

## Early Assistance for Students Who Need a Boost

School districts in Illinois (and across the country) have been mandated to implement programs called "Response to Intervention" by the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

As explained in an entry in Wikipedia, Response to Intervention "is designed to provide early, effective assistance to students who are having difficulty learning."

### Hawthorn's Approach

Hawthorn has been implementing components of the Response to Intervention process for many years, using such assessments as the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). Students are assessed periodically throughout the year, and those who are identified as having weak-

nesses are supported with targeted interventions.

The district-level committee, over the last year, reviewed the current system and defined implementation goals. The committee also inventoried and analyzed the resources and materials that are available in each building.

### Staff Training

District administrators began

formal training for staff members this past summer and will complete training for all staff by the end of this year. Lisa Cerauli, Director of Student Achievement and 21st Century Learning, explained, "We have been working to make Response to Intervention work in our schools, and to use this process to help all our students succeed."

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November 2008

# Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

## November 17: Elementary Parent University

All parents of Hawthorn elementary students in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to attend a Parent University which will be held on Monday evening, November 17.

The two-hour program will begin at 6:30 pm and will be held at Townline School. Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook described the program as "an opportunity for parents to gain more information on topics that are important to the education of elementary-aged children."

### Program Specifics

The first Parent University will address two topics, "Supporting Your Child at Home with Reading and Writing" and "Introduction to at-home Technology Tools." The latter will give parents an overview of three programs with which their students are very familiar: Study Island, My Access,

and Custom Typing.

Following a general welcome, participants will attend break-out sessions grouped by kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth grade.

### Baby-sitting Available

"Because we want to en-

courage as many parents as possible to take part in this program, baby-sitting will be provided for children between the ages of 2 through 10," noted Zook.

If you would like additional information about the Parent University, please contact your child's school.

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**Hawthorn's first Parent University will be held from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Monday, November 17 at Townline Elementary School.**

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## Board Adopts Strategic Plan and Goals

Working in conjunction with the Administrative Team, the District 73 Board of Education has adopted a strategic plan for the years 2008 through 2012. The board has also identified three goal areas or guiding principles.

### Strategic Plan

The following are the key elements of the strategic plan:

☆ **Vision:** As a district-wide community of life-long learners with high expectations, standards of excellence, and quality

resources, our successes will reflect a commitment to educational excellence for a changing tomorrow.

☆ **Mission:** Learning for All: Whatever It Takes . . . to educate each student to successfully apply his/her knowledge in our changing global society.

☆ **Values and Beliefs:** To reach and support our vision and mission, we have embraced the Seven Correlates of Effective Schools developed by Larry Lezotte.

1. Instructional leadership.

2. Clearly stated and focused mission.
3. Safe and positive environment.
4. High expectations for *all* students.
5. Frequent monitoring of student progress.
6. Maximize learning opportunities.
7. Positive communication: school, home, and community.

The three goal areas that have been identified include:

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## 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.

## School Board Elections

Nominating petition forms are now available for the April 7, 2009, Board of Education election. Forms may be picked up at the Educational Services Center at 841 West End Court in Vernon Hills between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Three seats on the seven-member board will be filled in the April 7 election. Candidates will serve four-year terms expiring in April 2013.

To be eligible to serve, a school board member must be, on the date of election, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, a registered voter, and a resident of the State of Illinois and the school district for at least one year immediately preceding the election.

☆ **Student Learning or Academic Achievement:** Accelerate achievement for each student.

☆ Provide effective supports and maximize each student's opportunity to learn.

☆ Cultivate leaders to create a culture of high performance.

☆ **Communication and Community Collaboration:** Establish and foster community partnerships to promote accelerated achievement throughout our welcoming community.

☆ Develop strong school, family, and community partnerships to support positive academic experiences.

☆ **Fiscal Responsibility:** Develop and/or approve a financial plan and a commitment to fiscal discipline and responsibility that supports student learning and organizational effectiveness.

☆ Utilize resources, i.e., funding, facilities, staffing, etc. responsibly and efficiently to promote excellent academic achievement and accomplish our goals.

## From Ideals to Actions

The Board of Education and administrators have also discussed at length the ways in which the strategic plan and goals will become realities.

Initiatives and projects will be identified and incorporated at both the building and dis-

trict levels. Initiatives are identified as having longer-term time frames of three to five years. Projects are intended to be accomplished within one to two years.

Working with models offered by Doug Reeves and the Leadership and Learning Center (see the October issue of *Hawthorn Highlights*), the next task will be to transform plans into measurable student achievement results.

"I'm sure that our residents realize that our extensive planning efforts are done with one overarching goal: student success," observed Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook.



## Hawthorn Planning Council

In October, members of the Hawthorn Planning Council (HPC) participated in a session facilitated by Dr. Stephen White of the Center for Leadership and Learning. This year, the council is focusing on each building's School Improvement Plan.

At the October meeting, attendees directed their attention to what were described as the "core leadership challenges." One aspect that was discussed was the need to use

clear language in references to the group's work. As an example, it was agreed by all in attendance that educational leaders at Hawthorn would be members of Professional Learning Communities.

Also during the meeting, representatives of Middle School South gave a report on their goal of improving writing. Principal Joy Mullaney explained that one of the first things the school's team did was to assign priorities to the

writing strategies that are being used in the building. They considered it important to understand which strategies would give "the biggest bang for the buck."

The meeting concluded with consideration of ways to prepare for implementation of the plans currently in work.

The next meeting of the HPC will be held on November 19.

# Happy Thanksgiving!

# Hawthorn Happenings

First grade students from **Elementary North** and **Elementary South** have teamed up with seventh graders from **Middle School South** to form a partnership with the new Cook Memorial Library which will be built on Aspen Drive. The first graders from both schools kicked off their service learning project on October 27 with a walking field trip to Middle South. They were joined by State Senator Terry Link, State Representative Kathy Ryg, Vernon Hills Mayor Roger Byrne, and several representatives of the Cook Memorial Library. After an assembly at Middle South, the students walked over to the library site and made a human outline of the building. Special thanks to all of the teachers who helped organize this wonderful collaborative event. 🍷

Miss Illinois, Katie Lorenz, visited the students of **Elementary North** in October. She spoke to the students



about the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Without character, Miss Illinois would not have been able to achieve as much as

she has, including a degree from the University of Michigan. Her visit to Elementary North kicked off Red Ribbon Week. The week is celebrated throughout the country as a way for students to learn and practice different ways to say no to drugs. Some activities included wearing red, a canned food drive, and decorating the school grounds with red ribbon. 🍷 The new Family Partnership Council hosted a successful Family Fun night in September. The DJs from A-Z Entertainment kept the party rockin' while families enjoyed eating dinner and refreshments. 🍷 Vernon Hills Police Officer Ward Feger, liaison to District 73, presented information to second grade students about the importance of using 9-1-1 in cases of emergency. Officer Feger did a great job of interacting with the students, including making live calls via speakerphone so the students could listen to a live operator. 🍷

At **Elementary South**, students planted red tulip bulbs and decorated the fence with ribbons in honor of Red Ribbon Week. 🍷 Third grade students looked forward to exploring metric math with their parents during American Education Week. Students rotated to different classrooms with their friends and parents to participate in a variety of metric activities. 🍷 The fifth grade SAGES sponsored an all-school election on November 4. Voting booths were set up and the students received "I Voted" stickers. 🍷 Third graders continued to learn about the prairie in their science classes. Each child researched and wrote about a prairie animal. In reading, they connected the novel *Sarah, Plain and Tall* to the

prairie science unit. 🍷 The Wizard of Oz is providing inspiration to students and staff as they make their way down the yellow brick road toward building a strong sense of community and respect for all. On "PJ Day," students wore pjs and brought stuffed animals to school. They watched "The Wizard of Oz." 🍷 Fourth graders are learning about ecosystems and animal adaptations in science. A raptor expert brought an owl, a falcon, and a hawk to teach about these amazing predators. 🍷 Fourth graders focused on math during American Education Week. 🍷

**Townline Elementary** students and staff were honored to have a visit from Alexander Bernstein on Wednesday, October 15. Leonard Bernstein's son was at Hawthorn to witness his father's legacy in action through the Bernstein Artful Learning model. He participated in the unit on legacy as first graders sprayed their feet with water, took a walk on black paper, and watched as their footprints disappeared. 🍷 Fifth grade



band, chorus, and orchestra students enjoyed a field trip to hear a performance of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. 🍷 Second graders at Townline are beginning their Bernstein unit on the social studies concept of communities. The Bernstein Masterwork for this unit is a painting by Jacob Lawrence titled, "This Is Harlem."



🍷 Mr. Crandall's physical education students enjoyed a unit in speed stacking. The unit improves hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, quickness, concentration, and teamwork. 🍷

# Who's Who at Hawthorn

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## Aspen Elementary South Campus

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Robert Collins, Assistant Principal  
847-990-4300

## Elementary North North Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5  
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Richard Viviano, Principal  
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## Elementary South South Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 5  
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## Townline Elementary North Campus

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## Middle School North North Campus

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## Middle School South South Campus

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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

841 West End Court  
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061



*Vernon Hills Police Officer Ward Feger helped second graders learn the importance of knowing how to use 9-1-1 in an emergency.*

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