



## MS South Begins New Student Advisory Program

Typically on early release days, which occur several times throughout the school year, students are released from school earlier in the day so that staff can work together on educational projects such as school improvement plans.

However, on February 28, Principal **David Gardner** and his Lake Zurich Middle School South (MSS) staff used the early release time to kick-off a new student advisory program.

The goal for the program is for students and teachers to develop greater levels of trust with each other by meeting outside of their normal classroom period, in a more neutral environment. In order to increase both familiarity and trust, the students and their advisory



group teacher will continue to meet together from year-to-year until the students graduate to high school.

Utilizing the advisory program's central theme of *Getting to Know You*, the school day was broken up into block periods for core classes (math, science, English, etc.), encore subjects (drama, music, art, technology, etc.) and the lunch period. At the end of the day, each student, who had previously been assigned to a

grade level specific teacher, met with that teacher and approximately 10-12 other students in their same grade for 70 minutes in order to allow the teacher to get a better understanding of the students' needs.

The school's Advisory Committee has created activities designed to allow the teachers and students to get to know each other better outside of the traditional classroom setting. Discussion topics for the advisory program include: responsibility, respect, study skills, goal

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## Educators, Businesses to Provide Mock Interviews for HS

More than 200 Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) students will take part in a two-day mock interview training experience coordinated by the Lake Zurich High School Career Advisory Council (CAC), at the Ela Area Public Library on March 13 & 22.

The interview training is designed to help the students prepare for the types of interviews they will face when applying for employment or college admissions. Business professionals throughout the area will take time from their busy work schedules to provide this "real-world" interviewing experience for the Juniors and Seniors



in Consumer Education classes at Lake Zurich High School. By enlisting the help of business professionals, students will learn what today's employers are looking for when hiring.

On March 2, **Erica Christianson** of the Ela Area Public Library, **David Sprehe**, LZHS Writing Center Coordinator and **Craig Lehigh** of the LZHS Guidance Department demonstrated "good" and "bad" interviewing strategies

in Consumer Education classes at the high school. This is done prior to the students' actual interviews in order to emphasize techniques and skills that will help them perform better in not only the CAC provided exercise, but in real-life interviewing situations.

"Although the exercise is a required academic project, the process helps the students improve skills that

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## MSS Advisory cont.

setting, problem solving, conflict resolution, and community service.

According to science teacher and co-chair **Kim Samford**, the first kick-off session of the new



advisory program had students participating in a puzzle activity where they created a personal logo along with “I Am Unique” characteristics. The words and images were sketched, shared, and drawn into individual puzzle pieces. Students then, if they desired, shared with the group stories of when they had been most proud and other key moments in their lives.

“It is important for the students to establish trust in their advisor, so we must honor their willingness to share,” explained Samford.

MSS staff members met immediately following the initial advisory session in

order to share their successes and offer helpful suggestions for future advisory sessions.

“The core purpose of the program is to establish an environment in which every student has at least one adult at the school who knows them well,” said **Mary Dooms**, Literature/Language Arts/Social Studies teacher and co-chair of the new program. “Through activities and discussions, our students will develop a sense of belonging and discover ways to be successful both in and out of the classroom.”

According to Gardner, this first advisory session had been a long time coming.

“This has been a priority for us for a long time,” said Gardner. “We have had discussions about it for a year or more. Hard planning for it began last winter, and the program came to fruition on February 28 during the early release day shortened schedule.”

While only one additional advisory session remains for this school year, the MSS faculty and its planning committee are already planning for next year’s sessions.

“Next year and long term,” explains Gardner, “the goal is to provide each middle school student with an opportunity to develop a closer, non-grading or judgmental relationship with an adult in these formative years when the kids are taking risks and making choices with their lives.”

## FBLA Means Business

Fourteen Lake Zurich High School students participated in the Northern Illinois State competition of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) held at Stevenson High School last month; 12 of which placed in the top ten in their respective categories. The members recognized in the top ten are:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>
<b>Alexa Haider</b>	9th	Intro. to Business
<b>Michael Kurek</b>	8th	Economics
<b>Amanda Beck</b>	7th	Business Math
<b>Brandon Djonlich</b>	6th	Accounting II
<b>Mike LaPlume</b>	6th	Intro. to Bus. Comm.
<b>Laura Pettengill</b>	2nd	Entrepreneurship team
<b>Lindsey Kurek</b>	2nd	Entrepreneurship team
<b>Mike Pettengill</b>	2nd	Entrepreneurship team
<b>Steven Dolinajec</b>	2nd	Word Processing II
<b>Kathy Wu</b>	2nd	Business Procedures
<b>Marcel Kuper</b>	1st	Technology Concepts
<b>Michael Salte</b>	1st	Java Programming

These students will represent Lake Zurich High School in the state competition March 31 through April 1 in Decatur, IL.

Also participating in the competition were **Andrew Werner** and **Jim LaPlume**.

The Future Business Leaders of America is a national student organization for high school students interested in business careers. FBLA’s primary goal is to prepare students for careers in the business world. FBLA exposes students to what is expected in the business environment and holds various supportive activities that build confidence, leadership, and citizenship skills along with developing business proficiencies.

FBLA is one of the many programs supported by the Lake Zurich Career Advisory Council (CAC). CAC is comprised of volunteers from local businesses and organizations. The members commit their time to provide students with guidance and support to create a better understanding of career opportunities. The CAC strives to establish enrichment programs that enable students to successfully make the transition from school to the workplace.

Right: The ultimate goal of the MSS Student Advisory Program is to help all of its students achieve success in school and in life.

## Mock Interview cont.

will benefit them in their working career, including: self confidence, body language, proper business dress, cover letter and resume writing, the interviewing process, and more," said Christianson, Director of Popular Materials at the Ela Area Public Library, a past president of the CAC and Co-Chair of the CAC Interview Committee.

Christianson said that more interviewers are needed. If you would like to be a volunteer interviewer on March 17 or 22, please call Erica Christianson, (847) 438-3433 ext. 127.

The Lake Zurich High School Career Advisory Council (CAC) is comprised of volunteers from local businesses, organizations, District 95 and members of the community. The members commit their time to provide students with guidance and support to create a better understanding of career opportunities. The CAC strives to establish enrichment programs that enable students to successfully make the transition from school to the workplace.

The Career Advisory Council also hosts a Career Fair for the students in the spring. The fair is another way the Career Advisory Council assists students in career preparation and provides a venue for local companies to speak to their future workforce.

For more information about the Lake Zurich High School Career Advisory Council, please contact Eric Hamilton, Assistant Principal at Lake Zurich High School, 847-540-4112, or e-mail him at [eric.hamilton@lz95.org](mailto:eric.hamilton@lz95.org).

## All Win in Pizza Challenge



When all the ballots were counted, and the more than 1,500 attendees had gotten their fill of pizza, custard and soft drinks, it was the residents of Hurricane Katrina

ravaged Hancock County, Mississippi that ultimately won in the first ever H.E.L.P. (Hancock County-Ela Area Long-term Partnership) Pizza Challenge. More than \$5,000 was raised in the event held March 2 at Lake Zurich High School.

In order to raise funds for supplies and other needs of the Hancock County, HELP invited area restaurants and food providers to participate in the HELP Pizza Challenge. Accepting the call to help others while participating in a little friendly competition were Costco Wholesale, Gino's East, J.J. Twig's Pizza & Pub, Little Joey's Pizza, Quentin Road Kitchen, and Yogi's Pizza.

For only \$5 per person, with children under eight free, hundreds of families showed up to sample piping hot pizza. For only \$2, participants could also savor custard from Culver's of Lake Zurich.

The overflow crowd exceeded everyone's expectations, requiring the participating businesses to shuttle more and more pizza, custard and supplies to the packed cafeteria.



Left: Eager eaters await their pizza at the H.E.L.P. Pizza Challenge March 2.

Below: It was a full cafeteria at the H.E.L.P. Pizza Challenge. The group raised over \$5,000 for hurricane relief.

## IF Students "Jump" for More Than \$9,000



Tired but satisfied, 104 fourth and fifth grade students at Isaac Fox Elementary School finished their annual "Jump Rope for Heart" for the American Heart Association (AHA) on February 17 with a

whopping total of more than \$9,100 that will go the AHA.

The physical fitness fund raiser required students to run around and sign up sponsors and then, on the night of the event, to jump rope from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. The students and teacher **Sylvia Bath**, who has spearheaded the "jump" for the past seven years, and new coordinator **Terry**

**Peraino**, used their jump ropes to lasso 30 parent and teacher volunteers into helping make this year's event a huge success.

Peraino, also a teacher at Isaac Fox School, will be taking over the annual event for Bath, who will retire at the end of the current school year.



Far Left: An Isaac Fox student jumps rope for the American Heart Association.

Left: **Sylvia Bath** totals the take from the fund raiser.

# Parent U. is Tomorrow, March 4

Don't miss out! Tomorrow, Saturday, March 4, 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.

## Clarification:

Last week's story on Operation Military Pride at Charles Quentin School failed to mention that teacher Kara Dohman is also a sponsor of the school's student council. There were also three adults who were critical to the success of the project: **Billie Ruscheinski, Michelle VanArsdale,** and **Laura DeNovo.**

## Board of Ed Short Survey Results

The Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education will soon schedule another community forum in order to share information with the community. The Board of Education is interested in receiving your input on the subjects you would like to see discussed at this and future community forums.

		Responses	%
Activity Fees (sports, fine arts, etc.)		47	36%
Class Size		58	45%
Curriculum		66	51%
Facilities		47	36%
Finance/Budget/Taxes		56	43%
Test Scores		43	33%
Other, Please Specify		24	18%

## 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**



# A Thousand Words...

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. If that is indeed the case, then below is the equivalent of an 8,000 word essay of recent activities occurring within the schools of District 95.



A Charles Quentin third grader shares his knowledge of George Washington during the school's Living Museum March 2.



Teachers **Laura DeNovo** (right) and **Mel Fox** (left) get "catty" for Dr. Seuss on March 2 as part of *Read Across America*.



Two Spencer Loomis School students double check their measurements during the school's Math Measurement Olympics.



The Big Bad Wolf gets ready to huff and puff at May Whitney School.



The Board of Education honored these students and staff member **Ruth Olsen** for their excellence at its Feb. 23 meeting.



May Whitney second graders get "piggy" with it for National Pig Day on March 1.



H.E.L.P. committee members, volunteers and area businesses came together on March 2 to raise more than \$5,000 for hurricane Katrina relief.



So many choices, so little tummy.

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