



North Students Build, Market Skateboard Parks to Investors

Right: The MSN "Ice Cream Park" design team stands proudly behind their model of a skateboard park. The group had earlier marketed their design to a group of potential 'investors'.

Below: One of the skateboard parks featured a live "shark" tank. Because this was a miniature model, guppies replaced the sharks in the tank.



The worlds of science, sports and business came together October 5 at Middle School North when students in teacher **Jerry Clemens'** science class demonstrated their innovative skateboard park designs to a group of savvy 'investors' as part of their "Skate Expo." The students, divided into different design teams, demonstrated for the investors their designs, the science behind their parks, and the benefits of "investing" in their skateboard parks.



The skateboard parks—complete with their own unique designs, themes and decorations—included everything from an ice cream-themed park to others featuring flowers, and live "sharks" (since this was a

miniature model, guppies were substituted for the sharks).

The skateboard park presentations were the culmination of a science unit on "skateboard science." The students worked in teams to explore the physics in the sport of skateboarding. The physics concepts

that were incorporated into the lesson included potential and kinetic energy, heat, conservation of energy, friction, gravitational pull, inertia and force.

The student teams applied these concepts into practical applications as they researched, designed and built their cardboard working

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YOU! Can H.E.L.P. Bring Hope to Hurricane Ravaged Hancock

In this publication, we have shared with you the efforts and mission of the newly formed Hancock

County-Ela Area Long-Term Partnership--also known as H.E.L.P.-- to assist Hancock County, Mississippi, an area ravaged by the hurricanes.

Many of those who survived and have stayed in Hancock County are living out of

tents. Mosquitoes and other pests have become a real problem, as has obtaining essential life support items such as fresh water, food, fuel, bedding, kitchen utensils, etc.

H.E.L.P.--a coalition of Ela area communities, governments, public and private schools, churches, businesses, service organizations, and citizens--is taking a much more personal approach by deciding to

provide Hancock County with supplies and the materials it needs to rebuild its communities. The

focus will be long-term.

"This isn't just for one-time assistance," said Lake Zurich Mayor **Jim Krischke**. "Hancock County needs our help both now and for the long-term, and we are going to provide that long-term assistance."

H.E.L.P. held its first organizational meeting on September 19. Since then, the group has quickly added coalition

members, developed transportation lines to Mississippi, coordinated contribution campaigns,

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Right: A Waveland, MS woman stares in disbelief at what was once her home.



Far Right: Volunteers with Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church (a member of H.E.L.P.) load supplies that will be sent to Hancock County, MS.



SL Tunes to WSLs-TV

The morning announcements at Spencer Loomis Elementary School have gotten much more exciting lately...not that they were ever boring. Instead of hearing a disembodied voice emanating from a loudspeaker, students at Spencer Loomis turn on their classroom TVs and tune into WSLs, the school's internal television broadcast



Right: The WSLs news team prepares to go on the air with the day's announcements.

system, to hear the daily announcements from their fellow students.

The on-air news team consists of a second, third, fourth and fifth grader, with the talent rotating weekly to allow as many students as possible the chance to participate. Those students who are interested in being on the air must fill out an application and be in good standing at the school.

The new television announcement system was piloted last year after teacher **Vicki Kay** learned about it at a workshop on technology. She

brought the idea back to Spencer Loomis School, where she quickly won the support of Principal **Grant Seaholm** and her fellow teachers. She then sought funding from the school PTO for microphones, video-



Above: Students tune in to WSLs-TV for the daily announcements.

tapes and other necessary equipment.

The morning video segment has been a big hit since its inception. At the beginning of the week students are eager to see which of their fellow students will be serving as the week's on-air personalities.

"The children really pay attention and are excited to see their friends on TV," said Kay. "As one of the children re-entered her classroom after giving the announcements, the entire class burst into applause."

While fun, the on-air announcements also provide a real learning opportunity for the children. The children must use their writing and literacy skills, as well as their speech and presentation skills to deliver the daily announcements.

For those not interested in being on the air, there is still room for them to become involved. Recently, the school held a contest to design the area seen on-camera (known as the "set").

Since the camera and video production equipment sit comfortably on a small cart, the show can also be done live from anywhere around the school.

H.E.L.P. Bring Hope *cont.*

and developed the communication channels essential to getting everyone in the area involved.

Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church, a member of the H.E.L.P. coalition, has already taken down thousands of dollars worth of cleaning supplies, pesticides, rakes, shovels, garbage bags and other necessary equipment to Hancock County with



plans to go again to deliver the additional donations from H.E.L.P.

According to H.E.L.P. organizing member **Cindy Law**, the group is actively seeking donations of bedroom and kitchen supplies for the month of October.

Schools in District 95, as well as other area public and private schools, churches and other locations are serving as drop-off locations for donated supplies. An account has also been created at Cambridge Bank so that residents can make contributions that will directly aid Hancock County. Financial contributions can be sent to:

Cambridge Bank
1100 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Attn: H.E.L.P.

For more information on how you can H.E.L.P. with your donations and/or time, call **Bonnie Matheson** at the Lake Zurich Parks & Recreation Department, (847) 438-5798, or visit the H.E.L.P. web site at www.elahelp.org.

Kitchen & Bedroom Supplies accepted at the following locations:

This is the first of many H.E.L.P. donation drives. Please drop off your donations at these sites by October 21.

- **District 95 Schools:** May Whitney, Seth Paine, Spencer Loomis, Isaac Fox, Sarah Adams, Charles Quentin, Middle School South, Middle School North, LZHS, Administration Center
- **Schools/Churches:** St. Francis de Sales, St. Matthews, Alpine Chapel, Harvest Bible Chapel, Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church
- **Businesses/Villages:** Foglia YMCA, Lake Zurich Police Department, Kildeer Village Hall, Hawthorn Woods Police Department

Interviews Will Prepare Students for "Real World"

More than 200 Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) students will take part in a two-day mock interview training experience coordinated by the Lake Zurich High School Career Advisory Council (CAC), at the Ela Area Public Library on October 17 and October 26, 2005.

The interview training is designed to help the students prepare for the types of interviews they will face when applying for employment or college admissions. Business professionals throughout the area will take time from their busy work schedules to provide this "real-world" interviewing experience for the Juniors and Seniors in Consumer Education classes at Lake Zurich High School. By enlisting the help of business professionals, students will learn what today's employers are looking for when hiring.

On October 6, a group of volunteer interview trainers demonstrated "good" and "bad" interviewing strategies in Consumer Education classes at the high school. This was done prior to the students' actual interviews in order to emphasize techniques and skills that will help them perform better in not only the CAC provided exercise, but in real-life interviewing situations.

The volunteers included: **Sue Moenning**, retired LZHS teacher; **David Sprehe**, LZHS Writing Center Coordinator; **Julia Becich**, District 95 Director of Human Resources; **Craig Lehig** and **Sheila Tanner**, LZHS Guidance Department; **Gil Fonger**, Foglia YMCA; and **Sue Ditsch**, **Darren Rothermel**, and **Joe Kedzior**, LZHS Consumer Education teachers.

"Although the exercise is a required academic project, the process helps the students improve skills that will benefit them in their working career, including: self confidence, body language, proper business dress, cover letter and resume writing, the interviewing process, and more," said **Erica Christianson**, Director of Popular Materials at the Ela Area Public Library, a past president of the CAC and Co-Chair of the CAC Interview Committee.

Christianson said that more interviewers are needed. If you would like to be a volunteer interviewer on October 17 and/or 26, please call David Sprehe, (847) 540-4383.

The Lake Zurich High School Career Advisory Council (CAC) is comprised of volunteers from local businesses, organizations, District 95 and members of the community. The members commit their time to provide students with guidance and support to create a better understanding of career opportunities. The CAC strives to establish enrichment programs that enable students to successfully make the transition from school to the workplace.

The Career Advisory Council also hosts a Career Fair for the students in the spring. The fair is another way the Career Advisory Council assists students in career preparation and provides a venue for local companies to speak to their future workforce.

For more information about the Lake Zurich High School Career Advisory Council, please contact **Eric Hamilton**, Assistant Principal at Lake Zurich High School, 847-540-4112, or e-mail him at eric.hamilton@lz95.org.

"Orch Dork" Duo Creates National Media Frenzy

Steffi Weiss and **Jordyn Ford** are "Orch Dorks" and wear the sometimes derisive label proudly on shirts of their own design. Their Orch Dork pride in being members of the Lake Zurich High School Orchestra has caught the interest of the national news media, including CNN, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, the Boston Globe and many, many others.

The latest news outlet to surf the Orch Dork wave is WMAQ-TV, the Chicago affiliate of NBC. The news station will interview the two, and videotape the orchestra on Friday, October 14, at noon, in the high school orchestra room under the watchful eye of music instructor **Elizabeth Jones**.

Weiss and Ford created their Orch Dork shirts last year as a way to show the pride and passion they have for their music and the orchestra. While Weiss is also an honor student as well as a track and cross-country athlete, it is her love of music that means the most to her.

The news media attention came after **Ellen Weiss**, Steffi's mom and a marketing director, responded to a New York Associated Press (AP) writer's inquiry over the PR Newswire service seeking high school students who were proud of being either 'geeks' or 'dorks'. Steffi was interviewed by the AP in July, the day before the Weiss family left for vacation. The story piqued the interest of many editors and ran throughout the nation.

"It was strange walking down the street on vacation and suddenly seeing your daughter's face on the front page of the local newspaper," said Weiss.

According to Ellen Weiss, the two girls have taken the media attention in stride and with a certain amount of pride for the positive focus on their music and their high school orchestra.



Above: **Steffi Weiss**, right, and friend, **Jordyn Ford**, cut out letters to create "Orch Dorks" shirts. --AP Photo

Skateboard Parks cont.

models of skateboarding parks using everyday materials. During the science unit, the students assumed many roles including scientist, architect, engineer, accountant and salesperson.



“As a teacher,” said Clemens, “one often wonders if their students are really ‘getting it’ in terms of understanding the concepts and ‘real world’ applications and implications behind what is being taught. These students blew me away in what came out in their model

construction and their presentations at the Expo. I was amazed with what they were saying and demonstrated in terms of applied physics, and was overwhelmed with a sense of ‘they get it!’”

The budding park builders included: **Julia Barre, Laura Benz, Andrew Borniak, Stephanie Burks, Michael Caplan, Emily Daab, Danielle Dawson, Rebecca DeLaTorre, James Elser, Ashley Gallagher, Laurelle Gilbert, Jessica Hatz, Samantha Hilt, Matt Koduvathra, Lindsay Krueger, Kaitlyn Levin, Erin Muncer, Brittany Murawski, Anthony Picuch, Amanda Ponce, Claire Sabitt, Margaret Schirmann, Stacy Schuler, Carl Tauberman, and Adrian Tostado.**

To learn more about Skateboard Science, or about the class, visit www.lz95.org/msn/faculty/jclemens.

Communication Forum Draws Few

The first Board of Education community forum for the new school year drew nearly 40 people to a discussion on communication. Unfortunately, less than 10 of those in attendance were parents or community members who are not employed by the district. The rest were Board of Education members, administrators or support staff.

While the lack of community attendance was disappointing, those community members who did attend learned about the district’s current communication efforts, including the extensive amount of information that can be found on the district’s web site (www.lz95.org). The community members also freely gave their opinions of the district’s efforts and what remains to be done.

“Judging by the comments of those who attended we can feel good about the progress of our communication efforts,” said Dr. Knutson. “However, we also know that we can continue to improve upon our communication in all areas.”

It was that dialogue that was most encouraging to **Gary Robillard**, board president and facilitator of the forum, and Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**.

While virtually everyone agreed that communication both externally and within the district had improved greatly, more still can be done. Whether it is talking more about the district’s strategic plan, or openly dealing with the problems and challenges faced by the school district, community members want to know it all.

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:

**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**

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