

## Board Names Egan Principal of LZHS

Last night, December 16, during its regular board meeting, The Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education accepted the recommendation of Superintendent **Dr. Brian G. Knutson** and appointed current Lake Zurich High School interim principal **Michael Egan** as the school's permanent principal.

The approval of Egan met with great enthusiasm by board members, numerous high school staff, other principals and administrators, as well as many community members.

As Dr. Knutson announced the appointment during a special meeting this morning with staff at the high school, the room erupted in cheers and brought tears to the eyes of many in the room during the subsequent standing ovation.

"Although we could engage in a national search for a principal, I believe such a search to be unnecessary," explained Dr. Knutson. "Mr. Egan has proven to me and many others that he is the best person to lead Lake Zurich High School as its principal. With his vast experience in all areas of secondary education and his thorough knowledge of the school, its students, staff and the community, Mr. Egan has both the knowledge and experience to make Lake Zurich High School one of the finest in the state of Illinois."



"I would like to thank the Board of Education, the district administration, and Dr. Knutson for the support they have provided me in my interim role and now with this vote of confidence," said Egan. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to work with the students, staff, and parents to facilitate learning and develop a sense of community at Lake Zurich High School."

Egan, formerly the Lake Zurich High School associate principal, had been serving as interim principal since July 1, 2004. Prior to that, he served as the school's assistant principal for operations and discipline, where he oversaw the school's \$40 million facility expansion. He has also served as the school's dean of students and as an assistant principal for pupil personnel services in Park Forest, IL, and as an English/reading teacher in Mundelein, IL.

In addition to his current duties as interim principal, Egan is currently finishing his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Loyola University. He possesses a certificate of advanced studies in Educational Leadership from National-Louis University, and he has a master's degree in education from Northeastern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola University.

### Happy Holidays!

*THRIVE in 95 would like to wish you all the happiest of holidays and a great 2005. This is our last edition of 2004. We will return with our January 7 edition.*

## Middle School North Cheerleaders are #1!

Congratulations to the **Middle School North Cheerleaders!** They are the new 2004 IESA State Champions in the small team routine division. The squad captured the top award in their first ever appearance at the state competition held December 11 in Peoria, IL. The squad consists of one sixth grader, one seventh grader and 10 eighth grade



girls. The squad has two more competitions this school year, one at Lake Zurich High School on January 9 and one at Jacobs High School in Algonquin, IL on January 23.

Pictured from left to right (front row): **Kayla Connell, Jaymie Dulski, Kari Smith,** and Coach **Kathy Drake.** Back row: **Emily Menges, Dana Elmzen, Karlissa Skarb, Ashley Robin, Jennifer Schwantz, Joni Vitucci, Kari Lambrechts, Jenna Praeger,** and **Taylor Miranda.**

## MW Kids Need A Little Christmas Vacation

The Fifth Grade classes at May Whitney Elementary School presented their holiday musical entitled *I Need A Little Christmas Vacation* on December 9 before two standing room only performances. The show was written by Mac Huff



Above, May Whitney fifth graders sing during *I Need A Little Christmas Vacation*.

and John Jacobson and directed by May Whitney's Music educator, **Ann Marie Nova-Hebda**.

The story is observed through the eyes of the school janitors, Betty (**Cassi Hilt**) and Ralph (**Kenni Ther**). They watch how the students cope when an untimely blizzard threatens to keep the students

snowbound at school for the duration of the holiday season.

From holiday shopping on-line to cooking the holiday meal in the chemistry lab, from creating a south-of-the-border experience to modifying the school play to fit this wintry occasion, things get whacky as the students learn how fortunate they are to spend this special time of year surrounded by friends.

The cast includes Mabell (**Maggie Monson**) who is forever talking on her cell phone, **Tyler Gilbert** as Santa, soloists **Sara Taylor, Rudy Garcia, Laura Park, Sammy Padiak, Lizzie Gallagher, and Samantha Paniagua**.

Dancers and supporting actors included **Josh Tenofsky-Ealy, Brian Hefferan, Jimmy Bohn, Kelly Tufano, Mike**

**Redlicki, Maya Abboud, Saad Barkat, Ian Butler, Sean Delanty, Sarah Griffin, Jaclyn Papa, Amanda Suchy, Ariana Pedroza, Jacob Ford, Katie Dahlman, Jackie Fournier, Jessie Cashen, Sarah Davis, Lauren Fanta, Stephanie Gatsakos, Evan Rojek, Brittany Sansone, Gianna Tribuzio, Alix Zeligman, Jared Chambers, Lindsey Wooster, Ian Butler, Kimmie Volkman, and Shelby Hughes**.

The "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies" was performed by the members of "The Dancing Football Players" outfitted in tutus and football helmets - **Dan Brewer, Danny Bundra, Dominick Frelas, T. J. Krejci, Jack Lynn, Lucas Mandel, Adam Sutton, and Felipe Varela**.



Right, **Kenni Ther** as Ralph, the school janitor.

## Building Bridges Builds Knowledge at May Whitney

Students in **Brenda Bollman's** fifth grade class at May Whitney Elementary School recently built up their knowledge by studying and building



A May Whitney fifth grader displays her bridge.

bridges. The three-week study covered the types of bridges (arch, beam and suspension), as well as the math, science and engineering involved in designing and building bridges.

To help prepare them for their project, students researched bridge construction on the Internet, as well as in books. The class also read the book *Breaker's Bridge* by Laurence Yep.

Once they had finished their research, Bollman gave her students the project of building a bridge at their home made out of common materials, with only limited parental help.

The students had to make a classroom presentation showing their bridge and sharing what they had learned.

This annual knowledge building project is done by each fifth grade class at May Whitney School. The other fifth grade classes are expected to begin shortly after the beginning of 2005.

## CQ Students Spread Holiday Cheer to Seniors

**Paula Littell's** and **Kendra Hurt's** fifth grade classes from Charles Quentin Elementary School recently spread some holiday and patriotic cheer by serenading senior citizens at Lexington Nursing Home as part of their community service project.

The songs contained patriotic songs as well as holiday carols. Faces were smiling, hands were clapping and toes tapping throughout the concert. Afterwards, the students visited with the residents and presented them with holiday cards and pictures they had created for the seniors.

# Reminder: Four Board Seats Up in April

On April 5, four seats on the Community Unit School District Board of Education will be up for election. The four incumbent board members include: Board President **Jan Putbress**, Vice President **Mike Siri**, **Patti Lebanik** and **Pat Priniski**.



Back Row: Roger Tieman, Jeff Didier, Gary Robillard, Mike Siri. Front Row: Patti Lebanik, Pat Priniski, Jan Putbress, Dr. Brian Knutson

To help perspective board candidates, the Board of Education hosted a workshop in October at Isaac Fox Elementary School. Approximately 20 people, including several current board members, attended the informative session.

Residents of Lake Zurich Community Unit School District 95 who are interested in running for the Board of Education in the April 5, 2005 election can pick up packets of nominating packets for prospective school board candidates from the superintendent's office, 400 S. Old Rand Road, Lake Zurich.

The period for filing nominating petitions begins on Tuesday, January 18 and concludes January 25 at 5 p.m.

## Important Dates to Remember:

- January 18, 2005 (8:00 a.m.) – First day to file original nominating papers with local election official
- January 25, 2005 (5:00 p.m.) – Last day to file original nominating papers with local election official
- February 3, 2005 – Last day for local election officials to certify offices and names of candidates to appear on ballot
- March 8, 2005 – Last day for registration of voters for April 5 election
- March 29, 2005 – Last day to file a notarized declaration to be a write-in candidate
- **April 5, 2005 – ELECTION DAY**
- April 18, 2005 – Last day for County Clerk to provide local election officials with official results
- April 25, 2005 – Last day for current Board to canvass election results
- May 2, 2005 – Last day to seat newly elected Board of Education members

For more information, contact **Marsha Smyser**, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, (847) 540-4963.

## December Students, Staff & Volunteer of the Month

At its December 16 meeting, the Board of Education honored students from each of the schools, as well as a staff member and a volunteer for their outstanding efforts.

The award winners are chosen each month by the staff and principal of each school.

Honored were **Michelle Pomerleau** and **Joe Mihaljevic** from Lake Zurich High School; **Holly Kapraun** from Middle School South; **Andrew Cox**

from Middle School North; **Kali Pahios** from Spencer Loomis; **Samantha Wilson** from Seth Paine; **Vivian Juarez** from May Whitney; **Emma Wenckowski** from Sarah Adams; **Joseph Nolan** from Isaac Fox, and **Sydney Mathis** from Charles Quentin. Staff Member of the Month was **Sharon Estaver**, a social worker at May Whitney School. The Parent Volunteer of the Month was **Laura Melavic**.



# Bear Bash Rakes in Ca\$h for Research

Showing how fun it can be to be compassionate, the students of Lake Zurich High School worked with other schools and community partners to raise a whopping \$23,772 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) in the this year's Bears Charity Bash 2004. As with last year's charity fund raiser, which raised more than \$19,000 for the Ryan York Foundation, this year's Charity Bash had personal connection.

In addition to its worthiness as a charity, JDRF was chosen as the designated charity on behalf of **Maggie Monson**, a fifth grade student at May Whitney Elementary School, and **Hannah Gummerson**, the daughter of high school teacher **Deb Gummerson**, who both have Juvenile Diabetes. Both girls were featured in the Charity Bash 2004 kickoff video that educated the students at Lake Zurich High School about the disease.

From selling hot apple cider on cold mornings to auctions and popcorn in the afternoon, the students had fun raising the funds, which will help

find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes (also known as Type 1).

Some of the more interesting activities included teacher pie in the face contests at the high school and Charles Quentin Elementary School, the popular talent show, a teachers vs. students scholastic bowl, performances by the Dance Revolution and the Lake Zurich High School

Marching Band in downtown Lake Zurich.

Of course, every fund raising activity needs food and drink, and there was plenty of it for sale: chocolate chip cookies, churros, popcorn, smoothies, cider, and all manner of baked goods.

In addition to all of the participating clubs, classes and organizations at the high school, the Bash also partnered with

the community and other schools, including the Rotary club, and schools such as Spencer Loomis, Middle School South, Seth Paine, Isaac Fox, May Whitney, and Charles Quentin, who held its own teacher pie in the face contest.



Left, a teacher at Charles Quentin School gets a free facial during the schools Pie in the Face contest as part of their Dimes for Diabetes fund raising event.

## Are You a Key Communicator?

Public schools must depend on the support of local citizens if they are to be strong and vital learning environments. In turn, the interest and support of citizens depends on their understanding and engagement in school affairs. That is why Community Unit School District 95 has created its **Key Communicator** program and we invite you to join us so that our schools can more effectively communicate with you and hear the opinions you have about the work we are doing and the issues facing our schools.

Our Key Communicator 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 Communicator, you will receive timely, factual information via a 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. Your responsibility, as a Key Communicator, will be to share school district news with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

To become a Key Communicator, simply call email or fax:

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