



# LIFE in the LAB SCHOOLS

Spring 2014



PARENT EDITION

It doesn't seem possible that we are sending out the spring edition of Life in the Lab Schools. The much needed change in weather signifies school days are winding down. We have many good things happening in the Lab Schools to share with you as we prepare for the last month of school!

### Lab Schools teachers pursue certification through new program

National Board Professional Development Schools is a state-wide pilot program in which 24 faculty from Thomas Metcalf School and University High School will participate. National Board certification is one of the highest honors a teacher can attain based on rigorous professional development, reflection, and writing about one's teaching. The Laboratory Schools are among state leaders in the percentage of National Board certified faculty. This program allows our teachers to earn their National Board certification in two years. The addition of 24 teachers will increase the Lab Schools total from 17 to 41. Participating faculty associates include:

#### Metcalf

Aggie Hatch – teacher liaison

Susi Beard	Cassandra Mattoon
Chris Culbertson	Steve Paxson
April Davenport	Mandy Stalets
Beth Gordon	Sue Sullivan
Jon Haws	David Sulzberger

#### U-High

Kirsten Hany – teacher liaison

Margot Ehrlich	Maggy Proctor
Latrice Ferguson	Amy Reiman
Rachel Johnson	Mike Sondgeroth
Jason Landes	Karen Valouche
Courtney O'Connor	Ben Webb
Tisha Ortega	

National Board Facilitators – Kate Pole and Kim Walker-Smith  
Administrators – Lisa Kendall and Andrea Markert

The Lab Schools are participating in this program along with the following schools:

Antioch High School	Henderson ROE
Carbon Cliff Bristow School District	Homewood 153
Champaign-Urbana	Homewood Flossmoor 233
Chicago Public Schools 299	Kaneland 301
Crystal Lake	Moline 40
Elgin 46	Oakland 123
Evanston 65	Rock Island Math and Science Academy
Geneseo 228	

Thanks to National Board Resource Center Coordinator Deb Kasperski, for helping the Lab Schools be a part of this exciting work!





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## Thomas Metcalf School to get Chromebooks for 2014 – 2015 school year

After spending the 2013 – 2014 school year piloting the Google School concept using netbooks from University High School, Thomas Metcalf School will purchase Chromebooks for students in grades four through eight. The additional technology will help our students utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. Students and faculty have already expressed the benefits of a one-to-one environment and we anticipate the new hardware will only enhance the learning opportunities available to our students and teachers.

## Lab Schools faculty salary study completed

The Lab Schools have completed a salary study that compares Lab Schools and Unit 5 salaries. Once approved, money is allocated to the faculty associates with the greatest disparity. Years of experience and degree are taken into consideration during the comparison. This year's adjustment will bring the average difference between the Lab Schools and Unit Five salaries to \$4700, down significantly from 2011 when the average difference was roughly \$7995. The salary study is typically done every three years, if financially feasible, and is one of the ways we can reward the efforts of our outstanding faculty.

## Thomas Metcalf School pilots the PARRC assessment

Students in seventh grade at Thomas Metcalf School have participated in a pilot test for the PARRC assessment in English Language Arts. The PARRC assessment is a new standardized test aligned with the Illinois Learning standards to help determine our students' progress. Illinois is piloting different aspects of this test throughout the state and collecting feedback on both the process and the content of the test. While we will not receive information regarding our students' performance, our students will become more comfortable with the content of the assessment.

## U-High student lounge renovation

The University High School student lounge is undergoing significant renovation beginning this spring. New floor tile, restroom fixtures and flooring, and new furniture will be part of the renovation. The restrooms were recently renovated creating a significantly improved environment. This project was made possible with a financial gift from our U-High Boosters and should be complete by the beginning of the 2014 – 2015 school year.

Men's restroom



Ladies' restroom

