

Plans Under Way for Summer 2009

Even as the snowflakes are beginning to fly, plans are under way for the learning opportunities to be offered for Hawthorn students next summer. Here's the lineup:

* **Hawthorn Enrichment Institute 2009 (HEI)** is a multi-disciplinary program that offers classes covering everything from ceramics and cooking to math games

and computer skills. There will be two sessions held Monday through Thursday mornings. The first will be June 15 through July 2; the second will be July 6 through 23. All sessions will be held at Middle School South. Enrollment forms will be posted on the website by the end of January and families are encouraged to register by May 1 for the best class selections.

* **Hawthorn Music Camp '09**, a mix of lessons, group performances, and fun for band and orchestra students with at least one year of experience will meet from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm July 20 through 31 at Townline Elementary. Register by May 15 for an early-bird discount.

* **Summer Scholars** This grant-funded program has a

focus on literacy and math, with some time spent on the arts and/or physical education. For this invitation-only program, students attend sessions that are held in their own schools. Early-bird invitations will be sent home in March and official registration information will be sent home with students on May 11.

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

December 2008

Hawthorn Highlights

"Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

Hawthorn Pioneers on 21st Century Journey

An exceptional group of Hawthorn teachers are very enthusiastic about their journey to build 21st century learning environments for their students.

All of the "Pioneers" attended an October training session with Bruce Ahlborn from Apple, Inc. As an Apple Distinguished Scholar, with years of experience using technology in the classroom, Ahlborn gave the teachers a hands-on adventure with 21st century principles of instruction.

The district's Director of Student Achievement and 21st Century Learning, Lisa Cerauli, explained that during the training session, teachers researched and presented to each other what they envision for their classrooms, and the ways in which they will use technology to help students engage with the curriculum, collaborate with one another, and communicate with their

larger community. In evaluating the workshop, one teacher said, "I really liked the opportunity to create a short presentation. I got to dive right in and use several programs with which I was not familiar."

Ahlborn made a return appearance in December to focus on each Pioneer team's specific curricular goals. Each team will write personal goals

for their work and begin to gather evidence they will use to attain those goals.

Technology Department Update

While the Pioneer teams have addressed curriculum content and delivery, staff members in the Technology Department have worked to ready new

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Measuring Students' Progress

As the first trimester came to a close, teachers worked to complete the new, standards-based report cards that are being used in kindergarten, first, third, fourth, sixth, and seventh grades.

Standards-based report cards list the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level. Students receive marks that show how well they have mastered the skills. They receive separate marks for effort and work habits,

information about which parents need to be aware. At the middle-school level, students also receive an overall achievement letter grade.

While the report card is a useful and important tool, Hawthorn administrators believe it is only one tool in the parent-teacher communication system.

The system also includes parent-teacher conferences which take place in November and February, parent information meetings, and opportuni-

ties for parents to take part in classroom activities. As Superintendent-elect Dr. Sue Zook puts it, "Ongoing communication among school staff members, parents, and students is a critical element in our efforts to have our students and our schools succeed."



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.



acquisitions for use by students and teachers.

More than 400 new laptop computers are now in use. Twenty-three teachers have received interactive whiteboards to use in their classrooms. These teachers have completed their initial training and will now participate in online training at their own pace.

Additionally, still and video cameras, document cameras, digital microscopes, and LCD projectors are now being used throughout the district.

Cerauli observed, "As we are able to have more equipment available in each building, we look forward to seeing more teachers use the technology on a regular basis." She also emphasized that teachers

continue to use the MY ACCESS! writing program with fourth through eighth graders. "And, of course, we also encourage our parents to use the online tools we provide for home use. Custom Typing and Study Island can be of great value in helping our students to succeed."



Hawthorn Students' Attendance Scores

The Lake County Superintendent's Office has announced the schools in the county that attained the top attendance percentages for the fall Attendance Week. Several District

73 schools participated in the competition, and Middle North, Elementary North, Elementary South, and Townline all placed in the top 10 for either large- or small-school

attendance. Representatives from each of these schools attended a December 5 awards luncheon.



Sunrise Scholars

Sunrise Scholars is a before-school program for third through fifth graders who have been referred as needing extra support in reading. The program will be offered at all Hawthorn elementary schools in February.

The curriculum is called "Camp-Can-Do," published

by Santillana, and is a long-standing, highly research-based program.

Highlights of the program include hands-on activities that promote phonics, reading comprehension, and fluency.

Coordinator of Bilingual Services Lara Christoun says many of the students who will

benefit from this support received invitations to attend this program in November.

Sunrise Scholars is just one of many initiatives in District 73 to assure "Learning for All: Whatever it Takes."

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."

Hawthorn Happenings

Students at **Hawthorn Middle South** celebrated Red Ribbon Week by signing anti-bullying pledge cards. * In early November, 189 seventh grade students enjoyed a half-day of bowling



at Lakeside Lanes in Mundelein. The physical education field trip allowed students to participate in a recreational sport that is not taught in many programs. Many students had never bowled before, and it was priceless to see their faces when they got strikes or spares. * The holiday canned food drive brought in enough donations to feed 25 families and to send 15 boxes of canned food for the St. Mary's of Vernon Food Pantry. The Student Council would like to thank the students and homeroom teachers for their efforts and send a special thanks to nurse Deb Sorkin who provided great assistance. * The Middle South seventh and eighth grade orchestra participated in a festival at Vernon Hills High School. After a day of rehearsals, the students took part in an evening concert. * Health World, an educational outreach program, visited Middle South in November. * Three orchestra students participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association Festival Orchestra. * In November, Middle South hosted local veterans

at the second annual Breakfast of Appreciation. * On November 18, six students, Dina Paykina, Monica Lozovaty, Ashley Ballowe, Sam Veren, Griselda Jaimes, and Natalie Chiarello, participated in Student Government Day at the Vernon Hills Village Hall. They met village officials and staff and studied the agenda for the board's meeting. * The early December field trip to Ryerson Woods in Riverwoods gave sixth graders a chance to delve into the study of animal adaptations. *

Middle School North's chorus, band, and orchestra students participated in music festivals at Vernon Hills High School. * Music students also auditioned and were selected to participate in the 2008 Music Educators Association District 7 Festival. Congratulations to the 20 students who took part. *



In October, Student Council sponsored Mania. More than 214 students participated in the evening of fun and games. * Everything from soup to nuts! That's what students are collecting for needy families in the area. In addition to the non-perishable food, money is being collected to provide a ham or turkey for each family. Students are also collect-

ing coats, hats, and gloves for Vernon Hills High School's Adopt-a-Family program. * Sixth graders had their second Hawthorn Environmental Field and Team Experience at Ryerson Woods. * More than 60 parents and their children attended a Hispanic Parent night in November. During dinner, a discussion was held on how parents could help their children succeed in school. After dinner, parents went to the computer lab to learn about Parent Portal which allows parents to access their children's grades and attendance. *



On November 3, students at **Aspen Elementary** held a mock election. The students registered and then voted. * Teachers support the native language of students by reading to small groups in Spanish. * Students are supporting our local P.A.D.S. shelter by gathering travel-size personal grooming products, including shampoo, deodorant, hand cream, and toothpaste. Students will package the donated items in large tube socks. Families are also contributing such lunch items as granola bars, small bags of pretzels, and juice boxes. * On November 4, Aspen held its 9th annual family breakfast. Families were invited to enjoy a complimentary meal.



About Snow Days . . .

When snow or other weather-related problems require the schools to close, District 73 will activate its emergency calling system. Telephone calls will go to the main phone numbers parents provided during registration. We will try to complete all calls before 6:00 am.

Cancellations will also be announced on the following radio and television stations:

WGN AM 720
WBBM AM 780
WMAQ AM 670
WBBM FM 96.5
WBLZ FM 103.5
WGN TV Channel 9
WFLD TV Channel 32

School closing information will also be posted on the website at www.hawthorn73.org.

Other Snowy Reminders

As you know, bad weather results in slower traffic. Bus riders should be aware that routes may take longer on snowy days.

With the arrival of winter, we would ask all residents to take the time to shovel sidewalks and school bus stops to help keep everyone safe.



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
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
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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
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On Veterans' Day in November, Hawthorn students invited residents to share their stories of service to our country.

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