

Learning@Hawthorn Now Available

The entire Hawthorn community now has available a site on the Internet dedicated to information and discussions of all aspects of education. Learning@Hawthorn is designed to be both a source of information and host for discussion groups that will allow online conversation.

We encourage all members of the Hawthorn educational family to visit the site.

Becoming a Member

To join the Learning@ Hawthorn community, use your Web browser to go to: < <http://learning.hawthorn73.org/member/signup>> . Follow the instructions, complete the signup form, and you will be automatically logged into the site. You will also receive an e-mail confirmation of your successful signup which you should save for future reference.

E-Mail Bulletins

When you join Learning @ Hawthorn, we encourage you to click "yes" to receive our e-mail bulletins. While we have no intention of overloading your e-mail, we do want to alert you when the site offers new features of other newsworthy items.

When you join Learning@ Hawthorn, you will also be able to participate in discussion

groups on a wide range of topics, or to start a discussion of your own. You can read messages posted by others and then add your own ideas or ask your questions. We anticipate that many of the discussions will be interesting and lively, and we are eager to receive your responses to Learning @Hawthorn.

A Community Service of Hawthorn District #73 • www.hawthorn73.org

March 2002

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

Community Members Encouraged to Mentor Students

The District 73 motto, "Learning for All: Whatever It Takes," will take on new meaning through assistance provided by members of the entire Hawthorn community. Dr. Sue Zook, Director of Student Achievement and Staff Development, explained. "The district is in the process of assessing learning systems and programs that can be used to help our students be more successful readers. The research shows that programs which include one-to-one mentoring of students who are working to improve their reading comprehension skills have a very high success rate."

Zook outlined the benefits of student mentoring:

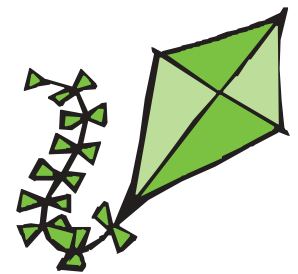
- ☆ Students who are currently in school have a greater chance to succeed later.
- ☆ Students who are at risk of dropping out tend to stay in school.
- ☆ Volunteers have opportunities to understand more about the local schools and young people.
- ☆ Volunteers enjoy the reward of providing valuable service to their community.

Volunteers Sought

The district is actively seeking volunteer mentors to be assigned to individual students with whom they will meet regularly at mutually convenient times. "We know from conversations with others who have initiated such programs that students and their mentors often form long-lasting friendships," said Zook. She added that mentors not only provide significant assistance to the students, but also share the joy when the students' performance improves.

Zook reports that across the country, businesses, federal employers, and school administrators participate in mentoring programs by offering their employees release time during the noon hour. In that way, many people can participate in the program without losing time or money.

District 73 administrators will also be inviting local service clubs, such as Rotary International, and the PTO to become involved in the mentoring program. Community organizations are encouraged to invite their members to sign up as mentors for the



Springtime at Hawthorn!

As this issue of Highlights goes to press, we still look out the window and see snow.

But we know spring is on the way!

Residents are reminded that the Hawthorn schools will be closed for Spring Break from March 25 until April 1.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 2.

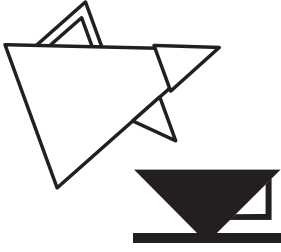
Also, please note that due to the snow day in February, the last day of classes for students will be Monday, June 10.



Hawthorn Kindergartner Mary Tsakadze proudly shared with her schoolmates the jersey her father, Kakhaber Tsakadze, wore as a participant in the Salt Lake City Olympic Games.

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Science Curriculum Review Update



Curriculum Coffee Note Location Change to District Office

- ☞ Wednesday, March 20, 2002
- ☞ 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- ☞ District Office—Board Room
- ☞ Daycare available if arrangements made in advance.
- ☞ Agenda includes:
 - ☞ Science curriculum review.
 - ☞ Updates on summer school, dual language program, kindergarten registration, Option School expansion, and Spanish enrichment.
 - ☞ Using the Lightspan Network at home.
- ☞ For reservations, call Mary Jo Vepley at 847-990-4215.
- ☞ Reservation Deadline: March 18

Dr. Sue Zook, Director of Student Achievement and Staff Development, reports that the science curriculum review committee met on Tuesday, February 26 to continue the review process. The committee has completed drafting on the big ideas/content topics and enduring understanding for each grade level, as well as essential questions for students in each grade.

Next Step: Curriculum Mapping

“The next step is to move to developing curriculum maps for each grade level,” said Zook. She explained that these maps will outline the unit questions and performance indicators. “It is at this point that we address specific information about what students will be expected to know and be able to do at each grade level.” The curriculum maps are expected to be completed in May.

To learn more about the science review process, Zook encourages residents to visit Learning@Hawthorn (see page 1). “We want community members to follow our review and to provide their input when they have ideas they think we should consider. We have given our residents a way to do just that and we hope that they will,” concluded Zook.

Illinois Standards Achievement Tests

In early April, many Hawthorn students will take the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT). Third, fifth, and eighth graders will take tests in reading, mathematics, and writing. Fourth and seventh grade students will take tests in science and social studies, as well as in fine arts and physical development and health.

The ISAT, which was developed by Illinois teachers and curriculum experts in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education, measures the extent to which students are meeting the Illinois Learning Standards.

Test Preparation

Teachers will help students prepare for the ISAT through review and practice. They ask that parents be aware of the test dates, April 3 through 10, and help to assure that their children arrive at school well rested and having had a good breakfast.

Individual Student Reports

In the fall of 2002, individual student reports will be sent home. These reports are designed to help both teachers and parents/guardians understand students’ strengths and weaknesses. The reports also compare each student’s achievement with that of other students in the school, the district, and the state. Parents and guardians will also receive a publication, “Understanding Your Child’s ISAT Scores,” which describes all elements of the report.

Mentorship Program

—continued from page 1

District 73 reading program.

Individuals, including federal and state retirees, teachers, and support staff members, as well as parents, grandparents, and guardians are also encouraged to consider becoming mentors to Hawthorn students.

In summarizing her thoughts about the new pro-

gram, Zook said, “We hope the community will recognize the importance of this program and respond. Volunteer mentors can truly change the world, one student at a time.”

Learn More

For more information, to become a mentor, or to volunteer

to help with the spring mentor recruitment campaign, please contact Sue Zook at 847-990-4244 or by e-mail at < zooks@hawthorn.73.org> .

"Happenings" at the Hawthorn Schools

At **Hawthorn Elementary North**, physical education students spent a week in February jumping rope. The main focuses for the week were skill improvement, cardiovascular fitness, and fun! There was music in the air as the students jumped, and contests and raffles were held throughout the week. ♣ Fourth grade students participated in the annual spelling bee. Congratulations to winner Jason Song and runner-up Tia Ginakakis who attended the *Chicago Tribune* Spelling Bee sectionals. ♣ On Wednesday, April 20, Elementary North parents will have the opportunity to attend a coffee to learn about plans to build a mission statement for the school and planned pilot programs for next year. ♣ Thanks to the success of the Hawthorn PTO Scholastic Book Fair, the library received \$967.52 in books which will benefit all of our students. ♣ Fourth graders celebrated Read Across



Hawthorn Kindergartners were spellbound during the special programs that were held in conjunction with their Be Excited About Reading (B.E.A.R.) program

America Day. Students and teachers read for extended periods of time at the beginning and end of the day. The day honored Dr. Seuss's birthday, so many students

brought their favorite Dr. Seuss books. They also wore pajamas or other comfortable clothes and read while curled up on their pillows or in sleeping bags. Students were encouraged to continue this special day with a family reading night and a trip to the library or a bookstore. ♣ As a way to motivate students and inspire creative writing, the entire school celebrated "Slipper Day" in February. Some classes wrote about their slippers' adventures during the day. ♣ A special thanks to Sam's Club for the \$1,000 grant which will be used to support the reading fluency program. ♣

Hawthorn Kindergarten students participated in a home/school read-aloud program, Be Excited About Reading (B.E.A.R.) to recognize the importance of reading aloud to children and to encourage families to develop a lifelong love of reading. ♣ Our much appreciated room parents worked with children and teachers to celebrate Valentine's Day. They organized special activities and treats for the students. ♣ Kindergartners celebrated their 100th day of school by inviting a speaker from the Lake County Food Resource Council who described the annual food drive program. Students demonstrated their math skills by counting 100 cans (which they donated to the food pantry) by tens and twenties. The celebration kicked off the annual Soup-er Kids Project which is part of the Caring, Able People (CAP) program designed to help students understand the importance of sharing with our community. ♣ Justin and Emily Amponin's parents visited to read a special story, *I Went Walking*, by Sue Will-

iams. Justin and Emily worked with their parents to read the story in both English and sign language. ♣ In mid-March, kindergarten students performed their annual musical, "Caring, Able People," for their families. An open house was held following the musical. ♣

Don't forget that kindergarten registration for fall 2002 will be held on March 20 and 21. To get more information, please call 847-918-2170. ♣

In January, **Hawthorn Elementary South** hosted its annual book fair. Thanks to the PTO volunteers and all who participated who helped to make the event a success. ♣ Child's Play Touring Theatre provided an intensive writing master class. The actors demonstrated places to seek story ideas and introduced a developmental method to organize story concepts. Their visit culminated with students helping to write a group-generated story and watching it be performed. When the group returns in May, the actors will perform a selection of stories that students have written. Move over, J.K. Rowling, Hawthorn South students are ready to write! ♣ In February, John Cerauli, a science teacher at Warren Township High School, presented 50 minutes of exciting and informative experiments to fourth graders. ♣ Thanks to the parents who have attended the principal's



Students at Hawthorn Elementary North worked on balance in their physical education classes. With friends to cheer them on, they showed great concentration and skill.

monthly coffees. We appreciate your input. ♣ January came and went in the blink of an eye for first graders as lawyers, doctors, nurses, a police officer, an FBI agent, and an environmentalist all volunteered their time to share with the students. ♣ Many first graders enjoyed a "Winter Picnic" which included a snowball fight with cotton balls and a treat of Eskimo Pies. Students estimated how long it would take for an Eskimo Pie to melt and how many bites it would take to eat one. ♣ Second grade students are excited as they begin to learn cursive writing. ♣ In geography, the second graders studied continents and oceans, and in math, they learned about geometry concepts. ♣ Third and fourth grade students are preparing for the Young Authors' Conference. ♣ Fourth grade science classes studied weather and energy. Students in one class built and tested weather instruments. ♣

Who's Who at Hawthorn

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Robert Hudson, Director of
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Hawthorn Option School North Campus

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Grades 7 and 8
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Debbie Wilson, Principal
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847-816-8317



www.hawthorn73.org

Hawthorn Highlights is published as a service to residents of District 73. Please direct questions about your schools to a member of the Board of Education or a school administrator. Residents are also welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Education.

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Dr. Susan E. Zook is newsletter coordinator.*

Hawthorn School District 73

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Child's Play Touring Theatre both entertained and educated as they presented a master class on creative writing at Hawthorn Elementary South.

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