

Interim Principal Colleen Conlan said that Canter, 4959 S. Blackstone Ave., is doing well, with 81 percent of seventh and eighth graders meeting or exceeding state standards, but added that she is aiming to push scores higher.

"We're really excited about it. We still have room for improvement, but we're excited about our scores," Conlan said. "We're continuing to do what we're doing. ..[O]ur kids are learning."

Conlan said that eighth graders recently took the Explore test, which helps to predict what students will earn on the SAT their junior year in high school. Those scores come back at the end of the school year.

Numbers for Bret Harte, 1556 E. 56th St., were not all positive. Reading numbers dipped slightly from 70.7 percent of students who met or exceeded state standards last year to 69.4 percent this year. The good news is that math and science numbers rose. Early math numbers are up more than three points to 79.7

percent. Science numbers rose from 69.5 percent to 76 percent this year. Overall, Charles Kozminski Elementary School, 936 E. 54th St., has steadily risen over the past six years. Math numbers are up to 70.2 percent, which is nearly 10 points higher than last year. Reading numbers are also up three points from last year. Early numbers show that science scores took a major blow and dropped 15 points, from 65.1 percent to 50 percent of students who met or exceeded the state standard.

At Beulah Shoemith Elementary, 1330 E. 50th St., numbers dipped in two of the three subjects tested. Math numbers went from 78.5 percent last to 68.6 this year and reading numbers dipped to 59.1 this year. Last year, 68.6 percent of students met or exceeded state standards in reading. Science numbers, however, rose to 63 percent this year from 57.9 last year.

ISAT is taken by third through eighth grade students and took over as CPS' top test from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in 2005. Final school scores will be available in November.

Mixed-age group like a fountain of youth

By GEORGIA GEIS
Staff Writer

Longtime Hyde Park resident Rosalie Fruchter worked for Chicago Public Schools just shy of 40 years, 20 of which were spent at Ray Elementary School, 5631 S. Kimbark Ave. After four decades, Fruchter's enthusiasm for working with young people has not diminished, and she now plans to become a mentor for a teen through the soon-to-be-launched Hyde Park Neighborhood Club (HPNC) intergenerational mentoring program.

"Being with young kids keeps you young," said Fruchter. "They are fun." Jessica Blake, program manager for senior services at HPNC, said they plan on unveiling a program which would match up teens between the ages of 12 and 14 with Hyde Parkers 55 years or older.

"The Senior Advisory Council was voicing pleas for more intergenerational programs," said Blake.

Blake said she hopes to find more adults who wish to participate in the program.

"We want them to build a relationship and learn from one another," said Blake.

Blake pointed to recent studies that found positive results after pairing young people with older counterparts. Intergenerational activities have been found to offset depression in both groups.

One Chicago-based program that has been facilitating such mixed-age activities is Little Brother Friends to the Elderly. The non-profit organization is working with schools to get children ages five to 17 in contact with people 70 years or older. One program gives kindergartners who just learned to count to 100 the opportunity to meet centenarians to share and compare life experiences.

Christine Bertrand, intergenerational coordinator, said that many young people don't have any contact with older adults.

"It is a meaningful experience for both sides," said Bertrand.

The intergenerational program for the club is still being shaped and a start date has not been determined. The initial goal for adult mentors is 25 participants.

Abby Hymen, teen coordinator at HPNC, said the teens are excited about working with older adults.

"The majority of kids talked about making this work," said Hymen. "I'm really excited about getting this started."

Hymen said the parents she spoke with also were supportive of the new venture. The only concern that was raised was a matter of time commitment, she said.

Fruchter said she is looking forward to building a relationship.

"Working with young people can make such a difference, and that feels good," said Fruchter.

For more information about the program, call Jessica Blake at 684-4062.

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but according to my reading of the transcript that's not the order at all," Preckwinkle said Monday. "There's an appeal, therefore they say they can't provide the information."

Preckwinkle accused Georges of being less than up front during part of the appeal of the *Bond v. Utreras* federal lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

"I think the corporate counsel has been disingenuous throughout this process, so the question is what to do next," Preckwinkle said.

Hyde Park journalist Jamie Kalven successfully lobbied Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow to release certain documents to the City Council during an appeal by the city.

"I've been pressing legally and in other ways for them to release the names for quite some time," Kalven said. "It's not completely clear to me what the city is trying to protect itself against because so much information has come out."

Calls from Preckwinkle were renewed when the redacted list released to aldermen revealed the top four officers on the list, each of

whom have 50 or more complaints lobbied against them, are all members of the Special Operations Section.

"I'd like to know for instance how many of these people are part of the special ops unit, which seems to be so plagued with trouble," Preckwinkle said. "There are some 10,000 police officers in the city of Chicago, and 98-99 percent of them are good and decent people who are trying very hard to do their jobs, to serve the people of Chicago, and their reputations are impugned by these handful of officers who flout both their oath and the law."

Preckwinkle can now ask Lefkow to release the names.

"The question is whether I'll send a letter or whether there will be some intervention by African American members of the council, but we have to go into the courtroom directly and ask Judge Lefkow to provide us with the information directly since the corporation counsel declines to give it to us," Preckwinkle said. "I'm going to consult my colleagues and see what they want to do."

Georges claims that withholding the names of the officers from aldermen does not violate Lefkow's ruling.

Kalven disagreed. "We argued this before Judge Lefkow and she agreed. Police officers are public officials and they are public officials for many communities...like Stateway Gardens, out of which this case emerged. Police officials may well be the most important officials in people's lives," Kalven said.

Kalven said he believes the release of the names of disciplined officers would provide a clear perspective on the level of police reform needed.

"The list and other documents in combination with other things that are known or knowable will help us arrive at a really honest searching diagnosis of the present state of affairs within the police department, and so we're much more likely to come up with sound prescriptions for reform."

The release of the requested documents will demonstrate not that this is a flawed but workable system in need of improvement, but that it's actually a system dedicated to not knowing things that are within the power of the city to know, Kalven said.

"Secrecy is a kind of medium in which these conspiracies can exist. Transparency is the antidote that really curbs abuse."

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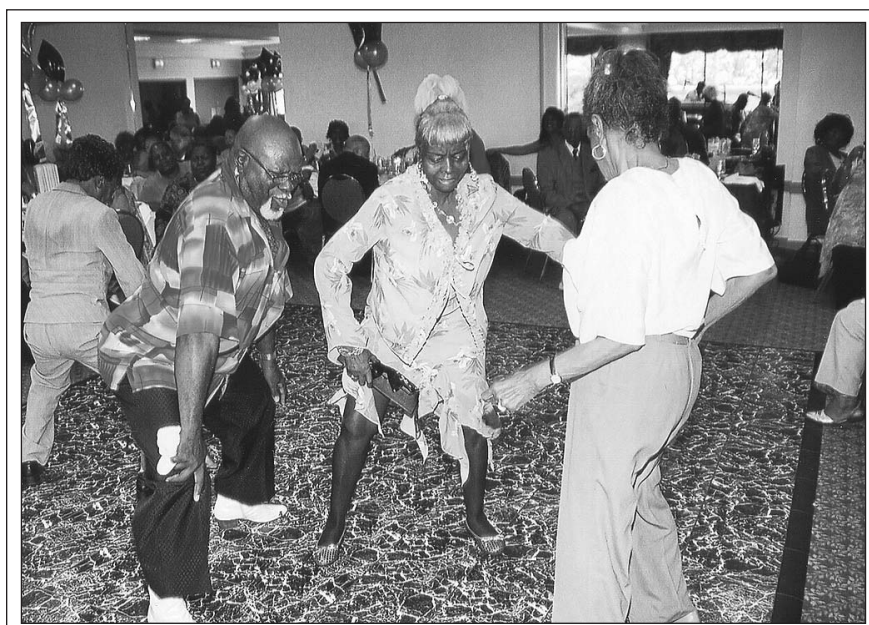
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Swinging seniors

Last Saturday, Blues singer Jo Jo Murray (left) dances with Georgia Wade (center) and Katherine Sanders during a Saturday afternoon Seniors Ball at the Ramada Inn, 4900 S. Lake Shore Drive.

Owen M. Lawson, III