

Betsy Gehlbach, Kathy Manchester Gain Recognition

Two years ago, seven Hawthorn teachers began the process to gain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. We are delighted to announce that two—Betsy Gehlbach, a third grade teacher at Elementary North and Kathy Manchester, a music teacher at Aspen—have successfully obtained National Board Certification®.

Standards for Certification National Board Certification® measures a teacher's practice against high and rigorous standards. The process is a series of performance-based assessments that includes teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, and thorough analyses of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning.

Teachers also complete

a series of written exercises that explore the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to students.

Eligibility is open to all teachers who hold bachelors' degrees and have three years of classroom experience. The certification is valid for 10 years, at which time a teacher can seek renewal.

Teachers who complete the process and pass the examinations for National Board Certification® are then eligible to apply for Illinois Master Teacher certificates.

Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook said that another group of teachers will begin the journey this spring. She also believes several more of the original group will soon earn this honor.

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January 2009

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

2009 Hawthorn Enrichment Institute

Even as our families build snowmen and drink steaming hot chocolate, the Hawthorn Enrichment Institute (HEI) team is preparing for next summer's adventure.

For 2009, HEI presents the Summer of the Blue Dolphin. HEI will again offer two sessions, each three weeks long, with no classes on Fridays. Camp Triple E, the Vernon Hills Park District's summer camp, will also be back in the afternoons.

The dates for Summer of the Blue Dolphin are June 15 through July 2, and July 6 through July 23. Students who will attend grades 1 through 8 in the fall may register and attend.

Students who have completed 8th grade have the opportunity to be a part of our ACE (Academic Counselor of Enrichment) Leadership Program. Lilly Olsen continues as the director of this unique learning opportunity.

Broad Spectrum of Activity

This year, HEI will offer our traditional menu of summer class selections, plus new Interest Pods. These clusters will focus on a single field of study for the entire morning. Teachers will collaborate on connected projects.

The Athletic Department will host a volleyball intensive program for older participants

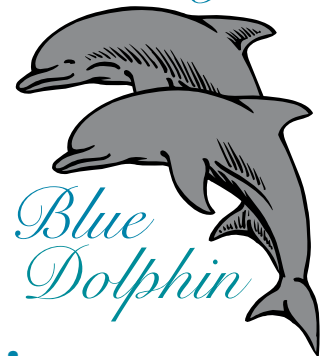
during HEI. This program will serve both beginning and advanced players.

Instrumental Music

The summer instrumental music program also continues to grow. We hope to have enough interest for students to march in the Vernon Hills parade on the Fourth of July.

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Summer of the



Kindergarten Information Meeting

On Thursday, January 29, Hawthorn administrators will host an information meeting for parents of all prospective 2009-2010 kindergartners. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm at Hawthorn Middle School North, 201 Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills.

Plans for the Evening

All parents will begin the evening in the multi-purpose room of at Middle North for a 15-minute overview of the kindergarten registration process.

After the introduction, parents will rotate to hear 20-minute presentations about each of the three options for their child's kindergarten experience.

Additionally, parents will have an opportunity to meet administrators from Aspen, Elementary North, Elementary South, and Townline.

Registration Dates

In-person kindergarten registration for all district families is scheduled for February 9

through 27 at the Hawthorn district office from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Evening hours have been scheduled from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm on February 12 and 24.

The last day to return kindergarten registration forms is Friday, February 27.

See the next page for a schedule of building tours. Please do not call to arrange a special tour.

Building Tours for New Kindergarten Parents

Principals will host tours of the buildings for parents of new kindergarten students as follows:

Monday, February 2, 2009

Elementary North
Elementary South
8:00 am - 8:30 am and
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Townline Elementary
8:00 am - 8:30 am and
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 5, 2009

Aspen Elementary
8:00 am - 8:30 am and
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Aspen and Townline Information Nights

Families of students in grades 1 - 5 whose students are not enrolled at Aspen or Townline are welcome to attend the following information meetings:

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Townline Elementary
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Learn more about Townline and the Dual Language Spanish-English program.

Thursday, February 5, 2009

Aspen Elementary
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Learn more about the philosophy and programs at Aspen.

Please note that these meetings will provide the same information as presented at the kindergarten meetings. If you attended a kindergarten tour at Aspen or Townline, you do not need to visit the school again.

Students have one class period each morning to assemble and continue their music instruction. It is a wonderful way to have your student practice and not lose music skills over the summer months. The HEI summer band and orchestra does not conflict with the Hawthorn Summer Music Camp.

More Information

Keep an eye open for the new brochure of offerings for the Summer of the Blue Dolphin, or check the HEI information on the Hawthorn 73 website.

Summer school principal Robin O'Connor and assistant principal Jan Greene are available to answer questions you may have. Please

e-mail them at < oconnorr@hawthorn73.org > and < greenej@hawthorn73.org > . You can reach them by phone at 847-990-4376.

Both HEI administrators and teaching staff look forward to another great season of learning and fun.

Think Summer!



Writing Across the Curriculum

According to Doug Reeves, a national expert in the field of education, as the emphasis on classroom nonfiction writing grows, student achievement improves.

Director of Student Achievement and 21st Century Learning Lisa Cerauli and Coordinator of Staff Development Karen Olker recently explained that the Hawthorn faculty understands this concept and that teachers have been working to incorporate writing across all areas of the curriculum. As Cerauli noted,

“All of our schools have made writing a primary goal of their school improvement plans.” Olker added that staff development has had writing across the curriculum as a focus area for all teachers since last summer.

Teaching teams continue to work to identify the characteristics of great writing that are expected of Hawthorn students.

Home-School Connection

In order to support the home-school connection, the fall

2008 parent nights focused on a variety of writing topics, including rubrics, technology tools for writing, and tips for helping their students become better writers.

The emphasis on writing already seems to be making a difference. The fall 2008 assessment scores from the ECRA Group show improvement from the same time one year earlier. We are confident our continuing focus on writing will benefit our students in all academic areas.



English Language Assessment

ACCESS is a yearly standardized English assessment for qualified students who receive English language support. The assessment is used to monitor and gauge each student's yearly growth in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing English. The assessment is given to English

as a Second Language students in kindergarten through eighth grade. This year's ACCESS tests will be administered between January 12 and February 20.

Reports of the assessments are usually sent home in early August. ACCESS results are a good way for teachers, ad-

ministrators, and parents to understand each child's needs in the classroom.

Please feel free to contact your child's English as a Second Language teacher or Lara Christoun, the Bilingual Coordinator, if you have questions about the ACCESS assessment or reports.

Hawthorn Happenings

Townline kindergarten students, as part of a unit on diversity, organized a service project to benefit kids in need. After reading a story titled *The Mitten Tree*, students and their families collected 150 pairs of gloves and mittens (as well as hats and scarves) to be donated to a local Vernon Hills charity. ✨ First graders went on



a whirlwind holiday tour to learn about customs around the world. They visited many countries including: Sweden, Holland, England, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Korea, Japan, Kenya, Germany, France, India, and the United States. ✨ In January, fourth grade students went on a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry as preparation for a science unit on force and motion. In social studies, they are learning about the land, economy, and culture of the Midwest. ✨ Fifth grade students have been busy! From learning about Canada's Provinces in social studies to choosing an inventor to research in science, they are keeping the learning wheels moving. In

writing, students are completing a unit on narrative writing and have been actively using My Access. ✨ First and second grade Spanish students have been learning verbs, adjectives, and other vocabulary in the context of family and community units. ✨ The Townline Eagle Chorus presented the musical, "Once Upon a Housetop," throughout the community. They also performed this international holiday celebration for Sedgebrook Assisted Living in Lincolnshire, Hawthorn Lakes Retirement Center, Townline Elementary, and the Hawthorn Educational Services Center. ✨ Physical education students have had a focus on fitness. They were introduced to fitness components including the cardiovascular system, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

First graders at **Elementary South** completed a study of the forest habitat by selecting an animal that lives in the forest and doing research to learn more about its appearance, diet, and habitat. ✨ In social studies, students participated in a holiday tour around the world. ✨ As part of a unit on community, second graders toured the Vernon Hills Police Department. They also sent Curious George to various places in our community. ✨ Third graders studied magnets and electricity in science. ✨ As they begin their study of multiplication, third graders will earn parts of an ice cream sundae as an incentive to learn their math facts. ✨ As

they worked on graphing in math, the third graders made life-size grids on the floor and "plotted" themselves. ✨ Fourth grade students will



begin a unit on government to coincide with the Presidential inauguration. These same students continue to write across the curriculum and complete monthly school-wide prompts connected to this year's theme, *The Wizard of Oz*. ✨ While they were reading *Kavik the Wolf Dog* and learning about the tundra, students in teacher Megan Holt's reading class made their own snowshoes and tried them out! ✨ As they learned first-hand about the phases of matter, students used liquid nitrogen to make ice cream. ✨

At **Elementary North**, students were grateful for the dictionaries that the Rotary Club donated. The third grade students thoroughly enjoy using them on a weekly basis to help with writing and vocabulary needs. ✨ The Family Partnership Council hosted our second Family Fun Night of the year in November. ✨ Two fifth grade students, along with fourth grade teacher Angelena

Colon and principal Rich Viviano, traveled to the College of Lake County to receive an attendance award from the Lake County Regional Office of Education.

✨ Representatives from the Countryside Fire Department's education outreach program made special appearances at Elementary North. We thank them for their reminders about action steps to take in case of fire. ✨ On our Education Day in November, parents and other relatives came to school and were able to interact with students during math activities. Special thanks to all who visited. ✨

Snow Reminder

With the continuation of winter, we would ask all residents to take the time to shovel sidewalks and school bus stops to help keep everyone safe.



Who's Who at Hawthorn

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Special Services
847-990-4857

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Aspen Elementary South Campus

Grades Pre-kindergarten through 5
500 N. Aspen Drive
Tom Springborn, Principal
Robert Collins, Assistant Principal
847-990-4300

Elementary North North Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5
301 Hawthorn Parkway
Richard Viviano, Principal
Luis Salto, Assistant Principal
847-990-4500

Elementary South South Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5
430 N. Aspen Drive
Jill Martin, Principal
Robert Collins, Assistant Principal
847-990-4800

Townline Elementary North Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5
810 N. Aspen Drive
Karen Cencula, Principal
Luis Salto, Assistant Principal
Betsy Sostak, Assistant Principal
847-990-4900

Middle School North North Campus

Grades 6 through 8
201 Hawthorn Parkway
Anna Groh, Principal
Robert Natale, Assistant Principal
847-990-4400

Middle School South South Campus

Grades 6 through 8
600 N. Aspen Drive
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Renee Ullberg,
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Hawthorn Highlights is published as a service to residents of District 73. Please direct questions about your schools to Superintendent Dr. Joe Yomtoob. Residents are also welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Education. Hawthorn Highlights is prepared by Scholl Communications Incorporated, Deerfield. Dr. Susan Zook is newsletter coordinator.

Hawthorn School District 73

841 West End Court
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Hawthorn extends a special thanks to the Mundelein Vernon Hills Rotary Club which once again provided dictionaries for all third grade students.

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