

Measuring Students' Progress

Working toward the district's goal of "Learning for All," Hawthorn students' progress in reading, math, and writing is being assessed this spring. Information from these assessments helps to guide the development of programs of instruction, as well as to meet the educational needs of individual students.

Focus on Writing

During the current school year, the district has placed a priority focus on writing, and teachers have implemented a more comprehensive writing curriculum.

In early April, students participated in a writing assessment as a follow-up to an assessment that had been administered last fall. It provid-

ed teachers with information on students' progress. Coordinator of Student Achievement Lisa Cerauli explained, "This was a formal version of the monitoring our teachers have done all year in this important area of the curriculum."

Early Literacy

During May, the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Lit-

eracy Skills (DIBELS) will be used to assess students in kindergarten through second grade on their reading skills. Their teachers and other support staff have been using these quick exercises throughout the year with select groups of students. The current assessment will

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May 2008

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

Two Named as Assistant Principals

The Board of Education has named Robert Collins and Luis Salto to serve as assistant principals for the district's elementary schools. Collins will divide his time between Aspen and Elemen-

tary South; Salto will fulfill his duties at Townline and Elementary North. Director of Human Resources Eileen Conway observed, "Each of these men brings exceptional skills to the district. Both are

dedicated to assuring that students succeed, and both are outstanding communicators."

Robert Collins

Collins joins the Hawthorn staff from Harvard School District 50 where he is currently chair of the high school's fine arts/social science department. He has been with the district since 1994, as a director of choral activities at the junior and senior high school levels.

He holds his bachelor of arts in music education from Millikin University and will complete his master of educational leadership at Concordia University Chicago this summer.

Luis Salto

Salto currently serves as dean of students at

Hawthorn Students Excel in Cook Memorial Public Library Creative Writing Contest

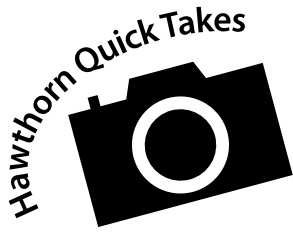
Eight Hawthorn students have been honored in the Cook Memorial Public Library's creative writing contest for students in fourth to eighth grades. Our winners are:

Colin Alexander - Townline
Emily Fagel - Aspen
Jackie Komez - Elementary North
Finley Lau - Elementary North
Daniel Lebovitz - Townline
Edgar Nevarez - Middle North
Gina Stoll - Elementary North
Maria Yunovich - Elementary North



At its April 28 meeting, the District 73 Board of Education awarded tenure to 16 teachers. Seated (l. to r.): Raquel Kim, Katie Wheeler, and Rachel Serlin. Standing (l. to r.): Brandon Todd, Cathy Dismer, Sara Hilger, Anne Moebius, Angel Colon, Lisa Roberts, Sachiko Kim, Sheryl Swanson, and Dan Yablonsky. Not pictured: Erin Brickman, Anthony Carlsen, Carl Fritz, and Marissa Vazquez.

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Summer Scholars

Coordinator of Bilingual Services and Federal Programs Lara Christoun reports that the Summer Scholars program, funded by federal grants, will be available again this year.

This literacy and math program for students in kindergarten through seventh grade is designed for students who will benefit from a “jump start” for the school year ahead. Says Christoun, “This is an enrichment program that helps students build their confidence in their academic abilities.”

Students are recommended for the program based on teachers and support staff observations, as well as test scores.

From July 28 until August 14, Summer Scholars will meet from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays and from 8:30 am to noon on Fridays. Breakfast and lunch will be served each day, and bus service is provided for those students living within the boundaries of District 73.

Eighth Grade Date Changes

Please note that due to snow days used during this past winter, dates of eighth grade activities have been changed:

Awards Night

Both Middle School North and Middle School South will hold their awards nights at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 2.

Promotion Exercises

For both Middle School North and Middle School South, promotion exercises will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 4 at Vernon Hills High School.

Plainfield North High School. He has also served as a history teacher and dean of students at J. Sterling Morton East High School in Cicero. He began his career as a teacher of consumer education and bilingual history at Wells Community High School in Chicago.

He holds his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, his master’s in educational administration from Governor’s State University, and is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in educational leadership at National-Louis University.

Superintendent Dr. Joe Yomtoob noted, “Both Luis and Robert come to us with the highest recommendations. We look forward to their becoming part of the Hawthorn team.”



Measuring Students’ Progress (con’t. from page 1)

provide information about how students have responded to support in the areas of phonics, phonemic awareness, and fluency.

Reading and Math

Also in May, second through eighth grade students will be

assessed in the areas of reading and math using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests. “We are looking for students to exceed their target growth on this state-aligned assessment, based on the scores they received in the fall,” said Cerauli. She

added that teachers use these assessments not only to monitor individual student’s growth over time, but also as a tool to plan the most appropriate instruction.



Summer Writing Workshop Offered to Teachers

In mid-July, Hawthorn teachers will have the opportunity to participate in an intensive three-day institute developed to equip them with the tools they need to help their students become better writers. Strategies for Writing Success will be presented by facilitators from the Staff Development for Educators organization.

Each day’s activities will include both large-group and breakout sessions.

Introduction and Overview

On the first day, participants will review the program’s philosophy, set goals, and explore the key areas to be covered during the institute. They will also explore using poetry forms to encourage voice, word choice, and ideas in student writing.

Breakout sessions will of-

fer tips for managing students’ portfolios, creating writing communities, and ways to use individualized instruction.

Traits of Good Writing

The second day will feature an exploration of the traits of good writing. Teachers will review various genres of writing and how to use them effectively in the classroom.

The smaller group sessions will focus on word choice and voice as critical aspects of good writing. They will also consider ways to organize and support ideas, and ways to encourage students to use good forms of expression in their writing.

Publishing and Assessing

The final day of the workshop will begin with an exploration of whole-group writing activi-

ties that work across all content areas, and also address ways to encourage critical thinking.

Revising and the value of using peer conferences for feedback will be addressed in small-group sessions. The day will conclude with reflection on the workshop’s strategic offerings and the ways in which the Hawthorn teachers intend to apply their newly learned techniques.

“With the district’s emphasis on writing across the curriculum, we are very pleased to be able to offer this outstanding staff development opportunity to our teachers,” noted Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook. She indicated that more than 75 teachers have already registered to participate in the workshop.

Hawthorn Happenings

About 30 **Hawthorn Elementary North** third through fifth grade students travel to Stevenson High

School after school each Tuesday to participate in the Big Brother Big Sister program. Social worker Kathy Falotico and teacher Rachel Zabel travel with the students. Each student is paired with

a high school student in the program that involves crafts, group games, and academic support. 🌀 In March, fourth grade student Finley Lau participated in a video audition for the 2007-2008 American Fine Arts Festival competition. More than 600 students, ranging in age from six to nineteen, took part. Finley was selected as a winner and will be playing in a special Winners' Concert at Carnegie Hall over Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations, Finley! 🌀 On April 15, teachers Matt Polnow, Terry Thourson, and Kristen Wilson hosted Family PE Night. Our families very much enjoyed this evening to share the benefits of physical fitness. 🌀 The Elementary North David Yomtoob Most Improved Awards have been presented to: Evelyn Avila-Zambrano (K), Junior Ytturalde (1st), Junior Martinez (2nd), Justin Guzman (3rd), Javi Frayre (4th), and Karina Porfirio (5th). 🌀 Parents Amy Dohler and Susan Jones have volunteered to co-chair Elementary North's new Family Partnership Council. The Council has already chosen several Family

Fun Nights for the 2008-2009 school year. 🌀 Karen Oliver has been chosen to teach second grade next year. She



has served as an instructional assistant at Aspen during the current year. 🌀

Hawthorn Elementary South kindergarten students have been working on a unit about families. 🌀 First graders have been studying the sun, the moon, and Earth. In conjunction with the unit, students worked with the Zephyr Dance Company to create dances that represented an understanding of how the sun and moon create night and day. 🌀 Students in teacher Megan Holt's fifth grade social studies class created a replica of a colonial village and gave tours to the fourth graders.

🌀 Second grade students studied the life cycle of chicks. They compared the chick's life cycle with that of the butterfly which they had observed at the beginning of the school year. 🌀 Third grad-



ers celebrated learning their multiplication facts with an Ice Cream Sundae Party. 🌀 In social studies, the third grade students are creating a mini-Chicago. Each class is researching and building a building to be part of the showcase. To demonstrate the cultural diversity of Chicago, each student is making a heritage doll. 🌀 Fourth graders are learning about the U.S. government. Working with the Zephyr Dance Team, they will incorporate dance into their study of the legislative, executive, and

judicial branches to demonstrate the concepts of movement and balance.

🌀 Congratulations to the band and orchestra on their successful Spring Break concert, and to the fifth grade band on the very high compliments they received at the Little People's Band Festival in March. 🌀 On May 24, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, the fifth grade band will perform at Hawthorn Mall. They will be thrilled if you come to hear them! 🌀

At **Townline Elementary**, the kindergartners have kicked off their unit on "Our Earth." H.A. Schult's "Trash People" sculptures inspired the students to create environmental superheroes using recycled materials. 🌀 As first grade students studied the Earth,

moon, and stars, they watched their shadows move throughout the day. 🌀 In math, the first graders have measured everything that is not glued down! They are experts with rulers, tape measures, and meter sticks!! 🌀 As part of their unit on magnets and electricity, third grade students learned about electrical safety. 🌀 Townline teachers helped zoologist Dr. James give kindergarten and first grade students a hands-on opportunity to learn about snakes and other animals.



🌀 Second graders have welcomed back their "Flat Stanleys" safe and sound with many tales of adventure from several states, as well as countries in Europe and Asia. They were also aflutter as they welcomed the arrival of baby chicks. 🌀 Traveling through the regions of the U.S., fourth graders learned a great deal about the differences in the regions and our interdependence on one another. They visited the Milwaukee Public Museum to supplement their units on regions, ecosystems, and erosion. 🌀 Fifth graders have dedicated one day each week to learning a difficult vocabulary word. The "weighty words" are revealed to them through puns. 🌀 Physical education, library, music, and art each contribute substantially to the education of students at Townline. 🌀

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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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Kudos to Hawthorn!



It is with pleasure that we announce that Hawthorn District #73 has once again been named a winner of the SchoolSearch organization's Bright Red Apple Award. The district was among only 91 of Illinois's 871 school districts to be so honored.

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