

How to Melt the Heart of a Grinch

Right: **Grinch Barbour** sits with his smelly Secret Santa gifts, his frozen heart now melting with his new found holiday spirit.

Every Who in CQ-ville (read staff at Charles Quentin School) loved their annual Secret Santa gift exchange a lot. That's why they were shocked that their new principal did not. He refused to participate saying "Hmpfh, I will not!" His name was **Alex Barbour**, but was quickly renamed **Grinch Barbour!**



The Whos in CQ-ville respected their principal and liked him a lot (at least the other months of the year). They said that it wasn't that his "heart was two sizes too small," it was believed it had simply been frozen some time that fall. That is why they planned and they schemed and thoughted and plotted and came up with a way to melt the heart of Grinch

Barbour. He would soon find that some invitations cannot and should not be declined!

When Grinch Barbour, an avid fisherman, arrived at work on Monday, he found a huge mounted fish in his way. It was stuffed with a note that he chose not to reveal.

The staff waited and wondered and

fretted and pondered what reaction Grinch Barbour would have to their deed. But, he simply smiled and went on his way, muttering "Try they may, but Secret Santa, no way!"

On Tuesday, **Grinch Barbour** arrived at work thinking Secret Santa was through. Oh, how wrong he would be.

Cont. on Pg. 2--See *Grinch Barbour*

Remember to Take the 2005-2006 Stakeholder Survey

While parents and community members are preparing for the holidays, Community Unit School District 95 is encouraging staff members and residents within the district to take 10 minutes or less to fill out the district's 2005-2006 Stakeholder Survey, which was mailed to all homes and businesses as part of *District Doings*, the district's news magazine. Community members can also fill out the survey on-line via a link from the district's web site at www.lz95.org. As of December 20, nearly 300 surveys had been either filled out on-line or returned via U.S. Mail. Last year, more than 800 surveys were returned.

Developed by the district's Office of Communications and Community Relations, the 36-question survey is designed to gather community information and opinions regarding the district's nine schools, its curriculum, strategic plan and other aspects of school operations. The returned surveys—which will be compared with last year's stakeholder survey re-

sults—will help the district and its Board of Education work to align limited resources to best meet the educational needs of its children and the communities served by the school district.

According to Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, it is important for everyone to complete and return the survey.

"It is important that all residents fill out the survey either online or by mailing it back in the provided postage-paid envelope," said Dr. Knutson. "The information the community provides us through this survey will benefit our children and our schools."

The analysis of the data collected from the surveys will be shared with the Board and the communities it serves later in the school year.

For more information, call the Office of Communications and Community Relations, (847) 540-5489.

Take the Stakeholder Survey @ www.lz95.org!

Grinch Barbour cont.

When he entered his office, his eyes grew wide for there were piles and piles of gummy worms and gummy fish inside, along with written words warning him to reconsider.

But Grinch Barbour merely smiled then growled, "I must stop this Secret Santa this year!" The he chuckled and sneered and said "breakfast is served" as he bit the heads off his gummy delights.

Grinch Barbour went to work trying to dig up some clues, but by the end of the day he merely had sticky, gummy shoes.

Wednesday came and **Grinch Barbour** hoped that Secret Santa and his or her minions must have finished their fun...but they had merely just begun. Upon entering his office, he found a small Christmas tree made out of one fish, two fish green fish and red fish (goldfish crackers)...and yet more written words that he read with little glee.

A normally good natured man, **Grinch Barbour** smiled before his staff, while mentally trying to figure out which one(s) could be behind these rather fishy tasks.

By Thursday morning, **Grinch Barbour** was becoming resigned to his fate, but still surprised when he arrived to find 15 live goldfish swimming in 15 little lakes (cups). Fourteen were gold and one was discolored and he soon discovered labeled "Scrooge fish." It quickly became **Grinch Barbour's** favorite. Of course, along with the fish was the ever present poem.

It read: *Now Santa knows you're eager to come in early to see your gift. He left Grinch Barbour a collection of gold to give you a lift. Please don't drink them or use them for bait. This is your choice, so this is your fate.*

On Friday, he arrived and with a tremor in his hand, reached out to open his door. The smell that first greeted him made his lips curl, for sitting before him were a formerly live trout and numerous sardines on crackers lying about, with a bear in a canoe in the middle of the mess.

At that point he knew that his Grinch days were through.

"Maybe Secret Santa," he thought, "isn't such a bore. Maybe Secret Santa means much more!"

Well what happened then? Well, in CQ-ville anyway, was that Grinch Barbour's heart melted that day. He then promised his staff to participate in every way...next year! With a gleam in his eye he turned and then muttered "Wait till they get a load of my gifts," his heart all a flutter.

Editor's Note: For those who give a who, much of the above story is true. However, some creative license was taken after the author had consumed massive quantities of bacon.

P.U. is for YOU!

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, March 4, 2006, District 95 is presenting the 12th annual PARENT UNIVERSITY. Plan on spending an inspirational morning with **Char Wenc**, speaker and award-winning author of, *Parenting-Are We Having Fun Yet?*

PARENT UNIVERSITY is geared to parents and grandparents of children ages preschool through high school. Many great sessions dealing with a variety of parenting topics and issues are planned for this year's event.

Titles for some of the sessions include: *The Challenging Child, Internet Dangers, From Tee-Ball to Testosterone—What a Son Needs From His Dad, From Walking to Weddings—What a Daughter needs From Her Dad, Overindulging Your Children, Substance Abuse In Our Community, The Top Ten Signs It Is Time To Talk To Your Kid About Money, How To Build the Muscle of Confidence In Our Children*, and more!

A continental breakfast and lunch as well as child care will be provided. Registration forms will be sent home in January.

Questions? Call **Lori Schwartz** (847) 438-1949.

SP Students Turn Songwriters



Students at Seth Paine Elementary School became songwriters recently with the help of singer/songwriter **Justin Roberts**. It was all part of a cultural arts program that demonstrated the songwriting process in a fun, participatory way.

District 95 Raises Over \$34,000 for Katrina Relief

Working for the common cause of helping those affected by the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, the schools, PTOs, clubs and other organizations of Community Unit School District 95 raised more than \$34,000 in relief aid. The monies were



donated to the American Red Cross, Hancock-Ela Area Long-term Partnership (H.E.L.P.), an affected Mississippi middle school, and other organizations.

What originally had been a \$20,000 goal by Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** was quickly surpassed due to the efforts and generosity of the schools and citizens within the district's boundaries. The money was collected through many ways, including: penny drives, bake sales, various PTO sales, \$1 hat days, music benefits, and even a faculty basketball game pitting the faculties of Lake Zurich Middle School South against Lake Zurich Middle School North.

As far as the major donations, more than \$19,000 went directly to the American Red Cross, while more than \$7,500 collected at the charity basketball game and related fund raisers was donated to the Bay-Waveland Middle School in Mississippi, which was devastated by the hurricane and resulting flood waters. The students and staff at Sarah Adams Elementary School donated more than \$4,500 to H.E.L.P., a local

coalition providing direct relief to the residents of Hancock County, Mississippi, while lesser amounts went to other relief agencies.

The announcement of the total amount raised was made during the December 15 meeting of the Board of Educa-

tion, at which time American Red Cross representative **Carol Lee** accepted the donation on behalf of the Red Cross.

In addition to the funds that were collected, the Lake Zurich High School Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) and Interact clubs donated approximately 100 boxes of basic supplies, while the high school donated two pianos that will help schools who lost all of their music equipment in the hurricane.

The schools of District 95 and their PTOs also donated many items to H.E.L.P that were than shipped down to the residents of Hancock County.

"I have been so impressed and proud of the outpouring of love and support our schools and communities have shown to those affected by this tragedy," said Dr. Knutson. "Our staff, children and their families know we have much for which to be thankful, and they have demonstrated time and time again their willingness to share what they have with others in need."

Pictured at left: (holding sign) Red Cross representative **Carol Lee** and Board member **Roger Tieman**. Back row (from left) Board member **John Kropf**, Board vice president **Kathy Brown**, Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, PTO representative **Kristie Wagner**, Board member **Jeff Didier**, Board president **Gary Robillard** and Board secretary **Jan Putbress**.

Free Preschool Screening

Parents of children who are three to five years of age and reside in Community Unit School District 95 are invited to participate in a free screening that will evaluate their child's speech and language, concept development, fine and gross motor skills, and vision and hearing.

The screening for all children will be on Thursday, January 26, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon. at St. Francis de Sales Church Ministry Center, 135 S. Buesching Rd., Lake Zurich. Children must already be three years old by the screening date.

To make an appointment for your child's screening, please call the District 95 Special Education office at (847) 540-7060 by January 19.

IF Fun Fair Coming 2006

All students and families belonging to Isaac Fox Elementary School in Lake Zurich should mark there 2006 calendars now for the annual fun-filled Funtastic Fun Fair on Saturday, January 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Isaac Fox Elementary School, 395 Cuba Road, Lake Zurich.

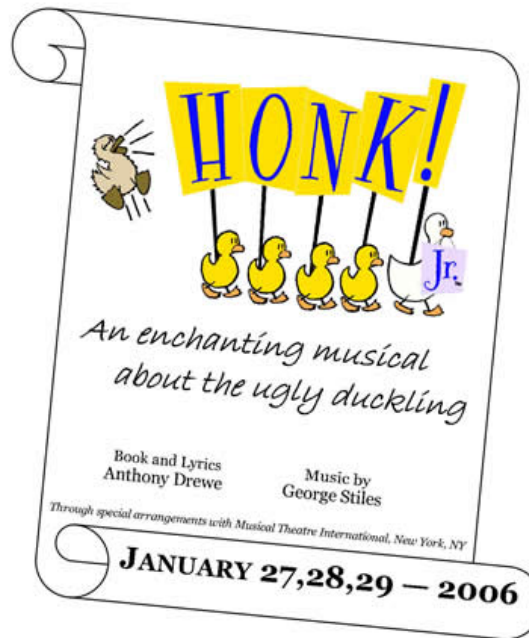
The event, which is hosted by the Parent Teacher Organization, includes games for all ages, food, a bake sale, cake walk, raffle prizes, and more. This is one of the highlights of the year so don't miss out!

Board Presents Monthly Honors



At its regular December 15 meeting, the Board of Education presented Student/Staff/Volunteer of the Month honors to the following:

- **Wes Gibbert** – Senior, Lake Zurich High School
- **Scott Hoff** – Sixth Grade, Middle School South
- **Tony Green** – Eighth Grade, Middle School North
- **Bryce Kapitzky** – Second Grade, Spencer Loomis
- **Alexandra Sadler** – Third Grade, Seth Paine
- **Emil Iliev** – Third Grade, May Whitney
- **Angela Gaggiano** – First Grade, Sarah Adams
- **Meagan Bens** – Third Grade, Isaac Fox
- **Ryan Hack** – First Grade, Charles Quentin
- **Kristen Krueger** – First Grade Teacher, May Whitney
- **Kimberly Gross** – Volunteer, Sarah Adams School



Do You Like to Know Stuff?

Do you like to know things before others in the community? Do others seek your opinion? If so, then you are a perfect candidate for 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 Com, 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 KeyCom member, simply call, email or fax:

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Office of Communications
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-
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**Phone: (847) 540-5489
Fax: (847) 438-6702
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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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