

Option School Poised to Expand

District #73 is in the process of exploring ways to extend the Option School to include seventh and eighth grades.

The Option School currently enrolls students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Option School Principal John Ahlemeyer explained that although expectations for seventh and eighth grade students would be the same at the Option School as they

are at Hawthorn Junior High, there will be differences in methods and programs. Specifically under consideration are:

- ❖ Programs designed to integrate fine arts with academics.
- ❖ Development of band and orchestra programs independent of those at the Middle and Junior High Schools.

- ❖ Offering exploratory foreign language for all students in seventh grade.

When asked about extracurricular programs, Ahlemeyer said, "We have discussed athletics with the staff at the Junior High and will be able to coordinate having Option School students participate on those teams." He added that academic clubs would be

offered at the Option School itself.

Meeting Planned

Sixth grade Option School parents and students have been invited to a meeting on Wednesday, April 17, to learn more details. The 6:30 p.m. meeting will be held in the Board of Education conference room at the District Office building.

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

Board of Education Extends Dr. Joe's Contract

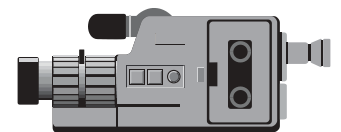
At its March 11 meeting, the District #73 Board of Education approved a new five-year contract that extends Dr. Joe Yomtoob's term as superintendent through 2007. In explaining the board's action, President Rich Paul said, "In order for all of our kids to be successful learners, we need to forge strong partnerships among students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the community, including the Board of Education. The board wants Dr. Joe to continue to lead those efforts."

Ambitious Educational Goals

In implementing the district's stated mission, "Learning for all, whatever it takes," the board and district administrators have established a districtwide goal that 100 percent of the students will meet or exceed the learning standards, as measured by the ISAT. "That is an ambitious objective, but one I believe we can achieve," said Paul. He explained that in addition to innovative programs and a highly skilled staff, achieving the objective requires continuity of leadership. "The research convinces me that continuity of leadership is critical to success. Residents who want to learn more about this topic should read Jack Bowsher's book, *Fix Schools First*," he added.

Implementing Change

Asked to comment on the contract extension, Dr. Joe responded, "I am very gratified that the board has confidence in my leadership. They know that I believe that every child can learn, and *will* learn. I am eager to continue to move this district forward." He observed that the district is in the process of establishing a standards-based curriculum that holds everyone in the school system—students, teachers, administrators, and the board—accountable for outcomes. "Yes, we are making changes, and yes, we will do some things differently from the ways they were done in the past, but we are committed to providing the professional development support to the teaching staff to make our dreams a reality." He cited the use of technology as a key learning tool, and utilization of innovative classroom methods as two elements in students' attaining success.

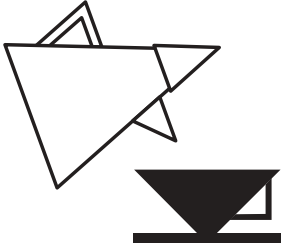


Board Meetings on Cable

Residents are reminded that Board of Education meetings are rebroadcast on cable, channel 4, at 6:30 p.m. on the Wednesdays and 4:00 p.m. on the Saturdays following board meetings. Residents who do not have cable are welcome to check out videotapes of the meetings from the District Office.

Registration packets to be sent home with students in early May. See page 2.

School Registration Packets to Arrive in May



Final Curriculum Coffee to Be Held at District Office

- ✦ Thursday, May 23, 2002
- ✦ 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- ✦ District Office—Board Room
- ✦ Daycare available if arrangements made in advance.
- ✦ Agenda includes:
 - ✦ Update on the finalized science curriculum review.
 - ✦ Plans for grade-level curriculum mapping for social studies, language arts, and math.
 - ✦ The HOSTS volunteer mentor program.
 - ✦ Attendees questions and concerns.
- ✦ For reservations, call Mary Jo Vepley at 847-990-4215.
- ✦ Reservation Deadline: May 21

Mick Hall, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Human Resources, reports that registration packets for the 2002-2003 school year will be sent home with currently enrolled students on Thursday, May 2. "We ask that parents read the packets carefully and return the completed forms on Friday, May 10," said Hall.

Hall thanked parents in advance for their prompt response, and asked that packets be returned even if the child will not be enrolling at the Hawthorn schools next year.

Option School to Host Spring Conference

The Option School will host the William Glasser Institute Midwest Region Spring Conference on Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21. The interactive presentations are designed for anyone interested in learning more about applying Choice Theory in educational and "real world" settings.

Saturday's activities begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and include several presentations:

- ☆ Bullyproofing Your Child,
- ☆ Using Political Cartoons to Teach Choice Theory,
- ☆ Self-Evaluation: Internal Process vs. External Outcomes,
- ☆ "Watering UP" Reality Therapy: The Flow of Human Relationships, and
- ☆ Putting Lead Management into Action.

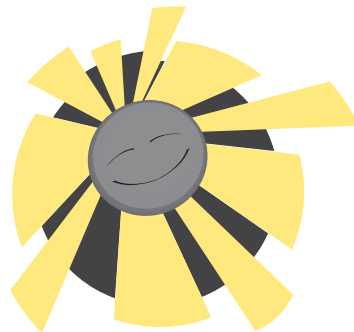
Sunday's events include a business meeting and Quality School question and answer session featuring Andrea van der Laan, principal of Huntington Woods Quality School in Michigan.

Cost for the two-day session is \$35 (\$20 for a second registrant) and includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. All sessions will take place at Hawthorn Junior High. For more information, please contact Option School principal, John Ahlemeyer, at < ahlemeyerj@hawthorn73.org> or at 847-990-4300.

Jim Clark Completes Board Service

At the conclusion of the Board of Education meeting on March 11, Jim Clark completed his service as a member of the Hawthorn District #73 Board of Education. Jim joined the board in 1995 and served as president from November 1997 through November 2001.

"Jim Clark provided exemplary leadership for the entire Hawthorn education community," commented Superintendent Dr. Joe Yomtoob. He explained that at the time Clark joined the board, the district was deeply in debt. "Jim spearheaded the successful referendum efforts that got our rapidly growing district on a safe financial track. Following passage of the referendums, Jim led the board with a steady hand as we worked to provide the buildings and programs for an outstanding school district. Everyone in this community thanks Jim for his service."



There is still time to include Hawthorn Summer School in your family's plans! The late registration deadline is April 19. If you have questions about the program, please contact Sue Zook at 847-990-4215.

“Happenings” at the Hawthorn Schools

Hawthorn Junior High eighth grader Cesar Solrio placed second in the heavy-weight class at the IESA State Wrestling Tournament, held in DeKalb in March. Cesar is a third-year wrestler and compiled a 26 – 1 record for the Eagles this year. ❧ The Junior High Mathcounts team, coached by teacher Susan Finn, is having an excellent season. In early February, the team placed second at the Lake-McHenry County Regional contest. Later in the month, both the seventh and eighth grade teams captured first place honors at the Carmel High School math contest. Con-



Congratulations are in order for the Hawthorn Junior High Mathcounts on their strong performances in many competitions.

gratulations to Anjalika Gandhi, Jackson Lai, and Alan Xu, who took top individual honors at this competition. On an additional team contest, the Hawthorn mathletes placed first by correctly answering 22 out of 25 questions in 15 minutes. In March, the team competed at the state level, placing 12th in the state. ❧ Rehearsals for the Junior High musical, “Kilroy Was Here!” are in full swing. The play will be presented to the public at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26. ❧ National Junior Honor Society delivered more than \$300

worth of personal hygiene items to PADS in February. NJHS members are also looking forward to sponsoring the upcoming dance for next year’s seventh graders in April. Current seventh graders are completing the application process to be inducted into the 2002 – 2003 Honor Society. ❧ Seventh grade students celebrated “pi” day on March 14. They made a chain of one hundred digits of pi, and held a contest to see who could remember the most digits. Emily Krippinger and Jeff Wong astonished their classmates by reciting 175 and 170 digits respectively. ❧

Fifth and sixth grade students at **Hawthorn Option School** have learned about the stock market through an on-line program sponsored by the Illinois Council on Education and the *Chicago Tribune*. You can check it out

at < www.smgww.org > . More than 2,400 teams of fifth through twelfth grade students throughout the state competed, using Internet and newspaper resources to do their research. One Option School team, composed of Patrick Benton, Dani Hill, Kelsey Kind, Dani McGovern, and Michael Silva, held first place in two different weeks. ❧ Four Option School sixth graders earned perfect scores on individual tests in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics contest. Congratulations to Jeff Achler, Zach Wheeler, Gina Kim, and Mike Xie! ❧ Snow dogs in-

vaded the Option School during the Iditarod sled dog race in Alaska. Fifth grade students read stories about the Iditarod and researched the event on the Internet. Each student chose a “musher” and tracked his or her progress online. Students met some snow dogs personally when Jackai Szuhi of the Malamute Rescue Program visited school with several malamutes. Students learned the difficult task of harnessing the three dogs that then effortlessly pulled a sled around the gymnasium. Students further appreciated the dogs’ hard work when four students pulled the sled around the gym and panted at the finish! ❧ In March, Option School students held a bake sale to raise money for the PADS shelter in Vernon Hills. Several students also volunteered at the shelter to make lunches and beds and to set up the children’s library. ❧ To celebrate Nutrition Month in March, kindergartners studied food and nutritional choices. ❧ Following classroom workshops on design choices, assemblage and construction, and nonobjective art, fourth grade students will visit the Art Institute of Chicago. ❧ The final Option School Family Fun Learning Night will take place on Thursday, April 25. Events will include reading and homework time, technology and science activities, a principal’s chat, and refreshments. ❧

Hawthorn Middle School students, staff, parents, and Board of Education members enjoyed the first “Read Across the Middle Night” in March. ❧ Sixth grade computer education students helped Elementary North first graders learn to tell time using PowerPoint presentations they had pre-



Hawthorn Middle School Team 6C celebrated the completion of a unit on ancient Greece with an Olympic competition, togas, and a feast.

pared. ❧ Team 5A is very proud of Todd Morritz whose entry was chosen for national recognition in a contest sponsored by Trumpet Book Club. ❧ Period Ten, the Middle School’s after school program, began with 44 students and 5 teachers. ❧ More than 150 band members performed in a festival at Neal Elementary School. Under the direction of Julie Holly and Patrick Cantagallo, they won accolades from a panel of judges. ❧ Alyssa Gumbra recently brought her horse, Tawny, to school to help with a class presentation. The language arts class enjoyed Tawny’s visit. ❧ Team 5B read *Kavik*, studied the Iditarod, and went “Spelling for Strikes.” ❧ The Chess Club recently held its annual tournament. ❧ Team 5D followed a “musher” on the Internet throughout the Iditarod and completed interdisciplinary projects, including making dog biscuits. ❧ Team 5A kicked off National Poetry Month with a visit from Karen Langridge from the Cook Memorial Library. ❧ At the end of the third trimester, Middle School students have read more than 4,500 books. Eighty-five students have qualified for the annual Accelerated Reader field trip. ❧

Who's Who at Hawthorn

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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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Hawthorn School District 73

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