



Katrina Relief Efforts Continue

Right: A man makes his way out of flood waters as a home burns in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (Photo by AP).

Schools in District 95 continue with their fund raising efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Some of those efforts are going to four of its victims—a family from New Orleans—who are living in Lake Zurich with a host family at least through the end of the school year.

At May Whitney School on Thursday, Sept.

15, students and staff members paid \$1 towards hurricane relief so that they could wear their favorite or craziest hat. Some hats blinked, while others bore the name of the owner's favorite sports team.

In addition, the school's fourth grade will be sponsoring a bake sale this week during lunches. All items will be priced at \$.25 or \$.50. The proceeds from the school's fund raisers will be donated to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Fund. This week the school is also sponsoring a canned food drive. Students can bring a nonperishable can of food to place in a box in the front hall, or in boxes in each classroom.



Spencer Loomis School has already raised \$3,400 through its fund raising efforts, and the school plans on doing other relief activities as well.

One of the hurricane relief projects at **Seth Paine School** involves the school's partnership with *Operation Blessing*,

which is working alongside the Salvation Army to help those affected by the hurricane. The students are making disaster relief kits, which provide basic toiletries to individuals and families who have lost everything. The kits will then be sent to those in need.

Isaac Fox School, in addition to its other fund raising efforts, recently donated \$200 in Kohl's gift cards to the two students who were displaced by the hurricane and are now living in Lake Zurich. The school also has other Katrina relief fund raisers planned.

Cont. on pg. 2--see KATRINA RELIEF

District 95 Takes the Gold Medal for Educational Excellence

Following on the heels of several top educational awards, Community Unit School District 95 has received the Gold Medal award by *Expansion Management* magazine in its 14th annual Education Quotient issue. The only other school districts in Illinois to receive the gold medal honor are in Evanston, Naperville and Wheaton.

Each year, Expansion Management ranks more than 2,800 school districts across the country on how well the district is preparing its students to be a part of the workforce after graduation. The results of the rankings are mailed to over 45,000 CEO's, vice presidents, directors and other officers of companies who are considering expansion into new areas.

"We are proud to once again be recognized for the quality education we provide our students," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "Such honors are the result of hard work by our students and all of our

staff in partnership with our parents and the communities we serve."

To be ranked as a Gold Medal School, a district must rank in the top 16 percent of all school districts nationally. According to Expansion Management Editor **Bill King**, the Education Quotient issue is the magazine's most popular issue with readers.

"People who evaluate communities for business expansion require a good education system," said King. "That seems to be first and foremost on their list of things to care about. Communities with excellent schools can expect to come out on top when the site selectors come calling to create new jobs."

For more information about the Expansion Management Education Quotient research study, or to read the article, visit the magazine's web site at www.expansionmanagement.com.

York Walkathon Oct. 2

The sixth annual Ryan York Foundation Walkathon will be held on October 2. The walk starts and finishes at Paulus Park located north of Rt. 22 on Rt. 12 in Lake Zurich. Registration for the walkathon is at 11:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 12:30 p.m.

Ryan Wesley York was a 14-year-old Lake Zurich, Illinois High School student who succumbed to Neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer, on February 15, 2001. Ryan, a talented sought-after soccer player, was diagnosed with cancer on October 20, 1999. During

his battle with cancer he set an example of strength and courage for his family, friends and community.

It was because of the support that Ryan and his family received from the Lake Zurich community that the family and friends created The Ryan York Foundation. The foundation was established to support families affected by cancer

and to benefit specific children's organizations.

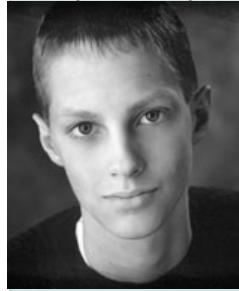
The first walkathon in 1999 began as an outpouring of support to Ryan from his eighth grade classmates. Within 23

days, **Elizabeth Wagner-Rathgeber** (Ryan's teacher) was able to organize a successful walk, with the help of fellow teacher **Sophia Ramdass** and Community Unit School District 95. The walkathon generated over \$25,000 and involved over 500 people within the community.

The walkathon has now grown to 1,500 annual participants, 50 corporate sponsors and has raised over \$200,000. Proceeds from the walk have helped to assist children with cancer.

The walkathon is held each fall in Lake Zurich, IL. It is a 5k walk around the lake that starts and finishes at Paulus Park. Participants receive a t-shirt, and entertainment is provided before and after the walk, with food and refreshments available for purchase.

For more information on how you can participate, visit the Ryan York Foundation web site: www.theryanyorkfoundation.org.



Right: **Ryan York**

Far Right: May Whitney Principal **Dr. Deb Breummer** and **Nancy Huntington** show their support for Hurricane Katrina relief. Staff and students paid \$1 to relief efforts for the right to wear a hat at school Sept. 15.



Above: Walkers filled the streets during the 2003 Walkathon.

Katrina Relief cont.

This Friday, September 23, **Sarah Adams School** will hold a White Elephant Sale. The students have cleaned out their closets to donate



to the sale, and all proceeds will go towards the hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf Coast. The third, fourth and fifth grades have incorporated the sale into their math unit on working with money and decimals.

In addition to various fund raising efforts by its students, staff members from **Middle School North** and **Middle School South** will put down their lesson plans and demonstrate their best moves during a charity co-ed basketball game for hurricane relief on October 14, beginning at 3 p.m., in the gym at Middle School North. With MSN Principal and former pro basketball player **Keir Rogers** and his north squad pitted against wily Middle School South Principal **Dave Gardner** and his staff, this game is sure to draw large numbers to the gym.

At **Lake Zurich High School**, many clubs and organizations are pitching in to help others affected by the hurricane. The Interact Club and **Bear Facts** student newspaper are seeking contributions from each student and staff member to help with hurricane relief. They have teamed up with St. Francis Church to collect donated items such as food, toiletries, water and clothing. In addition, students who donate \$5 or more to **Bear Facts** will be automatically entered into a drawing for prizes from local restaurants; including a \$100 gift certificate to Biaggi's and free bread for a year from Panera Bread.

In addition, the high school athletic and fine arts departments have donated passes to the family that relocated here for the year after fleeing Hurricane Katrina. The family, who has two daughters in our schools, also has received donations from Deer Park Town Center, MC Sports, Isaac Fox PTO, YMCA, Wal-Mart, Middle School North PTO, and others. Since the family fled with just enough clothing for three days, the donations have been gratefully accepted.

If you would like to contribute to hurricane relief, contact your school. If you would like to make a donation to the family who has been displaced here as a result of the hurricane, please contact the Office of Communications, (847) 540-5489.

Scary Stories Sought

Pioneer Press is again sponsoring its Scary Story Contest for children in the third, fourth and fifth grades. The rules are simple:

- Stories should be no longer than 500 words.
- Stories and drawings must include:
- The child's name, home address and telephone number;
- The child's grade level, and
- Name and address of the child's school.

If any of this information is missing, the entry will be disqualified. Please make sure each entry has the child's information on it as the entries are separated prior to judging. The child's address and telephone number will not be published; they will be used only for notification of winners.

As always, kids can write about whatever they want, but entries must be original creations. They cannot include characters or plots from movies, television shows, or books or be a dream sequence. Such entries will be disqualified. The first-place winner in each grade level will receive \$25.

Judges' choices for the top three stories in each grade level, as well as some submitted drawings, will be printed in the Oct. 27 issue of the *Lake Zurich Courier*. Deadline to submit entries is 5 p.m. Oct. 10. Entries should be e-mailed to mmartinez@pioneerlocal.com, or mailed or dropped off at the Pioneer Press offices.

Sing along with Dorothy

It doesn't matter if you are a cowardly lion, wicked witch, scarecrow, munchkin, or flying monkey, all are welcome at the *Wizard of Oz Movie Sing-A-Long!* on October 1, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School, 300 Church St. in Lake Zurich.

During the movie, you can sing your favorite songs from the *Wizard of Oz*! You don't need to know the words to join in the fun, just read them from the screen. Dress up as your favorite *Oz* character, participate in the costume parade and maybe win a prize! Included in the price of a ticket is the "Perform-a-long fun pack" for interactive fun during the show! Ticket prices are only \$10 each.

Mail your check along with the requested number of tickets to: LZHS Theatre Program/ *Wizard of Oz*; 300 Church St., Lake Zurich, IL 60047 - or call the ticket hotline at: (847) 540-4740 to place your order.

For more information, contact **Linda Thomsen** of the Lake Zurich High School Drama Dept. Publicity Committee via email at Thomsen@pioneerlocal.com, or by phone at (847) 797-5132.



Community Forum to Focus on Communication

Both internal and external communications within Community Unit School District 95 will be the subject of the Community Unit School District's Board of Education Community Forum on Thursday, **September 29, beginning at 7 p.m.**, in the gymnasium at Isaac Fox Elementary School, 395 W. Cuba Road, Lake Zurich.

The forum is a follow up to a 2003 community forum on the same topic. At the forum, board members and district staff will highlight the school district's comprehensive efforts to increase the level of communication both within the school district and to and from the communities it serves. Much of the forum will focus on questions and suggestions from the audience on how the district can further enhance its communication efforts.

Board President **Gary Robillard**, who co-facilitated the 2003 forum, is looking forward to sharing with the community the increased communications efforts undertaken by both the board and the district administration.

"We have made some real progress in improving our communication efforts," said Robillard. "We have developed a comprehensive communications plan, as well as utilized current technology to improve the two-way flow of communication between the district and its stakeholders."

The communications forum is one of a series of school board forums to be held this school year and is designed to both inform the community and receive their input on schools and learning related issues.

"Two-way communication is vital to the public's understanding and support of our public schools," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "Forums, such as this, allow us to both provide and receive information about our schools and district operations. Through such open communication, we can make our schools even better environments for learning."

MW, 'TEAM MAGGIE' Raise Funds for Diabetes

Maggie Monson, a former May Whitney student and current sixth grader at Middle School North, is again reaching out to the community for support. Since the age of five (5), Maggie has been diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes (also called Type 1 diabetes). Unlike most people, Maggie's pancreas makes no insulin, which is responsible for regulating blood sugar. To help her body regulate itself, Maggie wears an insulin pump which delivers insulin through tubing into her abdomen.

While the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) continues its research into the disease, there is currently no cure for this dreaded disease which continues to affect children and adults. Each year approximately 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes; over 13,000 of which are children. That's 35 children each and every day.

To help raise money for research, Maggie, her family and friends will be walking as "Team

Maggie" in the annual JDRF fund-raising walk on Sunday, October 2, at Busse Woods in Schaumburg.

As both a fund raiser and a show of support for Maggie, May Whitney School (120 Church St., Lake Zurich) will be selling paper sneakers to students, staff and community members for "any amount people care to donate" Monday, September 26, through Wednesday, September 28, from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The sneakers will be displayed on student lockers throughout the school.

Also, Yogis Pizza – the 2005 Team Maggie sponsor is hosting a fund-raising night on Monday September 26. After 5pm, Yogi's will donate a percentage of the night sales to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

For more information about Team Maggie or to learn how to make a donation to the JDRF, contact Maggie's mother, **Colleen Monson**, at (847) 567-1125.

Are You in the Know?

A new school year brings new opportunities and fresh beginnings. So start of this school year by being in the know when it comes to news about your schools by joining 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 Communicator, 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 Key Communicator, simply call, email or fax:

**Community Unit School District 95
Communications & Community Relations
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-2459
Phone: (847) 540-5489
Fax: (847) 438-6702
jim.jennings@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.

Annette Jacobsen,
Editor
Jim Jennings,
Publisher
(847) 540-5489
jim.jennings@lz95.org
www.lz95.org



The Mill

Vol. 2, No. 1
Sept. 16, 2005

Rumors and inaccurate information seem to fly faster than the speed of light. Left unchallenged, such misinformation is often mistaken for fact. The Mill is designed to answer such questions, rumors and issues with factual information.

Q: *Recently, a parent asked why I hadn't responded to the email that they had sent me. I checked my email and there was nothing there. What's going on?*

A: The district's Information Technology (IT) Department takes any and all communications issues very seriously. They realize that failure to respond to a parent email (even one you never received) can be problematic. To that end, they have made some process improvements recently in how the department handles misidentified SPAM.

If an email from an outside source is blocked as SPAM, the sender will receive a bounce back message from IT which provides an Internet link so that the person can let IT know he or she was blocked. Upon notification (basically filing out a short on-line form) their mail is released and their email address is "white listed" from being scanned as SPAM. The sender then receives an email confirmation that their blocked email has been released and they have been added to the exceptions list.

IT's experience has been that when people understand the process and WHY it is happening that it lessens frustrations considerably. The district has had staff members that were receiving over 100 SPAM emails a day last fall with some of them being very offensive. It is a delicate balancing act to block a high percentage of SPAM without blocking valid mail, and the IT Department is making every effort to strike that balance.

Unfortunately, the people and companies sending the SPAM are getting smarter and finding other ways to get their messages past filtering systems. One of the many keys to whether the email gets through or stopped by the filters is the subject line of the email. If the sender leaves the subject line blank or simply uses the word Hi, Hello, or a word with "!" at the end, it will get blocked.

The IT Department is very willing to "white list" as many email addresses as needed. Communicating to parents, friends, and family members that they only need to submit the form when they have been rejected will insure that their email will get delivered successfully.

*The Mill is produced by the Community Unit School District 95 Office of Communications & Community Relations for staff and interested community members. We encourage you to send us your questions, rumors and issues. However, due to the volume of questions, not all may appear in this publication. Issues that would be considered confidential personnel matters will not be discussed by this publication. **Rumors, questions and issues can be sent to: Jim Jennings, (847) 540-5489, jim.jennings@l295.org.***