



## High School Student Miedema GUILTY!

Yesterday, September 29, Lake Zurich High School (LZHS) senior **Eric Miedema** was tried and found guilty for refusing to write an in-class essay in his literature class. In fact, Miedema attempted to get others to join him in his protest.

In announcing their finding of guilt, the jury—comprised of a teacher and two administrators—cited the fact that Miedema’s defense team did not clearly establish that there was a hostile learning environment or the need for Miedema to rebel against the assigned work. The defense and Miedema, while saddened by the verdict, quickly pointed out that the jury—comprised of school administrators and a teacher—was not even close to being comprised of a “jury of Eric’s peers.”



The trial—actually a “mock trial”—was the brainchild of English and journalism teacher **Carolyn Wagner**, who pit teams of student prosecutors against student defense attorneys. The litigation teams researched civil disobedience and arranged for experts to testify at the

Thursday trial.

“The idea was to connect literature to real life,” said Wagner. “The students were shocked at the start of the activity – they felt offended and indignant – but once they began delving into their roles for the trial, they really enjoyed themselves.”

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## District 95 Wins 'Bright Apple' Award of Excellence

Community Unit School District 95 has been awarded the 2005 Bright Red Apple Award of Excellence by SchoolSearch™, a Kansas City-based firm that provides relocation information on schools and school districts to corporations and families. District 95 was one of only 92 school districts in Illinois to receive the recognition out 886 eligible school districts.

The Bright Apple Award is based upon five important factors: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary. According to SchoolSearch president Dr. Dee Shugart, District 95 was strong in all five family-favored categories.



“Congratulations to you for striving to provide your students with an outstanding educational environment,” said Dr. Shugart.

“We are honored to receive yet another recognition of the high quality, cost effective education we provide to our students and our community,” said Superintendent Dr.

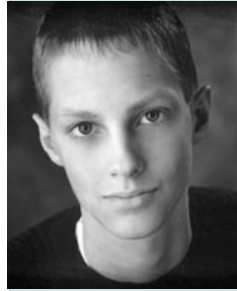
Brian Knutson. “This award, like the other honors we have received, can be directly linked to our caring staff, eager learners, involved parents, and our supportive communities.”

For more information about the 2005 Bright Red Apple Award of Excellence, visit [www.schoolsearchrankings.com](http://www.schoolsearchrankings.com).

Right: The defense team confers during the "trial" of senior **Eric Miedema**.

## York Walkathon Sunday

The sixth annual Ryan York Foundation Walkathon will be held on Sunday, 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 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 class-

mates. 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](http://www.theryanyorkfoundation.org).

## Guilty! (cont.)

To get the exercise going, on Monday, September 26, Wagner assigned a surprise in-class essay for which the students were unprepared.



While most students complied, one student, Miedema, rose up with indignation and tried to rally his peers to refuse.

Before you become too shocked by his classroom behavior, you should

know that Miedema was actually Wagner's secret liaison in the activity. His role was to spur his classmates into rebellion. Although he gave an Oscar worthy performance, the uprising ultimately failed. However, Miedema did accomplish drawing attention to the injustice of the in-class essay.

"These kids are just too nice," lamented Wagner. "They didn't want to fight an unjust request because I am seen as an authority figure."

While most teachers would have been glad that the rebellion failed, the students' inaction scared Wagner.

"If they won't fight for their rights here," she said, "will they stand up for something that really matters later in life?" "I want kids to understand their rights and the need to be active citizens."

In addition to standing up for themselves, the more obvious goal for Wagner was to get her students to connect what they read to their lives.

"They've just finished Sophocles's *Antigone* which deals with civil disobedience. Hopefully this makes the play more valuable to them," said Wagner.



Right: **Ryan York**

Far Right: Prosecutor **Meagan Leopold** states her case for the jury.



Above: Walkers take to the streets during the 2003 Walkathon.

Far Right: Defendant **Eric Miedema**, much quieter after the failure of his rebellion, awaits word of his fate from the jury.

# HS Proposes New Course Offerings for 06

In keeping with the District 95 Strategic Plan strategy that “all students will enthusiastically engage in continuous extended learning in areas of their choice,” **Lake Zurich High School** is requesting that the District 95 Board of Education allow the high school to offer additional courses in fine arts, physical education and applied arts.

The course recommendations are the result of last year’s curriculum review of those areas to make sure they were in alignment with state learning standards. After reviewing the curriculum, the department chairs in those three areas made changes in their departments’ current offerings and developed new course proposals in order to be consistent with the goals and objectives of the state’s learning standards.

## Fine Arts

Fine Arts Department Chair **David Kerkemeyer** and Principal **Michael Egan** have proposed restructuring the visual arts offerings



by dropping some courses, realigning others and adding new courses. Under their proposal, the visual arts offerings would include: *Art Foundations I and II*, *Digital Photography*, *Digital Photography Studio*,

*Darkroom Photography I*, *Darkroom Photography Studio*, *Computer Graphics*, *Design for the World Wide Web*, *Computer Art Studio*, *Advanced Computer Art*, *Drawing Studio*, *Painting Studio*, *Sculpture Studio*, *Honors Advanced Studio Art* (honors level), and *AP Art History* (every other school year).

In the area of theater arts, they are proposing four new courses: *Drama I*, *Studio Theatre I*, *Theatre II* and *Stagecraft*. They are also proposing a realignment of the *Drama III* course. They are also recommending the realignment of courses for “Exploratory Theatre” on a rotation basis:



*Comedic Acting*, *Improvisational Theatre*, and *Dramatic Acting*.

In the area of music, Kerkemeyer and

Egan are proposing three new courses: *Guitar I*, *Guitar II* and *Honors AP Music Theory*. In addition, they are proposing the reclassification of five courses and name changes for the music theory courses.

## Physical Education

**Todd Gregory**, Physical Education Department Chair, is proposing adding *Introduction to Sports Medicine* as a new course offering at the high school.

The course would be an introductory course for those students who may have a current or future interest in the area of sports medicine.



## Applied Arts

The Applied Arts Department hopes to add three courses including: *Contemporary Marketing*, *Advanced Computer Applications*, and *Connected Internship*. Several classes would have name changes under the proposal, including: *Architecture Design/Engineering Drafting*, *Single Survival*, *The Law and You*, and *Desktop Publishing*.

The course proposals were reviewed by the district’s Curriculum Council on September 14. The Board of Education will hear presentations from department chairs during the October 6 Committee of the Whole (CoW) meeting, with a vote on the proposals occurring as early as October 27.

If approved, the textbooks for these courses would be brought to the Board for approval in the spring of 2006, with actual class offerings beginning in the 2006-2007 school year.

## Goodbye to a Friend



IT Director **Crystal Steker** (right) hands a retirement plaque to retiring IT Specialist **Jim Westney**. Westney began his career with District 95 eight years ago as a volunteer. He put the district on the Internet with a one-page site that has grown to include virtually everything you would want to know about District 95 and its schools.

When not maintaining the web site, Westney took care of the technology needs for May Whitney Elementary School, the district administration building and other facilities. He will be greatly missed by many.

## Don't Miss the Wiz Sat. Night!

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](mailto:Thomsen@pioneerlocal.com), or by phone at (847) 797-5132.

## 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](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org)**

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**Annette Jacobsen**,  
Editor  
**Jim Jennings**,  
Publisher  
(847) 540-5489  
[jim.jennings@lz95.org](mailto:jim.jennings@lz95.org)  
[www.lz95.org](http://www.lz95.org)