



District 95 Offers Education, Hope to Katrina Victims

Soon after Hurricane Katrina had devastated the Gulf Coast, Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** had already spoken with school board members and others about accepting and enrolling those students who are displaced due to the hurricane. Within a couple days of that decision, at least one area family is making plans to enroll two students (high school and middle school) from the affected area. Staff members and PTOs are now working on obtaining school supplies from area merchants.

"Many of these victims have lost everything," said Dr. Knutson. "Their homes, belongings, and, tragically, even family members. It will be our goal to help the children of this disaster who come to our area by surrounding them with new caring friends in a quality learning environment."

Schools Swing into Action

Schools and their PTOs have also started various fund raising drives and initiatives to help the victims of the disaster. Below, are just a few examples of what is being done in District 95 schools to support Katrina relief.

Working together, the PTOs took on Katrina relief as their first major joint project for this year. All immediate efforts by the PTOs are directed to raising funds that will be donated to the American Red Cross. The PTOs are also going to work with the principals of the schools to provide school



supplies for those newly enrolling students displaced by the hurricane.

Charles Quentin Elementary School Principal **Alex Barbour** is spreading the word about his school's "Koins for Katrina" campaign. Students and faculty can bring in coins

from September 12-23. Each teacher will have a container in their room where donations will be collected. On September 23, all the proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross.

"In light of the recent tragedy, we at Charles Quentin School would like to do what we can to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina," said Barbour.

Seth Paine School has asked its families to send their donations to school in an envelope marked 'Hurricane Relief'. According to Principal Laura Gammons, the money will be sent directly to the Red Cross. In addition, the school will have a collection box for students who would like to donate coins or bills to the relief fund.

According to Principal **Dave Gardner**, Lake Zurich Middle School South will be conducting a three-part fund raising plan. That plan includes having containers in classrooms on September 19, where students and staff can drop off financial donations; Katrina Relief bracelets have been ordered and will be sold; and bake sales/candy sales will be held on September 12, 14 and 16 during lunch.

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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DISTRICT 95 SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Schools and administrative offices in Community Unit School District 95 will be closed September 5 for the Labor Day holiday. Schools and administrative offices will re-open on Tuesday, September 6.