



Most Exciting Day of the Year!

On August 23, more than 6,000 students, many with relieved parents, traded in their summer

vacations for a new year of learning in the schools of Community Unit School District 95.

"Our first day was a mixture of smiling faces, filled backpacks, and excited students and teachers meeting each other for the first time," said **Jill Brooks**, Principal of Isaac Fox Elementary School. "We're excited about another year together, and we're looking forward to more

opportunities to celebrate the exciting relationships between the families and the school here at Isaac Fox."

That feeling was shared at all of the district's schools.

"The first day of school at Seth Paine was fantastic," said Laura Gammons, Principal of Seth Paine School. "The skies were sunny and everyone had a sunny disposition as well. Our custodial staff out did themselves with classrooms that were spick and span. Teachers had decorated their rooms and they looked fantastic."

"We welcomed 2,203 students," said Lake Zurich High School Principal **Mike Egan**. "We've hit the ground running with very few problems and a lot of enthusiasm from both teachers and students."

"We had an awesome first day of school here at Charles Quentin School," said Principal **Alex Barbour**. "Both students and staff were excited to begin a new school year."

"We had an excellent first day of school," said a smiling **Grant Seaholm**, Principal at Spencer Loomis Elementary School. "We had no tears by students, parents, teachers, or administrators. It was our smoothest first day ever."

The students at Lake Zurich Middle School South (MSS) also experienced a great start to the



school year. All sixth grade students began their day in the gymnasium to meet their teachers, and heard a short talk from Principal **David Gardner**. Seventh and eighth grade students went through their schedules for each class and were very helpful to the sixth

graders and new students in their efforts to navigate the school's crowded hallways.

"As a newcomer," said **Keir Rogers**, Principal of Middle School North, "it did not take me long to understand that Middle School North was more than just a spectacular building; this school community has made it something greater. Our 6th grade students are proving to be very resilient as middle school can be a tough transition."

The day was just as great at May Whitney Elementary School.

"May Whitney students and teachers were all smiles," said **Dr. Deb Breummer**, Principal. "Everybody is very happy to be back at school."

According to Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, the first day of school is the most exciting of the school year.

"Nothing beats the first day of school," explained Dr.

Knutson. "It is the most exciting day of the year. The excitement is like an electrical charge that you can feel in every school and classroom. I can tell from what I saw in our schools, that we are going to have an exciting school year."

Right: A May Whitney School student unpacks her many school supplies on the first day of school.



Far Right: An excited Spencer Loomis student lines up for the first day of school.

Right: The Isaac Fox School PTO held a Chinese-themed lunch for school staff and other invited guests.



New Synthetic Field Nears Completion

The football field at Lake Zurich High School is growing greener one strip and one stitch at a time. Thanks to the vision of the “Go for the Goal” citizens committee, the growing list of donors, and show of good faith by the Board of Education, the installation of the new synthetic turf is nearly completed and is expected to be ready for the Bears’ first home game September 9.

The proposal for the field was first presented to the Board of Education by Goal for the Field co-chairs **Mark Hutton, Geoff Meyer** and District 95 Athletic Director **Gene Curran** on June 9. Since that time, the committee has been busy contacting potential donors. While the citizens committee has not yet reached its fund raising goal, it had raised enough in a matter of weeks to begin the project.

According to the Goal for the Field Committee, all donations of any size are welcome and tax deductible. Donors can make their checks payable



to “LZHS-Goal for the Field” and send them to P.O. Box 433, Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

All donors will be recognized by Lake Zurich High School in the sports programs. Additionally, a lasting visual tribute to all individual/family donors making contributions

greater than \$500 (\$1,000 corporate) will be placed in a prominent location near the Field House.

“The community has a history of supporting good causes and we are confident that residents will once again demonstrate their support for improved facilities and opportunities for students,” said Meyer.

In addition to Hutton, Meyers and Curran, Goal for the Field Committee members include: **Karen Blackwell, Steve Blanchard, Steve Callahan, Mike Clements, Marcia Falkanger, Joe Heffernan, Janet Kremer, Tom Kress, Lori Kruse, Ed Toczyski, and Tom Vogan.**

LZHS Continues to Outperform State/Nation on ACT



Continuing its tradition of educational excellence, Lake Zurich High School students scored well above the state and national averages on the 2004 ACT exam, an annual college readiness

examination. The average composite score of 22.5—the same score as in 2003—was well above the state average of 20.3, as well as the national average score of 20.9.

A total of 453 Lake Zurich High School Juniors (this year’s graduating class of 2005) took the exam in April of 2004. The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading and science that are designed to measure college readiness. Illinois is one of only two states that requires all juniors to take the ACT exam. That requirement was initiated in the 2001 school year. Prior to then, it was largely only college-bound students who took the exam.

According to **Dr. Beverly Smith**, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning for District 95, ACT test scores have been relatively stable, with a .3 increase in math, a .1 increase in science, a .2 decrease in English, and a .3 decrease in reading.

“Our students continue to outperform the state and national averages,” said Dr. Smith. “Their performance demonstrates the importance

placed on a quality



education by our students, their families, our staff and our community. However, there is always room for improvement, which is why the district in all grades made reading, English and language arts a major focus last year. That emphasis on language arts, as well as math and science will continue this school year.”

PAC Offers Interactive Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz

Want to pretend you're in a movie? Feel like singing with the actors? Come to the *Wizard of Oz Movie Sing-A-Long!* Celebrate the story of Dorothy and her fantastic journey on October 1, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School, 300 Church St. in Lake Zurich.

During the movie, you can sing your favorite songs from the *Wizard of Oz!* You don't need to know the words to join in the fun, just read them from the screen. Dress up as your favorite Oz character, participate in the costume parade and



maybe win a prize! Included in the price of a ticket is the "Perform-a-long fun pack" for interactive fun during the show! Ticket prices are only \$10 each.

Mail your check along with the requested number of tickets to: LZHS Theatre Program/ *Wizard of Oz*; 300 Church St., Lake Zurich, IL 60047 - or call the ticket hotline at: (847) 540-4740 to place your order.

For more information, contact **Linda Thomsen** of the Lake Zurich High School Drama Dept. Publicity Committee via email at Thomsen@pioneerlocal.com, or by phone at (847) 797-5132.

SP Welcomes New Families

The Seth Paine School PTO hosted a special luncheon for the school's kindergarten families and those families new to the school today, August 26, in the Seth Paine School library.



According to PTO President **Petra Croneigh**, the purpose of the luncheon, which is a new activity this year, is to welcome the new families to the school and to introduce them to the PTO and the many activities and forms of support the group provides to Seth Paine Elementary School and its member families.

District Mourns Loss of Two Friends, Child Advocates

While the start of a new school year brings great joy for the staff of our school district, we are starting this year without two dear friends who meant so much to so many of us.

Joan Bednarz, a wonderful school nurse at May Whitney School and a true advocate for children, passed away unexpectedly on August 15.

We also learned over the last weekend that Julie DePasquale, the beloved Food Service Manager at Lake Zurich High School and also an advocate for young people, lost her battle with cancer on Friday, August 19.

Joanie and Julie are both greatly missed, and I ask that you keep Joanie's and Julie's families, friends and co-workers in your thoughts and prayers.

Perhaps the greatest tribute we can pay to Joanie and Julie is to continue caring for each and every child as if they are our own, for that is what they did each and every day. --Brian Knutson

Board of Ed Gives Praise, Approval of FY06 Budget

During its regular August 25 meeting, the Board of Education praised the district administration for bringing forward a balanced FY06 budget that was approved unanimously. The total budget for the new fiscal year is \$64,863,113, which is just over \$3 million more than FY 2005.

According to **Jon Hitcho**,

Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, who presented the budget to the Board, the increase is largely in the Education fund, which pays for curriculum and teaching supplies, as well as the compensation for teachers and all other district staff. Most of the other funds actually decreased over the previous fiscal year.

Although the Illinois School Code states that the budget must be adopted by September 30, District 95 changed its time line for adoption of the budget so that the budget would be in place before school begins.

District 95 has adopted a systems approach to budget development that allows for staff and community input. This year, the district has made its budget development the most inclusive with the help of an advisory group composed of

administrators, teachers and other certified staff, support staff and community members.

The Budget Committee's first meeting was on February 25, 2005 and the group met seven times

to provide input to the school district.

The Budget Committee had six objectives in mind when formulating the budget plan. Those objectives were:

FUND	FY 05	FY 06	DIFFERENCE
Education	45,133,823	48,828,000	3,694,177
O/M	5,821,207	5,620,000	(201,207)
Bond/Interest	6,371,000	6,449,000	78,000
Transportation	6,252,926	5,467,000	(785,926)
IMRF/SS	891,300	1,509,000	617,700
Cap Outlay	375,000	246,750	(128,250)
Working Cash	17,857	16,000	(1,857)
TOTALS	64,863,113	68,135,750	3,272,637

1. Reserves in the operating funds at a level not less than 15% of next year's operating budget.
2. Provide for staff and operating expenses to meet student needs.
3. Align resources with the district's strategic plan.
4. Abandon programs and practices that do not move the district towards its mission.
5. Maintain safe and operationally sound facilities.
6. Present options to the Board of Education for the FY 2006 Budget.

The committee met all six of its objectives with the budget which was then presented to the Board and is now adopted.

Start off the School Year 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:

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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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The Mill

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Rumors and inaccurate information seem to fly faster than the speed of light. Left unchallenged, such misinformation is often mistaken for fact. The Mill is designed to answer such questions, rumors and issues with factual information.

Q: *What is the district policy on class room size?*

A: The Board policy on Student-Teacher Ratios refers to the current "Lake Zurich School District 95 Master Contract." Below, is the language from the contract:

APPENDIX D MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ELEMENTARY CLASS COUNTS AND CLASS SIZES

The following letter will be sent to all building principals before the close of each school year:

To Building Principals: Please provide me (superintendent) with a copy to personnel director with written updates of your class counts on June 10 (close of school) and August 15th (after final registration). Be sure to count only those students who are officially registered. The District's policy is that a section be created when a class size count reaches 28 in grades 1-5 and 26 in Kindergarten. Thus, no class in grades 1-5 would begin with more than 27 students and no kindergarten class would begin with more than 25. A grade level aide can be added when grades 1-5 reaches 27 students in a class. In determining class sizes, the administration shall work toward equitably distributing students with special needs within a grade level. Special education students receiving itinerant or resource services are part of the regular class count. Keep in mind we are not "weighting" special education students but rather objectively recognizing the time they spend in regular education classrooms supports the success of the program.

The Mill is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. We encourage you to send us your questions, rumors and issues. However, due to the volume of questions, not all may appear in this publication. Issues that would be considered confidential personnel matters will not be discussed by this publication. **Rumors, questions and issues can be sent to:** Jim Jennings, (847) 540-5489, jim.jennings@lz95.org.