

## Hawthorn Staff to Present at Dallas Conference

Hawthorn Teaching/Learning Coaches Sheryl Kabak, Karen Olker, Maureen Vinci, and Dan Schneider, along with Middle School North Principal Anna Groh and Coordinator of Student Achievement Lisa Cerauli, are scheduled to present two sessions during the National Staff Development Council's annual conference in Dallas in December.

### 12 Under 12

Kabak explained, "Nearly five years ago, a group of 12 elementary, middle, and high schools from across the country came together to help their students reach the No Child Left Behind progress deadlines ahead of the government-mandated deadline of 2014." The group is known as the "12 Under 12." Although some of the original 12 no lon-

ger participate, Middle School North still works with Lomax Junior High School in Texas and Goodrich Middle School in Nebraska. Kabak and Anna Groh will present a session detailing how the schools help one another to target problem areas and develop strategies to bring success to lower-achieving students and to challenge those who don't show the level of growth expected.

### Waiting for Wings

Lisa Cerauli, Sheryl Kabak, Karen Olker, Dan Schneider, and Maureen Vinci will present a session on District 73's metamorphosis in the way Teaching/Learning Coaches (TLCs) support the district's extensive initiatives to improve student achievement.

Superintendent-elect Sue Zook applauded the recognition accorded her colleagues.

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November 2007

# Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

## Hawthorn Planning Council: Leading the Way to Professional Learning Communities

The Hawthorn Planning Council (HPC) was established by the Board of Education to provide a collaborative structure for advancing the district's strategic plan. HPC members (current members are listed on page 2) meet regularly to develop and recommend strategies that promote teaching and learning for all district students.

The planning council

has met twice this year, with each meeting facilitated by an outside consultant. Superintendent Dr. Joe Yomtoob noted that HPC members are the "connectors" who facilitate the implementation of the district's initiatives to improve student achievement. "If our overriding goal is 'Learning for All: Whatever It Takes', it is HPC members who are responsible for 'Communicating for All,'" he laughed.

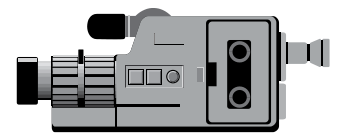
### HPC Meetings

The first meeting of the year, in September, was facilitated by Dr. Richard Benjamin, a consultant who has worked with District 73 staff members for several years. He began the session by asking each attendee to express his or her hopes about what could be accomplished this year to advance the district's transformational schools goals.

Answers included affirmation that HPC meetings keep teacher-leaders focused and lead to good conversations and deep discussions. Attendees also noted that the meetings offer opportunities to celebrate success and to regroup when initiatives are less successful.

Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook reports that the energy level was high. "HPC members are very dedicated to our program. They are con-

- please go to page 2



### Board Meetings on Cable

Residents are reminded that Board of Education meetings are rebroadcast on Vernon Hills cable, channel 4, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays following board meetings. Residents who do not receive this channel are welcome to check out videotapes of the meetings from the Educational Services Center.



During a unit in which they study the prairie, third grade students visit Lake County Forest Preserves.



## Hawthorn Planning Council

The following are currently serving on the Hawthorn Planning Council.

### District Office

Dr. Joe Yomtoob  
Lara Christoun  
Eileen Conway  
Lisa Gosen  
Alan Hahn  
Joy Kane  
Dr. Sue Zook

### Aspen

Tom Springborn, Principal  
Leslie Johnson, 4th Grade  
Randi Szoke, 2nd Grade

### Elementary North

Rich Viviano, Principal  
Catherine Park, 5th Grade  
Susie Dicello, Triple A

### Elementary South

Jill Martin, Principal  
Lisa Cerauli, Asst. Principal  
Jamie Dehn, 1st Grade  
Jennifer Jacobson, 1st Grade

### Elementary Teaching/Learning Coaches

Karen Olker  
Maureen Vinci  
Katie Waggoner

### Middle School North

Anna Groh, Principal  
Sheryl Kabak, TLC  
Jennifer Harris, 7th Grade Science  
Sharon Horan, LMS

### Middle School South

Joy Mullaney, Principal  
Dan Schneider, TLC  
Shannon Masini, 7th Grade  
Language Arts/Social Studies  
Vikki Spiteri, LMS

### Powers Center

Terri Bugella  
Judith Asemann

### Townline

Karen Cencula, Principal  
Alice Grubb, Music  
Melissa Sabin, 2nd Grade  
Jennifer Schmidt, 5th Grade

vinced that the more teachers we bring into the process, the better," she said.

### Transformational Schools

For the October HPC meeting, Dr. Craig Drennon, of the Center for Leadership and Learning, presented the first of a planned two-part seminar on transformational schools. Earlier in October, Drennon had served as keynote speaker for the Hawthorn Institute Day. He commended District 73 for being on a schedule well ahead of that mandated by No Child Left Behind.

Part I of the seminar was developed to provide practical, proven strategies for creating short-term gains in student achievement.

Drennon then outlined nine characteristics of schools that demonstrate the greatest academic gains. These include:

- ◆ Time for collaboration.
- ◆ Frequent feedback.
- ◆ Time for instruction.
- ◆ Action research and mid-course corrections.
- ◆ Acknowledgment that teaching makes a difference.
- ◆ An intensive focus on data.
- ◆ Development and use of common assessments.
- ◆ Comprehensive involvement of all staff, including the food service and transportation providers.
- ◆ Explicit involvement of music, art, physical educa-

tion, world language, and technology.

HPC members presented information about how District 73 is addressing each characteristic.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to exploring the universal components of school improvement.

As the day concluded, attendees agreed that achieving transformation requires setting expectations, monitoring, feedback, reflection, adjustments, and a return to reviewing expectations. "It is an ongoing, cyclical, continuous process," observed Zook.

Drennon will return in January to present the second part of the seminar.

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## New Process Mandated to Determine Existence of a Learning Disability

Passage of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation and reauthorization of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 have converged to mandate a new process for documenting the existence or nonexistence of a learning disability. The process is known as Response to Intervention (RTI).

For five years, District 73 has worked toward addressing students' needs by implementing the Flexible Service Delivery model. In response to the new legislation, the district has formed a committee to streamline the process

in each of our buildings, and to develop a more detailed Hawthorn-specific model of interventions. Coordinator of Student Achievement Lisa Cerauli explained, "The committee includes many regular education teachers, special education teachers, and related arts teachers from each building, along with district administrators."

As they explore the ways in which they will recommend the district move toward full implementation of RTI, members will attend conferences to gain information from the experiences of others.

"This district is fully committed to serving the needs of every student," said Cerauli. "One of our strengths is the collaborative nature of work in District 73. We work very hard to assure the implementation is the same in each Hawthorn 73 school, and our teachers have completed substantial staff development activities to support our goals."

# Hawthorn Happenings

Students at **Elementary North** celebrated Red Ribbon Week by participating in several activities that serve as reminders to say no to drugs.



Physical education teacher Kristie Blasinski and art teacher Karen Brennan helped to organize the week's activities. Highlights included a mile run to demonstrate going the extra mile in the fight against drugs and a visit from Para-Olympian Lloyd Bachrach with a message to students of all ages.

\* Fifth grade band and orchestra students recently visited the Milwaukee Symphony orchestra. \* Illinois State Representative Kathy Ryg served as "Principal for a Day." \* Elementary North held its first Family Night. More than 225 family members watched a movie and munched on snacks. \* Teacher Barb Rudolph's fifth graders prepared meals for PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). Students delivered almost 100 sack lunches to charity. \* Fifth grade

teachers Cathy Park and Lisa Ramirez started a Student Council at Elementary North. Principal Rich Viviano plans to use the council to implement spirit days and other important activities. \*



**Elementary South** kindergartners visited Didier Farms in October. They took a hayride through the pumpkin patch, saw scary and funny scarecrows, huge pumpkins,

and baby chicks. They also met Rosie, a big, brown pig, and her nine babies. Each student had the chance to pick out a pumpkin to take home. \* First graders focused their efforts on the study of

author Eric Carle. \* Teacher Tina Hansen's second grade class has learned about why it is important to be a member of a community. They learned about Vernon Hills from Village Manager Mike Allison. Firefighter Larry Amidei talked to students about why it is important to have a fire department. \* Second graders studied the life cycles of the painted butterfly. Each student recorded observations of the larva, pupa, and adult stages.



money, rounding, calculating, and estimating with very large numbers, and creating and interpreting different types of graphs and statistics. \*

On Halloween, **Townline** first graders dressed in costumes and walked to the Hawthorn Lakes Retirement Community to "trick or treat" and visit with the residents. \* Second grade students learned about life cycles of tadpoles and butterflies. They learned vocabulary, observed, and wrote to share their new knowledge. \* Rob Carmichael of the Lake Forest Wildlife Discovery Center presented a third grade assembly to introduce many prairie animals. \* Third graders walked to Elementary South to sketch the plants in the manner of John James Audubon. \* The fourth and fifth grade Literature and Lunch Book Clubs began in October. \* To celebrate Halloween, fourth graders engaged in lessons that involved math, language arts, and the scientific method. One lesson involved dropping pumpkins from the steps of Townline! \* Fifth grade band, orchestra, and chorus students visited the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. \*



Culmination of the unit was releasing the butterflies and watching them fly away on a beautiful, sunny day. \* As part of their study of the prairie, third graders visited Old School Forest Preserve and Ryerson Woods. They learned about predator versus prey, saw real owls, learned about the food chain, and identified various plants as they walked the prairie. \* Fourth graders also visited Ryerson. \* Fifth graders have begun the DARE drug and alcohol awareness program \* Triple A students have adventured through several books, learned about

# Who's Who at Hawthorn

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847-990-4216

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847-990-4223

Lisa Gosen, Director of Technology  
847-990-4235

Joy Kane, Director of  
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## Aspen Elementary South Campus

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

## Elementary North North Campus

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

## Elementary South South Campus

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

## Townline Elementary North Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5  
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Eileen Conway, Principal  
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## Middle School North North Campus

Grades 6 through 8  
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Anna Groh, Principal  
Robert Natale,  
Assistant Principal  
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## Middle School South South Campus

Grades 6 through 8  
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[www.hawthorn73.org](http://www.hawthorn73.org)

*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.*

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## Hawthorn School District 73

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Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

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*Congratulations to the Middle South 7th grade girls basketball team and their coach, John Langelund. The team went undefeated and won the conference championship.*

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