



As part of their celebration of Earth Day, students observed the hundreds of jonquils that they had planted.

www.hawthorn73.org/onlineregistration

Online registration for students returning to the Hawthorn schools has begun. A unique “Snapcode” has been assigned for each student. This code is used to log into the online registration site.

Once logged on, families can create accounts, then easily verify and update each student’s information. Families may also pay fees with debit or credit cards.

Internet Access

For those who do not have Internet access at home, computers are available for use at the district office, 841 West End Court in Vernon Hills, during regular business hours from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Extended hours (until 7:30 pm) will be offered on May 13, 19, and 25. Families are asked to complete all student registrations by May 31.

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May 2010

Hawthorn Highlights

“Learning for All, Working Together, and Doing Whatever It Takes”

World Language Update

At the April 26 meeting of the Board of Education, Lisa Cerauli, the district’s Director of Student Achievement and 21st Century Learning, presented an update on the work of the World Language Task Force that has been meeting monthly since last September. The 26-member task force included teachers, board members, administrators, and parents, as well as representatives of District 128 (Vernon Hills and Libertyville High Schools).

The task force began its work by exploring three models of world language study: Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES), Foreign Language Exploratory Program (FLEX), and immersion, a model that includes world language study across the curriculum.

The Importance of Data

A survey seeking the opinions of the local community was part of the group’s agenda. The task force also reviewed data from other districts.

The local survey revealed the following:

- ☆ The community values world language programs;
- ☆ Parents want world language study to be available at both the elementary and middle school levels;
- ☆ French and Chinese were both cited as valued languages;
- ☆ There was no agreement as to what to “give up” in order to expand the study of world languages.

Based on its research, the task force has made the following recommendations:

Elementary Schools

- ◆ Exploratory languages and cultures should be part of the curriculum for all students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

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Eileen Conway Named Assistant Superintendent

Eileen Conway (left), pictured here with Superintendent Sue Zook, has been named Assistant Superintendent for Hawthorn District #73. She has most recently served as Director of Human Resources for the district.

In commenting on the appointment, a smiling Sue Zook said, “Eileen is a Hawthorn ‘lifer’ having spent her entire career serving the district. I am delighted that she will be taking on a wider variety of responsibilities.”

Eileen explained that she joined the district as a fourth grade teacher. “I have been a classroom teacher, and have also served in the roles of assistant principal and principal. The students, staff, and families of this district are vital parts of my career. I am eager to begin working with the Administrative Team in a new, more broadly focused role.”

Summer Staff Activity

Summer vacation? Not for Hawthorn teachers! As Coordinator of Staff Development Karen Olker reports, "Hawthorn teachers never stop learning." The district will offer nearly 20 sessions for teachers during the summer months.

🌸 A major highlight of the options is training in the district's curriculum framework, *Understanding by Design (UbD)*. Every Hawthorn teacher is trained in this framework that aligns curricular outcomes, assessment, and effective instruction.

🌸 Level 1 and level 2 training in Bernstein Artful Learning is another highlight of the summer activity. The Bernstein arts-based strategies transform classrooms by infusing them with the arts. Research validates the effectiveness of using the arts in the classroom.

🌸 As the district continues to support higher-order thinking and applying the principles of a 21st Century learner, the Apple, Inc. trainer will offer sessions on "Designing 21st Century Classrooms."

🌸 Rounding out the offerings will be sessions on how to become a National Board Certified teacher, how to utilize Marzano's instructional strategies, using writing strategies, and using common assessments.

Olker also expresses great satisfaction that Hawthorn Local Trainers will be facilitators for the summer's professional development offerings.

- ◆ Languages at all levels should not be test-based and should be open to all students.
- ◆ Language instruction should be integrated across the curriculum.
- ◆ District 73 should seek best practices used in other districts and model its program accordingly.

Middle Schools

The task force recommends that three languages, Spanish, French, and Chinese, be offered at the middle-school level. Sixth grade students would have exposure to one of the three languages. As they enter seventh grade, students would declare a language choice and make a two-year commitment to the study of that language. The world language program would be available, but optional, for all students as schedules allow.

Next Steps

The Administrative Team will now review the recommendations taking into consideration the resources—financial and human—available to support the study of world languages. They will also develop a timeline and action steps and make a proposal to the Board of Education with the understanding that implementation would begin no earlier than the 2011-2012 school year. There will be no change to the study of foreign language for the 2010-2011 school year.

Tenure Granted to 17



Seventeen Hawthorn teachers and administrators have recently been granted tenure. Front row, from left: Nicole Bellini, John Reid, Faith Becker, Tommie Arens, Tia Alexander, Lara Christoun, and Anna Groh. Back row from left: Matthew Polnow, Crystal Krawchuck, Shellie McConnell, Megan Holt, Megan Rathe, Adrienne Anderson, and Katherine Carney. Not pictured: Evelina Lasch, Erin Roche, and Jennifer Schmidt.

Four Earn Doctorates

District 73 extends congratulations to four staff members who have recently completed the requirements for their doctorates. From left: Lisa Cerauli, Director of Student Achievement and 21st Century Learning; Jill Martin, Principal at Elementary South; Karen Olker, Coordinator of Staff Development; and Eileen Conway, Assistant Superintendent.



Hawthorn Happenings

Illinois State Representative Carol Sente visited **Elementary North** as Principal for a Day in April. She was able to witness many of the actions that it takes to operate a school building, including observing the breakfast program, saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and visiting classrooms. ☀ Physical education teachers recently held a PE Night for families. Those who attended enjoyed a fantastic night of dance, dance revolution, volleyball,



bags, hula hoops, stacking cups, and many other activities. ☀ More than 325 people had a fantastic time at the Discovery Education/U.S. Cellular Family Night. The evening was filled with food, drinks, prizes, and nationally renowned presenters who entertained families with technology based quizzes and games. ☀ As a part of the Bernstein unit, “What do you value?” Vernon Hills High School Students performed skits and discussed bullying with fifth graders. ☀ Vernon Hills police officers Andy Jones and Sharon Joseph continue to raise awareness about what it takes to be a good citizen in today’s society. With Officer Joseph’s assistance, fifth grade students have completed the DARE program. Officer Jones spoke to fourth graders about appro-

priate uses of computers and technology. The partnership between the Hawthorn School District and the Vernon Hills Police Department has been very valuable. ☀

Townline Elementary and the School of Dual Language recently came together to complete school-wide Inquiry Days. As part of a Bernstein unit, students were paired with another grade to explore six inquiry centers and gain a deeper understanding of the concept of perspective. ☀ Kindergartners participated in a Bernstein unit titled “Me and My Earth.” The unit’s masterwork was *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. They will continue to explore the unit’s significant question, “How do a person’s choices and actions impact the environments?” ☀ Elementary first grade classes studied a science unit on solids, liquids, and gases. The masterwork was a teakettle and the first grade teachers performed the song “I’m a Little Tea Kettle.” ☀ Students in first grade Dual Language are exploring the concept of change in reading, math, and science. ☀

Second graders’ math study has revolved around measurement and geometry. Flat Stanleys have been returning from near and far with suitcases full of adventures. They are also learning about the water cycle and weather and awaited the arrival of baby chicks. ☀ Third grade Dual Language students compared open and closed circuits as they studied



electricity. ☀ Townline third graders worked on reports and presentations about famous Illinoisans as part of a history unit. ☀ Fourth grade science classes at Townline explored the masterwork Mount Rushmore in inquiry centers. They created sculptures of their own heads made out of salt dough which they eroded through sand, ice, and water. ☀ Elementary fifth graders created fraction quilts, and in science classes, explored minerals. ☀ In April, all Townline students in grades one through five read or wrote poetry in the library. ☀ Physical education students explored movement through dance. ☀ The bands, orchestras, and the Eagle Chorus rehearsed for their spring concerts. ☀ Fifth grade Dual Language classes really got their hands dirty as they took a look at ways people affect local waterways. Their chal-

lenge was to construct their own water treatment facilities to clean sewage water. ☀

Elementary South celebrated Earth Day with a week full of activities that included wear blue and green day, and bring a trash-free lunch. A school-wide reading and writing activity centered

around Schim Schimmel’s book *Dear Children of the Earth*. ☀ First grade mathematicians began their unit on money. They cracked the code to determine how much change was found in an egg. ☀ Teacher Jeanne



Bleck was selected from more than 25,000 applicants nationwide to receive a Target Field Trip grant. The grant will be used to take the students to Heller Nature Center in Highland Park. ☀ Second graders looked forward to the arrival of baby chicks in early May. They also looked forward to a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry to explore the new weather exhibit. ☀ In a unit on the solar system, third graders learned why the sun and stars appear to move. They also learned about the planets, what causes seasons, and how astronomers observe the solar system. ☀ In social studies, third graders studied Illinois. They are looking forward to a Wendella boat field trip to see Chicago. ☀ Fourth graders took a journey across the United States through the study of regions. They did podcasts of Poems for Two Voices as they compared two regions. ☀ In math, fourth graders worked on decimals and measurement. ☀ Fifth graders conducted experiments, wrote lab reports, and created exhibits for the Science Fair. ☀

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Hawthorn Highlights is published as a service to residents of District 73. Please direct questions about your schools to Superintendent Dr. Sue Zook. Residents are also welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Education.

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Board Meetings on Cable

Board of Education meetings are rebroadcast on the
Vernon Hills Community Access Channel
(Comcast channel 4 or AT&T channel 99)

at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays
and 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays
following board meetings.
Residents who do not receive
a community access channel
are welcome to check out DVDs
of the meetings from the
Educational Services Center.

