



HONK! If You Like Musical Theatre

Right: The cast and crew of **HONK!** take a break while preparing for the show's January 27 opening.

(Photo images provided by Paul Kurek, Out-A-Site Images.)

HONK!, Lake Zurich High School's musical for the annual Children's Theatre production, played to enthusiastic crowds during its run January 27-29 at the school's

Performing Arts Center (PAC). **HONK!**, the fun, song-filled retelling of the story of the Hans Christian Andersen's tale *The Ugly Duckling*, proved a delight to children and adults alike.

The plot followed the adventures of a young duckling, ridiculed for his unattractive exterior, on a search to find his nest and the mother he lost during his first days in the world. Along the way he meets



many quirky and interesting characters, including a friendly bullfrog and a squadron of military geese, who help him learn the lesson that true beauty is found within. Yet he must survive an encounter with the ever-hungry cat and outlast a terrible blizzard before he can be reunited with his loving mother.

With enchanting songs, beautiful sets and costumes, and a wonderful cast of characters, **HONK!** proved to be a grand musical success.

In the tradition of the Children's Theatre,

the musical was especially geared toward younger viewers, ages 10 and under, but all who went enjoyed this contemporary rendition of an old favorite.



LZHS to Host Genetics Update Conference for Students

The Lake Zurich High School Science Department will hold a Genetics Update Conference on Monday, February 27, from 8:45 a.m. until 2:15 p.m., in the Lake Zurich Performing Arts Center (PAC) for the high school's honors biology, advanced placement (AP) biology and AP chemistry students. The PAC is located at 300 Church St., Lake Zurich.

The one-day conference is designed to teach the latest in genetic advances, identify hot research areas, and explore career opportunities. In addition to Lake Zurich High School students, other area high schools have also been invited and will send some of their top biology students to the conference.

The presenter for the conference will be **Dr. Sam Rhine**, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and Indiana University of School of Medicine. Dr. Rhine takes biology from the textbook to the heart by



presenting dilemmas people will face as technological advances continue at rapid pace. Some of the topics to be discussed include embryonic and adult stem cells, correcting genetic disease, mad cow disease, DNA and RNA.

The 2005-2006 Genetic Update Conference marks the 23rd year that Dr. Rhine—who has devoted himself to genetics education for over 20 years—has presented his lecture/PowerPoint presentation on the latest genetic information to high school students and their teachers. He has also presented to audiences in Tokyo, Vienna, Prague and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The conference is made possible through the Lake Zurich High School Science Department and the generous financial support of the Lake Zurich High School Bear Boosters.

LZHS Poms Take Chicago

The LZHS Poms Varsity Dance Team competed at the prestigious Illinois Drill Team Association (IDTA) Navy Pier Competition on



Sunday, January 15, and was awarded a second place trophy in the AAA Hip Hop division over a very strong competitive field.

Although the LZHS Poms are renowned at IDTA competitions for their high kick routines and have

held the state title many times in the past 10 years, the '05-'06 school year is the first time ever for the Poms to compete in the Hip-Hop division.

They placed only .6 of a point behind the first place squad and placed above the reigning AAA Hip Hop state champions. The LZHS Poms also earned enough points to qualify to compete at IDTA Super-Sectionals at Joliet Township High School on March 4.

The squad is coached by **Regina Hope** and **Lindsay Gillilan**. Members are **Krista Aistars, Lilia Berman, Nina Bianchi, Christine Doczi, Laura Dravins, Angella Falato, Maureen Hagedorn, Audrey Ishikawa, Jaime Kowieski, Danielle Leopardo, Erin Littell, Beth Littell, Lauren Napolitano, Caroline Pardikes, Jenna Poulter, Mallory Schmitt, Jennifer Schwantz, Marcy Sklar, Jenna Smith, Sarah Walding, and Kara Widtman.**

Saturday Scholars Canceled

Unfortunately, due to low enrollment, the Saturday Scholars program, which was to run from January 28 through February 25, has been canceled. Registration refunds are being mailed to registrants.

In order to keep the program cost neutral to the school district, the program needed to enroll enough students to pay for instructor time. The enrollment was 30 students short of the number needed to make the Saturday Scholars program break even.

Websites of the Month

Here are the winners of the January Websites of the Month Award.



Elementary: Michael Danz, Spencer Loomis

<http://www.lz95.org/sl/finearts/mdanzmusichome.html>



Middle School: Jennifer Foreman, MSS

<http://www.lz95.org/mss/faculty/jforeman/index.htm>



High School: David Voss, LZHS

http://www.lz95.org/lzhs/social_studies/voss/homenew.htm

The criteria for recognition focuses on content and appropriateness for intended audience, documentation, and functionality. Nominations for future month's may be made directly to your school webmaster. Winners are selected by majority vote by school and district webmasters. Additional details are available at <http://www.lz95.org/technology/wotm.htm>.

President Shares Board of Education Role, Goals

The following comments were made by **Gary Robillard**, President of the CUSD 95 Board of Education, during the January 23 regular board meeting.

Good Evening, and welcome to the January 2006 District 95 Board of Education Business Meeting.



In its simplest form, the mission of a Board of Education is to define a school district through the establishment and enforcement of policies. Policies would include who to educate (K-12), where to educate (a geographical area-roughly Ela Township), what the educational objectives are (our desired graduate skill sets) and selecting a Superintendent (Dr. Knutson).

It is not the mission of the Board of Education to make day-to-day decisions, hire or evaluate the support staff or teachers, pay the bills or maintain facilities. These operational functions have been delegated to our Superintendent who in turn, entrusts his or her staff to implement them.

Rather, it is the fiduciary responsibility of the Board of Education to monitor what is happening within the district, advise and consent to the recommendations that come before us, and evaluate the success or failure of the operations of the district by a performance review of the Superintendent.

In defining a school district, a board of education has many choices. They include, a low cost and no frills minimum educational opportunity as defined by state or federal statute; emulating another school district by copying their policies and their way of doing things; or, as we have chosen, aspiring to be what our community wants us to be. District 95 is not a cookie cutter district or a follower; we have chosen a path of self identity with local enrichment programs.

During the late 90's, the district leadership set in motion our Strategic Plan which was to help guide us. That plan, written as a result of a team effort of school and community members, defined our mission statement, our core values and our strategic objectives.

Our responsibility is to continually evaluate our progress, question if our community still strives for the mission, values and objectives as defined in the plan and develop a shared vision

for all of our stakeholders; current and future.

Teams like the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, the Board of Education's Committee of the Whole, the Budget Committee and all the teams and committees throughout the district, are required to sometimes discuss sensitive subjects like raising property tax rates or

the fees our families pay, infrastructure subjects like constructing, closing or remodeling our facilities; or programming issues, such as adding, removing or modifying program offerings.

For the Board of Education to truly be successful--successful being defined as aspiring to provide a learning environment consistent with the enrichment desires of our community--we must have input and open dialogue on all these issues that come before us. The fact that a particular subject or option may be unpopular to a segment of our community does not mean we should avoid having the discussion, rather, it is even more critical that a dialogue occurs and the issue is discussed openly, honestly and respectfully.

When the process works effectively, the Board can make an informed decision where all the voices have been heard and all the options have been considered. Keep in mind that just because a subject is being discussed, it doesn't mean that what is being discussed will be implemented. You have the power to influence the final decision and your input is desired, as long as it focuses on the facts and not on the personalities.

Together, we must have a shared vision and as a Board, must do a better job of communicating and reminding our community what that vision is and what strategies are being put in place to get us there.

As a result, and to jump start our board communications goal for this year, these comments and future strategic updates will be regularly included as part of the "THRIVE" e-newsletter, which can be viewed at the district's website. We will also find other avenues throughout the district and media for expanded distribution.

As our board communications goal recommendations are brought forward under the leadership of members **Kathy Brown** and **Jeff Didier**, we will adjust accordingly. Our desired outcome is to effectively engage and open the lines of communication with our community and this small step will begin that journey.

Board of Education Members: (front row, from left) Secretary **Jan Putbress**, President **Gary Robillard**, Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, Vice President **Kathy Brown**, (back row, from left) **James Hussey**, **Roger Tieman**, **John Kropf** and **Jeff Didier**.

P.U. is for YOU!

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, March 4, 2006, District 95 is presenting the 12th annual PARENT UNIVERSITY. Plan on spending an inspirational morning with **Char Wenc**, speaker and award-winning author of, *Parenting-Are We Having Fun Yet?*

PARENT UNIVERSITY is geared to parents and grandparents of children ages preschool through high school. Many great sessions dealing with a variety of parenting topics and issues are planned for this year's event.

Titles for some of the sessions include: *The Challenging Child, Internet Dangers, From Tee-*



Ball to Testosterone—What a Son Needs From His Dad, From Walking to Weddings—What a Daughter needs From Her Dad, Overindulging Your Children, Substance Abuse In Our Community, The Top Ten Signs It Is Time To Talk To Your Kid About Money, How To Build the Muscle of Confidence In Our Children, and more!

A continental breakfast and lunch as well as child care will be provided. Registration forms will be sent home in January.

Questions? Call **Lori Schwartz**

(847) 438-1949.



Learn more about registering your child by attending **Kindergarten Information Night** on **Feb. 8**, beginning at **6 p.m.**, at your **local elementary school**. For more information, contact your local elementary school:

Charles Quentin School	847-438-2420
Isaac Fox School	847-540-7020
May Whitney School	847-438-2351
Sarah Adams School	847-438-5986
Seth Paine School	847-438-2163
Spencer Loomis School	847-719-3300

Do You Like to Know Stuff?

Do you like to know things before others in the community? Do others seek your opinion? If so, then you are a perfect candidate for the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network**.

Our Key Communicator (KeyCom) program is a network of community residents, leaders, opinion shapers and watchdogs whose opinions are well respected by friends, colleagues and neighbors. We are not looking for cheerleaders, but people who care about our schools and want to be kept informed and are then willing to share that information with others.

As a Key Com, you will receive timely, factual information via a regular newsletter e-mailed to you about the work we're doing and the issues affecting your school district and your schools.



Because this is designed to be a two-way communications network, we encourage you to give us your input and share your opinions. As a KeyCom member, your responsibility will be to share the information with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

To become a KeyCom member, simply call, email or fax:

**CUSD 95
Office of Communications
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-
2459**

**Phone: (847) 540-5489
Fax: (847) 438-6702
jim.jennings@lz95.org
www.lz95.org**

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Annette Jacobsen,
Editor
Jim Jennings,
Publisher
(847) 540-5489
jim.jennings@lz95.org
www.lz95.org