

Planned Workshop to Focus on 21st Century Classroom

On June 18 and 19, District 73 will hold a professional development activity for teachers, focused on designing a classroom for the 21st century.

Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook explained, "The students who will enter our schools this fall as five-year-olds are very different from those who were starting school even five years ago.

They have lived their lives in a media-saturated world, and most of them already know a lot about computers. So we need to concentrate part of our ongoing professional development activity on updating our thinking about curriculum and instruction." She added that it is important that the District 73 teaching staff take the time to understand what the words "learner,"

"teacher," and "school" mean in 2008 and beyond.

Workshop Focus

The workshop, presented by consultants from 21st Century Schools, will begin with an exploration of the realities of the 21st century, from demographic changes and the ongoing technology revolution, to the effects of a media-soaked culture. It will include discus-

sion of the reasons that the methods of designing curriculum and instruction that were successful in the 20th century need significant reconsideration today.

Participants will also review the variety of literacies that students will need to become successful members of society. These include visual, auditory, and com-

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

April 2008

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

Board of Education Sets Goals; Begins Implementation

Tim Shanahan, President, Hawthorn District #73 Board of Education

Beginning last summer, the Board of Education has taken specific actions to establish goals as we move forward. This activity was particularly important because four members of the board were newly elected last April.

As our work progressed,

we centered our goal on the core belief of providing to the community a culture of continuous improvement that imparts an exemplary educational experience of Learning for All—Whatever it Takes.

We developed a goal structure that centered on 100% in-

dividual academic achievement by 2010; providing academic challenges to all students at all levels; and providing a well-rounded educational experience to all students at all levels. Supporting this goal we focused on the following areas:

Personnel

The stated goal is to attract, develop, and retain quality staff. The district has had a long commitment to professional development. The board is committed to creating an atmosphere that continues to stress personal and professional growth.

Finances

The stated goal is to plan and provide responsible stewardship of the district's assets. One of the projects the board has implemented is hiring an

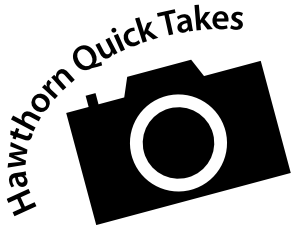


*Tim Shanahan, President
Hawthorn District #73
Board of Education*



Hawthorn's youngest, the three-year-old prekindergartners pictured here, completed a unit that was centered on foods. In learning about how to eat well, they measured, mixed, sliced, rolled, and tasted a variety of foods. Several parents assisted with the classroom activities.

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Kindergarten Welcome

Although kindergarten registration will continue throughout the summer for families new to the district, parents who attended the kindergarten information meetings last January should have submitted their completed registration materials.

Registrations are being processed and welcome letters will be sent on April 21 to the families of all kindergarten students. Those letters will include the school assignment for each student, as well as information about morning and afternoon assignments. Information will also be included about the next steps for scheduling kindergarten screenings.

When families have received their letters, questions should be directed to the principal of the building which the student will attend. Names and phone numbers are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Meetings

Parents of next year's sixth graders should mark their calendars for the incoming 6th grade parent meetings that are set for April 23. The meetings, which will begin at 7:00 pm, will be held at both Middle North and Middle South. Parents should attend the meeting at the school their student will attend in the fall.

outside study to determine the district's current and ongoing needs for facilities and maintenance.

Communication

The stated goal is to ensure high-quality relationships with stakeholders. Two initiatives have already been undertaken to address this goal.

A Town Hall Meeting, open to all residents of the Hawthorn community, was held to encourage articulation of concerns. Residents were offered the opportunity to submit questions, and more than 70 questions were submitted. Responses to those questions may be viewed on the district's website at < www.hawthorn73.org > . Follow the link about the Town Hall Meeting.

We are also in the process of surveying the students who completed their studies

at Hawthorn last year. These young men and women are now students at Vernon Hills, Libertyville, Stevenson, Mundelein, Carmel, and other high schools. We have asked them to tell us both about their experiences at Hawthorn and how well they were prepared for their classes this year as high school freshmen. They have the opportunity to tell us what they think we are doing well and where they think we have room for improvement. We plan to report this information in late April.

Moving Ahead

As we move ahead, it is apparent that we all—Board of Education members, district and building administrators, parents, students, and community residents—need to work toward a common vision for the Hawthorn schools.



June Workshop (con't. from page 1)

puter literacies, as well as understandings of ecology and global finance.

Taking It to the Classroom

On the first day of the workshop, participants will also consider what the classroom should have as physical and emotional environments. They will also take part in an in-depth examination of classroom management, as well as organizational and learning strategies.

Day Two

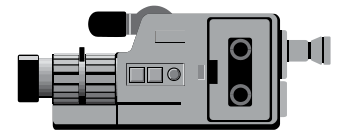
The second day of the workshop will be devoted to actual curriculum design. The Hawthorn teachers will investigate several forms of curriculum, including project-based, problem-based, interdisciplinary,

and thematic. They will also consider the many ways that curriculum can be delivered, including collaborative and cooperative learning; videography and filmmaking; reflective journals; portfolios; and self-directed, independent, and interdependent learning.

A good portion of the day will be spent with groups of teachers developing project-based units for their grade levels.

"This is a powerful workshop," said Zook. "We are pleased to be able to offer our teachers this opportunity to take the calmer moments of summer to reflect on how and why they do what they do, as well as to plan an actual unit for use in the school year ahead."

As an example of how we are trying to understand expectations across boundaries, board members Michelle Comitor, Lisa Jay, and I recently attended an educator's conference on effective schools. We believe it is important that we, as a Board of Education, understand the goals of classroom teachers, and the words that we all use to describe what we do. We are determined that this Board of Education will not operate in a vacuum, but will be responsive to each of our constituencies. So when you have questions, we encourage you to contact teachers, administrators, and board members so that all of us who are part of District 73 can grow together.



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.

Hawthorn Happenings

On March 20, **Aspen Elementary** kindergarten and first grade students ventured to the Lincolnshire Marriott Theatre to attend a performance of the musical “Seussical.” Throughout March, the students were involved in an author study of Dr. Seuss. For instance, kindergartners focused on rhyming words and the various characters that Dr. Seuss created for his stories. The field trip offered a wonderful culminating experience for the unit. 🌟 Congratulations to wrestlers Dan Petersen and Josh Aranda, along with their coach, Tony Carlsen. Peterson and Aranda placed 6th and 5th in the state meet. 🌟 The Student Council held a fundraiser to benefit the Lexi Kazian Foundation and the Zack Tran Memorial Fund. The council extends a big thanks to the Aspen community for making the project a great success. 🌟



Kindergarten students have been spending time learning their way around the tech lab. 🌟 On March 18, the fifth grade band participated in the Young People’s Band Festival at North Chicago High School. 🌟 Fifth grade students in the classes of teachers Joyce Schullian and Tara Neville completed a Bernstein Artful Learning unit on Alaska. They

followed the mushers in this year’s Iditarod race and built and painted landform maps of Alaska. They realized what a hardship it was for the first mushers, in 1925, to travel more than 1,000 miles from Anchorage to Nome, sometimes in blizzard conditions. 🌟 Kindergarten students have learned about blending colors. They know that when white is added to a color, the color will become lighter and is called a tint. 🌟

Bonnie Dobkin, author of the book *Dream Spinner*, gave an informative and humorous talk at **Middle School North’s** Library to an enthusiastic audience of sixth graders. Besides explaining her background and



answering questions about her book, Dobkin gave some pertinent and practical advice to the students about the steps to becoming a writer. 🌟 Congratulations to student Russell Lee who finished in the top 10 percent at the state MathCounts competition in early March. More than 200 students from 66 schools participated. 🌟 Middle North will feature its first International Fair on April 24. Students and teachers will celebrate cultures of the world by sharing food, music, dance, and sports. The fair is being sponsored by the International Club, guided by teacher Valbona Kokoshi. 🌟 At the Science Olympiad regional, the Middle North junior

varsity team received a third place medal, and the varsity team received an eighth place medal. 🌟 Congratulations to Daniela Hristev and Alexey Pomogaev who finished first and second in the Middle North Spelling Bee held in February. 🌟 The 7th and 8th grade band; the 7th and 8th grade orchestra; and the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade chorus all received Division I ratings in the organizational contest. 🌟 Congratulations to “Word of the Day” vocabulary winners Alison Skiadas, Arturo Corro, and Jenna Gusta. 🌟 On March 19, four teams of Middle North students faced off in the annual “Battle of the Books” competition. Team members fielded questions about books that have received the Rebecca Caudill Award. Congratulations to the winning team, the All Star Readers, representing the sixth grade. The team accompanied Library Media Specialist Sharon Horan to a celebratory lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings. 🌟

Students in **Middle School South** teacher Mary Benton’s art classes were amazed as they watched professional potter Po-Wen Liu demonstrate his skill. He shared Chinese wheel-throwing techniques and made the art look easy! 🌟 Hats off again to Michelle Liu who finished an outstanding



season with a fourth place finish at the Lake County Spelling Bee. 🌟 And further spelling congratulations to the Middle South Spelling Team on their second place finish at the Lake County Spelling Bee. 🌟 Eighth grade students attended a performance of “The Wiz” at Vernon Hills High School. 🌟 Congratulations to the Middle South Math Team participants who have been practicing since October. In addition to outstanding performances in local and regional competitions (where they finished fifth and Ron Chakrabarty placed in the top 16), the team has earned Gold Level Status through the MathCounts program. To earn the designation, at least 12 club members scored better than 80 % on MathCounts Ultimate Math Challenges assessment. The team was one of only eight in Illinois to earn this designation. 🌟 Hats off to our winter athletes. The wrestling team had a terrific season with many student athletes qualifying for sectionals. And a special congratulations to Jeremy Brazil who placed in the top seven in the state. 🌟

The boys and girls volleyball teams are also to be congratulated on their successful seasons. 🌟

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 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

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To celebrate Black History Month, storytellers D. Kucha Brownlee and Baba Tony Brown introduced students at Middle School South to many elements of African-American history.

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