



Isaac Fox Students Dig into Learning, Kick into Knowledge

Laura Hearst (right) reacts to the chemical reaction she created.



While learning is fun every day at Isaac Fox Elementary School, February 18 and 25 were over the top in the fun category as the school's

first and second graders participated in the long anticipated Enrichment Activities Days at the school which ran from 9:15-10:45 a.m.

Far Right: A young Isaac Fox student practices his blocking technique with a martial arts instructor.



Martial Arts taught by Villari's Martial Arts of Palatine; **Acting** taught by Patricia True; **Fossil Find** taught by Tony Harper; **High Tech,**

High Touch which focused on chemistry, the human body and inventions; **Magic** taught by

Right: Isaac Fox students dressed like the pioneers for their enrichment period.



The students were allowed to choose two offerings from a long list of learning opportunities, including:

Language Stars of Barrington who provided a learning experience from France and Mexico;

Far Right: A student searches for fossils in the Fossil Find activity.



Randy; **Creative Dance** taught by Denise Sabala of Lake Zurich; and **Pioneer Days** taught by Teresa Cartwright of Lake Zurich. Other cool classes covered science, agriculture, cartoon drawing and other subjects.

Parents: Are Your Children Prepared for ISAT?

ISAT testing, part of the Illinois State Achievement Test program, will begin in Community Unit School District 95 on **Monday, March 7**, and conclude on **Friday, March 18**. Students in grades three, five, and eight will be tested in reading and mathematics. Students in grades four and seven will be tested in science. The results of the state tests will be reported on the School Report Card this fall, in addition, to parents/guardians receiving information about their child's individual performance.

Some helpful tips to help your child do his/her best:

- Make sure your child attends school on the days of testing;
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
- Provide breakfast on the mornings of testing;
- Remind your child to ask the teacher questions if he/she does not understand the test directions;
- Let your child know that you have confidence in his/her ability to do his/her best;
- Advise your child not to worry about the test – just do the best he/she can;
- Visit www.lz95.org/curriculum/parent.htm and click on "Standardized Testing Practice Site."

Augustana Choir in LZ

The Augustana Choir is coming on tour to the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School on Saturday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to the community. The Augustana choir has a long standing tradition of touring in the Chicago area,



throughout the country and abroad. In fact, this year the choir will be traveling to China in May.

The choir will perform the same tour concert on Sunday at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights. On Monday afternoon, the Augustana Choir will return to Lake Zurich HS to do a "choir exchange." The Lake Zurich High School Chorus will sing for them, and the Augustana Choir will sing for Lake Zurich students. After that, the two choirs will sing two pieces together. The director of the Augustana Choir is Dr. Jon Hurty.

On a more personal note, Choir Director Nick Juknelis is a graduate of Augustana College and former Augustana Choir member, as is Nancy Polancich of Isaac Fox Elementary School, and Chris Finch and Kelly Harper of Middle School South.

Book Worm Angels

The May Whitney Elementary School PTO will hold a Book Worm Angels Book Drive during March and April to collect new and used books for children in inner-city schools. Thanks to the efforts of its many business partners, there will be numerous drop-off locations throughout the area.

The donated books will go to the Book Worm Angels, a not-for-profit organization founded to help children in underachieving public elementary schools in Chicago strengthen their reading skills. The organization works with schools to develop free lending libraries in classrooms so that the students can take the books home to read and enjoy.

According to book drive coordinator Gail Heraty, new or used books can be brought to any of the following locations:

March 1-7

- Discovery Learning Institute, Hawthorn Woods
- Kits Sports Center, Lake Zurich
- Long Grove Country School, Long Grove
- U.S. Gymnastics Training Center, Lake Zurich
- Village Bank & Trust – Ela Road branch
- The Exercise Coach, Lake Zurich

March 7-14

- Village Bank & Trust, Ela Road branch
- The Exercise Coach, Lake Zurich
- Good Shepherd Pediatric Therapy Center, Lake Zurich
- Foglia YMCA
- SCORE!, Lake Zurich

April 4-15

- May Whitney Elementary School, Lake Zurich

Other community partners participating in the Book Worm Angels project include: Max & Erma's, Quizno's Subs, Raceway Car Wash, Biaggis, Cipperoni's Market & Deli, Coldwell Banker REI, Friends of Ela Library, Lake Cook Book Distributors, Lakeside Moms & Tots, Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce, Long Grove Confectionery, Rainbow Book Publishers, SCORE! Testing and others.

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
- **Tuesday, March 22**
7:30 p.m.
May Whitney Elementary School – Library
120 Church St., Lake Zurich
- **Wednesday, March 9**
7:30 p.m.
Seth Paine Elementary School – Library
50 Miller Rd., Lake Zurich

Think Tank Looks to Tomorrow to Prepare Students for Today

Did you know that Community Unit School District 95 has its own think tank? That's right, this collection of some of the finest minds in education—known officially as the Curriculum Council (CC)—meets regularly in a super secret location (400 S. Old Rand Road, Lake Zurich) to review the current curriculum, examine proposed new learning initiatives and, just as importantly, talk about kids and the future.

Much like other curriculum councils or committees in other school districts, the District 95 CC regularly reviews curriculum, new educational initiatives and other issues that affect teaching and learning. However, this CC—activated in 2003—also spends a lot of time talking about children and the future.

A favorite topic of discussion is the characteristics of the Millennials, those people



loyalty and expect it in return. In short, millennials are a great group of young people. Unlike some of the past generations, millennials show confidence in the future, trust in their parents, and possess a greater acceptance of diversity. Not surprisingly, millennials are also fascinated with technology.

New initiatives and the reorganization of existing educational programs also take up much of the council's time. Whether it is the reorganization of the English Language Learners (ELL) program, a proposed student leadership class at

Lake Zurich High School, or the district's curriculum review cycle, the Curriculum Council spends the time, effort and research to make sure that the best practices are put in place within the schools of District 95.

These recommendations by the council are then forwarded to the Superintendent and the Board of Education, where they are given serious consideration.

Just who are these think tank members who give so much for student learning? Well, they represent teachers, administrators, parents and community members. Their membership includes teachers **Jean Bush, Nancy Caceres, Kara Dohman, Laura Meehan, Kathy Perkins, Sarah Wippman**, parent **Teresa Daleske**, community member **Tony Harper**,



who were born between 1982 and 2004. By becoming more familiar with the millennials, the council believes it can help educators align the curriculum and teaching methods to best meet the learning needs of these young people. Much of their discussion on the topic of Millennials is generated from the book *Millennials Rising* by Howe & Straus. The themes from this text are discussed by the CC and the council uses the themes and learning characteristics of the millennials, along with other experiences and resource materials in reviewing new educational initiatives that come before it.

The common characteristics of millennials might surprise you. For instance, millennials tend to be more wholesome, politically active, socially responsible, balanced between work and life, offer



students **Jake Lestan** and **Kristin Wilson**, school administrators **David Gardner, Michael Egan, MaryAnn Nemecek, Donna O'Brien, Crystal Steker, Eric Hamilton, and Constance Spenko**, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Millennials Rising - By better understanding millennials, such as those at left, our schools can better meet their learning needs.

Far Left: Connecting student learning needs with best teaching practices through staff development produces better results in the classroom.

Left: Hands-on learning produces active learners.

Community Unit
School District 95

Institute Day



Friday,
March 4, 2005

Coming Attractions.....

- **Feb. 25:** Isaac Fox Enrichment Day
- **Feb. 26:** Math Regionals
- **Feb. 28:** PTO Board of Ed. Candidates Forum, 7:30 p.m., MSS Cafeteria
- **Mar. 1:** HS Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- **Mar. 3:** Northside Elem. Band Concert, 7 p.m., MSN
- **Mar. 3:** Committee of the Whole, 6 p.m., Annex
- **Mar. 4:** Institute Day - No student attendance
- **Mar. 5:** Parent University, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., MSN
- **Mar. 7:** ISAT testing begins
- **Mar. 7:** HS Cultural Awareness Week begins
- **Mar. 9:** MSN Band Concert, 7 p.m., MSN
- **Mar. 10:** Isaac Fox Chorus Concert, 7 p.m.
- **Mar. 10:** Committee of the Whole, 6 p.m., Annex

Skip's Weather Report



We can expect to see a bit of each precip type from now through Monday. Mostly flurries through midday Friday then a warm-up (yes, I said warm). So do your thing (what ever that may be) prior to Sunday afternoon when the rain will begin. The relatively warm rain (relative to cold rain) will slowly change to sleet and ice then snow to make your Monday morning commute an eye opener. It will stay rather cold until the storm on Thursday night. Think on the bright side - your house will not slide down a hill like the folks seem to be enjoying out west.

--Skip Lubenow

Want Something to Talk About?

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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