

## A Busy Summer at the Hawthorn Schools

To some, summer may equate with “down time” for schools. But not at Hawthorn. Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook reports that the district was engaged in a full schedule of activities and events. Here’s a sampling.

❖ The two sessions of the Hawthorn Enrichment Institute, under the direction of Robin O’Connor, served more than 450 students.

❖ More than 50 teachers took part in a two-day training session dedicated to designing a 21st-century classroom. They are this year’s “pioneers” for 21st-century learning.

❖ Teachers from across the district worked with Director of Student Achievement and 21st-Century Learning Lisa Cerauli to review and revise the curriculum guide and curriculum booklets for parents.

❖ Nearly 90 teachers attended a three-day writing institute presented by Staff Development for Educators. Another 50-plus teachers attended the district-sponsored “Why Write?” training. Both programs, organized by Coordinator of Staff Development Karen Olker, received very positive feedback and energized teachers as they prepared to return to their classrooms.

❖ Hundreds of teachers participated in additional workshops, and 70 teachers, administrators, and board members completed a one-day session with Dr. Stephen White from the Leadership and Learning Center that focused on developing leadership teams and school improvement plans.

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September 2008

# Hawthorn Highlights

“Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!”

## Superintendent Reflects on the Year Ahead

As he begins his 13th and final year as the Superintendent of Hawthorn District #73, Superintendent Dr. Joe Yomtoob admits that his emotions about retirement are mixed. “As I look back, I realize just how far we have come on so many fronts. And we are right on the brink of moving from being a very good district to being a great district. That future is going to be challenging and I would love to be a part of it.”

In a recent conversation, he explained, however, that unlike when he retired 14 years ago in Michigan, this time he really will retire. “My wife and I plan to go to Israel next summer with our oldest son and some of our grandkids,” he said.

### Thoughts as School Opens

In his remarks to teachers and staff as the new school year opened, Dr. Joe played off his 13 years as superintendent to present a David

Letterman-like list of the “Top 13 Reasons to be Proud of Hawthorn,” including:

13. Our Buildings,
12. Our Community Partnerships,
11. Our Supportive Residents,
10. Our Finances,
9. Our Board of Education,
8. Our PTO and Volunteers,
7. Our High School Partners,
6. Our Curriculum, Methods, and Student Achievement,
5. Our Students and Families,
4. Our Support Staff,
3. Our Administrative Team,
2. Our Teachers and Specialized Staff Members, and
1. Our Sense of Family.

He expanded on each of the 13 and expressed his particular admiration for the support that is available during crises and sad times of Hawthorn staff and the celebrations that accompany success.

### An Eye to the Future

When asked about the district’s future, Dr. Joe lauded the past contributions and future expectations of Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook. “There is no question in my mind that Dr. Zook is going to take us to the next level and make our school system even better than it is today.”

During the course of this school year, Dr. Joe has pledged to visit each classroom at all six schools.

### Board Meetings on Cable

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 tapes of the meetings from the Educational Services Center.



Pictured here are some of the about-to-be kindergarten students and their parents who took part in the Hawthorn Kinder Practice Bus Ride. After riding the bus to school, they were given a tour of the school and then bused home.



## Congratulations to 12 Who Completed Advanced Degrees

Heartily congratulations to the Hawthorn staff members who have completed masters' degrees.

Middle South's Matt Cameron  
Concordia University

Elementary North's Angel Colon  
Concordia University

Townline's Alice Grubb  
St. Xavier University

Townline's Jennifer Mietus  
North Park University

Aspen's Diane Motley  
St. Xavier University

Townline's Jacqui Ray  
Concordia University

Middle North's Sheryl Swanson  
University of Illinois-Springfield

Middle North's Erin Zane  
Concordia University

Elementary South's Gina Zubert  
National College of Education

And to the three who have earned second masters' degrees a double kudos!!

Townline's Mindy Lamberti  
Northern Illinois University

Elementary North's Hillary Marchel  
Benedictine University

Melissa Sabin  
Northern Illinois University

## Professional Development Continues

Zook reports that the pace of professional development that was established during the summer will continue even as the school year begins. She explains, "In addition to ongoing training and support with our 21st-century Pioneers, we

are continuing our work on writing improvement, data teams, and data-driven decision making."

The district has also entered into a year-long partnership with the Leadership and Learning Center that will bring consultant Stephen White to Hawthorn each

month to work with teams during Hawthorn Planning Council meetings. The partnership also includes a visit in November by the Center's CEO, Doug Reeves, who will meet with teachers and parents during a town hall meeting.

## Assessing Students' Progress

In early September, students began participating in the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. These tests, which are administered via computer, measure each student's general knowledge and academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics and reading.

Students in second through eighth grades will take the MAP tests in September. Fifth and eighth grade students will take the tests again in December to assist with planning for class placement in the middle and high schools.

Students in second, third, fourth, sixth, and seventh grades will take their final MAP tests in May, which is also when first graders will be assessed for the first time. Assessment of writing will be done in mid-October through the use of writing samples.

Kindergarten, first, and second grade students have also

taken the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). The information from these tests helps teachers monitor their students' progress in reading fluency.

### Using the Data

Director of Student Achievement and 21st-Century Learning Lisa Cerauli explained that the data generated by the MAP system, as well as other assessments, provide information on student growth that helps identify strengths and areas of concern in programs and curriculum. She observed, "These data allow our district to set targets for children's growth and measure our effectiveness in meeting those goals." She acknowledged that the individual assessments are only a snapshot of a student's knowledge. However, they do help to measure progress or growth in the basic skills. The September data let teach-

ers know where students' strengths are and if they need help in specific areas. As Cerauli noted, "These are all very important ways of looking at student progress and achievement. By looking at their classes using assessment data, teachers can focus on the needs of students and meet them where they are."

### Reporting to Parents

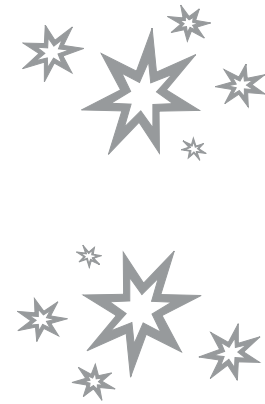
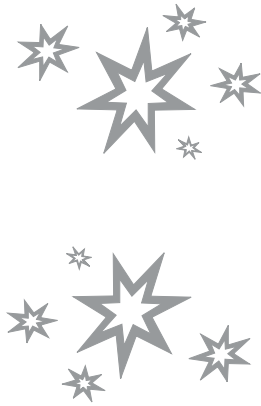
Following the September MAP tests and each testing period thereafter, parents receive reports that detail each child's academic progress during the school year.

Cerauli encourages parents who have questions about test results to contact the child's classroom teacher or building principal. "We want all of our families to have a clear understanding of the test scores."

*As a learning community, it is important for parents and all other community members to both understand and be supportive of the direction in which the district is moving. Only then can we truly reach our goal of "Learning for All."*

# Welcome New Staff to Hawthorn!

## Middle Schools and District Staff



Front row (l to r): Erin Hawkinson (Middle North); Stephanie Petkie (Middle North and South); Miriam Tullgren (Middle South). Back row (l to r): Karla Downing (District Psychologist); Eileen Duhig (Middle South); Debbie MacFarlan (District Special Education).

## Elementary North



Left to right: Sarah Kalb, Emily Jones, and Karen Oliver.



## Aspen



Front row (l to r): Geri Millinchick, Beth Wienckowski. Back row (l to r): Carrie Strauts, Tiffany Treat, Stefanie Bechler.

## Townline



Front row (l to r): Jennifer Tiller, Mindy Sierzega, Carmen Flores, Jaclyn Richter. Middle row (l to r): Laurel Deeter, Dana Hochleutner, Vanessa Hopp, Sarah Kalb. Back row (l to r): Jaimie Clapp, Jenna Malovey, Christopher Crandall, Sarah Dontsov, Elizabeth Szymczak.

## Elementary South



Front row (l to r): Sarah Lawless, Rachel Pomeranets, Lindsey Waitzman. Back row (l to r): Connie Cymerman, Stacy Golden, Erin Dingman.

# Who's Who at Hawthorn

## District 73 Board of Education

Timothy Shanahan, President  
847-816-5965  
shanahant@hawthorn73.org

Donna Gaidamak, Vice President  
847-680-1371  
gaidamakd@hawthorn73.org

Anne Hoffman, Secretary  
847-984-2607  
hoffmana@hawthorn73.org

Jeffrey Bard  
847-918-8196  
bardj@hawthorn73.org

Michelle Comitor  
847-918-9639  
comitorm@hawthorn73.org

Lisa Jay  
847-549-9123  
jayl@hawthorn73.org

John Sonnenberg  
847-922-5572  
sonenbergj@hawthorn73.org

## Hawthorn Educational Services Center

841 West End Court  
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

Youssef Yomtoob, Ph.D.,  
Superintendent  
847-990-4210

Sue Zook, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent-elect  
847-990-4244

Lisa Cerauli, Director of Student  
Achievement & 21st Century  
Learning  
847-990-4251

Eileen Conway,  
Director of Human Resources  
847-990-4216

Alan Hahn, Director of Finance  
and Business Operations  
847-990-4223

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

Jim Batson,  
Technology Services Manager  
847-990-4231

## Aspen Elementary South Campus

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

## Elementary North North Campus

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

## Elementary South South Campus

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

## Townline Elementary North Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5  
810 N. Aspen Drive  
Karen Cencula, Principal  
Luis Salto, Assistant Principal  
Betsy Sostak, Assistant Principal  
847-990-4900

## Middle School North North Campus

Grades 6 through 8  
201 Hawthorn Parkway  
Anna Groh, Principal  
Robert Natale,  
Assistant Principal  
847-990-4400

## Middle School South South Campus

Grades 6 through 8  
600 N. Aspen Drive  
Joy Mullaney, Principal  
Renee Ullberg,  
Assistant Principal  
847-816-8317



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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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Dr. Susan E. Zook is newsletter coordinator.*

## Hawthorn School District 73

841 West End Court  
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

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