



NEWS

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District 64 ELF Selects 2008 Ethical Leadership Award Recipients

Two eighth grade students from Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 have been selected to receive the 2007-08 Judith L. Snow Ethical Leadership Award by the District 64 Elementary Learning Foundation (ELF). This year's winners are James Loomos and Patrick Wohl, according to ELF Trustee Linda Williger, selection committee chairman. "Selection is based upon the nominees' ethical and leadership skills, such as dependability, respect from and toward others, integrity, teamwork, and involvement in activities," Williger said.

"This is a much-respected award among our students and these recipients are to be commended for this recognition," said Superintendent Sally Pryor. She noted that the skills and attributes for the Snow Award work in tandem with the District's Civil Behavior initiatives for all students and the greater community as well.

The students received their awards at the June 9 Board of Education meeting. Their names will be engraved on a plaque displayed at their middle schools, and each is awarded a special learning experience from ELF.

- James Loomos, Emerson Middle School – James is the son of David and Elaine Loomos of Park Ridge. James is a member of the Soaring Eagle program, where he reached out to new students to help them learn about Emerson Middle School life. Naturally cheerful with a good sense of humor, James uses his communications skills as a peacemaker among his peers. As an athlete, he was a member of the 8th grade basketball team, and also plays soccer and volleyball. He consistently excelled in math, where he continually pushed himself to reach his fullest capabilities. James believes he shows ethical leadership characteristics: "...by always being as friendly to everyone as I can, no matter how they treat me. Your attitude and actions are important, but to be an ethical leader, you must be able to understand people from numerous situations, which I feel I share with my empathetic attitude towards everyone."

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DISTRICT 64/ ADD ONE

- Patrick Wohl, Lincoln Middle School – Patrick is the son of Gary and Cathleen Wohl of Park Ridge. Nicknamed “President Pat” by Lincoln students because of his leadership abilities, Patrick was deeply involved in the annual school Variety Show as a student coordinator, Emcee, Improv Club performer and creator of digital video skits. He also took the lead in a year-long fund-raising campaign to refurbish Lincoln’s outdoor basketball courts in memory of classmate Sam Coberly, who died last spring. He also worked to establish a beverage can recycling program school-wide. His volunteer efforts at a soup kitchen led Wohl to realize: “I have been given many opportunities, each and every day. With these opportunities I know I can do so many good things; I am going to try each and every day, even if it’s just the little things.”

The annual award is named in memory of Judith L. Snow, a 25-year resident of Park Ridge and dedicated member of the League of Women Voters. She gave selflessly of her time and talent, and was highly respected within the League and the community for her courage and leadership. ELF selects one or more eighth grade students for this prestigious annual award.

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