

# YOUR EDUCATION RESOURCE

NEWS FROM THE LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION & LAWRENCE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS

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TOGETHER WE BUILD  
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

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### SAVE THE DATE!

Liberty Hall, once again, will be the backdrop for the Follies on Friday, April 18, 2008 at 7:00pm. In its 18th year, this unparalleled annual event builds district-wide pride and raises over \$25,000 for public education.

## New \$5,000 Teaching Award Presented

The Lawrence Schools Foundation surprised Jim Immel, teacher at East Heights Early Childhood Center, on Monday, December 17, with a check for \$5,000. The Special Award for Dedication to Education is a new teaching honor established through the Foundation by a group of community members inspired by their fathers' example. They are the sons of another group of anonymous donors (with the first name Bob) who provide the annual \$10,000 Bobs' Award. Their sons have funded the new \$5,000 Special Award for Dedication to Education to recognize a certified teacher or paraeducator in the Lawrence Public Schools who goes the extra mile to help kids who need it most. The award honors someone who supports the school district's mission of "Learning for All, Whatever it Takes" by ensuring that challenged and/or disadvantaged students learn. The first recipient, Jim Immel, earned his bachelor's degree at The University of Kansas and worked with preschoolers and children with autism

for nine years in Overland Park before joining the Lawrence Public Schools in 1992. Jim served as a special education paraeducator for five years at Quail Run Elementary as an early childhood education teacher, for 11 years at Pinckney Elementary, and at East Heights Early Childhood Family Center since 2003. "He's exactly what every school needs - a hopeful optimist who loves to work hard to see children reach their potential," wrote Kris Matthews, whose son Robbie was in Immel's class last year. "My favorite moment of each day was walking by the window of his classroom after dropping Robbie off and hearing the kids singing...it took all that I had not to sit down in the well-organized, joyous circle and join in." "Jim shows a true love, not only for his kids, but also for his position as an early childhood teacher," said Becky Hapke, paraeducator. "His love for school, teaching and children is contagious and all those around him can't help but catch that happiness he gives off when he comes to work each day."



ABOVE: MR. IMMEL WITH HIS CLASS AT EAST HEIGHTS; A STUDENT SINGS AND DANCES WITH MR. IMMEL; FORMER USD497 EDUCATOR, JESSE MILAN, JOINS MR. IMMEL'S CLASS TO PLAY .

## Early Childhood Dedication



**WILLIAM DANN PRESENTS HIS 2007 GIFT TO FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, PAIGE HOFER.**



**THE ORIGINAL FOUNDERS OF THE CHILDREN'S HOUR GATHER IN FRONT OF THE NEW WALL OF HONOR WITH WILLIAM DANN.**

A new "Wall of Honor" at East Heights Early Childhood Family Center will honor local early childhood education advocates thanks to the ongoing support of the Lawrence Schools Foundation by Lawrence resident William Dann. In addition to helping fund the Early Childhood Center's operations, Dann's \$50,000 gift honored The Children's Hour, Inc. at a reception and dedication on November 29.

The Children's Hour began in the mid-1960s with a group of local women, most of them mothers of young children, who began meeting to discuss an NAACP survey report that revealed the need for quality preschool opportunities for disadvantaged children in Lawrence. Hilda Enoch,

Joanne Hurst, Alvera Milan, Alice Fowler, Emily Russell and others began coordinating volunteers to transport and teach young children. They met in various churches and the Salvation Army, storing their materials in Enoch's station wagon so they could be driven to where they were needed each week. When the former Lincoln School became available for sale, William Dann's mother, Anna "Petey" Ballard Cerf, bid on the building, later founding a community center and a permanent home for The Children's Hour. The building is now known as the Ballard Center, named for Cerf's mother. The Children's Hour went on to receive a national award and to serve as a model for the Head

Start program in Kansas.

In addition to honoring William Dann and the founders of The Children's Hour, the Lawrence Schools Foundation recognized its 2007 Friends of Early Childhood Education, **the New Generation Society of Lawrence**. This local organization has donated \$40,000 to the early childhood program since 1999.

As part of the East Heights celebration, preschoolers performed for their special guests, including Jesse Milan. A former USD 497 educator and civil rights pioneer, Milan joined the preschoolers for activities in Jim Immel's classroom, which the Foundation and Dann previously dedicated in Milan's honor.

## It All Starts Here...

**2007 was a very good year for the Lawrence Schools Foundation!** Through the generous support of our loyal donors, the 2007 year-end contribution totals reached approximately \$472,000! This 33% increase over 2006 was largely due to a sizeable scholarship gift and the outstanding fundraising for the Foundation Music Endowment Fund by *MusicWorks!*. In November, the Kansas City Symphony performed at the Lied Center, donating all proceeds from the concert to the Music Fund. Because of

their fundraising success, the Lawrence Schools Foundation distributed approximately **\$255,000 in direct program support to the Lawrence Public Schools in 2007**. The 2007 "It all starts here!" Annual Campaign kicked off at Bill and Cindy Self's with a social for lead gifts, raising over \$15,000. The Foundation's appeal to district staff raised approximately \$16,155 with over 50% staff participation at Broken Arrow and Wakarusa Elementary schools. District families and past donors contributed another \$34,065, to surpass the Foundation's 2007 goal of

\$50,000. Thanks to all of the generous support of our donors and hard work of the Foundation's Trustees in 2007! The Lawrence Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that raises money to enrich the education of all students in the Lawrence Public Schools. Through the generation and management of gifts, the Foundation seeks to promote and enhance effective early childhood education, innovative teaching and learning opportunities, recognition of outstanding teachers and staff, and encouragement of student achievement.

### Fast Facts!

- Only 1 percent of the world's water supply is usable; 97 percent is in the ocean and 2 percent is frozen.

- Every day American businesses generate enough paper to circle the earth 20 times!

Facts found at: [www.resourcefulschools.org](http://www.resourcefulschools.org)

## Fall Shining Star Award

HRH (formally Charlton Manley) received the Fall LEAP Shining Star Award for its outstanding volunteer and partnership work with New York Elementary. The school board formally recognized HRH at its December 10, 2007 meeting. In her nomination, New York Elementary principal Nancy DeGarmo said, "HRH provided volunteers, decorations, games and prizes for the Halloween party on Oct. 30 in the New York gym and about 100 students, parents, friends, and faculty attended the evening event, which we look forward to making a tradition at New York." Carol Gnagy, HRH LEAP liaison, was happy to participate in this event stating, "Halloween is my favorite holiday. It is so much fun to see the kids having fun too!" PTO president Leslie VonHolten said, "We couldn't do this without their volunteers!" Carol and Leslie coordi-

nated the efforts for the event. Thank you and congratulations, HRH!

This year, LEAP will recognize three Shining Stars, with one awarded in the Fall, one in the Winter, and, again, in the Spring. This award will be given to one of our LEAP business or organization partners for their contributions during that season to their partner school or to the district.



**HRH STAFF WHO VOLUNTEER AT NEW YORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

## Partnership Post

South Junior High and the Lawrence McDonald's restaurants have been building a partnership for over 13 years. South LEAP coordinator, Penny Kramer, reports that in December, South Junior High students toured the Ronald McDonald facilities in Kansas City. Students from several different school organizations toured the Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Children's

Mercy Hospital. The tour provided the students with information about the work that is done for families through the Ronald McDonald organization. Kramer also said that "South has continually supported the Ronald McDonald House and Family Room for several years, but seeing the facilities first-hand got the students motivated about doing more to help." Each year, South has helped the organization by hosting

drives for food and needed items. The Cougar Fun Run raises donations and this year, South plans to raise money by collecting soda can tabs, cleaning houses and cooking meals. The Kansas City Ronald McDonald House and the Children's Mercy Family Room serve nearly 10,000 families each year, thanks to support like South's.

**WELCOME NEW LEAP PARTNER, SUNFLOWER BANK!**



**SOUTH STUDENTS TOUR THE KC RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE.**



## Healthy School Scoops!

From healthy snacks in school vending machines to trans fat-free foods in school cafeterias, Lawrence Public Schools is joining the wellness initiative spreading across the country. This fall, eight Lawrence schools received funds via the Kansas Coordinated School Health Program to provide mini grants for various projects focused on physical activity, healthy food choices and/or decreasing tobacco

use. \*Central Junior High celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Fun Run a school tradition and fundraiser. Central students teamed with staff as they ran or walked a competitive, timed two-mile course around the downtown area. \*The Lawrence Schools Foundation received donations to fund 10 sessions of ballroom dancing in four elementary schools this year. Broken Arrow, Deer-

field, Hillcrest and Quail Run are participating. \*KU student athletes Brandon Rush, Brad Witherspoon and Darnell Jackson visited Kennedy's sixth-grade physical education class to talk to students about exercising regularly and making healthy food choices. The students played a game and shot a few baskets with the Jayhawk athletes .



**KU STUDENT ATHLETE, BRANDON RUSH, AT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

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## Amazing Alumni

On January 3rd, 2008, the KU Jayhawks made history in Miami when they won the 74th Annual FedEx Orange Bowl. This marked the first KU win at a BCS Bowl game and a record setting 12-1 season for the Jayhawks. All of which couldn't have been done without the help of two Lawrence High School graduates, **Brandon McAnderson and Brian Seymour (class of '03)**. Brandon and Brian were both born and raised in Lawrence and attended the Lawrence Public Schools. As Lions, the duo helped LHS win district titles in 2000 and 2002 as they both earned a total of nine letters at LHS in football, basketball and track.

McAnderson graduated from KU in December with a degree in education, but plans to continue taking teacher certification classes this spring and working out with the KU football strength and condi-

tioning staff. The McAnderson family currently resides in Lawrence. Brandon's older brother, Brian, works for Lawrence High as the assistant football coach. This fall Brandon was voted "funniest player on the team" in a preseason poll of his KU



**BRANDON MCANDERSON (LEFT) AND BRIAN SEYMOUR (RIGHT) REVISIT LHS.**  
 PHOTO BY JESSICA HALL

teammates. Brandon's future dreams include being drafted by an NFL team as a player or free agent. In his free time, Brandon loves bowling, singing and spending time with his family. Seymour graduated from KU in December with a degree in finance, but this semester plans to take a portfolio-management class. Brian started his KU football career as a walk-on in 2003. He was a member of the Athletic Director's Honor Roll at KU and the National Honor Society at LHS. Brian plans to attend graduate school and hopes to go to law school. Brian enjoys skiing, reading, music and spending time with his family, who also reside in Lawrence. Seymour told the Lawrence Journal-World, "I always knew if I put in the hard work, good things would happen." The former Lions, McAnderson and Seymour, were honored at a school assembly on January 11 at Lawrence High.