



Alden Rides High

Fourteen (14) young women from across the country were invited to participate in the recent Invitational Saddle Seat Equitation Event, held in Worcester, South Africa. Lake Zurich High School Junior **Ashley Alden** was among them.



Alden, the 17-year-old daughter of Kim Alden, who was selected to be on the Gold Medal Three-Gaited team, is an honor roll student and is ranked in the top of her class. She is active in student council, Omega, track and other activities.

Ashley has ridden for the last eight years, under the direction of **Donna and Kenny Smith** at Royal Scot Stables of New Lenox, IL. She is a past World's Grand Champion and UPHA National Junior Champion in the Saddleseat Equitation division riding her former mount **Carboness PHF**. She currently shows **LA Blues**, with whom she was named the UPHA American Royal National Saddleseat Equitation Grand Champion this past November.

The trip began on January 21, 2005, when all 14 girls and their coaches, manager and some

(Cont, on pg. 3--see *Alden*)

Tea Time for Teddy

Second grade students at Seth Paine Elementary School held their annual Teddy Bear Tea today, February 11, at the school.



The second graders and their teddy bears were joined by special guests who had

been sent special invitations to join the students for this very special Teddy Bear Tea.

The tea culminated the actual making and dressing of the 62 teddy bears by the students, which occurred last week.



The teddy bears will now be donated to the "One Step at a Time" camps. The camps provide positive, safe, and fun camping and other experiences for children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer and leukemia, as well as survivors of childhood cancer and leukemia.

See more *Teddy Bear Tea* Photos on pg. 4

Right: Equestrian champion **Ashley Alden**

Survey Says!

If you haven't yet taken our Stakeholder Survey, please do so now by going to www.lz95.org and clicking on 'Survey' on the main web page. It takes 10 minutes or less and we really want to hear from you.

Parent Forum on Internet & Child Protection

Interested teachers and parents are encouraged to attend a forum on the **Internet and Child Protection** on **Wednesday, Feb. 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m.**, in the basement of **St. Francis de Sales Church**. Parents are encouraged **NOT** to bring their children to the forum.

Presenters at the forum include **Bill Plahm**, a veteran investigator of crimes against children for the Cook County Sheriff's Police Dept. and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and **Gabe Fuentes**, a Lake Zurich High School graduate and an Assistant U.S. Attorney who has prosecuted child exploitation cases. The topics of the forum will include the impact of the Internet on crimes against children, and what law enforcement and the community can do to protect children against these types of crimes.

Songs of the HEARTLAND

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at May Whitney Elementary School were treated to a special musical performance by David Drake, a folksinger who presented his multimedia show "HEARTLAND" before an appreciative crowd today, February 11.

Funded by the May Whitney PTO as a cultural enrichment experience, HEARTLAND was an historical program of folksongs, stories, and images that covered the width and breadth of the state of Illinois. The program is richly illustrated with over 100 slides reflecting the music, heritage, and beauty of Illinois, including special "sing-along" slides for audience participation.

HEARTLAND focused on the unique aspects of Illinois including songs of trains, rivers, the prairies, and the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Carl Sandburg. The 55-minute program presented songs that introduce Illinois from the first explorers and immigrants up to our present day farmers and sailors on the Great Lakes.

Drake played a variety of handmade and historic instruments including an Indian courting flute, mountain banjo, dulcimer, and concertina, in addition to the guitar.

Northside 5 Concert Feb. 23



Nearly 100 fifth grade students from May Whitney, Seth Paine and Spencer Loomis elementary schools will participate in the Elementary North Fifth Grade Band Concert on Wednesday, **February 23**, beginning at **7 p.m.**, in the **Spencer Loomis-Middle School North Cafetorium**, 1 Hubbard Lane,

Hawthorn Woods, IL.

According to band instructor Leslie Grode, the 99 fifth graders have been preparing for the concert for the past eight weeks. The joint band will be performing songs from their *Yamaha Advantage* music method books, as well as two pieces of sheet music: "Olympic Medal March" by Jerry Sebesky and "Prelude and Allegro" by John O'Reilly.

"This is a very special concert for these students," said Grode. "They have only been playing for approximately five months and they are looking forward to playing for their families and the community."

The February 23 concert is the second of three concerts by the band. The final concert will be on Wednesday, May 25.

DID YOU DO IT? Did you take 10 minutes to complete either the online or paper survey in *District Doings*, the community newsletter from Community Unit School District 95?

WHY NOT? As an important stakeholder in School District 95, we want your opinions about our public schools. You've got opinions, why not share them and make our schools better for our children?

DO IT NOW! We really want to hear from you by **February 14**. Go to our Internet site: www.lz95.org and click on 'SURVEY.' In a few minutes you will be done. If you are more of a paper and pen person, simply pull out the survey and business reply envelope from *District Doings*, fill out the survey and mail it in. Your opinion matters, please share it with us.

Reminder

Community Unit School District 95

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact
Jim Jennings, Director of Communications & Community Relations
Phone: 847-540-5489 Email: jim.jennings@lz95.org



Dancing Wheels at SA

Students at Sarah Adams Elementary School will learn that dancing doesn't necessarily entail standing when they experience *Dancing Wheels*, a



professional dance group from Cincinnati, Ohio, on Tuesday, February 15, at 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.

Dancing Wheels is unique in that the group has both stand-up and sit-down (wheelchair) dancers performing together. The group has performed nationally and has appeared on both *Good Morning America* and CNN.

According to **Justine Reppinger**, representative for the Sarah Adams School PTO Cultural Arts Committee, Dancing Wheels performs at schools to promote a better understanding of people with disabilities. Their show demonstrates that people should be known for their abilities and talents, not for their physical limitations or inabilities.

PTO's to Sponsor Board Candidate Forums

The combined Community Unit School District 95 PTO's will be hosting three school board candidate forums prior to the April 5 election. These forums are open to the entire community.

The format of the forums will be question and answer. Community members will write questions to the candidates on cards, which will be read by a facilitator. Candidates will have an allotted amount of time to answer the questions directed to them. These forums will offer you a great opportunity to learn more about the candidates who are seeking to be a member of the Board of Education. The dates and locations of the forums are:

- **Monday, February 28**
7:30 p.m.
Lake Zurich Middle School South – Cafeteria
435 West Cuba Rd., Lake Zurich
- **Wednesday, March 9**
7:30 p.m.
Seth Paine Elementary School – Library
50 Miller Rd., Lake Zurich
- **Tuesday, March 22**
7:30 p.m.
May Whitney Elementary School – Library
120 Church St., Lake Zurich

Alden Rides High (cont.)

parents and supporters gathered in Atlanta, Georgia in preparation for the some 16-hour journey across the Atlantic Ocean.

There was much anticipation for Alden and the other 13 team members who were hand selected by their coaches **Brent Jacobs** of Georgetown, KY and **Chuck Herbert** of Evansville, IN.

Jacobs and Herbert are both professional horse trainers specializing in working American Saddlebred Horses, a breed known for their high head carriage, expressive look, and high-stepping action.

Alden and the other young women were selected based upon their accomplishments in the American Saddlebred show arenas from the competitions held throughout the country. Most of them, like Alden, have won World or National titles.

Equitation is the art of horsemanship while riding. In most show horse venues, the horse is judged as it is guided by the rider or driver, whichever the case may be. However, in equitation, it is the riders poise, elegance, quiet hands and balanced seat that are under the scrutiny of the judges.

“It takes nerves of steel and the patience of a saint. Equitation is not for the feint of heart! It's either in you to excel in Equitation or it isn't. And if it is, it still takes years of practice and polish,” said Saddle & Bridle Magazine, based in St. Louis, MO, Associate Editor Brendan Heintz, a resident of Oak Park, IL who has been showing horses for 32 years and who has been employed by the magazine for the last 13 years.

“We had an excellent group of riders travel across and they represented us well. Both our three and five gaited teams won the Gold Medal, with the South African team, managed by Reinette Giliomee and coached by Madre Bland, taking the Silver both times; and the Namibian team, managed by Nico Pretorius and coached by Mantie Oberholzer, taking Bronze.

It was the experience of a lifetime for Alden and the other young women who, along with their parents and many other supporters, were part of the American contingent to South Africa.



Ashley Alden in action in South Africa.

Teddy Bear Tea (cont.)



Second graders treated their guests to songs done with American Sign Language (ASL).



The Teddy Bear Tea was a multigenerational event.



Who has more authority than the Principal? The Principal's mom, of course!



Dr. Knutson (left) chats with his hosts at the tea.



"So, there are no fingers in these?"

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.

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 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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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.

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