

## World Language Advisory Team Being Formed

Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook and Director of Student Achievement Lisa Cerauli will co-chair an advisory team that is being formed to work with the Board of Education on future plans for the study of world languages throughout the district.

Sue Zook explained that in addition to Lara Christoun, the coordinator of bilingual education and federal proj-

ects, the World Language Advisory Team team would have representation of teachers, administrators, board of education members, and parents. Input to the team's efforts will also be sought from fourth through eighth grade students via a survey.

The team will meet once a month beginning in September and will make a report to the board in April 2010.

### Considerations

This composition of the team—through the inclusion of administrators, teachers, board members, and parents—follows the model that the district has used to study many topics over the years.

"Team members will research elements of ways to offer the study of world languages in the K through 8 setting," said Zook. She added

that these could include:

- ☆ ways in which various program options work;
- ☆ the community's needs and wants;
- ☆ staffing resources and options;
- ☆ ways to build from existing programs; and
- ☆ current expenditures, anticipated costs, and a timeline for implementation of new programs.

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May 2009

# Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

## Newly Elected Members Join Board of Education

On April 27, two newly elected members were sworn in to the Hawthorn Board of Education. Board President Tim Shanahan, who was reelected, was also sworn in. Each will serve a four-year term.

**Theresa Calabrese** has lived in Vernon Hills since 1998. She has been an active volunteer for her son's school and for Cub Scout Pack #273 where she is a den leader. A long-time Allstate employee, Theresa is a training and knowledge management leader with expertise in adult education and change management. She holds a bachelor of arts from National Louis University.

**Julie Weiler** is a long-time Vernon Hills resident whose five children have attended, or are still attending, the Hawthorn schools. She has been an active volunteer for the district in the classroom,

with the Hawthorn PTO, and for the HOST/Choice Time mentor program. Though currently a stay-at-home mom, Julie has previously worked in customer service, executive assistance, office management, and sales.

### Board Officers Elected

Tim Shanahan was selected to continue as president of the Hawthorn District 73 board. John Sonnenberg was named as vice president, and Lisa Jay will serve as secretary.



Theresa Calabrese



Julie Weiler

# Freshmen Respond to Hawthorn Survey

## Teachers Awarded Tenure

Congratulations to the 28 Hawthorn staff members who have been granted tenure.

## Elementary North

Susan Albert  
Kathryn Bartel  
Karen Brennan  
Mary Hehr  
Hillary Marchel  
Nichole Peterson  
Nicole Snow  
Pamela Stanley (also Townline)

## Elementary South

Jennifer Arroyo  
Christina Fee  
Katie Krajewski  
Katie Lardo  
Joanne Schorsch  
Gina Zubert  
Principal Jill Martin

## Aspen Elementary

Anne Block  
Elizabeth Dhanji  
Sarah Ivy  
Cheryl Sanks

## Townline Elementary

Kathy Falotico  
Nicole Hayes  
Millie Naughton  
Jacqueline Ray  
Ame Schaeffges  
Pamela Stanley (also E. North)

## Middle North

Kim Sue  
Erin Witt

## Middle South

Esther Choi  
Shannon Masini

Again this year, high school freshmen who had attended the Hawthorn schools were invited to participate in a survey. The survey was designed to obtain feedback about:

- ◆ the quality of their education at Hawthorn;
- ◆ the Hawthorn learning environment;
- ◆ the quality of instructional strategies;
- ◆ students' overall experiences; and
- ◆ how well they were prepared for high school.

Of the 382 students who were contacted, 98 returned parts or all of the survey. The largest number of participants are currently attending Vernon Hills High School. There were also respondents from Carmel, Libertyville, and Mundelein High Schools. A majority of the participants were A or B students both at Hawthorn and in their high schools.

## What They Told Us

In results very similar to the previous year's, they listed the following strengths:

- ◆ A majority of the Hawthorn students enter their freshman year feeling prepared for high school.
- ◆ Students who responded to the survey are academically doing as well or better in 9th grade as they did in 8th grade.
- ◆ The Hawthorn learning environment appears to be safe.
- ◆ Many students felt Hawthorn teachers had a positive influence on them.
- ◆ Students seem to agree that there is adequate use of technology for research, information gathering, and communication.

Survey results also identify areas in which the district is challenged to improve:

- ◆ A need to better help students develop good study skills and work habits.
- ◆ Classes need to be more challenging and expectations need to be more rigorous.
- ◆ Students need to learn to prepare for and experience final exams.
- ◆ Students need to understand the differences between middle school philosophy and high school expectations.

Overall, students were quite positive about their experiences in the Hawthorn schools.



## Hawthorn Quick Takes

### Spring Fields of Gold

The spreads of daffodils that bloomed near Elementary South and Middle North are part of a living memorial for September 11 that was developed by the Vernon Hills Park District. We extend thanks to the park district personnel who supplied the bulbs that Hawthorn students planted last fall.

### Earth Day "Off the Grid"

Hawthorn schools celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by going "off the grid." They turned off lights, computers, and other electronics for the last hour of the day. Elementary South extended their Earth Day celebration by wearing green and bringing "green" lunches that produced little waste.

### PTO Elects Board

The Hawthorn PTO has elected the following Executive Board for the 2009-2010 school year: President Taunya Reback; Secretary Jill Pieper; Treasurer Susan Jones; Aspen VP Amy Rootberg; Elementary North VP Beth Palid; Elementary South VP Glori Huse; Powers Center VP Colleen Drews; Townline VP Tammy Antenore; Middle North VP Nina Ferolo; and Middle South VP Judy Blitstein.

# Hawthorn Happenings

At **Townline Elementary**, kindergarten students kicked off the Bernstein earth unit with *The Lorax*. They made the hallway look like the setting of the book to help understand what happened to the environment as the trees were cut down. \* First graders took an adventure to the rain forest. The Bernstein masterwork for the unit is a painting by Savannah called "Jaquar at my Casita." \* Second graders have studied weather, including clouds, the water cycle, and weather tools. They enjoyed a visit by Amy Freeze, a Fox News meteorologist. \* Representatives from Underwriters



Laboratories demonstrated examples of electrical safety to third graders as part of a science unit on magnets and electricity. \* Fourth grade students have participated in an inquiry based unit on the American West. They have researched the culture, economy, land, and history of that region. \* Fourth grade science students have studied the Earth's dynamic sphere changes over time. The masterwork for the unit was Mt. Rushmore, and students created a minimonument that they used to learn more about erosion. \* Fifth grade band students performed at the annual

Little People Band Festival at North Chicago High School. \* Teacher Sam Jaramillo's fifth grade art class recycled glass bottles by melting and painting them to create cheese and cracker plates. Fourth graders made and glazed coil mugs. Third graders made sign language hands out of clay. \* Physical education students have been working to improve their personal fitness levels as spring fitness testing is in full swing. \*

**Elementary South** first graders are reading and learning about the moon. They chose three things they wanted to take to the moon and wrote about why they would take them. \* Second grade students studied the life cycles of a variety of species. They incubated eggs and waited for their chicks to hatch on May 5th. \* As they studied the solar system, third graders designed their own constellations and explained in writing how their constellations were named.

\* In social studies, the third grade students learned about famous Illinois achievers. They wrote biographies of a famous Illinoisan, then dressed up and presented their acts while the class guessed who they were. At the end of May, they will take a Wendella boat ride field trip in Chicago. \* In science, fourth graders are exploring weather and erosion, and in social studies they will plan a region fair to teach each other about the U.S. regions with a focus on history, economy, and geography. \*

Teacher Megan Holt's social studies class churned cream into butter as part of a unit on Colonial America. They also experienced colonial life by sewing a patchwork quilt and writing with a quill pen. \* In a fourth grade unit on force and motion, some classes created Rube Goldberg machines. Other classes created gravity cars using recyclable materials to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the six



simple machines. \* Students in teacher Katie Waggoner's AAA 5th grade reading class have gone green, completing the majority of their work on a class wiki and blog. \*

For **Elementary North**, the turnout for PE night was fantastic. About 60 students were present with their moms and dads. Activities included floor hockey, rope climbing, rock climbing, miniature golf, scooter basketball, volleyball, basketball, jump rope, monkey bars, and bowling. It was great to see the parents involved and participating. \* DARE



graduation took place on Wednesday, April 29. This program gives information to fifth grade students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Special thanks to our fifth grade teachers and to Officer Sharon Joseph of the Vernon Hills Police Department for presenting this information in a way that all students can benefit from it. \* We were honored to have Illinois State Representatives Tom Cross and Kathy Ryg take a tour of our Special Education of Lake County (SEDOL) classroom. David Sternfeld, a Vernon Hills resident, arranged the tour. \* ECRA writing, MAP testing, and DIBELS testing have been completed. These assessments help teachers gather data about their instruction this year. An important part of teaching is reflection upon practices. We believe in adjusting or changing our instruction if it appears to have been ineffective in any way. \*

# 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  
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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  
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Betsy Sostak, Assistant Principal  
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## Middle School North North Campus

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## Middle School South South Campus

Grades 6 through 8  
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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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*State Representatives Tom Cross (second from left) and Kathy Ryy (right) are pictured here as they toured Hawthorn's SEDOL classroom. Resident David Sternfeld (left) and Elementary North Principal Rich Viviano are also pictured (see story on page 3).*

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