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A DISTRICT 205 NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2006

Why District 205 Test Scores Are Improving

At District 205, staff are taking early action with students to help them see the importance of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and to be prepared to meet or exceed state standards in their junior year. The PSAE includes the ACT exam, a college entrance test. The exam is the students' opportunity to earn a competitive score and gain admission into the colleges of their choice.

Beginning with the freshman year, students in District 205 are challenged to do their best by participating in programs to help them with their studies or to improve their performance on PSAE. These programs include the Thornridge After School Program (TASP), the Thornwood After School Assistance Program (ASAP), the Thornton Academic Resource Center (ARC), the district-wide support program called PLATO, and an after-school instructional program called Smart Start. Students are referred to these programs by teachers in the Freshman Academy.

During sophomore year, students continue using these options to strengthen their skills for PSAE. In the junior year, teachers include PSAE strategies and activities into the curriculum to assist students in mastering state standards. In addition, all teachers in the District have sample PSAE items to use with students during the daily enrichment periods.

To help juniors get ready for PSAE in April of each year, our District offers ACT preparation programs through PLATO and Princeton Review. This year, more than 600 juniors have registered for the Princeton Review course. Before the test date, Counselors and the Principal meet with junior students to express the importance of doing their best.

At District 205, our goal is to provide the best education possible to prepare students for success in college and beyond. Helping students understand the importance of the PSAE is just one way we're working toward that goal.



Recognizing S.A.V.E.

Cook County Board President John H. Stroger greeted students and staff last month in recognition of Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) at Thornton High School in Harvey. Story on Page 6.

Thornridge High School Open For Learning

A February blurb in the Chicago Sun-Times sports section reported that unnamed sources speculated Thornridge High School would soon be closing down. While this rumor caused much concern in the community, there is no truth to it. The Board of Education of District 205 would like to clarify that there are no plans or conversations concerning the closing of Thornridge or any other school in our district. We appreciate the concern community members expressed, and the Sun-Times has been addressed concerning this rumor.

District 205 Summer School Opportunities

Summer School 2006 will be held from June 5th to July 14th at Thornwood High School. District 205 will again offer students the opportunity to make up classes that they were previously unsuccessful in completing. Counselors began taking applications for classes on February 20th. Tuition costs for Summer School will be \$200 for each block class and \$400 for each semester class. Drivers Education will be offered for \$250.

Additional programs that will be offered include intensive Math and Reading Classes for incoming ninth graders to ensure that they are ready for the academic rigor of high school, Foreign

Language, introductory classes for freshmen, Physical Education, and Health. All incoming freshmen are required to take the Explore Placement Test, which will be used as an indicator that they will need to attend the Summer BOOST Program for Reading and Math. As Summer School is an intensive six-week program, attendance is mandatory and the State Guidelines for attendance are adhered to for successful completion of the program. For more information regarding Summer School opportunities, please call 708-225-4115.



Congratulations Varsity Basketball Victors

Members of the victorious Thornwood Varsity Basketball team stand with their trophy after taking fourth in state.

Flaherty Named "Coach of the Year"

Thornridge Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Mike Flaherty has been named the Daily Southtown newspaper's "Coach of the Year." The Falcons posted a record of 20-9 overall and 7-3 in conference this season while capturing a share of the SICA South Silver Conference title. Flaherty has compiled an impressive 592 wins during his 31-year coaching career, with the last 22 years at TR. He has also led his teams to 13 Class AA Regional titles, three Sectional championships, and one State quarterfinal appearance. In 1982, his Mendel Catholic team took home the Second Place runner-up trophy at state finals. Congratulations to a great coach and a class act!



IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Thornwood Parent Council – An open meeting for any and all parents at 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in Room 1531.

Thornton Principal's Parent Advisory Council – An open meeting for all parents at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Garden Room of the student cafeteria.

Thornridge Parent Advisory Committee – Second Tuesday of each month. Afternoon: 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Evening: 6:30-7:30p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room.



National Merit Finalist

Dan Biesiada, center, is a National Merit Finalist (after earlier being selected as a semi-finalist). Also pictured are Thornwood Principal Gary Lester and Counselor Rita Pinkard.

Thornridge: We Expect The Best



Principal Kim Waller

On April 26th and 27th, 409 juniors will be taking the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE).

I am encouraged that the 2006 test scores will demonstrate the remarkable progress that our students are making. In an effort to improve test scores, it is imperative for students to attend school every day and be on time, be active participants who are engaged in the learning process, participate in the after school tutoring program, and enroll in our Princeton Review course. Students must understand the breakdown of the PSAE and take both days seriously! Our students have been prepared to achieve excellence in education and we are having a huge PSAE pep rally to show our students that we support them and believe in their efforts.

The PSAE measures student achievement relative to the Illinois Learning Standards. It recognizes the excellent achievement of individual students whose scores qualify them for honors and it measures the progress that schools have made in helping their students meet the Illinois Learning Standards.

The PSAE comprises the ACT Assessment, Work Keys tests in reading and mathematics, and a science test developed by Illinois teachers and curriculum experts working in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education and its test.

Thornton: All-Out Effort For Achievement



Principal Angelo Armistead

In anticipation of the upcoming Prairie State Achievement Exam in April, Thornton High School's staff is offering a Princeton Review Program for all juniors that started on February 13, 2006. This intensive review program will assist the juniors with meeting and exceeding the State's requirements for the test. Additionally, an ACT Prep Program and the Plato Lab's Programs will be available to the students after school. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these programs. More information may be obtained about these programs at 708-225-4115.

Thornwood: Academic Excellence Only



Principal Gary Lester

Princeton Review Test Preparation classes began on February 27th for the 250 juniors who signed up.

Students will attend twelve 85-minute sessions during Block 4 that will prepare them for high stakes standardized tests such as the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and ACT.

If students attend all sessions, the registration fee will be refunded.

The Thornwood PSAE Preparation program also began for the 200 juniors who enrolled.

This program included test-taking strategies and content-area instruction in preparation for both the ACT and Work Keys portion of the PSAE.

Students will be meeting during Block 4 twice a week for a total of ten 85-minute sessions.

Students who attend all sessions will receive a refund of their fee.

Congratulations Gary Lester: IPA High School Principal of the Year

The Illinois Principals Association (IPA) has notified Thornwood High School Principal Gary Lester that he has been selected as the 2006 Illinois High School Principal of the Year. The IPA has 559 secondary school Principals in Illinois.

Each year the IPA State Selection Committee, comprised of five past IPA presidents from across Illinois, uses criteria established by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to select the Principal of the Year. Mr. Lester will be honored at the October State IPA Conference and also at the National NASSP Conference. At the NASSP Conference, Gary Lester will be one of 50 Principals considered for the award of National High School Principal of the Year.

The selection criteria for Principal of the Year included involving teachers, parents, students, and community in achieving school goals, using effective problem-solving, modeling continuous professional growth, and establishing a positive school climate. Gary Lester has had a 31-year career in education, including 6

years as Principal of Thornwood High School in South Holland, Illinois. He has also been an Assistant Principal, Dean, and social studies teacher.

Mr. Lester has presented at numerous conferences on such topics as school leadership, comprehensive school reform, using data to make decisions, and character education.

"I am thrilled, honored, and humbled to be selected as the Illinois Principal of the Year," said Mr. Lester. "It is a testament to all of the hard work that has been done throughout the district, led by Superin-

tendent Buckner and Associate Superintendent Lee. Here in the building, this honor is as much for my Assistant Principals as it is for me. Harriette Condes-Zervakis, Kathy Kreidler, and Betheny Lyke are also Principal of the Year in my mind. They do it all and make things happen. We have wonderful teachers at Thornwood who care so much about our fantastic students. It is an honor for our school, our district, and our community."

An avid White Sox fan, Gary Lester is married to educator Shelly Lester and has five sons and one daughter.

"It is a testament to all of the hard work that has been done throughout the district, led by Superintendent Buckner and Associate Superintendent Lee. Here in the building, this honor is as much for my Assistant Principals as it is for me. Harriette Condes-Zervakis, Kathy Kreidler, and Betheny Lyke are also Principal of the Year in my mind. They do it all and make things happen."

Graduation 2006



Thornridge High School

The Thornridge High School Class of 2006 will celebrate a formal graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. in the North Field House. Admission is by ticket only.



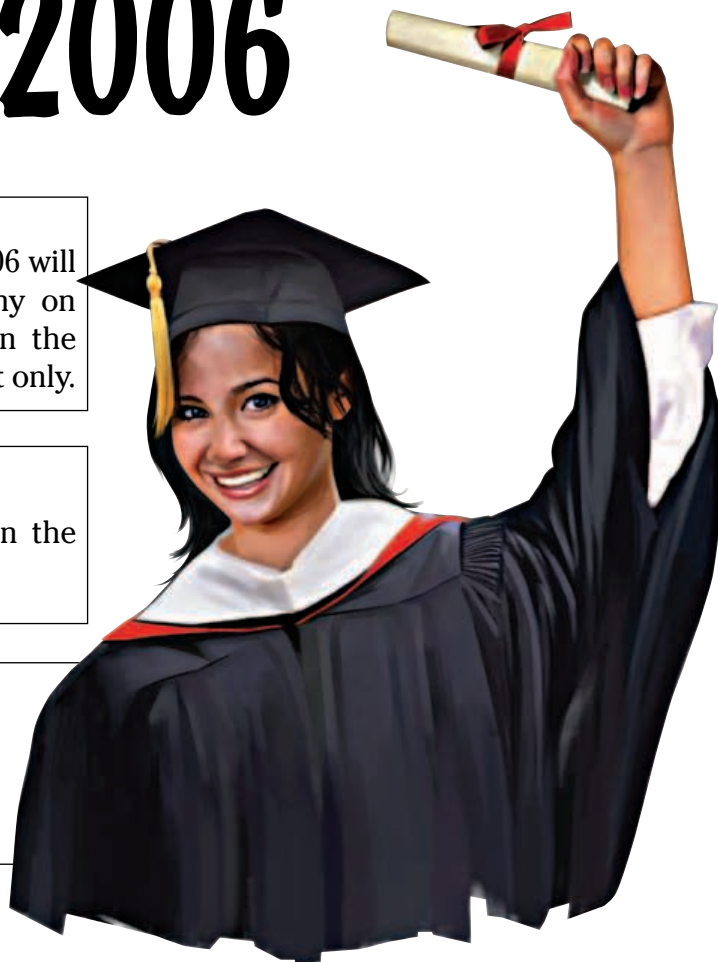
Thornton Township High School

Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 10:30 a.m., in the Gymnasium. Admission is by ticket only.



Thornwood High School

Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 10:30 a.m., in the Gymnasium. Admission is by ticket only.



Your Night At The Prom

The Prom is the last dance for seniors and is the culmination of four years of high school. The Prom should be looked upon as a showcase of style, sophistication, and good taste, as well as elegance.

The **Thornwood Junior-Senior Prom** will be held on Friday, May 5th at the Palmer House Hotel located in downtown Chicago. This event will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

In addition to promoting an elegant evening, the District 205 staff is also making an effort to educate the student body on the effects of drinking and driving on Prom night (or any other night) by displaying a car that has been involved in a serious accident. This car, which will be parked in front of all three

schools, symbolizes the effects of drinking and driving.

We encourage all District 205 juniors and seniors and their guests who are attending the Prom to have an exciting, yet safe evening.

The **Thornridge Senior Prom** is Friday, April 28th from 7:00 p.m. to midnight at the Chateau Del Mar in Hickory Hills.

The **Thornton Junior/Senior Prom** will be held on Friday, May 5th, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

Thornridge Mathletes Take Home 2nd Place In SICA Silver South

What's $375,256,000 - 225,351,000 + 200^{36}$?

Don't know the answer? Don't feel bad. Luckily, astute Thornridge students were able to calculate the correct answer. The Falcons pulled the proverbial mathematical rabbit out of the hat with a hard-earned second place finish in the SICA Silver South Conference at the All-SICA Competition held February 1st at Rich South High School. Overall, the Falcons ranked 15th among the 26 SICA schools competing.

"I'm proud of everyone because they did their best," team captain Charles Gutierrez stated. "Our team was pretty strong and we finished better than we expected."



National Achievers

National Achievement Scholarship Program's Certificate of Recognition award winners are Phylcia Trotman, Brittani Nichols, and Ashley Dixon. Also pictured is Principal Gary Lester.



Thornwood State Scholars

14 students were recognized as Illinois State Scholars: Kathy Baker, Daniel Biesiada, Ashley Dixon, Naomi Harris, Lisa Hodges, Laurice Jackson, Brittany Montgomery, Brittani Nichols, Catrina Russell, Danae Russell, Jocelyn Sullivan, Phylcia Trotman, Whitney Welton, Latrina Wilson.

Your Schools / Spring 2006

"I'm excited about what the future holds. My goal was to pick up from last year and move the Mathletes program forward because building a team into a winner takes time." — Coach Frank Davis

As a team, the Falcons scored first place honors in systems equations, linear equations and inequalities, tied for first place in calculators, and came in second place in polynomials. The individuals who took home top honors with perfect scores were: Taiwo Fanoiki and Gutierrez (trigonometry word problems), Fanoiki (matrices), and Sidney Knight (right triangle trigonometry). The Frosh/Soph squad took home third place among their conference group.

First-year coach Frank Davis feels that this year is going to be something to build upon for next year. "I'm excited about what the future holds. My goal was to pick up from last year and move the Mathletes program forward because building a team into a winner takes time."

With the Falcons losing over a dozen seniors this year, next year will begin with many questions, especially since block scheduling has hindered the recruiting of new members.

"I think we have a chance of doing really well," Darren Muhammad, junior, stated. "I'm excited about what next year holds."

Some of the Mathletes are already preparing for next year by doing practice sessions with Davis once a week. "I would really like to have an all-season regiment," explained Davis, who replaced long-time coach Bill Stockdale, who retired. "That way, all the players can be mentally in shape for next season."

Davis recently named this year's most valuable Mathletes: Taiwo Fanoiki, senior; Nishaat Farooqui, junior; Parisha Carter, sophomore, and Mone't Hamilton, freshman.



Sonic Boom Of The South Suburbs

Members of Thornridge High School highly-touted band show off their precision timing at a recent performance.

"The reason this plan will be effective is that it is student planned, student led, and student driven."

— Hon. Michael Stuttley, Circuit Court (2nd) Judge

S.A.V.E. – Students Against Violence Everywhere

On March 17th all three District 205 high schools formally announced a campaign against violence with major kick-offs at all three schools. Over 85 speakers, including judges, mayors and elected officials, law enforcement officers, social service providers, teachers, preachers, and athletes from all over the State of Illinois came and spoke with students concerning the importance of safe schools and communities. Students and faculty descended on District 205 in bright orange S.A.V.E. shirts at each school to symbolize the unity of the event.

"The reason this plan will be effective is that it is student planned, student led, and student driven," stated Hon. Michael Stuttley, Judge of the Circuit Court (2nd). Adam Arredondo, a senior at Thornton High School and President of the organization, said the event was just the first step in creating a community environment where positive, upstanding behavior is popularized.

Arredondo, who will be attending Carroll College in Wisconsin, was one of

hundreds of student organizers of the event.

S.A.V.E. is a national program that engages students in meaningful violence prevention efforts within their school and community. The goals of S.A.V.E. are to: 1) Empower youth with knowledge and skills necessary to provide service to their community and school, 2) Encourage positive peer influences within the school and community, and 3) Educate students about the effects and consequences of violence as well as safe activities for students, parents and the community.

S.A.V.E.'s roots can be traced to a Friday night in 1989 when a young man named Alex Orange lost his life while trying to break up a fight at a party. Alex could have been just another statistic of another young life lost to violence.

But the following Monday, his grieving classmates gathered in West Charlotte Senior High School's cafeteria and vowed to organize against violence in Alex's memory.

The group formed S.A.V.E. with the vision that all students will be able to attend a school that is safe, secure, free of fear, and conducive to learning.

In just 15 years, S.A.V.E. has expanded from that first chapter in Charlotte, North Carolina, to over 167,000 members in 1,500 S.A.V.E. chapters across the U.S. Today, S.A.V.E. serves youth in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges, and community youth-serving organizations in 44 states and four countries. Our diverse members represent all races, ages, ethnic groups, sexual orientations and physical abilities. Since its inception, S.A.V.E. chapters have used orange and purple as their official colors. Orange is used in remembrance of Alex Orange.

If you read the history of S.A.V.E., you will learn that it was because of Alex's death that S.A.V.E. was created by his classmates. The color purple is used because it is the universal color for non-violence and peace.



Louder Than A Bomb Poetry Slam

Travis Jennings, above, and Megan Cross, left, let their poetry flow as faculty and students listen during the Louder Than A Bomb Poetry Slam (named after the belief that words are more powerful than any weapon of destruction). Thornwood came in Fourth Place, performing at Columbia College and Hot House downtown, and scorched the stage with top scores of 9.5 through 10. Their poems are recorded on WBEZ.org. Ms. Patti Brucki is their sponsor.

Tom Dreesen to Headline Benefit Concert in June For Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund

The Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund has announced plans for a benefit concert, headlined by comedian Tom Dreesen, on June 24th at the Thornton Township High School Auditorium in Harvey.

Established in 2004, the Legacy Fund's mission is to provide assistance to Thornton's academic and extracurricular activities through a permanently maintained endowment.

Mr. Dreesen, who opened for Frank Sinatra for well over a decade in club and concert appearances, has also appeared in many network television

shows including over 60 appearances on the "Tonight Show." Tom is also a frequent guest on the "Late Show" with David Letterman.

Growing up in south suburban Harvey, Illinois, Tom has never forgotten his early, less affluent days.

He has come a long way from Harvey, but the town and his youthful experiences there have figured prominently in his comedy routine. To show its appreciation, Harvey christened "Dreesen Street" on August 22, 1992.

In addition to a full-length performance by Mr. Dreesen, many other activi-

ties are planned for the special evening including appearances by other celebrity alumni, former teachers and coaches, and a silent auction. The Fund's Co-Chair, LaMarr Thomas (1966) said, "We are grateful for Mr. Dreesen's generous offer to perform at our event. All of us feel a strong sense of commitment to create a high school experience for today and tomorrow's students that is as enriched as what we enjoyed courtesy of Thornton during our high school years."

Harry Oryhon (1966), Co-Chair of the Fund added, "Thornton has served Chicago's south suburban area for 107 years and has achieved preeminence in every academic and athletic area. Thornton deserves our effort to preserve the tradition of excellence for not only today's students but for generations of students to come."

Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent of District 205, strongly supports the mission, stating, "The Legacy Fund provides hope for children of the 21st Century and will enrich the entire community. We can't thank this group of alumni enough."

Tickets to the event will go on sale in March. A premium package will include a post-concert reception with Mr. Dreesen and other celebrity alumni, and premium seating at the event. Invitations will be sent to everyone registered in the Legacy Fund database. Alumni and other interested parties can be sure to receive information about the event by providing contact information via e-mail at alumni@tthswildcats.org.



Greek Fest at Thornwood

Pictured (left to right) are: Senior Lauren Waller, Junior Betty Jackson, and Mrs. Kathleen Voboril, Culinary Arts teacher. They prepared incredibly delicious dishes for the Greek Fest lunch at Thornwood High School.

DISTRICT 205 MISSION STATEMENT

District 205's school community will create an environment where every student can learn.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe:

The individual has intrinsic value.

Learning and teaching should be guided by high expectations.

Learning is a life-long process.

All students can learn.

Education is a shared responsibility of the school, student, family, and community.

Students learn best in and have a right to have a safe, positive, supportive environment.

Diversity enriches the school community.

Schools foster social responsibility.

Get involved at your school



Important Phone Numbers

Thornridge

Thornton

Thornwood

Main Office	271.4410	225.4100	225.4712
Freshman Academy Principal	Tim Truesdale 271.4414	Sharon Curry 225.4113	Harriette Condes-Zervakis 225.4715
Business, Engineering, Natural Resources and Technology House Principal	Kim Waller Principal 271.4400	Wayne Dendler 225.4114	Kathleen Kreidler 225.4713
Arts and Communication House Principal	Dr. Karon Rankin- Manning 271.4413	Dr. Dawn McCune- Angelini 225.4115	Dr. Betheny Lyke 225.4714
Health and Human Services House Principal	Dr. Karon Rankin- Manning 271.4413	Angelo Armistead Principal 225.4100	Gary Lester Principal 225.4700
Parent Advisory/Volunteers	271.4400	225.4100	225.4789
Nurse's Office	271.4478	225.4178	225.4778
Bookstore	271.4434	225.4134	225.4734
Athletics	271.4422	225.4122	225.4723
Activities	271.4429	225.4129	225.4965

Thornton Twp. High School District 205
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South Holland, IL 60473-3481

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Julius Patterson (Harvey)
Sharon Voliva (Dolton)
Elizabeth Ware (Harvey)

Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent

District 205 Administrative Office:

Phone: 708.225.4000
Fax: 708.225.4004
Web: www.district205.net

All District 205 educational programs, including, but not limited to, school-to-work vocational programs, are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender or disability.

POSTAL PATRON