

YOUR Schools

DISTRICT 205
Thornridge
Thornton
Thornwood

Spring 2005
Volume 53

Serving the communities of Dalton, Harvey, South Holland, Thornton and Riverdale, and portions of Calumet City, Burnham, Blue Island, Markham, Dixmoor, Hazel Crest, East Hazel Crest and Phoenix

Diversity an essential part of our children's education

A message from Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent

Whether it's diversity of culture, community, thought, faith or sportsmanship, the District 205 school community celebrates and embraces it. It is extremely important that we provide all of our students with a geo-political/international education. This means that we must offer the opportunity for students to express their concerns and dialogue with other cultures and communities and learn how to disagree, agreeably.

District 205 and its feeder system have provided a vision for future opportunities to compete and to travel throughout the world. It is the school-based experiences that provided the vision for future skills of communication, conflict resolution, the ability to understand

and respect different cultures, thoughts and beliefs that came from my District 205 education that support the District motto, "Knowledge is Power".

District 205's Board of Education is diverse, its faculty and staff are diverse, and its communities are diverse, but, we must ask for more because more is being demanded of our students. In order to make our children highly competitive and independent individuals, successful in the new Intellectual Age, they must understand, live and respect diversity. That is what the much-publicized S.I.C.A. discussion is all about, providing more opportunities for great young people to make them stronger, wiser and more tolerant.



Thornton and Stagg high schools have begun a student exchange program to explore diversity issues.

2005-2006 school calendar approved

In March, the Board of Education adopted the 2005-2006 calendar. Once again, first semester will end before winter break. Some highlights:

Semester I

- Begins August 15, 2005
- Labor Day September 5, 2005
- Columbus Day October 10, 2005
- Veterans Day November 11, 2005
- Thanksgiving Holiday November 24, 25, 2005
- End of Semester I December 23, 2005

Semester II

- Begins January 9, 2006
- Dr. M.L. King Jr.'s Birthday January 16, 2006
- Presidents Day February 20, 2006
- Pulaski Day March 6, 2006
- Spring Break April 14-23, 2006
- Memorial Day May 29, 2006
- End of Semester 2 June 6, 2006
(if no emergency days used)

District 205 spring dates to remember

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Prairie State Achievement Exam | April 27, 28, 2005 |
| ■ Prom | TT May 13, 2005 |
| | TR May 6, 2005 |
| | TW May 13, 2005 |
| ■ Graduation | May 21, 2005 |
| ■ Last day of Semester II | May 31, 2005 |
| ■ Summer School Begins | June 6, 2005 |
| ■ Summer School Ends | July 14, 2005 |

District 205 Students Winners in Class

First-rate schools reflect students', parents' and commu

ACADEMICS

- Strategic Planning Committee #1 is a District committee of parents, staff, students, community members, and Board members Victor Coriano and Elizabeth Ware. Its charge is to continue to explore ways to improve student achievement. Anyone is invited. Call 708.225.4026 for information.
- In all, 32 students from District 205 earned Illinois State Scholar distinction this school year.
- Thornwood senior Derrick Tillman-Kelly is a National Merit Scholarship Winner
- Thornridge senior Jarrett Drake has earned a full scholarship to attend Yale University this fall.
- District 205 boasts several National Merit Commended Students
- 30+ students received Prairie State Achievement Award for exceeding state standards in at least one category on the exam
- Thornton student Tokunbo Adeniyi won the Bank One Student Essay Contest with "10 Tips For Teens On How To Better Manage Your Money"

EXTRACURRICULARS

- Thornton High School's Speech Team placed third in the IHSA State Tournament; junior LaRoyce Hawkins won State in Original Comedy
- Thornridge High School's Contest Play won the IHSA State Tournament for the second year in a row
- Thornwood's Speech Team is the 2005 Regional Champion
- TR is also 2005 I.H.S.A. State Champ in Performance-in-the-Round
- Thornton High School's Boys' Varsity Basketball team won the Sectional Championship and advanced to the IHSA Elite Eight tournament in Peoria
- Thornton Girls' Basketball are Regional Champs
- Thornridge placed 3rd in the 2004-2005 SICA Scholastic Bowl
- Thornwood student Dan Biesiada was a state qualifier in mathletes
- Thornwood Girls' Varsity Basketball Team won the Sectional Championship; Thornton also won their Regional
- Thornton Singers won the 2004 Youth Choir Championship



Photo by Lee Talley

Thornridge students Chris Littleton, Danielle Davis and Evan Van earned All-State honors this year in Concert Band.

Better Funding for Better Schools



May
State Capital

TELL EVERYONE —

Senator Meeks will participate

For information on attending, and

■ Thornton High School— 225.4100 ■

■ Thornridge High School— 271.4400 ■

Classroom, Competition and Community

Community's efforts

PARENTS

- Strategic Planning Committee #2 is a District committee of parents, staff, community members, and Board members Katherine Biesiada and Priscilla Nicholas that analyzes and makes recommendations to the Board of Education regarding cost containment and the financial status of District 205. Anyone is invited to participate. Call 708.225.4034 for information.
- District 205 parents have asked the Board of Education to place a tax rate increase on the ballot and campaigned three times on the question since March 2004
- Parent/Teacher Conference attendance has nearly doubled in the fall semester for the 2004-2005 school year, as compared to the fall of 2003-2004
- Principals' Advisory Councils meet regularly at each school. Contact your school to get involved.
- Parents are encouraged to ask about other ways they can get involved in helping their schools serve our students and community. Your input is vital!

COMMUNITY

- Strategic Planning Committee #3 consists of parents, staff, students, community members and Board members Priscilla Nicholas and Sharon Voliva, and meets to explore ways to increase community involvement in District 205
- The District 205 Academic Enrichment Foundation consists of educators and community members committed to students. Its purpose is to draw together resources of individuals, businesses and community groups to enhance educational opportunities
- The Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition is a statewide organization headed by Board President Sharon Voliva, and works to advocate changes in the state legislation to improve funding in support of all students
- District 205 offers math summer programs for elementary school students in the community
- Thornridge student council collected the most holiday donations of any organization in all of Thornton Township in 2004
- Thornwood student David Frazier won the 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Award of the President's Volunteer Service Award

Coalition Day for Illinois Children

July 18, 2005

St. Louis, Springfield

INVITE EVERYONE

Invite! Other legislators invited!

To get involved at your school, call:

Thornwood High School- 225.4712

or call Sharon Voliva at 841.5053

Did you know...

- Three more Thornwood students were named Illinois State Scholars. These students were not acknowledged in the winter edition of *Your Schools*.



They are:

- Kalla Sinwelski
- Derrick Tillman-Kelly
- Kris Williams

Negative media reports of Thornton High School students proven erroneous

Thornton fans NOT involved in United Center melee

Over 1,100 Thornton fans attended the IHSA Boys' Varsity Basketball Super-Sectional game between Thornton High School and Homewood-Flossmoor High School on Monday, March 14, 2005. It was an excellent game against an excellent rival.

During the game, an incident took place in the concourse of the United Center. The entire Thornton Administrative Team, 5 busloads of students with chaperones and the Superintendent did not know there was an altercation until we were called by family, friends and Board Members on the way home.

The melee, as eventually reported, was between no more than a dozen

people, none of whom was a Thornton student. The District has reviewed the video. It is unfortunate that, the day after the game, the press targeted Thornton, and that community members called Thornton High School expressing dismay based on erroneous reporting. The most responsible news article was in the Chicago Tribune, indicating that the incident happened to occur during the game between Homewood-Flossmoor and Thornton, but only a dozen individuals were involved and there were no arrests.

We must believe in our students, we must believe in Thornton. Some students create challenges, but they are teenagers. They were



Thornton students displayed character and sportsmanship in cheering their team to the IHSA Elite Eight.

polite; they were involved in the game and *not* in the melee.

Next time, we hope the media and the community will give Thornton students the benefit of the doubt. It is a great school with excellent tradition, doing great work for the children of the future.

P.S. Homewood-Flossmoor students were not involved in the incident, either!

Thornton Twp. High School District 205
465 E. 170th Street
South Holland, IL 60473-3481

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Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent

District 205 Administrative Office:

Phone 708.225.4000
Fax 708.225.4004
Web www.district205.net

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