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Back To School!



Significant Increase in LZHS ACT Scores!

Student ACT scores at Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) for the 2007-2008 school year show a significant increase over last year, and remain significantly higher than the statewide and national

LZHS interim Principal **Kim Kolze** 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 aligning ACT standards into

Year	Total Tested		English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
2004	450	132,525	22.4	19.7	22.6	20.2	22.7	20.5	21.9	20.2	22.5	20.3
2005	453	135,967	22.2	19.9	22.9	20.2	22.4	20.3	22.0	20.4	22.5	20.3
2006	490	137,399	22.4	20.2	23.1	20.3	22.7	20.6	22.3	20.4	22.8	20.5
2007	489	140,483	22.4	20.2	23.2	20.4	22.6	20.5	22.4	20.4	22.8	20.5
2008	551	143,734	23.4	20.4	24.4	20.7	23.3	20.6	23.0	20.5	23.7	20.7

averages in all areas while testing more students than in previous years.

LZHS students increased the composite score by almost a full point from 22.8 in 2007 to 23.7 in 2008. The 2008 ACT statewide average was 20.7 and the national average was 21.1. LZHS ACT scores increased in all content areas: English up 1.0, math up 1.2, reading up .7 and science up .6. The total number of students tested increased from 489 to 551.

the 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 Kolze. "I believe the increase in ACT scores is due in large part to our teachers and administrators working as a professional learning community. We are using common assessments to improve teacher instruction and focus on student learning.

(Cont. on pg. 3-See ACT Scores Up!)

Board Selects Dr. Egan as Superintendent



Dr. Michael Egan

The Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education has selected the person who will replace current superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** when he retires at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

"The Board of Education is very pleased to announce that it has chosen **Dr. Michael Egan** to succeed Dr. Knutson as the District 95 Superintendent beginning July 1st, 2009," said **Kathy Brown**, President of the CUSD 95 Board of Education. "The Board believes that Dr. Egan's proven track record of success at the high school, coupled with his unsurpassed dedication to the children of District 95, make him a great candidate for taking our district to even greater levels of achievement. We are confident that Dr. Egan's intimate knowledge of our district, and his commitment to creating professional learning communities within all District 95 schools, will greatly benefit our entire District 95 community."

Dr. Knutson has similar praise for Dr. Egan.

"Dr. Egan will be a great leader for this school district and this community," explained Dr. Knutson, "because he has always kept the needs of our students as his number one priority. He has a passion for educating young people, and he has a burning desire to carry forward and lead the district's current efforts to become a professional learning community."

Dr. Egan is both honored and excited to begin his new role within CUSD 95.

"I feel honored and fortunate to have the opportunity to serve Community Unit School District 95 as superintendent starting July 1, 2009," said Dr. Egan. "I am beginning my fourteenth year of service in the district and have seen the district grow exponentially. In that time, I have learned that Community Unit District 95 has supportive parents, a community that cares about education, students who are eager to learn, and teachers who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of their students every day. I

(Cont. on pg. 2-See Dr. Egan Selected)

Right: **Dr. Michael Egan** talks with LZHS Bear fans following the Bears' IHSAA 7A state championship win at the Univ. of Illinois in 2007.



Far Right: Those wanting to express their opinion on the EJ&E rail issue can send their letters to: Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423
Chair: **Charles D. Nottingham**; Vice Chair: **Francis P. Mulvey**; Board Member: **W. Douglas Buttrey**

Dr. Egan Selected *cont.*



look forward to working with Dr. Knutson this school year to make the transition and tap into his knowledge and experience.”

The school board appreciated the input they received from the staff and community members who took part in interviews with the potential superintendent candidates.

“The Board would like to thank all of those District 95 staff members and community members who took the time to provide the Board with feedback during the interview process,” said Brown. “The Board of Education would also like to express its deep thanks to Dr. Brian Knutson for all that he has provided to our school district over the past five years. We look forward to Dr. Egan and Dr. Knutson working closely together over the next year to provide a smooth transition into the 2009-2010 school year.”

Dr. Egan, currently the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, has also served as principal of Lake Zurich High School, as well as LZHS assistant principal. He has also served as the LZHS dean of students, and as an assistant principal for pupil personnel services in Park Forest, and an English/reading teacher in Mundelein, IL.

Dr. Egan earned his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Loyola University. He also possesses a certificate of advanced studies in Educational Leadership from National-Louis University, and he has a master's degree in the teaching of reading from Northeastern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola University.

Dr. Knutson's STB Remarks



Dr. Brian Knutson

Thank you for this opportunity to address you in this Public Hearing. I am Dr. Brian Knutson, superintendent of Community Unit School District 95 in Lake Zurich and surrounding villages. The well-being of students, staff and residents is always at the forefront of our short- and long-range planning. I am here this evening to speak in opposition to the proposed acquisition of the E.J. & E. rail line by Canadian National Railway Company. If approved, this acquisition will significantly impact the day-to-day functionality of our nine schools, more than 7,000 students in public and private schools and nearly 1,000 staff in Community Unit School District 95 and the private schools within our district.

- School District 95 serves a combined population of more than 6,400 students and staff from a service area of approximately 20 square miles.

- Our transportation fleet travels around 500,000 miles annually to and from school and for school trips. Our private transportation contractors travel another 350,000 miles for our special education programs.

- One-third of our transportation fleet is located approximately 50 feet from the railroad tracks in the center of the Village. Should there be any incident in that proximity (e.g. derailment, train stalls or slowdowns) our equipment would be vulnerable to damage.

Significant delays and safety situations will occur throughout our district as buses cross the EJ&E line approximately 230 times per day to deliver students to and from all of our schools.

- In addition to the location of our fleet, the hub of our district wide technology infrastructure is located within 50 feet of the railroad tracks.

- The EJ&E rail line intersects several major thoroughfares in our school district. There are only two elevated crossings in the entire district with all other crossings at grade. This increased freight traffic will dramatically affect the commute times of staff, students and parents, which could jeopardize the safety of the area's children as they travel to and from classes.

- Lake Zurich High School and May Whitney Elementary School are located immediately adjacent to the EJ&E tracks, raising critical environmental and safety concerns in the wake of increased freight traffic. There is currently no fence or barrier separating the schools from the tracks. We know, in spite of repeated warnings, that students use the tracks as a cut through to get to school.

- More than 500 of the high school's 2,200 students either walk or transport themselves to school each day. We can expect hurried or impulsive behavior among teens crossing the tracks as they rush to get to school, which could lead to tragic consequences.

- In addition to these dangerous conditions, increased rail traffic will result in significant transportation disruptions, delayed emergency response times and add significant costs to our school district taxpayers to mitigate the issues cited above.

The proposed EJ&E acquisition, if approved, will adversely affect the welfare of students and staff, as well as our responsibility to provide a safe and cost-effective education for the community. I implore you to think seriously about the safety and welfare of our students before you approve this acquisition.

Eye & Hearing Screening

Find out whether you have a potential problem with sight or sound by taking advantage of the free vision and hearing screenings



offered by the Lake Zurich Lions Club. Testing centers for both sight and hearing will be set up in the parking lot and basement of St. Francis de Sales Church on Buesching Road on Sunday, October 5, from 3-6 p.m.

The Lions Club's Mobile Hearing Screening bus is equipped with audiometric equipment to test for hearing losses at a variety of pitches. People over 18 years of age can be tested free. People ages 10-17 need parental consent.

The Vision Screening test will be conducted inside the church. The test checks for diabetic retinopathy, a condition that often results in blurred, distorted, darkened or double vision. Early detection can eliminate these problems and other retinal diseases, including macular degeneration. People with diabetes, a family history of diabetes or people over age 55 are encouraged to have their eyes checked for this potential problem, and you must be at least 10-years-old to be checked.

LZHS ACT Scores Up!



"While we are excited about this increase in ACT scores, we know that we can do even 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 a significant increase in test scores.

"This increase in ACT scores is a great positive step for Lake Zurich High School," said Superintendent Dr. Knutson. "Lake Zurich High School has set a goal of 24.1 on the ACT and this improvement moves them ever closer to that goal. The staff has been working together over the past four 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!"



Class of 2007 Remembers a True Friend of Education



School board members joined with Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) Principal **Kim Kolze**, **Laura Robillard** and her children, **Amber** and **Adam**, and other high school and school district staff on August 28 in front of LZHS for the dedication of a new memorial to **Gary**



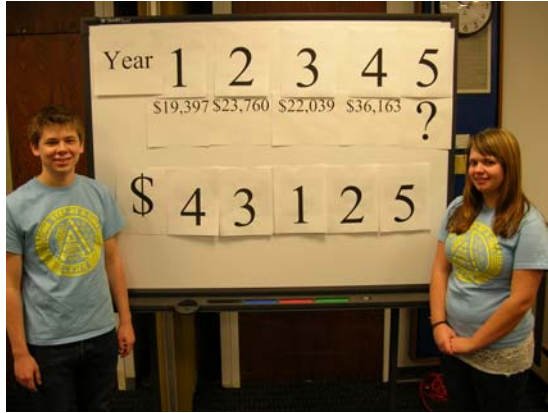
W. Robillard, former school board president for Community Unit School District

(CUSD) 95 who passed away April 15, 2007. The money for the plaque, which is set in a boulder near several benches at the front of the school, was raised by the Class of 2007 as a memorial to Robillard for all that he did to improve education for the children of CUSD 95.



Charity Bash Searching for New Charity

The Student Council of Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) is beginning the process of selecting the charity for this year's Charity Bash, a district-wide event taking place from December 3-14. Last year over 40 student organizations within District 95 schools sponsored activities which raised a record total of \$43,125 for the *One Step at a Time* summer camps. Since the inception of Charity Bash in 2003, the event has raised over \$144,000 for various charities in its five years.



Past Bears Charity Bash Recipients

2003 – Ryan York Foundation	\$19,397
2004 – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation	\$23,760
2005 – American Lung Association	\$22,039
2006 – American Brain Tumor Association	\$36,163
2007 – One Step at a Time Camps	\$43,125
Five Year Total:	\$144,484

The LZHS Student Council is currently seeking nominations for this year's charity. There are only two requirements. First, the charity must

benefit kids, and second, the charity must have a strong connection to the Lake Zurich community.

If you would like to nominate a charity for this year's event, please contact student council sponsor **Chris Bennett** at Christopher.Bennett@LZ95.org. In order for the charity to be selected, you will need to provide a short description of the charity, an explanation of its connection to the Lake Zurich area, and a contact number that the student council can

use to gather more information. Nominations are due by September 9, 2008.



Join the KeyCom Net

Get in the know about your public schools by joining the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network (KeyCom)**.

Our 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:

**Community Unit School District 95
Communications & Community Relations
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-2459
Phone: (847) 540-5489
Fax: (847) 438-6702
jim.jennings@lz95.org**

Help them start the school year right...

Donate today!



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 95
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION**



EDUCATION COMMUNITY BUSINESS

**Call 847.540.5494 or go to
www.district95foundation.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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