

# HawthorneNews

HAWTHORNE SCHOLASTIC ACADEMY

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## Principal's Perspective

by Anna Alvarado, Principal

Principal Anna Alvarado  
and Assistant Principal  
Linda Feaman

**"We know what we are, but not what we may be."** — William Shakespeare

**The above statement reflects the myriad "Possibilities" that will mold our future at Hawthorne Scholastic Academy. We know what we are: The latest school ranking in the Chicago Sun Times using the 2011 ISAT results in grades 3-8, put our elementary school # 18 in Chicago and our middle school in 5th place. What a tremendous achievement for our students' hard work. What a validation of the work and commitment to teaching and learning from our faculty. What an inspiration to our parents to continue to support our school community in its ongoing initiatives that drive instruction.**

But what may we become? What challenges will we face, and how will we confront them? As many of you have heard, 44 states will be adopting the Common Core State Standards in the near future. The Common Core Standards set requirements not only for reading, writing, speaking and listening, but also for literacy in history/social studies, science, mathematics, and technical subjects. They are (1) research and evidence based, (2) aligned with college and work expectations, (3) rigorous, and (4) internationally benchmarked. Currently, the teachers are reviewing the framework for implementation using guidelines set by CPS. As we go through the process of unpacking the standards, we are

invested in how it will impact curriculum and instruction, instructional leadership, professional development and assessments.

Our Social Emotional Learning Teacher Committee is continuing to engage in the planning stages of the implementation of our OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program. In the past professional development days, our teachers have had discussions on the various components of the program including the definition of bullying, role playing scenarios and how to address situations with fidelity to the program, and conducting classroom meetings. I am very excited that we are very close to the launching of OLWEUS at our school. It is my hope that this will greatly impact how our students grow in their understanding of respect and tolerance and learn how to navigate their friendships.

CPS has asked that each school distribute copies of the School Progress Report Card to parents at Report Card Pick-Up Day on November 16, 2011. Training will be provided to principals on how to communicate and interpret the report to the school community. As much as I am very proud to announce that Hawthorne has been designated as a Level 1 School in Overall Performance and is



not on current probation status, there is much room for reflection and growth in the Academic Achievement Pathway to College and Career Success Areas. I look forward to engaging all stakeholders in our school improvement plan process.

The year is young yet and filled with such promise, such possibilities. We have achieved much together, and the potential I see daily, reflected in our children, serves as the catalyst to impel us to new heights...together. As we increase our rigor through the adoption of the Common Core Standards, and as we assure that all of our children are excited to learn, and comfortable and happy within the social/emotional context of their learning, the possibilities for our future are endless.

Whatever the future holds for our Hawthorne Family, we will embrace the possibilities together with the intellectualism, foresight, and care that characterize all of our endeavors. I am the proudest Principal in Chicago!

Thank you for all your support.  
**Anna Alvarado**

# Message from the Assistant Principal

by Linda Feaman, Assistant Principal

“The potential of the average person is like a huge ocean unsailed, a new continent unexplored, a world of possibilities waiting to be released and channeled toward some great good.” — Brian Tracy

Each new school year brings with it the possibility of new learning, insights, friendships and opportunities. We never know what may result from information gained by a student given the chance to explore a new area of interest. As adults, we may reflect back on how and why we made life choices.

Was it because of an experience or the influence of a friend, family member or teacher? We never know when we set sail an interest that might become a lifetime inspiration. Today's students may become tomorrow's artists, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and yes, maybe even teachers. The possibilities are endless. After School All Stars provides just such opportunities for students to explore new areas of interest, be a part of an endeavor to help others, reinforce a skill or participate in athletics. This year we have offerings including French, Sports in Season, Academic Support, Volleyball, Destination Dance, Board Silly, Books and Cooks, Jazz Band, Knit A Square and Yearbook. These exciting choices

are made possible by the creative efforts of our dedicated teaching staff. We hope to inspire, educate and activate the minds of our students so that they may become explorers of the world and all it has to offer.

“Only as high as I reach can I grow, only as far as I seek can I go, only as deep as I look can I see, only as much as I dream can I be.” — Karen Ravn

“Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.”

— Anonymous

## Letter from the PTA President

by Kristin Pillsbury, PTA President

**As I am settling into my new role as PTA president, I came across this quote and it struck a chord with me. Everyone is so busy today with work, activities, family, that time really is a luxury. When the Hawthorne community gives their time to help out the PTA, I know what a gift the PTA is receiving, and it comes from the heart.**

I recently attended a district PTA meeting and heard how other PTAs struggle to get enough volunteers to run a single fundraising event, let alone multiple events. Here at Hawthorne, our volunteer spirit is alive and we are so fortunate to have the support from our families. With the many events our PTA has already accomplished this year, I am truly in awe of the amount of volunteers who chose to support them. Our PTA recognizes the events' success is directly related to the volunteers who chair these events as well as the volunteers

who support them — i.e. by running a table at the Funfest or counting laps at the Walk-a-Thon.

As we move forward, the PTA will continue to need volunteers and their time. I see time can be more than just minutes - Time is Talent, Ideas, Membership, Enthusiasm.

**T: Talent** Many of you have talents — like photography, graphic design, tech savvy, grant writing, and some talents we maybe unaware of, but if you are willing to share it, the PTA and our students will be the beneficiary.

**I: Ideas** The PTA needs to hear your ideas. You may have a brand new idea for Hawthorne to implement or an idea on how we improve what we are doing. Please share your ideas, it is the only way we can grow and continue to be successful.

**M: Membership** In order to be successful, we need participation. By staying informed on the PTA happenings at school, you are participating. There are many levels of participation — from voting on-line each day for a grant the PTA is trying to win, to soliciting an item for the auction, to chairing an event. The PTA can only operate if we have people participating.

**E: Enthusiasm** The PTA offers many events, and the support and level of enthusiasm and energy can determine the overall success. It can be as simple as helping your child dress up for the Walk-a-Thon pep rally all the way to cheering as the students run laps at the Walk-a-Thon.

**Thank you to all the families who offer their time and give from their heart.**



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# 2011 Hawthorne Family Fun Fest

By Lisa Turner

On Sunday September 11, Hawthorne families and community neighbors enjoyed an afternoon filled with sunshine, amazing music and entertainment, tasty local food, arts & crafts, carnival and field games. This great exhibit of Hawthorne school spirit was the perfect kick-off to the 2011/12 school year.

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PTA President Kristin Pillsbury captured the mood of the day: "Family Fun Fest is an amazing Hawthorne community building event, which allows families, teachers and staff to come together and kick-off the school year with fun and games, arts and crafts, yummy food, and music from our Dads' band."

The 2nd Annual Hawthorne Family Fun Fest got underway on this summer-like Sunday with games ranging from Mini Golf and Hoops

to Skeet Ball and Troll Bowling. Neighborhood families joined the Hawthorne community in the fun. Adding a special touch was the dunk tank, where teachers such as Ms. Speth, Ms. Philips and Mr. Fulham were great sports as the students (and parents) lined up to see their favorite teachers submerged under water.

Entertainment was strong with Main Stage acts including a magician, Hawthorne alumni Jacob Turner on guitar and the Thornes featuring Hawthorne Parents Louie Kritikos and Craig Sieben and Principal Alvarado on lead vocals. What a treat for students of all ages to see their own leader on stage rocking out! The Hawthorne community was also treated to a musical experience with the Northside Band, featuring Hawthorne parent Louie Kritikos.

Activity area and field games were very popular this year as musical chairs, balloon toss and the retro-favorite Hula Hoops kept all ages busy throughout the day. Bingo,

face-painting, mural decoration and estimation jars rounded out the activity area and provided a brief rest from the blazing sun.

Please support our wonderful local food vendors including Anthony's Ice, Murphy's Hot Dogs, D'Agostinos Pizza, and Eat Sweet.

The event committee of Susan Zelner, Julie Wilen, Allison Kritikos, Julia Smith and Lisa Turner want to thank the many volunteers who worked the entrances, ran games, painted faces, decorated, set up tables, cleaned up and everything in between. A special thank you to Game On! Sports Camp 4 Girls for donating a duffel bag full of fun prizes for our door prize. This was truly a group effort with faculty, parents and students all pitching in to make this a successful community event.





# Walking the Walk for Hawthorne

By Karen Prince and Suzanne Kaplan

Sunny skies and enthusiastic students made for another great Walk-a-Thon at Hawthorne last month! The 3rd annual Walk-a-Thon was an all-around success with just over \$16,000 raised and 8,212 laps walked!

The event was kicked-off with a high energy Pep Rally led by our own Student Council that featured mascots from each of the school's walk teams. Parent volunteers tallied laps as our students, teachers, and administrators walked, ran, skipped, jumped and occasionally leapt through the air as they made their way around the turf. As always, to encourage participation among our students, prizes were awarded to the individuals who raised the most money in pledges for the event. This year's winners are Reese Hoffmann from

Room 107, Stella Anderson from Room 216 and Grace O'Connor from Room 202. They each won a gift card from "Converse Design Your Own Shoe!" Classrooms also competed for the most laps walked and the winners will celebrate with an Ice Cream Social for the whole class. This year's winners are Easley's Rattlers (2nd grade), Ramos' Hilarious Hippies (5th grade), and Philips' Philbillies (7th grade).

Another exciting element of the Walk-a-Thon is the T-Shirt Design Contest. With over 50 creative entries this year it was difficult to narrow it down to just one. Students who raised a minimum of \$30 in pledges will receive an exclusive t-shirt. This year's winning design was created by 6th grader Julia Maisel! Julia will also receive a one-of-a-kind sweatshirt with her unique design. Of course, what good would the Walk-a-Thon be if it benefited only our own community? The Shoe Drive held in



conjunction with the Walk-a-Thon collected just under 200 pairs of gently used shoes. The children's shoes are being distributed to families at Cook County Hospital and the adult shoes will go to a "clothing pantry" in the Uptown neighborhood.

Finally, a special thanks to our hard working Walk-a-Thon committee: Chris Norton, Terri Roche, Lorrie Marks, Kim Cavitt, Beth Ruark, Molly Vandermeid, Karen Michaels, Kristin Pillsbury, JoAnn Ori, and Cathy Main. We couldn't have done it without you!

# After-School Programming

By Jamie Fleischmann

Three years ago, I started Hawthorne's tuition-based after-school program in response to what I perceived as a need for more after-noon activities at our school. Many parents — myself included — were spending too much time picking up their kids from school only to drop them off at a class elsewhere in the city. I was aware that other CPS schools offered tuition-based programs, and Mrs. Alvarado was immediately supportive. I learned a lot by identifying parent leaders at other schools and discussing with them the "nuts and bolts" of an after-school program. These parents were incredibly open and offered helpful anecdotes and advice. The process was made easier by the vendors, all of whom have been understandably delighted to have the opportunity to come to Hawthorne and run their programs in a way that makes sense for everyone involved — especially the kids. I am particularly proud of the range of different programs we offer to reflect the diversity and varying interests of our students. The point is to pack in as many choices as our building will physically hold! Ideally, our kids will explore new ideas or

enjoy old interests in a supportive and socially-encouraging environment. From a practical standpoint, I'm just happy to have one less trip to make during the day.



The Winter After-School session starts the day after Winter Break.

The schedule is as follows:

**Monday:** Robot City, Mini Manners, Sports (2–4th)

**Tuesday:** Dream Big (K–1), Art in the Afternoon, Judo

**Wednesday:** Mad Science, Sports class (K–1st), Hip Hop

**Thursday:** Dream Big (2–4), Beginning Robotics (1–3), Judo, The Kid's Table

**Friday:** Chess

Please sign up before Winter Break to reserve a place in the programs.

For the Spring session, we are working on bringing back Girls on the Run and break dancing. New ideas are always welcome, and, as long as we have the space, Mrs. Alvarado and I are happy to bring new classes to our after-school program.

Thanks!

# Student Council

by Miranda Rockhold and Carly Maisel

**Welcome to Student Council! The Student Council is made up of the president, (Miranda Rockhold 8th grade), the vice president (Owen Speth 7th grade), the secretary (Carly Maisel 8th grade) and the treasurer, (Zahra Nasser 7th grade) and two student representatives from each 4th-8th grade classroom.**

Here's what we've been up to since school started: two days per week student council recycles for the entire school, every two weeks we have meetings to discuss future events and determine methods of fundraising for our community.

Student Council is very happy about the outcome of the Walk-a-Thon. We organized the Walk-a-

Thon pep rally and we were happy to see everyone come together to raise money for our school. Can you believe that we raised over \$16,000?! In the future we hope to have your support and enthusiasm for our upcoming projects. These include an art supply drive for the Women's Treatment Center and Anti-Bullying efforts.

# Arts Partnership: Unleashing possibilities

By Stephanie Taiber and Melissa Patterson

Welcome to another wonderful year at Hawthorne. The possibilities are endless. How often throughout the day does this ring true? Even sitting down to write this brief introduction to Hawthorne's Arts Partnership represents a seemingly infinite array of possible things to say and ways to say it.

To become possible implies a level of transformation, a readiness for risk taking, a rising of standards, and most importantly, an investment in ideas. This is truly WHY Hawthorne so passionately embraces the mission of the Arts Partnership. Art, creation, and

Every student at Hawthorne will have the opportunity to partake in an 8-week arts integrated unit this year. A local professional artist will work side-by-side with our classroom teachers to co-plan and teach a unit of deep investigation, bridging core curriculum with an authentic art experience. Each unit will culminate in a showcase for families and community members where students will share their results and newly acquired knowledge. Second grade will kick off the year, hosting the first of Hawthorne's Arts Partnership showcases on December 15th. Students will share their understanding of Balance and Motion, revealing science projects, original art works, and writings. The beaming sense of pride amongst teachers, students and parents is palpable at these showcase events. They are simply not to be missed!

At the heart of the Arts Partnership is the desire for our educators to open a doorway for our students to experience learning as an exploration of all that is possible. Our goal is to help students recognize what is possible so that they might ultimately go beyond what they suspect might be possible, breakthrough and truly innovate. By the time a student graduates from Hawthorne, it is not enough to do well on a test. Students must be prepared to connect with their own knowledge, their own poten-

tial, and with the value inherent in everything and everyone around them.

The success of the Arts Partnership depends on the generous and ongoing support of the PTA. We thank you ALL for helping our students discover new ways to unleash possibilities!

To raise new questions, new possibilities,  
to regard old problems from a new angle,  
requires creative imagination and marks  
real advance in science.

— Albert Einstein

imagination — these are the roots of all possibilities, and the Arts Partnership provides a playground where students can push themselves to share and test ideas, make connections between knowledge and creativity, and collaborate to reveal a shared vision.



There is but one  
right, and the  
possibilities of  
wrong are infinite.

— Thomas Huxley

# Hawthorne's Community Service Day Produces a Bountiful Harvest!

By Andrea Guthmann

**About 20 Hawthorne students and their parents enjoyed a perfect autumn day away from the classroom but still learning lots, while volunteering at the Three Brothers Community Garden. We all had fun getting our hands dirty in this fantastic community garden that benefits the Irving Park Food Pantry. Hawthorne parent Liz Mills provided kids and parents with a fabulous lesson in the many good things this garden is doing for its community.**

We picked 20 pounds of tomatoes and greens beans, which were all donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry, along with the many bags of groceries Hawthorne parents generously brought with them. After harvesting our vegetables, volunteers helped clean up the garden and prepare it for the spring, by planting bulbs.

The kids learned not only about gardening but the need for fresh produce within our community, as well as other issues surrounding hunger and the large numbers of

people who rely on food pantries.

The Social Emotional Learning Committee is already making plans for the next Community Service Day. Do your kids love animals? Interested in unleashing their volunteer spirit? Join us on Monday, February 13th at noon, at PAWS animal shelter. PAWS is a local and national leader in caring and advocating for the needs of cats and dogs. We'll tour the facility and learn about their mission and no-kill policy.

Then onto work! An array of age-appropriate projects will be set up for the group. The projects may be administrative, or related to animal care (getting leashes and collars ready for new dogs or preparing dog treats) or light cleaning (folding laundry, washing food and water bowls, cleaning windows). For safety reasons, our kids will not come in direct contact with the animals.

The group is limited to the first 20 students who sign up. If you

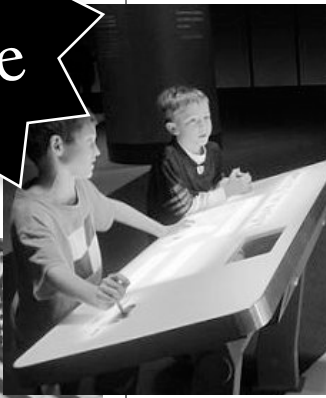
want to attend with your child, RSVP to Hawthorne parent Andrea Guthmann, [andreaguthmann@gmail.com](mailto:andreaguthmann@gmail.com).



# Museum of Science and Industry

By Aric Arnold

3rd  
grade



On Halloween day, the third grade took their 12th annual field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry. Since almost every school in the Chicagoland area was having Halloween parties, the third graders basically had the whole museum to themselves.

They had a chance to see chickens hatch, tell a robot to dance, see a World War II submarine, a coal mine, the Idea Factory, and stand in a tornado, all with no lines. The third graders also got to see the IMAX movie, Tornado Hun-

ters. This movie let the students go inside an actual tornado that was filmed by some real tornado chasers. It has been decided that those researchers have to be nuts to do what they do. However, they took us all to a place that we would have never gone, and hopefully never will. That is unless some of our third graders have the desire

to be tornado researchers when they grow up.



# Field Trips

## Lookingglass Theatre and Shedd

By Amy Lenz and Mimi Kennedy

4th  
grade

The fourth graders have been expanding their learning experiences beyond the walls of the classroom.

Thanks to Hawthorne's Arts Partnership, we were able to visit the Lookingglass Theatre at the Water Tower Water Works to experience a dramatic presentation of history and drama. "The Great Fire" explored dozens of historical texts and eyewitness accounts on the stage. Our students then participated afterwards in a discussion with the actors where they were able to draw upon knowledge gained in the classroom.

As a culminating experience to our Animal Adaptation Unit in Science and Reading, the fourth grade visited the Shedd Aquarium. The majority of our time at the Shedd was spent exploring the Amazon Rising Exhibit where students deepened their understanding of animal adaptations, structures, functions, and survival.

Both field trips were exciting and allowed us to ask even bigger que-



stions. A special thanks to the Arts Partnership for the generous gift which continues to expand and integrate the Arts in our classroom.

# The Field Museum

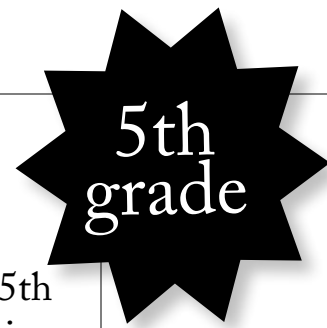
By Camille Unger

In connection with the social studies unit Early Humans, the 5th grade students attended a field trip to the Field Museum. During the visit, the students attended “The Great Fossil Hunt Lab” in which they acted as paleontologists.



Through the class, the students learned how to identify fossils, create a grid system as a dig guide, draw scientific illustrations and practice excavating techniques. The students toured the Evolving Planet exhibit focusing on the section The Hominids: The Dawn of Humankind. Some of the groups took part in a special behind the scenes tour of the museum’s

extensive dinosaur fossil collection. While on the private tour, the students observed many interesting fossils. One for example is a fossil that was recently brought back to the museum from Antarctica. The fifth graders gained a great deal of knowledge at the Field Museum. They are excited for our next visit when we participate in “Egypt Unwrapped.”



# The Field Museum

By Katie Speth

On October 27th the 6th grade visited the Field museum to conduct on-site research. The students were conducting field research as part of their Ancient Americans unit.

They are currently studying ancient peoples from both North and South America and the unit is based on the Field Museum’s exhibit “Ancient Americans.” The Hawthorne 6th graders were ready to go with their study questions and began to work as soon as they got to the exhibit. They discovered foods that hunter-gatherers ate, examined how corn affected the diet of farming villagers and explo-

red the worlds of empire builders. It was wonderful to see each and every sixth grader working hard and gathering information; they even taught Mrs. Speth a few new things! The next step for the 6th graders is to create a picture book of one of the societies about we have learned. It will be great to see how many future anthropologists we have at Hawthorne.



# 8th Grade Science Fair

By Sonia Oliveri

**The 8th grade science fair will be held on Tuesday November 15th for the school. It will be available for parents to view during report card pick-up on Wednesday. Then judgement day will be Thursday, November 17th.**

My sixth graders have gotten an earful on energy consumption and trying to be “green”. Sadly the United States has a ways to go as we have learned. But they have made their own versions of

ecofriendly homes and hopefully have learned that there are many ways to help reduce overconsumption of energy.

Kindergarten reviews as told to Mrs. Garner

## Chalk

by Bill Thomas

Ariel Goldman-Konisberg:

"I like this book because it's kind of like a mystery. Kids were walking by a park and saw a play dinosaur with a bag in his mouth. They looked in the bag and found chalk. The kids were kind of confused and then they drew a sun and the sun came out. They drew more and other things came out of the chalk. When the boy drew a dinosaur he expected it to turn into one like they found on the playground, but it turned

into a real dinosaur! The kids hid in the slide until they had the idea to draw rain. The rain came down and melted the chalk and the dinosaur so the kids were all okay."

Jessica Meier:

"The chalk is magic and when you draw it comes to life. The magical chalk makes things you want happen!"

## Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes

by James Dean and Eric Litwin

Nadia Richards:

"This book is so hilarious! Pete keeps stepping in colors even though he knows he is not supposed to and he gets his shoes all messed up with colors. The cat even drinks coffee! When Pete steps in water, the color goes away and his shoes are wet."

John Mikel: (Singing)

"I love my wet shoes..." I love it because I can sing it.

Isaac Yashak:

"I like this book because our whole class knows it. The best part is when all the colors come off his shoes."

## Big Pumpkin

by Erica Silverman and S.D. Schindler

Mei Saphir:

"I liked it because this is like a story I have at home about people trying to help each other pull a turnip. In Big Pumpkin, it's a little mouse that makes all the difference to pick the huge pumpkin."



# What We are Reading

Looking for a good book? Take a look at these suggestions from Hawthorne Students in Kindergarten, 3rd and 6th Grades:

## Dewey the Library Cat

by Vicki Myron

Reviewed by Diane Ainley (3rd Grade)

**Dewey the Library Cat** is about a cat found in a library drop box on a freezing cold morning in Spencer, Iowa. I like this book because Dewey goes on many adventures in the library, like jumping on the lights and walking between the shelves. I think people who like cats and what cats do would like this book.

## Aloha, Kanani

by Lisa Yee

Reviewed by Estefani Smith (3rd grade)

This book is about a girl living in Hawaii. She tries to help a seal called a monk seal (found only in Hawaii). Kanani loved to paddle board. I liked that she had a

cousin from New York and Kanani made her cousin feel at home while visiting Hawaii. I recommend this book to other third graders because it's a good level for them and they would enjoy it.

## Diary of a Wimpy Kid

by Jeff Kinney

Reviewed by Anna Maisel (3rd Grade)

I think this book was the best and funniest book in the world. I like this book because some things in my life are the same as the book. I recommend this book for others who may have the same life — gets annoyed, gets in trouble for something you did not do, and does not get along with your sister or brother.



# What We are Reading

## The Invention of Hugo Cabret

by Brian Selznick

Reviewed by Frances Depke (3rd grade)

This is a great book; it has mystery, suspense and action. It is about a boy named Hugo who has to piece a mystery together and gets into a lot of trouble. I loved trying to figure out the mystery and I always wondered what would happen next. I hope you will like this book too!

## The Skin I'm In

by Sharon G. Flake

Reviewed by Jaydon Washington (6th Grade)

The book **The Skin I'm In** is about a girl named Maleeka who goes to a pretty bad school. Her supposed friend Charlese is a bad influence around Maleeka and forces Maleeka to do her work. Then she finally breaks loose and decides to burn down a classroom and Maleeka takes the blame for Charlese's mistakes. This book is really good, that's why I recommend it.

## Wednesday Wars

by Gary D. Schmidt

Reviewed by Alex Zhu (6th Grade)

The book **The Wednesday Wars** was very good, but had some faults. This book is based during the Vietnam War. It is about a boy named Holling Hoodhood, who is a Presbyterian, as he tries to survive seventh grade and his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling thinks hates him. During the book, there are many crazy situations Holling finds himself in. For example, Holling finds himself about to get trampled by Doug Swietek who is his worst enemy. My favorite part was when Holling has to play in a Shakespearian play and his costume has white feathers on the butt.

## Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster

Reviewed by Kenton Kiser (6th Grade)

**Phantom Tollbooth** is an imaginative book about a young boy named Milo. Milo is a very odd boy who doesn't like to do anything and is constantly changing his mind. Until one day he finds a mysterious gift of a toy tollbooth. Milo drives into it with his toy car and is whisked away to a magical world. Milo

embarks on a journey to free Rhyme and Reason with help from a watch dog and a humbug and the supervision of two kings. On their journey, Milo must not only free Rhyme and Reason, but also free his mind from the confusion.

I like this book because in a world where words are bought and numbers are mined, anything can happen. Its witty remarks and double meanings make this book superior.

## The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

by Alan Bradley

Reviewed by Caitlin Nygren (6th Grade)

Eleven-year old chemistry wiz Flavia de Luce is the youngest of the three girls who live at Buckshaw during the 1950s. She is motherless and has two older sisters who make it their priority to "punish" her. One day a Jack Snipe appears on her doorstep with a stamp attached to its beak. Flavia only realizes the bird's meaning after a stranger chokes out his final word in her face, "Vale." After that, Flavia and her trusty bike Gladys find out about the mysterious man, her father's past, and the thrill of using chemistry, wit, and risks.

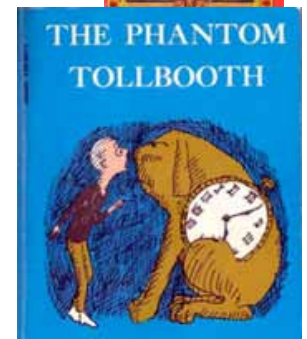
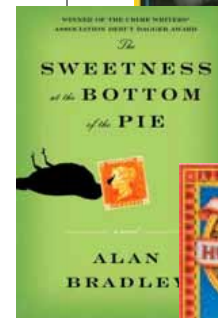
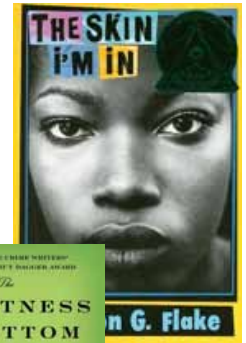
I enjoyed this book because it is about a person I can relate to and has lots of thrill at the same time! **The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** is the first book in a new series about Flavia de Luce.

## What-the-Dickens

by Gregory Maguire

Reviewed by Doriana Othman (6th Grade)

**What-the-Dickens** is about a girl named Dinah, her brother Zeke, baby sister Rebecca, and her cousin Gage. On a dark, stormy night, Dinah and her brother and sister cuddle for warmth while their cousin Gage tells them an unlikely story about tooth fairies, or as he likes to call them, "skibbereen." Gage says he's met them; Dinah is skeptical, but as the story unfolds, she begins to believe. I love this story because as the story unfolds you begin to understand some things and you feel like you're in the character's shoes! I also like it because you see two different views of the book. For example, you first hear about the story Gage is telling and you hear the characters (Dinah and her siblings) reactions of the story too!



# Halloween Fun!

If you were at Hawthorne on October 31st, you would have seen ghosts, goblins, and fairies take over the turf!



## LSC Update

*By Roger Wilen*

“Extended School Day” is a topic very much in the news these days and a topic we addressed in length at our LSC meeting in October. At that meeting, Principal Alvarado informed us she has been instructed to submit to CPS a proposed schedule for the 2012/2013 school year that would incorporate 90 additional minutes in the school day.

Work on that proposed schedule appears to be somewhat delayed in large part because CPS has not yet provided schools the Guidelines they need to prepare the updated schedule. Until our school receives those Guidelines, it is hard to imagine much progress being made. A complicating factor in all of this may be what I am told is the Teacher’s Union’s desire to extend the day 75 minutes, not the full 90 minutes sought by CPS. So, while we hoped the LSC would be

in a position to hold a meeting in late November or early December to learn about the proposed plan and provide feedback, the timing of that meeting is a bit up in the air. Stay tuned for future updates on timing.

### **Community Representative Vacancy**

The LSC is looking to fill a vacancy in our community rep spot. To be eligible, a community rep must live within a set boundary in the

neighborhood and must not have a student currently enrolled at Hawthorne. We are taking names for any person interested in this spot. Please let me, Principal Alvarado or any other LSC member know if you are aware of a person who might be interested and would be a good addition to the LSC. Our current hope is to meet prospective community reps at our LSC meeting in early January and fill the vacancy at that meeting.

# Lies Garner, Librarian

**This Year Hawthorne welcomed a new librarian to its staff. In an effort to help everyone get to know her better, Hawthorne News asked some questions about her work and life.**

**Hawthorne News:** Have you always been a teacher-librarian?

**Lies Garner:** This is a second career for me (previously I was a Human Resources Manager). Since books and reading have always been a favorite part of my world — which is good since I married a writer — it was natural for me to serve as the volunteer librarian at my kids' school. I loved it so much I decided to obtain a Masters of Library and Information Science. Dominican University in River Forest offered a special course of study for school library media specialists, and I took education classes at Northeastern Illinois University. After graduation, I was fortunate to land a job at Chappell Elementary as their librarian and technology teacher, and am now thrilled to be part of the Hawthorne Community.

**HN:** What do you like about being a school librarian?

**LG:** Library science has changed from being simply the keeper of books to being a resource for information. I love that I get to learn along with the students all the time. When we find the perfect primary source for a project, or a reference that helps clinch a thesis statement, I'm as thrilled as the students. That's almost as much fun for me as a second grader turning me on to a new book series or a fifth grader sharing a new interpretation of a favorite book.

**HN:** What have you found special about working at Hawthorne?

**LG:** The first thing that struck me is we truly have a community of learners and readers. Students have been eager to discuss books with me since day one. And the books they are reading are good! These students are able to work at

a very high intellectual level, and enjoy pushing themselves.

I have also been struck by the fabulous involvement of parents. Whenever I've asked for help, moms and dads have come forward to help — whether it's putting books back on shelves or helping input data into the CPS Library online circulation system. There is always work in the library for volunteers who just drop in, and for those who want to commit to a regular schedule.

Finally, the welcome and support from the staff and families at the school has been overwhelming.

**HN:** What are some goals for the Hawthorne libraries?

**LG:** A constant goal for a librarian is keeping the collections up-to-date. The primary library has a good collection of books, but there are several "classics" that I believe we are missing; the upper library needs updating, especially in the non-fiction section. The students and I agree that we need to build a graphic novel collection too.

We are still wrapping up entering the primary library's books into the automated circulation system, and then will shift focus to the upper library. I am eager to share the benefits of the online catalog with teachers, students and families.

**HN:** How can families help update the school library collection?

**LG:** You can support the library through your purchases at the Scholastic Book Fair in December. We are excited to be able to offer the opportunity to shop online this year. Watch for a link to Scholastic during the last half of December. You can also support by helping set up, sell books and pack up.

Families can also help maintain our collection by making purchases from the library's new wishlist on Amazon and at the PTA Barnes & Noble book fair. The HSA Library wishlist on Amazon can be viewed

through a link on the school's home page and by entering my email address ([lvgarner@cps.edu](mailto:lvgarner@cps.edu)) under "find a wishlist" on the Amazon site. Book donations are a great way to honor birthdays or other special events.

**HN:** What else should we know about you?

**LG:** When I'm not hiding away with a book, you will probably find me on or near water. I enjoy swimming, sailing and kayaking with my husband and two teenagers, especially in Michigan.

**HN:** Is that all?

**LG:** Of course not. My family says I teach because I love to talk. I want to remind families about all the wonderful opportunities at the Chicago Public Libraries. Many Sixth Graders are currently reading Sharon Creech's superb book **Walk Two Moons**. Sulzer Library is hosting a book discussion about **Walk Two Moons** with support from Adventure Stage Chicago for preteens (age 10–13) on November 30. The Preteen book discussion is open to anyone, but advance registration is required. The Merlo branch offers and "Xtreme Book Club" for students 12–17. Contact your local branch to ask about book clubs for your students.

Harold Washington Library will host Bookamania on Saturday, November 19. This event is geared for children aged 3–10 and includes authors, costumed characters, crafts and book-related activities. Bookamania is always vibrant and fun — maybe I'll see you there.

teacher  
feature



## Books I'm currently recommending:

Picture book: **The Odious Ogre** by Norman Juster and Jules Feiffer

*The team that brought us **The Phantom Tollbooth** presents a wonderfully illustrated new monster story.*

For fifth grade up: **Okay for Now** by Gary D. Schmidt

*Set during the Vietnam War, this book offers enough humor to balance the tragedies in young **Doug Swietek's** life.*

For adults: **Let the Great World Spin** by Colum McCann

*McCann deftly weaves several stories that center on the day **Philippe Pettit** walked a tightrope between the World Trade Center Towers in August, 1974.*

**"A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them."**

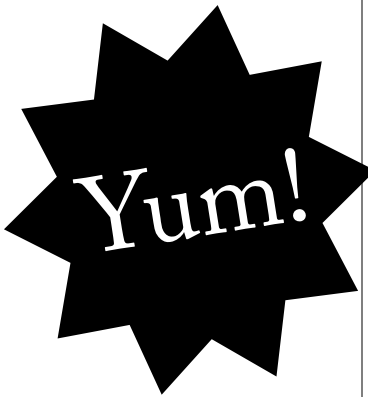
# The Good Food Project

By Kate Ramos

**The fourth and fifth grade students were invited to participate in the Good Food Project on Monday, October 24th. The Good Food Project's mission is "to introduce children to the exquisite flavors of the earth's bounty to help them develop a life-long love of good food and enjoy the benefits of a healthy life."**

To fulfill this, they have been conducting apple tastings at Chicago-area schools since 2008. Our students were given the opportunity to try four different varieties of apples and to critique their flavors and textures to choose a favorite. Each apple variety had its fair share of fans, but the clear winner was the Sweet Tango! In partnership with the Good Food Project, Mariano's Fresh Market featured

all the apple varieties at their store that week to encourage students and their families to stock up on such delicious, healthy food! The Good Food Project was certainly a tasty treat!



## Counselor's Corner

By Amy Dominguez

It has been a very busy first quarter in the counseling department. We have been fortunate to have another DePaul graduate student join our team this year. Her name is Julie Wiseman and she's been a great addition to the team.

We had the annual high school fair, which was well attended. Just a reminder, all high school applications need to be submitted by Friday, December 16th. If any eighth grade parents would like to schedule an appointment to discuss their child's options for high school please contact the counseling office. We are continuing to lay the foundation for the

implementation of the Olweus Bully Prevention Program. This program is designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop. It is backed by thirty-five years of research and is a long-term, system-wide program for change involving components at four levels: school-wide, classroom, individual and

community. We have invited Aimee Schneider, our Olweus consultant, to come and speak with our classes K-8 to discuss bullying and to provide a segue into our kickoff event. Please be on the lookout for future announcements and opportunities for parents regarding this new initiative.

# Hurricanes 5th/6th Boys Soccer

The Hawthorne Hurricane's 5th/6th grade Boys Soccer Team, 22 strong, had a remarkable season with 4 wins/1 draw/3 losses. A variety of experience, skills and tactical game knowledge from the team, guided and enhanced by their tireless volunteer Coaches, Frank Hoare, Lello Vollono and Steve Schneck, showed great teamwork by all. As the boys approached the end of their season they found they had won their place in the first round of the CPS playoffs. With a BIG win against Hyatt Elementary they

moved on to the 2nd stage of their area bracket of which they faced with great effort and intensity right to the end, but had an unlucky loss by one point against McPherson Elementary. The season also brought on a few 'friendly' games in addition to their CPS game schedule. An exciting friendly against Sacred Heart Elementary under the lights on the big turf pitch at Montrose brought home a victory for the Hurricanes. Their final game, a friendly against LaSalle Language Academy drew a tie. The season

ended with a pizza party in the North Basement with fellow teammates and the coaches. A great season on the pitch boys!



# 7th/8th Soccer in Action



# Girls Volleyball

By Maggie Phillips

Hawthorne's volleyball program is off to a fantastic start. Since their training camp in August, the Hurricanes have had one goal in mind... a winning season!!! Aside from their competitive play, the girls have been practicing two days a week all while maintaining their "student- athlete" status! The 5/6th Grade Team, under the guidance of

Coach Jacobson and Coach Arnold, is undefeated and has its sights set on advancing in the play-offs.

The 7/8th Grade girls are hoping to build on last year's stellar performance when they advanced to the City Championship. With their current record of 10-1 combined with their focus and perseverance, the sky is the limit! On behalf of the program, we would like to thank all of our enthusiastic parents and fans for your outstanding support.



# Help Hawthorne Win a \$50,000 Science Lab

## Text and Vote Online Daily for Us to Win

Earlier this year, Hawthorne was nominated for a **Power a Bright Future** grant from The Clorox Company in hopes of securing up to \$50,000 in funding to enhance **Hawthorne's science instruction with new lab equipment.**

With these easy steps, you'll help give our children new science lab equipment.

### Text:

To vote for HAWTHORNE text: **clorox7382** to **44144**

Vote one time every day!

Spread the word!

### Online:

Log on to [www.powerabrightfuture.com](http://www.powerabrightfuture.com)

## Vote today!

After a competitive national nomination period, now is the time for our school community to show its support. Help Hawthorne win up to \$50,000 by casting votes starting **Oct. 24, 2011 through Dec. 9, 2011.** Adults and kids 13 and older can vote online at [www.PowerABrightFuture.com](http://www.PowerABrightFuture.com) for the program they believe is the most deserving of a grant.

New this year to the **Power A Bright Future** program, neighbors, friends and family can now vote for their favorite school right from their phones via text message!

The program that receives the highest number of votes will be awarded the \$50,000 grand-prize grant, and the next top vote-getters in the **Play, Create** and **Explore** categories respectively will each be awarded a \$25,000 grant. A panel of Clorox judges will also select one additional lucky school to win a \$25,000 judge's choice grant.

Visit [www.PowerABrightFuture.com](http://www.PowerABrightFuture.com) for additional details and rules.

### You can also help with simple acts like:

Posting on Facebook to encourage your friends and family to vote.

Tweeting the link to our voting page so your followers can vote.

Sending an email to your family and friends, letting them know the great news and telling them how to vote!

# Dates:

- November 23** High Honor Roll Breakfast with Principal Alvarado
- November 24 –25** Thanksgiving Break
- December 1** Barnes and Noble Fundraiser and Potbelly's Fundraiser
- December 3** 3rd Grade Coffee Talk **8:15 am**
- December 9** 7th and 8th grade Dance
- December 14** PTA General Meeting **8:45am**
- December 15** 2nd grade Showcase **6:30pm**
- December 16** Last Day to turn in Lottery Application
- December 22** PTA Holiday Party Chorus Concert **6pm**
- December 26 to January 6** Winter Vacation
- January 9** Winter Tuition Based After-school Programs begin
- January 12** Pompeii Fundraising Night



- January 16** No school
- January 17** 6th Grade Coffee Talk **8:15 am**
- January 18** LSC Meeting **7pm**
- January 27** No School — End of 2nd Quarter
- January 29** Hawthorne Family Movie Day
- February 1** LSC Meeting
- February 3** No School
- February 7** Coffee Talk Grades 1 & 2 **8:15**
- February 8** PTA Meeting **8:45am**
- February 9** High Honor Roll Breakfast **8:15/ 6th Grade showcase 7pm**
- February 13** No school
- February 20** No school



**Attention Parents of Current Students with Siblings Entering Kindergarten Next Year... Please Submit Applications to CPS Academic Enhancement by December 16th!**

**Do Not Double Park or Block Buses on Clifton Street! Please drop off kids on School Street, Seminary or in the parking lot if before 8:45.**

# Sudoku

## How to play:

Each row (across) must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Each column (up and down) must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Each square box must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

		8	9	3	5		2	
	7		1	2		3	4	6
1	3	2		7			9	
2		5	8		6			7
3	9	7			1	6		4
6	8		3		7	5		2
	2			6		4	7	8
8	4	6		1	9		5	3
	5		4	8	2	1		

# Thank You

The PTA and the Administration are always so grateful to our many volunteers who continue to give their time and talent to the school. Each newsletter acknowledges some of those who have made contributions to initiatives or committees in the quarter. However, we value ALL of our volunteers... those in the classroom, on the field trips, as coaches, as committee members, etc. The list is endless and we cannot possibly do justice to the numbers... there are so many of you! **Here is a sampling...**

**Kindergarten/New Family Picnic**  
Agnes Hong, Lourdes Lozano

**Family Fun Fest**  
Susan Zelner, Julie Wilen, Lisa Turner, Allison Kritikos, Julia Smith

**Noble Book Fair Fundraiser**  
Joann Ori

**Walk-a-Thon**  
Karen Prince, Suzanne Kaplan, Lorrie Marks, Beth Ruark, Chris Norton

**Innisbrook**  
Peggy Maisel

**New Buddy Program**  
Patti Harris, Sara Barrera, Mignon Elayda-Fulton

**Spirit Wear**  
Darcie Wolf

**PTA Newsletter**  
Debra Swan, Meighan Depke



**Hawthorne Scholastic Academy**

3319 North Clifton Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
T: 773-534-5550  
F: 773-534-5781

Quarterly Newsletter for Hawthorne Scholastic Academy

Send questions or ideas for topics to [hawthornepta@hawthorneacad.org](mailto:hawthornepta@hawthorneacad.org)

# Riddles:

- How can you add eight 8s to get the number 1,000? (only use addition)
- An electric train is going 40 mph north, the wind is blowing 60 mph south. Which way is the train's smoke blowing?
- A tennis ball has rolled its way down into a hole. This particular hole is extremely deep and has a sharp bend in the middle, making the ball impossible to retrieve by hand. The ground around the hole is made of hard clay, so digging the ball out isn't an option. What could you use to get the ball out?
- What 9 letter English word is still a word each time you take away a letter?
- This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out.
- For these puzzles, each equation is comprised of initials that you must replace with words that will make them correct. For example, 26 = L of the A, is 26 = Letters of the Alphabet
  - 54 = C. in a D. (with the J.)
  - 13 = S. on the A. F.
  - 32 = D. at which W. F.
  - 18 = H. on a G. C.

SAVE THE DATE

**Hawthorne Scholastic Academy**

Barnes & Noble  
Bookfairs

Thursday, Dec. 1st, 9 am - 10 pm  
Webster and Clybourn


One stop Holiday/Hanukkah shopping:  
Books, DVDs, Toys, Games and more.

Story Time with Hawthorne Teachers 4:00 pm

Eat at the Webster Potbellies from 4 - 7 pm  
25% of food sales goes to Hawthorne

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?  
Visit [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) to support us online from 12/01/11 to 12/06/11  
by entering Bookfair ID 10531291 at checkout.

Up to 20% of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our Hawthorne



# We're on the web!

**HAWTHORNEACAD.ORG**

HawthorneNews maybe be accessed online through the Hawthorne web site at [www.hawthorneacad.org](http://www.hawthorneacad.org).

Consider the environment when you are finished reading this newsletter. We can all make a difference. **Please recycle it!**

Editorial: Debra Swan  
Design: Meighan Depke



1. 888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1,000  
 2. The train is electric, therefore there would be no smoke.  
 3. Water. Pour water in the hole and it will float to the top for you to get.  
 4. Starting, starting, starting, string, sting, sin, in, I.  
 5. The letter E, the most common letter in the English language is missing from the entire paragraph!  
 6. a. 54 = Cards in a Deck (with the Jokers); b. 13 = Stripes on the American Flag; c. 32 = Degrees at which Water Freezes; d. 18 = Holes on a Golf Course.

ANSWERS: