



## *Cathedral Grade School*

*News from the Principal 5/10/10*

### Crusaders Shine at State Science Fair

We are so proud to announce that our two eighth grade students, who were invited to participate in the Annual State Exposition of the Illinois Junior Academy of Science at the University of Illinois last Friday and Saturday, have come back with great recognition.

Thomas Lugge received a SILVER AWARD for his project on digestive enzymes and Thomas Fields received a GOLD AWARD for his project on polyurethane foam and mine subsidence.

In addition, the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois awarded Thomas Fields First Prize for Outstanding Achievement....plus \$100. Congratulations to our Science Scholars!!



This truly shows that our offerings in science are certainly up to the state standards and can compete very favorably among all schools. Thanks to Mr. Thien for his dedication to helping all students learn and enjoy science.

### Tuition and Registration News

If you weren't able to come to the Parents Club last week where I explained the new tuition/ grant program, let me try to give you the short version.

We deliberated and agonized at what our tuition increase should be and when all the projected realistic costs were analyzed, and with the enrollment at this level, we had no choice but to raise the cost by \$450 per child. HOWEVER, I am pleased and proud that the Parish Board, Father Myler and I were able to develop an alternate program whereby the families would not necessarily have to absorb the full brunt of the needed increase.

Our parish has always had funds available for student assistance through the interest from our Cathedral Endowment Fund. Few families ever ask for that assistance, so much of those funds have been just sitting there. There are also other funds that were saved and invested when Sr. Ruth Ann was here that are also designated for student assistance. These two sources have enough funds for EVERY family to request the \$250 grant without "taking it from someone else".

The registration form offers options for families to decide what part of the increase they feel they can pay, and ALL FAMILIES can check the third option - families pay a \$20/ month increase and get the \$250 grant for the year. There is enough funding for at least two or three years, and hopefully, with this tuition increase being so steep, there won't have to be such a jump in the future.

Families who need more than the \$250 grant are asked to complete the yellow sheets with personal finance information which will help us to distribute more funds to help these families. **ALL OF THIS INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE SHREDDED WHEN THE DETERMINATION IS MADE FOR EXTRA HELP**, so please don't worry that any info will get out.

Just a quick note to families with 2-3 or more students here: The \$250/ per child grant will apply to the already discounted multi-child tuition rate. If we include the \$250 grant for each of two children, the new tuition will be \$4855 or \$485.50/ month, which is \$270 TOTAL more than last year's rate. If we include the \$250 grant for each of three children (or more), the new tuition will be \$6337.50 or \$633.75, which is \$197.50 TOTAL more than last year's rate.

We do not want to lose ONE FAMILY due to financial need. I think we are the only school to offer this creative financial plan to our families, so please come to talk to me or Father Myler if you are still not sure what to do. I will help you in all the ways I can.

### **Spring Concert Tomorrow**

Please plan to join us for our Spring Concert this Tuesday at 7:00 in the McCormick Center. Mr. Sebescak and Mrs. Freuler have worked hard with their different groups to prepare for this performance. Thanks to these fine instructors for their expertise, effort, and care for our students.

### **Athletic Awards Evening**

All students who participated in any Crusader sports program this year will be recognized at a ceremony on Wednesday evening in the McCormick Center, beginning at 6:30. All teams and coaches will be honored. A dessert reception will follow the program. Please try to join us for this wonderful evening.

### **Gateway Easy Young Achievers Award**

Thomas Fields, one of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, was honored at a special ceremony at McKendree University on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Gateway East Young Achievers Award is given by the International Leadership Network to students who show

exemplary leadership and achievement. Nominees each year must be nominated by a former honoree. Congratulations to Thomas for this fine award.

### **Younger Grades Gone on Wednesday**

This Wednesday, the children in ELC, PreK and Kindergarten will take a field trip to the St. Louis Zoo and the students in grades 1-3 will be traveling to the Magic House in St. Louis.

### **Student Council Election Results**

Congratulations to the following students who were elected as officers of the Student Council for next year: Marie Harla, president; Hannah Eilerman, vice-president; Emily Lassman, treasurer and Danielle Miller as secretary. I know that this awesome team will prove to be great leaders for our school next year.

Time is flying -- we are almost to the end of the school year. Last day is May 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Dr. Bennett*