



# H.I.T Squad

Special Edition

March 4, 2010

## OEHS Students Mentor Homestead Fifth Grade Journalists

By: Mrs. Beirne



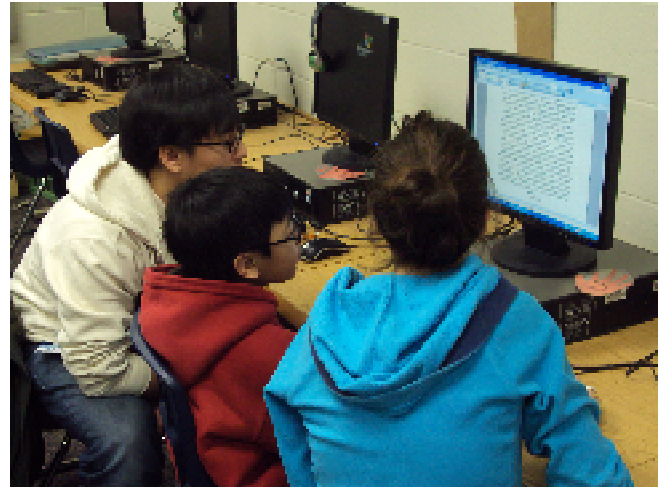
This year, Homestead H.I.T. Squad, under the direction of Mrs. Judy Beirne, has formed a partnership with the Oswego East High School journalism class, directed by Mr. Justin Query. H.I.T. Squad stand for Homestead's Information Team and is a group of third, fourth and fifth graders who research and write articles for the Homestead website. The fifth graders serve as student editors for the publication that is posted weekly on the school website, under the heading of "News."

This past week, several high school students came to Homestead to guide the fifth grade writers through the process of editing and improving their stories so that they are better able to assist the third and fourth grade writers. We learned what kind of important information to include in a news story and how to check to make sure our stories made sense. The finished articles are published here in this special edition of "H.I.T. Squad Happenings."

## H.I.T Squad

By: Seth Bautista 5W

Edited by: Rachel Holzrichter and Jason Ong  
OEHS seniors



H.I.T Squad or Homestead's Information Team is a group of kids that publish different articles about what's happening around the school or around the world. H.I.T Squad has written different articles throughout the past. H.I.T Squad is full of MANY different people. Then later, some fifth graders in the group get to meet some high school students and get to edit some articles including the ones from H.I.T Squad. They help people in the group learn what errors they have so they can be a lot better when writing articles and letters. A week after that, Mrs. Beirne, the head of the group, reads the articles everyone in H.I.T Squad has typed and picks four or maybe five articles. Whoever the articles are by may be able to have lunch with the high school students at their school and get a tour of the school. What's more important than just pizza parties and having to edit articles is the teamwork and getting to meet new people. H.I.T Squad gives students the chance to experience a higher level of journalism.

### **H,I,T. Squad Homestead's Information Team**

A collection of student-written articles documenting the events in and around Homestead Elementary School  
An After-School Enrichment Class sponsored by Mrs. Judy Beirne [jbeirne0103@oswego308.org](mailto:jbeirne0103@oswego308.org)

## ISAT testing

**By: Griffin Sass and Matthew Luce 5F**  
**Edited by: Stephanie Awad and Audra Beil**  
**OEHS seniors**



ISAT testing began March 2, 2010 and is going to end on different dates depending on different classes. Some kids are very worried about the testing for ISAT. But as many have found out, ISATs are not as hard as you might expect. Homestead staff is really helping students do great on the ISAT as well as making them less nervous. Many classes do activities to get their blood flowing to their brain like kids (Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>) will receive a mint before taking the test.

What are the ISATs? ISAT stands for Illinois State Achievement Test. It stresses out many students and some students worry too much. But ISATs do raise money for the district. The higher students score the more money the district earns. Over 90% of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Homestead Elementary school passed the ISATs for three years in a row. Because of that, Homestead Huskies won the academic excellent award.

Here are some helpful ISAT tips. Always sit straight up, if lounging you may get tired. Go with your first answer, there is normally a better chance of getting it right. Always double check your work, for silly mistakes. Have a book ready in case you finish early. Don't be nervous it will make the test harder on you. If you do not know the answer to a question always go with the most educated guess. Make

the test as fun as you can, it might make the test easier. Get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast.

So as student council and Homestead staff like to say,  
"Good luck on the test and try your best!"

## Illinois State Achievement Tests

**By: Keara Netherton 5W**  
**Edited by: Paige Pruneda**  
**and Elliott Goldman**  
**OEHS seniors**



The Illinois State Achievement Tests are taking place from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in math and reading, and for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in science. We wish all of the kids taking the ISAT a big Homestead howl and the best of results. The ISAT gives students a full hour and ten minutes to finish. The tests are seeing where students are at in school. So good luck to all of you 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on the ISAT.

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