



## Three MSS Students Win State Writing Awards

On April 27, **Annika Sundberg, Katie Williams and Kevin Blume** were honored by “The Center for the Book” at Middle School South (MSS) for their entries in the Center for the Book’s nationwide “*Letters About Literature*” writing contest. Blume and Williams were honored as semifinalists, while Sundberg was honored



For the contest, students were asked to choose their favorite novel and write a letter to the author expressing their gratitude and appreciation for a particular piece of writing. Many students used this assignment as a self-reflective opportunity to not only assess their own personal definition of good literature but also to reflect on how and why good literature affects the inner self.

As a statewide winner, Sundberg received a plaque, check, and gift certificate from Target stores for her letter, which now represents the state of Illinois as a first place winner. Statewide, 646 entries were received at the 4-6 grade levels. On a national level, over 47,000 entries were received.

In class, the students spent approximately two weeks discussing their favorite novels, engaging in writing multiple letters and immersing themselves into the complete ‘writing process’. According to Fox, the results were well written and emotionally charged pieces that truly reflected the ultimate effect good literature has on students.

The students entered the competition, a program of the Library of Congress with support from Target stores, last December after **Jennifer Fox**, a sixth and eighth grade gifted literature teacher from MSS, engaged her students in the letter writing contest.

“This contest was a wonderful opportunity to help students acknowledge the power of words and then in turn use their own words to express their gratitude,” said Fox. “One of the greatest struggles as a literature teacher is helping students understand the relevance of reading and applying good literature in our everyday lives. This assignment presented itself as a productive opportunity to bring home this point.”

Right: **Annika Sundberg** accepts her first place award for the *Letters About Literature* contest during a special ceremony in the MSS Library.

*“The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.”*

— **Robert M. Hutchins**

## Isaac Fox Students Turn Their Bodies into Solar System

On April 18, the Isaac Fox third graders made a human model of the solar system using toilet paper, pictures of the planets, and their bodies to show how far apart the planets are and their distance from the sun. The students researched the planets using the Internet, then wrote solar system similes, made posters, pop-up books, and did other experiments about the solar system. The future is bright for these budding astronomers.



Right: Isaac Fox third graders transform themselves into a solar system.

## SA Students Go Ape



The students have gone ape at Sarah Adams School! Enter **Ellen Finer's** classroom and you will step into a rain forest, which was the class theme for the month of April. The students decorated their room to look like a rainforest, including a dense canopy filled with animals, flowers and butterflies. They haven't forgotten the sound effects either. Stepping carefully through the rain forest, you will hear thunder, rain and the noises of native animals.

The leaves on the rainforest tree at the front door hold many

interesting facts to read about the rain forest. Visitors can also view pictures of some newly discovered animals that have never been seen before by humans.

The class is concluding its rainforest study with a field trip to the Rainforest Cafe and Serpent Safari. The rain forest will continue to grow throughout mid May and they would love to share it with you, so feel free to stop by and enjoy the view.



## Symphony Success

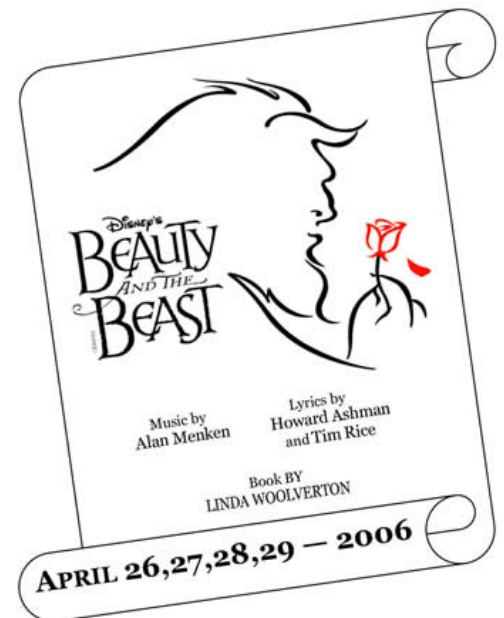


Earlier this month, the Lake Zurich High School Symphony Orchestra recently participated at the IHSA Organizational Contest. The orchestra performed *Night on Bald Mountain* by Mussorgsky and *Serenade for Strings Mvt. I* by Josef Suk. The orchestra received

the top score, I, by all judges and received excellent constructive and positive comments. Wonderful job Symphony Orchestra !

"Congratulations to a fine orchestra and teacher, said judge **Peter Pappas**. "I hope to hear you again. Your school and community should be very proud!"

## Beauty and the Beast



If you haven't yet seen the Lake Zurich High School production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, your time is running out to see the magnificent stage version of this "tale as old as time" Academy Award-winning feature. Fun for young and old, the musical runs tonight, April 29, at 7:30 p.m., and tomorrow, April 29, at 2 & 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center, 300 Church St., Lake Zurich. Tickets are only \$10 for students and senior citizens, and \$12 general admission.

## Show Your School Spirit!

Do you have school spirit? If so, we want your work, vacation and other photos **IF** you and/or your children were wearing school spirit wear (only school spirit wear from Dist. 95 schools will count) in the photos.

Please send your photo (less than 1.5 meg in total file size) to [jim.jennings@lz95.org](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org). Please identify the location and the people in the photo, as well as the school. We'll display a virtual **D-95 Spirit Wall** web page on the district web site, as well as publish some of the photos in future editions of **THRIVE in 95**. Show your school spirit here, there, and everywhere!

*Please note that by sending us your photo, you are giving us permission to use your image and name on our district website ([www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)) and in publications.*



## Calling Student Artists



Cultural Arts Connection, proudly hosts the 11th Annual Student Art Exhibit & Sale on Saturday, June 3, from 10:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Deer Park Town Center. Open to all students currently enrolled in grades 3– 12, the exhibit is part of a Professional fine arts show.

The exhibit provides great experience, exposure, and encouragement for all participating students. Every student is eligible for cash awards and ribbons. High school students have the unique opportunity to choose to sell their exhibited art work.

Applications may be downloaded from [www.culturalartsconnection.org](http://www.culturalartsconnection.org) (go to CAC programs, then Art Show), or pick them up from your art teacher. Applications and framed artwork may be dropped off at Cambridge Bank in Lake Zurich during business hours between May 15 to May 24.

## Lacrosse Clinics Offered

The Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) Lacrosse Club invites boys and girls in grades 5-8 to attend their lacrosse clinics on Sunday, April 30, and Sunday, May 21, from 2-4 p.m., at the Lake Zurich High School stadium. The cost per session is only \$10 and students can register early at the field on the day of the clinic, and is open to Community Unit School District students. This clinic is a great opportunity for students and their parents to see what lacrosse is all about. Equipment will be provided free, with no rental fee...or obligation. The clinics will be run by the coaches of the Lake Zurich High School lacrosse teams, who will be assisted by Lake Zurich High School lacrosse athletes.

The club is also hoping the community will “Pack the House” May 15th at 6:30 p.m., when the LZHS team takes on Lake Forest at Lake Zurich High School. At the game, the club will also honor graduating seniors from the boys’ and girls’ teams.

Founded in 2003, the Lake Zurich Lacrosse Club is committed to providing Lake Zurich High School students with the opportunity to play competitive lacrosse, while developing the growth of lacrosse in our community. The club currently has a Frosh/Soph, JV, and Varsity boys’ teams, as well as new Frosh/Soph and JV girls’ teams.

Visit their website at [www.lzlacrosseclub.com](http://www.lzlacrosseclub.com) for game schedules, pictures, etc.



Far Left: Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** (right) takes ownership of a piece of art purchased from a Lake Zurich High School student who participated in last year's art show.

# Isaac Fox Shows That Character Counts!



The students, parents and staff came together on April 27 to celebrate Character Counts! This month, the pillar being focused on school-wide was RESPECT. Third graders sang a rousing rendition of R-E-S-P-E-C-T with a multimedia slide show reflecting the theme. A number of students were also recognized for the positive things they have done at school and within the community.

## Are You a Key Communicator?

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**

***THRIVE in 95*** is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. Story submissions are greatly encouraged. Copyright (c)2004-2006

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