

A Note from
CHS President Gary T. Johnson

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June 1, 2006
School Visits, 2005-06

During 2005-06 school year, I visited over 50 classrooms in 15 Chicago schools, bringing with me artifacts and photos from the Great Chicago Fire. Since our galleries are closed, students could not experience the outstanding programs in our building, so I brought some of our rich resources to them. However, there's more to it than that. As long as I am President, I will continue to visit schools. There are forces at work that make field trips difficult to arrange. The cost of a bus is a factor, but the greatest challenge is squeezing time out of a busy school year, which is increasingly focused on rising expectations for classroom teaching, learning, and testing. I feel that all of our students should have the thrill of holding pieces of Chicago history in their hands. All of our students should hear that 100 years from now people will be interested in the history they will make in their own lives. After we reopen, I hope that many of the students I have met will come to the museum, along with their families and teachers. I look forward to welcoming them in person!



Gary T. Johnson
CHS President