



## 2005 Stakeholder Survey Seeks Community, Staff Input

This holiday season, amongst the various cards, letters and bills, the residents within Community Unit School District 95 and the district's staff will receive the annual Community Unit School District 95 Stakeholder Survey. The best gift the residents and businesses can give to the school district is to take 10 minutes to fill it out (either the paper or online version) and return it (paper version) in the prepaid envelope. The district would like all surveys returned by **December 30**.

Nearly 16,000 stakeholder surveys are being mailed out by the district's Office of Communications & Community Relations as part of **District Doings**, the school district's community news magazine, to residents and businesses within the boundaries of the school district. The survey is also available online at the district's web site: [www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org).

The 36-question survey is designed to gather community information and opinions regarding the district's nine schools, its curriculum, strategic plan and other aspects of school operations. The returned surveys will be helpful as the district and its Board of Education work to align limited resources with the educational needs of its children. The results of this year's survey will be compared to last year's survey.



According to Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**, it is important for everyone to complete and return the survey.

"It is important that all residents fill out the survey either online or by mailing it back in the provided postage-paid envelope," said Dr. Knutson. "The information the community provides us through this survey will benefit our children and our schools by helping us to better align our limited resources to best meet the educational needs of our students and our communities."

According to **Jim Jennings**, Director of Communications and Community Relations, both the online and paper versions of the survey should take the average resident less than 10 minutes to complete. The analysis of the data collected from the surveys will be shared with the Board and the community later in the school year.

The results of last year's survey can be found on the main page of the district web site at [www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org).

### 2004 Survey Flashback

*Overall, how satisfied are you with District 95 Schools?*

Very Satisfied: 36.3%  
Somewhat Satisfied: 49.9%  
Unsatisfied: 5.8%  
Very Unsatisfied: 2.8%

## Alden Mounts Up for USEF Saddle Seat Victory



**Ashley Alden** after her win in the USEF Saddle Seat Medal Final. Photo by Howard Schatzberg

**Ashley Alden**, a senior at Lake Zurich High School and a resident of Deer Park, riding American Saddlebred LA Blues, was crowned champion of the 2005 United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Saddle Seat Medal Final, held November 19, as part of the UPHA/American Royal National Championship Horse Show in Kansas City, MO.

Alden topped the class of 24 entries in the two-phase competition that required both rail work and patterns in both rounds. She is instructed by **Kenny** and **Donna Pettry-Smith** in New Lenox, IL.

As champion, Alden will have her name engraved on the Adrian Van Sinderen Trophy and Helen K. Crabtree Perpetual Bronze. In addition to these awards, she also received a Freedman Harness World Cup equitation saddle and Gold medal sponsored by the USEF.

## Dist. 95 to Host First Lego League of 2006

On Saturday, January 7, 2006, Lake Zurich Middle School North will play host to 14 area teams competing for the chance to move on to the FIRST LEGO League's *Ocean Odyssey Challenge* statewide competition. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization founded to inspire interest in science and engineering among young people.

This year, FIRST LEGO League travels into the depths of the ocean to explore the mysteries that lie below. A distress call has been issued to FIRST LEGO League teams around the world to find solutions that will sustain the health, biodiversity, and productivity of the world's oceans for present and future generations. Using LEGO Mindstorms robotics technology, teams of students--ages nine to 14--will attempt to solve challenges inspired by the very same dilemmas faced by real oceanographers and marine biologists.

"In every business I have ever seen, you start out with a problem, not enough time, and not enough resources," said **Dean Kamen**, Founder of FIRST. "You don't know what the competition is



doing and you have to invent, design, develop, prototype, rebuild and deliver a working solution. The FLL process is, in every way, a microcosm of a real business."

Teams in this year's local tournament are from Barrington, Cary, Crystal Lake and Lake Zurich.

Students will design, build, and program their robot to independently perform a complex set of tasks. Additionally, teams will be measured by other factors including a research project, project presentation and team spirit.

"We are thrilled to be offering the local competition for the third year" said **Dave April**, lead organizer of the tournament. "It is an excellent opportunity for young children to learn how to work as a team, and creatively accomplish a set of real world tasks."

The Lake Zurich tournament, held at Middle School North on January 7, 2006, is free and open to the general public. The Illinois competition will take place in Arlington Heights on January 14, 2006.

### MW Wins 2005 Smark Buck School Program

Congratulations to May Whitney School for winning the 2005 Smark Bucks program at Deer Park Town Center with 54,249 points!

## P.U. is for YOU!

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, March 4, 2006, District 95 is presenting the 12th annual PARENT UNIVERSITY. Plan on spending an inspirational morning with **Char Wenc**, speaker and award-winning author of, *Parenting-Are We Having Fun Yet?*

PARENT UNIVERSITY is geared to parents and grandparents of children ages preschool through high school. Many great sessions dealing with a variety of parenting topics and issues are planned for this year's event.

Titles for some of the sessions include: *The Challenging Child, Internet Dangers, From Tee-Ball to Testosterone--What a Son Needs From His Dad, From Walking to Weddings--What a Daughter needs From Her Dad, Overindulging Your Children, Substance Abuse In Our Community, The Top Ten Signs It Is Time To Talk To Your Kid About Money, How To Build the Muscle of Confidence In Our Children*, and more!

A continental breakfast and lunch as well as childcare will be provided.

Registration forms will be sent home in January. Questions? Call **Lori Schwartz** (847) 438-1949.

## eSchool Plus Arrives



**Bob Shellenberger** (right) and **Melissa Niemeyer** are all smiles as the computer servers for eSchool Plus are delivered to District 95. eSchool Plus is a comprehensive, web based student management system that will provide powerful capabilities for school administrators and timesaving tools for teachers and staff.

# 95 in District 95 Honored as Illinois State Scholars

Ninety-five (95) students at Lake Zurich High School have been named 2006 State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). The State Scholar program recognizes Illinois high school students for outstanding academic achievement.

“These students should be very proud of their accomplishments. The Commission congratulates them and wishes them the best as they continue their education,” stated **Larry E. Matejka**, ISAC’s Executive Director.

Students ranking in the top ten percent of the state’s 139,500 high school graduating seniors have been named State Scholars. Selection is based on SAT and/or ACT test score results and/or the students’ class rank at the end of junior year of high school. While the program does not provide a monetary award, qualified students are encouraged to list the honor on applications and scholarships.

Congratulations to: **Ashley Alden, William Angulo, Melissa Behrens, William Bendix, Dhiraj Bizzul, Jordan Bloom, Samantha Boldt, Alyse Bondi, Andrew Bordon, Emily Brazee, Sabrina Bushnick, Anthony Castonzo, Amanda Chmieski, Margaret Chumley, Catherine Crosby, Lisa DeCanio, Christine Doczi, Lincoln Every, Eric Flesher, Zachary Garrison, David Gebka, Wesley Gibbert, Christina Grenhart, Jack Groot, Jane Gyarmaty, Jake Hadden, Kimberly Harris, Michelle Hemann, Sean Hennessy, Austen Heuser, Samantha Holappa, Stephanie Holappa, Rachel Hughes, Katelyn Hutchinson, Elizabeth Isenberg, Carli Johnston, Isabelle Karpierz, Martin Konsor, Lindsey Kurek, Elizabeth Lach, Jennifer Laidlaw, Kimberly Lavin, Marie Lemke, Meagan Leopold, Erin Littell, Elizabeth Littell, Sara Lloyd, Alexander Loeb, Ross Mandell, Sarah Mathews, Mario Mazzetti, Jia Meng, Michael Messenger, Eric Miedema, Joseph Mihaljevic, Patrick Mundschenk, Susan Murphy, Lauren Nagle, Ryan Nolan, Russell Otten, Daniel Otto, Jennifer Park, Amar Patel, Benjamin Paul, Kristin Penney, Rachel Petersen, Tyler Peterson, Laura Pettengill, Alicia Pietsch,**



**Lindsey Polinko, Julie Polywka, Mara Putnins, Lauren Raine, Garrett Rausch, Meredith Riccio, Ellen Rolfes, Anthony Rosenberg, Thor Ruskoski, Lauren Sandelin, Miranda Schmidt, Jim Schram, Ashley Smith, Samantha Stachowiak, Megan Steker, Sarah Stumpf, Kyle Sustich, Kevin Sweeney, Gina Tangorra, Bradley Walker, Andrew Werner, Matthew Widtmann, Jessica Williams, Lauren Younis, David Zeman, and Jack Zhou.**

ISAC works with high school guidance counselors to provide lists of each school’s State Scholar students to allow schools to appropriately recognize students.

As the State of Illinois’ centralized provider of financial assistance, aimed at helping all students gain access to a college education, ISAC administers several financial aid programs, including scholarships, grants, and educational loans.

More information about ISAC’s programs, products, and services is available at [collegezone.com](http://collegezone.com).

## About ISAC

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission is the State’s centralized provider of financial assistance aimed at helping students and families access postsecondary education and/or training.

Each year, the Commission awards an estimated \$400 million in scholarship and grant aid to nearly 185,000 qualified students, and also provides an additional \$740 million to borrowers through its student loan programs. The agency offers credit-based alternative loans, a 529 prepaid tuition program known as College Illinois!, and a broad array of outreach and informational services to ensure that families have access to the information they need to pay for a college education.

## 2006 Excellence Award Nominees

Congratulations to the following who have been nominated for the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce 2006 Excellence Awards. The nominees will be honored at a special awards dinner on January 14 at Concord Commons Banquet Facility in Lake Zurich.

- **Outstanding Educator:** **Lisa Covelli**, Art Instructor – LZHS; **Ron Culver**, Drama Instructor, LZHS; **Gail Galter**, First Grade Teacher, Seth Paine School; **Colleen Johnson**, Third Grade Teacher, Seth Paine School; **Justine Replinger**, Math Instructor, LZHS; **Josh Thompson**, Band Director, LZHS; **Judy Wagner**, Music Instructor, Seth Paine School
- **Marketing:** **Jim Jennings**, Director of Communications & Community Relations
- **Chamber of Commerce Partnership:** **Lake Zurich High School**
- **Architectural Expansion:** **Spencer Loomis/Middle School North**

## Cheers/Poms Celebrate Another V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!

The Lake Zurich High School cheerleaders notched another victory on their spirit stick with wins at the 2005 Midwest Cheerfest on Dec. 4 in Orland Park.

The varsity was awarded the Grand Banner for the highest score of all varsity squads competing and placed first in the Super Large Varsity Division. The squad will participate in the National Cheerleading Association competition in Dallas on Dec. 28 and 29.

The junior varsity also took first place in its division and the Grand Banner in the freshman/junior varsity category.

The Lake Zurich High School Poms varsity team also took first place in the AAA varsity hip-hop division at the Illinois Drill Team Association competition last weekend at Argo High school in Summit.

Varsity Cheerleaders



Poms

## H.E.L.P Ends Donation Drives, Prepares for New Events

At the December 2 meeting of H.E.L.P. (Hancock County/Ela area Long-term Partnership) it was decided that H.E.L.P. would take a break from its highly successful donation drives and instead focus on a couple of large fund raising events beginning in late January.

Special thanks goes to our Facilities and Maintenance staff for making donation collection runs to all of the schools. A great big thank you goes out to the students, staff and PTO members whose active involvement resulted in generous donations from the school community to the residents of hurricane ravaged Hancock County, MS.

For more information about H.E.L.P., visit its web site at [www.elahelp.org](http://www.elahelp.org).



## Do You Like to Know Stuff?

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](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org)**  
**[www.lz95.org](http://www.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.

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