



## Parents of Future K-Kids

**Kindergarten Information Night** for the parents of students who will be entering kindergarten during the 2005-2006 school year will be on **February 2**, beginning at **7 p.m.**, at **all elementary schools** in District 95. This meeting is critical to parents as the curriculum will be discussed and registration materials handed out.

The actual **Kindergarten Registration Night** will be **February 15**, from **6-8 p.m.** Parents will be able to drop off their registration materials at that time, or pick the registration materials if they were unable to be at the February 2 meeting. For more information, call your local elementary school.

## District Proposes New Preschool Program

A proposal currently before the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education would expand current services to preschoolers needing special education services; better prepare them for elementary school; and provide a cost savings to the school district over the current regional program to which the district belongs.

The district has scheduled an information meeting for parents who want to learn more about the proposed program for **January 18**, beginning at **7 p.m.**, in the small auditorium at Lake Zurich High School, **300 Church St.**, Lake Zurich.

Currently, District 95 contracts with the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) to provide early childhood education programs and services for special needs children who are three to five years of age. There are approximately 46 children in District 95 currently identified as needing these services. Most of the children attend the SEDOL half-day programs at either Spencer Loomis or Seth Paine elementary schools. Under a proposal by Nancy Rosenfeld, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education for District 95, the district would take over those services and expand the program options to a half-day and full-day session, thereby creating better learning opportunities for the participating children.

According to Rosenfeld, there had been questions raised about the readiness levels of children exiting the SEDOL program into District 95 schools, as well as concern that the curriculum expectations in the SEDOL program are not aligned with the district's educational standards. A recently completed analysis showed that the district could expand the services to the children

in the program—such as increasing the preschool program from half-day to full-day—while not increasing the cost to the district.

“District 95 has developed a full continuum of special education services for our children in grades K-12,” said Rosenfeld. “It is time that we extend this continuum to our three- to five-year-old children within the district.”

The current SEDOL early childhood program structure offers two morning programs, two afternoon programs, two SEDOL classroom teachers, and other SEDOL related services based upon student need.

The District 95 proposed program would offer one full-day kindergarten class, one full-day class for children ages 4-5, one full-day or two half-day classes for children ages 3-4, one morning class for three-year-olds, one afternoon class for three-year-olds, four full-time early childhood teachers, four full time classroom assistants, one psychologist, a speech pathologist, social worker, a part-time occupational therapist, and a part-time physical therapist to serve the children's needs. All other related services will be provided based upon each individual child's needs.

As far as cost savings, the district's cost for participating in the SEDOL program is \$444,930, which is approximately \$10,653.50 per participating child. By operating its own program, the district projects the cost to be \$299,000, which is \$5,980 per child. That would be a projected savings of \$145,930 (32.80%) in addition to the improved educational services for children. However, these numbers and dollars change weekly based upon additional student enrollment.

The Board of Education is expected to take action on the proposal at its January 27 meeting. For more information, call (847) 540-7060.



## Free Preschool Screening Offered to Parents

Parents of preschool aged children who reside in Community Unit School District 95 are invited to participate in a free screening that will evaluate their child's speech and language, concept development, fine and gross motor skills, and vision and hearing.

The screening for all children within the May Whitney, Seth Paine and Spencer Loomis school attendance boundaries will be on Wednesday, January 26. The screening for all children within the Sarah Adams, Charles Quentin and Isaac Fox

school attendance boundaries will be on Thursday, January 27. The screening times and location for both days will be from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon., at the District 95 Annex, 200 Church St., Lake Zurich. Children must be three years old by the screening date.

For more information or to make an appointment for your child's screening, please call the District 95 Special Education office at (847) 540-7060.

# 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 nominating packets 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.



Kudos to the Lake Zurich High School Cheerleaders for hosting the fifth annual Cheerleading Invitational on January 9 at the high school. More than 750 cheerleaders from 21 different schools participated in the event, including squads from Middle School North and Middle School South who competed in the middle school/junior high school division. In addition, all three of the high school squads demonstrated their award-winning skills. A big thank you goes out to coaches **Sara Teplinsky**, **John Powers**, **Meredith Silverman**, **Jen Barz** and **Beth Kuklinski**, as well as all of the **Spirit Booster** parents for making this day a success.



Team HELP watches their robot try to put the ball through the hoop during the FIRST LEGO League regional tournament held Saturday, January 8, at Lake Zurich High School. The tournament featured 13 teams, the top five of which now go to the state tournament.