

February 1, 2010

## **Saints Celebrate: 'In Christ We Can'...Be Caring!** **SMLS Science Fair-Inventor's Fair-Semester Showcase-Grandparent's Day**

Dear Friend of St. Michael,

**In January, we are learning that "In Christ we can...Be Caring!"** I am reminded of the caring nature of our students and their families on a daily basis. After the devastating earthquake in Haiti this month, our students got right to work on a plan to help the children of Haiti. They are collecting over the counter medicine such as vitamins, pain relievers and first aid kits to send to the disaster-stricken country. Here at St. Michael, we care about others more than ourselves.

St. Michael Lutheran School has participated in the Thomas Alva Edison Regional Science Fair since 1982. The purpose of a science fair project is to teach middle school students how to solve problems on their own using the scientific method. The main goal of a science fair project is to help children use and strengthen the skills they have learned and develop higher levels of thinking and planning. Time spent doing a Science Fair project can be an exciting period in which students make new discoveries about the world around them, and about themselves.

We have many impressive young scientific minds at St. Michael with 21 students going on to compete at the regional level. They were the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places from our school fair. Our school fair was judged by members of the Scientists' Society of Southwest Florida. Some interesting project titles

this year included:

8<sup>th</sup> grader – Madison Brant - Bad to the Bone

7<sup>th</sup> grader - Hannah Marjon - Idling Gets You Nowhere

6<sup>th</sup> grader - Daniel Mazzorana – Is the Protection in the Fabric?



The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair was held on Saturday, January 30, 2010. The Awards Ceremony will be held February 10, at 7:00 p.m. at Alico Arena at FGCU. I hear that 19 of 21 projects will receive special awards! There are 439 projects entered for the fair this year with 18 categories for both junior (middle school) and senior (high school). Students will be judged by a minimum of 3 judges. Category awards will be given out to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places as well as honorable mentions. Only 14 projects will be chosen to go on to compete at the State Science Fair in Orlando on April 7 – 9. This is St. Michael's 28<sup>th</sup> year participating in the regional fair. For 20 years, St. Michael Lutheran School has had students participate at the state science fair level.

Our fourth and fifth grade students are also developing their creative sides with their participation in our annual Inventor's Fair. The students brainstorm for an idea for a unique invention. Students then must research their idea to see if it is similar to anything else that is available on the market. Once they have their invention in mind, they can begin to create a sample to demonstrate to the class. Every step of the process is documented including materials, costs and any problems encountered. The student inventions are quite innovative and interesting. Inventions are displayed at the Annual Semester Showcase in January.



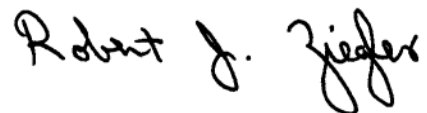
Our middle school students also participated in the annual Geography Bee this month. Class winners include: 8th grade-Nicholas Carbone and Daniel Oak; 7<sup>th</sup> grade-Montana McWilliams and Isaac Michael and 6<sup>th</sup> grade-Max Norleans and Luke Reilly. Wild Card participants were Jack Madden, Alex Thomas, Josh Galang and Ally Fraser. Max Norleans was the school winner and he is waiting to hear whether or not he will be participating in the State Geography Bee.

**Please mark the following dates on your calendars. Grandparents' Day will be held on Friday, February, 12. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Bob Ziegler at [robert.ziegler@smlcs.org](mailto:robert.ziegler@smlcs.org). Put on your eye-patch and boots for a swashbuckling good time at our Annual Bid for Kids Auction. This year's theme is "Treasure Trek" and everyone is encouraged to attend and dress in their pirate best! The auction will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. If you have a business and would like to donate an item or service, please go to [www.smlcs.org](http://www.smlcs.org) and click on "Bid for Kids!" at the bottom of the screen to find the donation forms.**

**We are instructing for life, here and for eternity! That's the St. Michael Difference!**

In Christ,

Robert J. Ziegler Principal, LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator  
U.S. Department of Education and NAESP National Distinguished Principal



P.S. The Saint Michael Foundation, Inc. continues to work toward the establishment and funding of various endowments. Check out the "Support St. Michael Today & Tomorrow" program by visiting: <http://foundation.smlcs.org/index.html>.

