

Plan to Attend the November 3 Town Hall Presentation

The Hawthorn Board of Education invites and encourages the community to attend a Town Hall presentation to be held at Townline School on Monday, November 3. The meeting, which is free, will begin at 7:00 pm.

The keynote speaker for the presentation will be Dr. Doug Reeves, founder of the Leadership and Learning Center (see story below).

Reeves will offer parents and other community residents a “state of education” discussion on achievement, accountability, and assessment beyond test scores, topics on which he has written and spoken extensively. His recent writings include: *The Learning Leader: How to Focus School Improvement for Better Results* and *Making Standards Work: How to Implement Standards-*

Based Assessments in the Classroom, School, and District.

Meeting Details

Townline Elementary School is located at 810 N. Aspen Drive in Vernon Hills (corner of Route 60 and Aspen). Parking is available at Townline, as well as in the lot of the adjacent school, Hawthorn Elementary North.

Babysitting will be available

during the program. To help plan for this service, please call 847-990-4200 with the number of children who will use the service and their ages.

The presentation will be held at Townline Elementary School.

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October 2008

Hawthorn Highlights

“Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!”

Student Achievement Partnership Formed

Hawthorn District 73 has initiated a partnership with the Leadership and Learning Center. The Center was founded to help school leaders and classroom teachers improve student achievement through practical and constructive approaches to standards, assessment, and accountability.

Meet the Partners

The Center’s founder, Dr. Doug Reeves, is a national expert in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. He is the author of more than 20 books and many articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness. He has twice been selected for the Harvard Distinguished Authors series and has won the Parents’ Choice Award for his writing for children and parents.

Joining Reeves in working with the Hawthorn schools are Dr. Stephen White and Mary Jane O’Connell, both

affiliated with the Center.

Stephen White is a nationally known educational consultant whose expertise is in data analysis, systems, leadership assessment, and educational audits. He is becoming a familiar face at Hawthorn, as he meets monthly with the building teams on the Hawthorn Planning Council. He has also committed time to

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visit the district’s schools to collaborate with administrators and teachers.

Mary Jane O’Connell is a facilitator who has 23 years of experience as an elementary school principal. Her experience gives her a unique practitioner’s perspective in her work with educators. She and Stephen White are working closely with district teams as

experts in the areas of school improvement planning and data-driven decision making.

Town Hall Meeting

Doug Reeves is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the

November 3 Town Hall meeting (see story above). The following day, he will address the entire Hawthorn staff on ways to use current educational research to improve student achievement.



As part of a Bernstein Artful Learning unit on legacy, Tibetan monks visited Townline to create a sand mandala. When students and parents had viewed the mandala, the monks swept up the sand and scattered it into the Des Plaines River. “Legacy—though the sand is gone, the memory/experience remains. We all leave a legacy in our words and actions.”

Board Meetings on Cable

Board of Education meetings are rebroadcast on Vernon Hills Comcast cable channel 4 or AT&T channel 99 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.

Halloween Reminders

As you and your children plan Halloween costumes, we ask that you keep in mind our schools' strong desire to create a secure environment in which all students can feel safe.

With that in mind, students should keep their costumes fun and funny. We discourage horror-type costumes that display gore and blood. Weapons or weapon-like props will not be allowed nor will costumes and accessories that disrupt the learning environment.

Thanks for helping us keep Halloween fun for all!



The October 10 Teacher Institute Day—a day when students were *not* in attendance—focused on emergency preparedness. The program was conducted at Middle School South.

Using the theme “When Disaster Strikes,” teachers participated in drills conducted by officers from the Vernon Hills Police Department simulating assailants’ forced entry into the school and the taking of hostages in several classrooms.

Teachers performed a lockdown as law enforcement officers strategically searched

for the assailants. They had a first-hand look at the confusion and fear caused by weapons, fire alarms sounding, and officers sweeping into classrooms in search of assailants.

After the exercises, teachers were gathered to debrief and have their questions answered.

Student Safety is Foremost

Dr. Sue Zook, Hawthorn superintendent-elect, said the Rapid Deployment exercise helps teachers and staff realize the reality of situations that have occurred across the country. “Safety is our num-

ber one concern,” Zook said. “We will take whatever actions are necessary to keep our children safe.”

Zook and other Hawthorn staff members participated in a similar rapid deployment demonstration a couple of years ago in Mundelein. She noted, “I am glad we were able to work with Ward Feger, Todd Williams, and Pat Zimmerman of the Vernon Hills Police Department to bring the lockdown exercises to Hawthorn and to better prepare faculty and staff in case of a real emergency.”



Outdoor Education Program Revamped

For more than 30 years, Hawthorn students have taken part in an Outdoor Education program. This year, in response to concerns that had arisen, the program has been totally revised.

Rather than a two-night overnight program, Outdoor Education now encompasses three different day-long field trips spread throughout the school year.

Field Trips

In October, sixth grade students are taking part in a program at Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside. This field trip will feature a standards-based curriculum that will take advantage of some of the facility’s special features, including the team-building challenge course, canoeing, and life-skill development.

In December, the students will venture to Ryerson Woods in Riverwoods, and in March they will spend a day at Camp Duncan near Fox Lake.

Curricular Content

Each of these field trips has been designed to include a curriculum that extends classroom learning. Activities are being developed to address core learning standards, improve individual and team activities, increase environmental awareness, and provide positive life experiences.

The overall goal of the program is to extend and enrich what the students experience at school. The locations at the Lake County outdoor educational facilities offer opportunities to develop curriculum that cannot be undertaken in the classrooms of the Hawthorn middle schools.



Seventh grade students also have an opportunity to take part in a day of education beyond the classroom. They are pictured here as they participated in the Voyageur Living History program at Independence Grove Forest Preserve.

Hawthorn Happenings

Mary Tsakadze, a member of the **Middle School North** Student Council, was visiting relatives in Georgia when the country was invaded by Russia. The suffering she saw inspired her to suggest that the Student Council sponsor a clothing drive to help the residents of Georgia who had lost their homes and everything in them. Many bags of clothing have been collected and sorted. They are being prepared for shipment to Georgia. ❁ “Word-of-the-Day,” a school-wide, ongoing vocabulary challenge, has begun again, but with a new twist. The selected words come from different subjects: math, social studies, science, and language arts. The first winners were eighth graders Eric Swanson and Omar Abdallah, seventh grader Erica Erchinger, and sixth grader Kiara Schuh. ❁ The student library board has been chosen for the year. Represent-



ing eighth grade are: Brian Georgeson, Angela Lee, Lauren Lee, Shelby Mackey, Megan Ramirez, and Lauren Serbin. Representing seventh grade are: Morgan Levy, Elizabeth Parker, and Nia Powell. The board meets once a month to plan such library activities as Teen-Read Week and Book Angels. ❁ On October 1, the Student Council held a Cubs Spirit

Day. ❁ The student newspaper will increase the number of hard copies to six this year. The paper will also be available online. ❁

The **Middle School South** Student Council made a quilt in remembrance of September 11. Each student chose the name of a 9-11 victim to write on a colored square. Students also wrote personal pledges in memory of their chosen victims. The quilt was displayed in the cafeteria. ❁ The seventh and eighth grade girls basketball teams participated in the Big Shot Shootout Tournament sponsored by District 15 in Palatine. At the end of the three-day tournament, both teams from Middle South were crowned champions. Congratulations to the teams and their coaches! ❁ Firefighter Anthony Rodkey and the sprinkler trailer demonstration wowed the sixth grade science classes. Students learned the importance

of smoke alarms and sprinklers while they watched a contained fire activate a smoke alarm and sprinkler. ❁ In September, all seventh

grade students spent part of their day working with counselors from Omni Youth Services to work on team-building activities. ❁ Seventh graders also participated in the Lake County Forest Preserve’s Voyageur Living History program. On their field trip to Independence Grove, volunteers led them through the trip on a Voyageur long-boat canoe. On land, students

learned of the experiences of Native Americans. As they examined the pelts, bones, and tendons of an animal, the students could understand why the use of the whole animal was important for sur-



vival. ❁ The Student Council held a successful car wash to raise money to send a child to Burn Camp. ❁ Student Council also sponsored a family cookout. Families enjoyed barbecue and s’mores, and the students had fun playing Guitar Hero and listening to the DJ. ❁

At **Aspen Elementary School**, third graders visited Old School Forest Preserve as they studied the prairie. ❁ Third, fourth, and fifth

The students are making a journal about the footprints that they left behind this summer. The project is based on the idea that the path we leave behind connects us to choices we make now. ❁

Fifth grade students planted bulbs that will bloom next spring. ❁ Science students did an experiment with paper airplanes as a means to learn the scientific method. ❁ In social studies, fifth graders have been working to strengthen their map and globe skills. ❁ Congratulations to third grade teacher Jean Earhart who won the Office Max Adopt-a-Classroom contest. Her \$1,000 worth of merchandise from Office Max included a new



grade classes are working on a “Footprints Project” as part of Aspen’s Bernstein Artful Learning legacy unit.

chair, a camera, a pencil sharpener, and many wonderful supplies for teachers and students. ❁

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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. Hawthorn Highlights is prepared by Scholl Communications Incorporated, Deerfield. Dr. Susan Zook is newsletter coordinator.

Hawthorn School District 73

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Hawthorn fifth grade students use maps and globes to learn about the world around them.

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