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AIMING HIGHER

Programs help more students to be ready for college, **Page 4**

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LEFT: "Rock star nutritionist" Jill Jayne goes over lines with Eric Knutson, grant specialist for Community Unit School District 300, during Friday's filming of Jayne's video at Gary D. Wright Elementary School in Hampshire.

BELOW: Jill Jayne rehearses a scene with Wright fifth-graders (from left) Emily Thompson, 11, Ginel Manguerra, 10, and Kaitlyn McGahan, 10. | PHOTOS BY ANDREW A. NELLES-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA



A TASTE OF STARDOM

Local students, staff help film nutrition video by 'Jump with Jill' » **Page 3**

Nutritionist rocks D300

Video filmed at Hampshire school as part of local 'Jump with Jill' tour

BY EMILY MCFARLAN

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HAMPSHIRE — Jill Jayne was undercover. Incognito.

The self-proclaimed "rock star nutritionist" tuck-and-rolled into the main office to sign in at Gary D. Wright Elementary School. She shushed a quartet of fifth-grade girls who burst into Jayne's "The Bone Rap," pumping their fists in the air, after spotting her in the hallway.

All were scenes that Jayne filmed Friday at Wright for one of two videos she plans to make during her two-week "Jump with Jill" tour of Carpentersville-based Community Unit School District 300.

But the awestruck little boy who shouted, "I see Jill!" in the hallway? That wasn't in the script.

"It's very exciting," Wright Principal Don Wicker said. "I mean, how many chances do you get to have your school turned into a movie set?"

Jayne's tour of District 300 kicked off Feb. 4, with the premiere of her music video

"Going Gold: They Took the Challenge" at Golfview Elementary School in Carpentersville. Golfview recently became the first public school in Illinois to earn the Gold Award of Distinction in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's HealthierUS School Challenge.

The tour will include 22 performances of her "Jump with Jill" live show at 17 schools, ending this Friday.

The show features music that encourages healthy habits, has been performed for more than 100,000 kids since

2006, and spawned the album "Get Me Goin'" in 2008. It combines Jayne's training as a registered dietician with her previous experience as a public school teacher, off-Broadway actress and Radio Disney DJ.

"My job here is I'm kind of like a wild animal," Jayne said between takes Friday, notably forgoing the box of Country Donuts in the office at Wright for a pretzel stick.

"Kids really like me, but it's all earning the respect of teachers and staff as a liaison of information."

In the video she was filming at Wright, she said, she was documenting the healthy steps District 300 schools have taken that

helped Golfview get federal recognition and that other schools can replicate.

One of the most significant things schools can do to improve the nutrition of their lunches is cook their own food, she said. But that's 15 years in the future, maybe 20 steps down the road, she added. Most schools, like Wright, don't even have a stove, she pointed out after filming in the Hampshire school's kitchen.

Meantime, schools can buy healthier prepackaged products: healthier breads, healthier orange juice, she said.



"Rock star nutritionist" Jill Jayne reads over lines as fifth-grader Madyson Saveley, 10, looks on during the filming of Jayne's video on Friday at Gary D. Wright Elementary School in Hampshire. | ANDREW A. NELLES-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA |

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NUTRITION |

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"Don't lose sight of good in pursuit of great. We're on our path to success. We need everybody on board to make it happen," Jayne said.

District 300 was awarded a \$56,000 HealthierUS School Challenge grant in December 2009 to both assess and award its elementary schools' current menus and wellness-related efforts.

That led to Golfview's award. And it included funding for an approved nutrition curriculum — namely Jayne, according to Eric Knutson, District 300 grants specialist.

And the change in students' attitudes toward nutrition and exercise that Jayne noted already is happening at Wright, at least according to fifth-grade student Kaitlyn McGahan, 10, of Hampshire.



"Rock star nutritionist" Jill Jayne rehearses a scene with fifth-graders (from left) Kaitlyn McGahan, 10, Emily Thompson, 11, Ginel Manguerra, 10, and Madyson Saveley, 10, during Friday's filming of Jayne's video at Gary D. Wright Elementary School in Hampshire. | ANDREW A. NELLES-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Kaitlyn said she was excited and a little nervous as she waited in the school's main office to make her debut in the

rock star nutritionist's video.

"Like, I didn't really care about it," she said. "Now it's, like, cool."