



Students Have Fun in Several Academic Competitions

January 2013

Science Fair Liam Fogarty was the 1st place winner in the school's Science Fair. Liam's project, Block It, dealt with intercepting cell phone signals. The 2nd and 3rd place finishers, Stephan Plass and Joseph Grogan, had projects dealing with hovering. Stephan's was called Hover Heaven and in it he simulated an air hockey table, testing different fan speeds and hole diameters. Joseph's was called Flying Time and his dealt with hover time for a saucer given varying amounts of air pumped in. All three winners will represent our school at the Science and Engineering Fair at UNM in March.

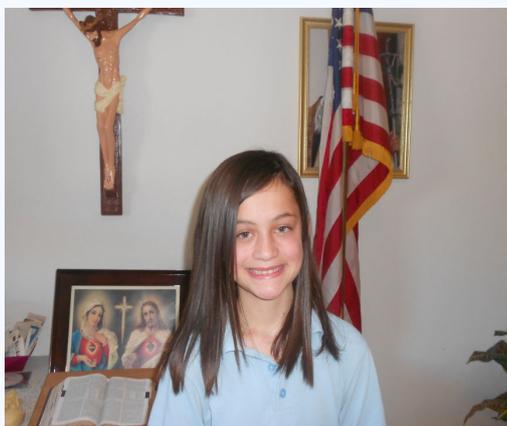


Spelling District Bee Jacob Figge (last year's School Bee winner) and Reuban Coombs represented the school at the Private and Parochial School Regional Spelling Bee on January 17th at Rolling Hills Christian School in Albuquerque. Both students performed well for their division. Reuban was one of the youngest spellers in the contest. Jacob was amongst the last seven spellers standing when he went out. There were forty spellers representing 20 schools.



Abby Valdez takes Geography Bee

Abby Valdez won the Geography Bee on December 18th. 2nd Place went to Stephan Plass. Abby took the qualifying exam for State Competition on January 24th. Good Luck Abby. We hope you qualify! Congratulations!



Benefits of a Classical Education

Many educators are talking about the Common Core Standards as being the panacea for the U.S. return to educational competitiveness. Initially, I was impressed with CCS's focus on fewer skills with more in-depth teaching of critical thinking skills. However, I am beginning to be reminded of how classical educators use the analogy of Bloom's taxonomy to explain the benefits of a classical education. The lower level skills (knowledge and understanding) form a base. If one knows very little about grammar (communicating thoughts), world trends in history, science and math content areas, and most importantly, exposure to many different contextual situations in literature, he/she may not be able to think independently due to a shallowness of a base that can be used as a reference point from which to reason. Envision building a pyramid: it can only go so high depending on the width of its base. I am reassured that the tried and true classical method will still prevail in creating the best thinkers and learners.

2013 Spelling Bee Results

Reuban Coombs won the 2013 Spelling Bee in a spirited showdown with Abby Valdez (2nd place). At one point the Valdez family looked like they were going to monopolize the event. All that was left were Reuban, Gabby Valdez (who eventually came in 3rd) and Emily Valdez (who eventually came in 4th).

Next Family

Gathering March 7

For full calendar, see 2nd page.





Calendar

February 6th: Focus 11, 6th grade vocations conference

February 8th: 6th-8th trip to the Nuclear Museum

February 9th: Latin League 8:00-1:30 Academy

February 9th: Fat-Saturday Celebration

February 11th: 2013-14 Registration opens up to all applicants

February 13th: Ash Wednesday

February 16th: Math Counts

February 18th: President's Day: No School

March 7th: Family Gathering

March 11-15 SPRING BREAK

A big thanks to all those who helped with getting the word out for the Open Houses and who are continuing to help with the Fat-Saturday fundraiser. Special thanks to Richard and Gabrielle Valdez for organizing the marketing for the Open House and for making the new signs. Special thanks also to Doug Coombs for continuing to churn out computer after computer for the Sandia Labs rehab project. Thank you also to Beverly Spindle and her son, Jeff, for donating the gym mats to us. Thanks to Mr. Andy, pictured on front page, for providing great advise to the students for Science Fair.

7th/8th grade goes to Santa Fe for Catholic Schools Mass and March to Roundhouse

On January 30th, the 7th and 8th grade students attended the All-Schools Mass celebrated annually during Catholic Schools Week. The Mass was at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis Assisi in Santa Fe. Archbishop Sheehan was the chief celebrant. Dylan Figge lectured for the Mass's First Reading.

After the Mass, all one-thousand of the Catholic School students marched from the Cathedral to the Roundhouse to voice their support for school choice. The students went into the Senate Chamber where they were recognized by the Senate for the overall high achievement in the Diocese.

Other Catholic Schools Week Activities: The week began with an Open House and the kick-off for our 2013-14 registration. The students also wrote letters during the week thanking their parents for the sacrifices they are making for them in order to provide them a Catholic education. The lifesaver candy was used as a treat and a present to symbolize the mission of Catholic schools to bring all students to heaven.

Needs List

- Novels Multiple Copies (give to us or let us borrow)
Hatchet, Gary Paulson Under Sea, Over Stone Susan Cooper
I am David by Anne Holm My Brother Sam is Dead
- VGA to DVI adapters
- Crimper to install network lines on Cat-5
- Mouse(s) with rectangular USB port-type connection

FYI: Iowa Basic Testing 2nd-7th will not be until April this year, giving we teachers more time to solidify the instruction from this year before testing.

Be Safe in the Parking Lot at all times:

Be extra careful on snow days as there are a lot of spots where cars can get out of control in our complex