

Test Upcoming for English Language Learners

District 73 Coordinator of Bilingual Services, Lara Christoun, reports that the ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) test will be administered between January 14 and January 30 for all Hawthorn students who are currently receiving formalized English support

services. As she explained, "This yearly assessment allows us to see the English language growth for each of

"This yearly assessment allows us to see the English language growth for each of our students..."

our students so we may serve them in the best possible manner." She added that parents of students who are receiving

English support services are aware of the assistance their students receive in school.

Attaining Proficiency

Once English Language Learners attain a level of proficiency that allows them to function in mainstream classrooms without support, their parents are asked to fill out a form to exit from the program.

"But we don't drop these

students," noted Christoun. "We monitor their classroom success in language development for at least two years after they complete the formal program."

Residents who have questions about the program for English Language Learners or the ACCESS for ELLs assessment are invited to call Lara Christoun at 847-990-4254.

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

January 2008

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

Understanding the Role of Technology in Twenty-first Century Education

Today's students need to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and effective communicators who are proficient in both core academic subjects and twenty-first century skills.

In keeping with the district's mission of "Learning for All: Whatever It Takes," the staff strives to develop a curriculum designed to pre-

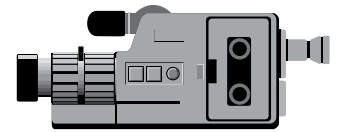
pare our students to succeed. A major component of this curriculum is the use of technology, which we see as both a learning tool that expands teachers' instructional repertoire and a vehicle that maximizes the capacity of learners and their teachers.

It is the vision of the Hawthorn Schools that students are engaged in a stimulating

academic environment. We want them to have a challenging curriculum that is student-centered and focused on inquiry based learning.

The district has established several objectives that administrators want technology to support. Among those goals are:

- ☆ To provide global access to information.
- ☆ To meet the curricular needs of all learners.
- ☆ To provide access to the general curriculum.
- ☆ To refine critical thinking skills and foster creativity.
- ☆ To provide a medium for expression and communication.
- ☆ To collect, assess, and share performance information.
- ☆ To improve the effectiveness of administrative tasks.



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 DVDs of the meetings from the Educational Services Center.



During the month of December, music filled the air at the Hawthorn Schools as both elementary and middle school instrumental music students performed concerts.

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Kindergarten Information Meeting, School Tours, and Registration

Parents of children who will turn five on or before September 1, 2008, should plan to attend an information meeting that will be held at Hawthorn Middle School North on Thursday, January 31. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

Following welcoming remarks and an overview of kindergarten at Hawthorn, parents will have the opportunity to sit in on presentations from the principals of each of the district's four elementary schools. They will receive their student registration packets at the end of these sessions.

At 8:30 pm, there will be a presentation on the Townline Dual Language Program.

School Tours

In early February, parents will have the opportunity to tour the district schools. Two sessions will be held each day, from 8:00 am to 8:30 am and from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Dates for these tours are as follow:

Monday, February 4
Elementary North and South

Tuesday, February 5
Townline Elementary

Wednesday, February 6
Aspen Elementary

Registration

Kindergarten registration and screening appointments will be held at the Hawthorn District Office, 841 West End Court, from February 11 to February 29. Appointments are available from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. There will be extended evening hours on Thursday, February 21, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

☆ To provide skills and proficiencies necessary for the workforce.

The Changing Classroom

The increased use of technology changes the structure of a classroom because teachers will no longer rely on the traditional lecture and seatwork method of instruction.

In a learner-centered classroom, the teacher serves as a facilitator of instruction, a mentor, and a coach in the context of a technology rich environment.

Technology also provides a

record of each student's academic history, giving teachers the data and information they need to individualize instruction and assessment. Additionally, students and teachers have access to a wealth of materials, services, and networks at state, national, and international levels. Technology does not replace teachers. It supports and enhances the educational process.

Discussion Groups

To bring this vision to reality, the district has started a series of article and book discus-

sions in which participants share the ideas, hopes, and challenges they face as they implement the changes necessary to use instructional technology at its full potential. These discussions are open to all who are interested in helping the Hawthorn schools achieve this vision.

Residents who would like further information are invited to contact Lisa Gosen, Director of Technology, at <gosenl@hawthorn73.org > .

"... the teacher serves as a facilitator of instruction, a mentor, and a coach in the context of a technology rich environment."



The 2008 Hawthorn Enrichment Program (HEI) will come galloping in to our schools with our new theme, "Summer of the Wild Horse." The challenging new trails will lead to many new artful learning opportunities, including new options within our HEI Production Studio. These include opportunities in stop-motion animation, journalism, and broadcasting.

Two Sessions Scheduled

The summer program will again offer two sessions. The first begins on Wednesday,

June 11 and ends Wednesday, July 2. Session two will begin on Monday, July 7 and end Thursday, July 31. Wild Horse classes do not meet on Fridays.

Sign Up for HEI

We will hold *Round-Up Days* for class registration. Dates will be posted on the Hawthorn website and in the brochures that will be sent home with students. Parents are invited to attend these evening and weekend sessions to sign their students up. There will be five spring round-ups, and late registrations will be taken in May. Courses will be closed as they reach maximum enrollment numbers, so parents are encouraged to enroll their students early.

Other Opportunities

The Vernon Hills Park Dis-

trict will continue to offer Camp Triple E for after-HEI and Friday Fun programming. Watch for the sign-up information in the Park District brochure.

HEI 2008 will again offer the Academic Counselor of Enrichment (ACE) program for graduating eighth graders and high school students. ACE students receive service credit on their high school transcripts.

Watch for Handbook

The HEI course handbook will be available soon. Summer School Principal Robin O'Connor and Assistant Jan Greene look forward to a summer of enrichment. If you have questions or concerns, please contact them at <oconnorr@hawthorn73.org > or <greenej@hawthorn73.org > .

Hawthorn Happenings

Kindergarten students at **Townline** collected more than 175 pairs of mittens during their Mitten Drive. The mittens will be donated to help those in need during the winter. ❄️ Congratula-



tions go to Robbie Williams who, for the second year in a row, is the Townline winner in the 2007 National Geographic Geography Bee. ❄️ First grade students have explored their families, written about things their families do together, and made family trees. They will also make family quilts to hang in the halls of the school. ❄️ Fifth grade science students studied structure and matter and conducted experiments with density, buoyancy, mixtures, and solutions. ❄️ Each second grade class created a community, and students were assigned to “families.” Together, they resolved such real-life problems as a would-be thief, a blackout, and lack of mail service. Their cooperative spirit was outstanding. ❄️ Physical education and health classes have been learning about digestive, circulatory, and skeletal systems. ❄️ Using the Egyptian pyramids as a masterwork, fourth grade science students studied force and motion. They learned how people used simple machines both long ago and today. ❄️ Spanish language students

have really begun to use the language both in and outside the classroom. ❄️ Third grade students studied the prairie ecosystem. They also learned about local and state governments and the three branches of government. ❄️ Throughout the building, students worked with our music software program, “Groove Music.” Second graders learned about ragtime music and the player piano. They were able to listen to the player piano that Co-principal Karen Cencula donated to the Hawthorn School Preservation Museum. ❄️

As a culminating activity of **Elementary South’s** second grade unit on community, State Representative Kathy Ryg visited in late November. She shared her knowledge of the Vernon Hills community and the many changes that have occurred over the past 50 years. ❄️ Fourth grade students each did research on a biome. They then presented information on the climate, plant, and animal life in their selected biome. As they studied the Earth’s dynamic sphere, they created clay mini-sculptures modeled after Mt. Rushmore and used

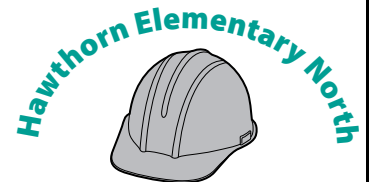


them to simulate weathering and erosion. ❄️ Congratulations to the following fifth graders who were nominated as representatives to SAGES (Student Advisory Group of Elementary South): Meghan

Kelly, Mark Markosyan, Dimple Mehta, Melanie Rogers, Anthony Sandri, Eli Shuster, Heena Singh, Tyler Smith, Christine Tsai, and Jacqueline Uhm. ❄️ Kindergartners had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with turkey, cranberries, corn muffins, banana bread, fruit, vegetables, and pumpkin pie. ❄️ In December, first graders took a Holiday World Tour to learn about holiday customs around the world. They visited many countries including Holland, Mexico, England, Italy, Israel, and the United States. ❄️ Third grade students studied magnets and electricity and began working on their entries for the upcoming Invention Convention. ❄️ Some fourth graders became restaurant critics and wrote persuasive essays to encourage people to visit their favorite restaurants. ❄️

At **Elementary North**, fifth grade classes created book reviews using the “Comic Life” computer application. This project gave students the opportunity to evaluate literature; to write concisely and with detail; to create text boxes and change fonts and colors; and to import images from a website. ❄️ We continue our movement towards being a twenty-first century school with the use of laptop and desktop computers, LCD projectors, LeapPads, and various application programs. In February, Principal Rich Viviano will lead a team of teachers to the Illinois Technology Conference for Educators. ❄️ Congratulations to the Eagle Ticket winners who were honored for being kind, safe, responsible, and respectful, and thanks to Baker’s Square of Libertyville for donating

the reward of a delicious meal. ❄️ Students enjoyed another successful family fun night in December. They danced, sang, and hula-hooped for two hours as DJs from A to Z Entertainment kept the music playing. ❄️



Construction Begins in March

Planning is under way for the addition to be built at Elementary North.

Please note that the main entrance will be closed for several months.

Please watch for further notices about changed traffic patterns and pick-up/drop-off locations.

Who's Who at Hawthorn

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and Business Operations
847-990-4223

Lisa Gosen, Director of Technology
847-990-4235

Joy Kane, Director of
Special Services
847-990-4243

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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Karen Cencula, Principal
Eileen Conway, Principal
Betsy Sostak, Assistant Principal
847-990-4900

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

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, IL.
Dr. Susan E. Zook is newsletter coordinator.*

Hawthorn School District 73

841 West End Court
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061



Roller skating is a favorite physical education unit for students in the Hawthorn elementary schools.

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