pillars, the teacher writes out an award. The students take home the award and have it signed by a parent and then bring it back to school. These students are then eligible for special drawings for prizes at lunch. According to school staff, the program is making a positive impact at the school.

“I have seen this make a positive difference in the halls of MSN and in my own classroom,” said teacher Jennifer Lippert.

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.

Far Left: **Nate Grambo** (second from left) and **Paula Krokos** (far right) pose with their new bikes and MSN Asst. Principal **Mark Richter** (far left) and Principal **Dr. Nate Carter** (second from right). (photo provided by Jen Lippert)

Watch Your School Board in Action on Google Video



Are you kicking yourself for missing the last school board meeting? If so, you can catch up on school board business by watching past school board meetings 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.

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. the September 27 meeting will be online next week.

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.

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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