



# The Crusader Chronicle



www.cedarcrest.org

March 7, 2008

**Virtue for March:  
Modesty**



**Important  
Dates & Events**

- March 10**  
K4J Daughters of the King
- March 11 — Date Change!**  
Band Festival, 7:00pm
- March 11**  
CAPA Council Meeting  
**CANCELED**
- March 12, 7:00pm**  
Men's Lenten Study Group
- March 12**  
Science Fair (after school)
- March 14**  
St. Patrick's Day Skating Party
- March 15-24** Easter Break
- April 2** End of 3rd Quarter
- April 3** Classroom Catechism Bee
- April 5** Fifth Annual Gala & Auction
- April 7-11** Standardized testing
- April 9** Report cards distributed
- April 16** Pope Benedict XVI's Birthday (pizza day)
- July 14-18** Vacation Bible School

*To Teach, To Educate, To Form*

As the procession of display boards cumbersomely snaked from the cars at morning drop off to classroom doors, bearing no slight degree of curiosity, I posed the students a question. Here are three responses -- let's try and guess what happened at Cedarcrest Academy this week:

"I hatched chickens!" crowed a gregarious Leo Janas adding, "and I am going to bring them to school later in the week" while strutting toward the school doors.  
 "I microwaved seeds!" exclaimed Nick Schmitz with a smile that warmed a cold Minnesota morning. Not your typical response from an 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy at 8:10am.  
 "I examined a cow's tongue," declared Qunici Scherber, "would you like to see it?" Momentarily overwhelmed by thoughts of tripe, common dinner fare in my home of Detroit, Michigan, likely tempered my response, "How about I stop by later for a look later," while hastily waving on the next batch of cars.

These are the responses of budding scientists. Although largely characterized as excitable, I must admit that it wasn't always this way for these students during the course of their project. Many weeks ago the students were assigned a science project by our resident scientist, Mr. Kielty. For most of our students, the project was their largest independent academic endeavor thus far in their young lives. The project provided for a number of lessons exceeding our common assumption of its purely academic value. Many of these students spent in excess of thirty hours outside of school working on their project. Credit must also be given to the parents of these fine students, who likely played the role of a patient lab assistant. As the father of a son who is hardly a year old, reconsidering daily what the future might hold for me, I can squarely say that the prospect of donning a lab coat ended at the delivery room door. (The limits parents push in helping their kids is a worthy subject of a future column.) The focus of the project was cementing for the students a firm understanding of the scientific method. In science, regardless of the shiny lab equipment or technology at one's disposal, a flawed understanding of the method (name the problem, form a hypothesis, test hypothesis, interpret findings, and report results) renders the experiment little better than a magician's might at a circus show. At Cedarcrest, our students receive a firm grounding in the scientific method, which will prepare them for those days spent in a shiny lab doing good science.

A sense of completion, the fruit of commitment, is the broader lesson learned in the many classroom and home hours spent preparing their experiments for display and competition. Largely lacking in a culture that expects something close to instantaneous results is the commitment that it takes to see a project or promise to the end. We are accustomed to everything on the quick, from rapid Strep throat tests to a cheese burger. The students learned lessons in perseverance and the benefits of hard work. Seeing a project that might appear daunting to some, ominous to others, and maybe even a touch dreadful to those remaining, from the perspective of a challenge and opportunity is fundamentally a good quality of every Cedarcrest student. Every one of us can remember being in the shoes of our students. The struggles of getting the project started, finding that great idea, giving way to the overwhelming feeling that comes when we are midway through, yet the end seems so far way. But we also know the pride, and dare I say joy, that accompanies a job well done. Well done, dear students. The hallmark of a Cedarcrest student is a hopeful outlook, as my grandmother used to say 'stickwithitness,' these 6th-8th graders year after year inspires us by their perseverance. Let us be confident that they do so not by accident, but through the encouragement of parents and teachers with little extra from Almighty God. Help us celebrate their achievement at the first ever Science Fair on March 12th at 4:00pm. *(For those who are still wondering about Qunici's statement, the cow tongue sample was artificial material. No dairy cows from the Scherber Farm died in the completion of Qunici's science project!)* Semper Altius!



**Vacation Bible  
School is July  
14-18!**

**Remember to  
get your permission slip in  
for the skating party this  
Friday!**

Jason E. Slattery, Principal

## Our Cedarcrest Story

Cedarcrest Parent Alison Kaardal says:



"Our son is on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team, which has had an exciting (and winning) season this year. We've made it to as many of the games as possible, usually with our younger children in tow. The Cedarcrest team always has lots of support, but there is one group often seen in the stands that really makes a difference. Miss Franzese, the homeroom teacher for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, is often at

the games cheering and supporting the team. She brings along several of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to help support and cheer on the boys. It means a great deal to the team, and is an example of the kind of charity and support so prevalent at our school."

Do you have a story that you would like to share? **Please send your stories to Rosanne Petersen at [frontdesk@cedarcrest.org](mailto:frontdesk@cedarcrest.org).**

CEDARCREST  
ACADEMY *Gala & Auction*

### Got Wine?

A huge thank you goes out to all the parents who donated wine to the "Wall of Wine" live auction item this past week! As of today, we collected 36 of bottles of wine. If you still wish to donate to the Wall of Wine, please contact Erin Schindler to arrange a time to meet at school to collect your donation.

### RSVP

The RSVP "early bird" rate of \$125 per person has been extended to **March 25th**. We're also still accepting sponsorships. Most sponsorship packages come with tickets to the Gala & Auction. This is a great way to help underwrite the event and bring people to a fun, exciting evening.

### Raffle Tickets

Keep up the great work on selling your raffle tickets for a \$10,000 Grand Prize! **Remember, only four more weeks until the big drawing!** Please turn in unsold tickets to Mrs. Petersen by March 14th. **If you have sold the tickets, but have not yet collected the money please hang on to them and turn them in once you have the money in hand.** Committee members will begin calling people with outstanding tickets over Easter break.

The Gala committee would like to **thank** all the parents and staff who have generously donated to the 2008 Gala & Auction thus far.

## Annual Band Festival



Tuesday, March 11, 2008

5:45 Students Arrive

6:00 Closed rehearsal

7:00 Conert

St. Alphonsus Catholic School

7031 Halifax Ave N

Brooklyn Center, MN 55429



The School Calendar is on the Web!  
Just go to [www.cedarcrest.org](http://www.cedarcrest.org) and click on the "Calendar" link.



## Raffle Score Box

117 Raffle Tickets Sold As of Mar. 7

**Don't forget Cedarcrest students benefit from all the money raised!**



*Merçi* **You!** A huge **Thank** to all the

volunteers that helped out with vision and hearing testing this week: Katie Cormier, Debbie Kopp, Cecile Romero, Karen Sester, Jane Stone, Annette Combo and DaLonna Peters.

*The Crusader Chronicle Editor:*  
Rosanne Petersen [frontdesk@cedarcrest.org](mailto:frontdesk@cedarcrest.org)  
763-494-5387

6950 West Fish Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55311  
Tel: 763-494-5387 • Fax: 763-494-5389  
[www.cedarcrest.org](http://www.cedarcrest.org)



## Feed My Starving Children

Miss Nguyen's 5th grade class recently visited Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen for their apostolic field trip. They watched a film about the conditions that many of the world's poor are faced with, including extreme poverty and hunger. The students were excited to be able to help in a tangible way. They prepared packages of dry meals for poor families to be shipped to the countries in need. The experience was very moving for the students. Here are some of their comments:

"The next time I want to throw out some food, I will think about the people that are starving in other countries. It made me proud that I was helping a lot of people that were in need.... It made me aware of what goes on in the world and how people are suffering so that I can help them in any way I can." Alexa Tkachuck

"As I did the apostolic work, I felt very good and 'on my feet.' I loved working as a team and using the system. As I worked, I felt hopeful." Ellen Bakke

"I think that everyone should think about how people starve and we have more than enough food than we need. So we should NEVER waste food, plus we should always be grateful for what we have." Isaac Schmitz

"I now know how lucky I am to have a nice home. I think poor kids feel like no one cares, but when they get this food, they will know people are out there who care." Emily Marsh

"We prevented thousands of people from dying. I felt very happy and joyful when I did this apostolic work. I feel like I can see a way that the world can be ugly. Many people are poor and have to walk 10 miles just to get a bucket of water. We heard of a boy who was eight years old and was only 19 pounds." Kailey McIntyre

"I'll never see food the same and am happy knowing the world will be better than it is now...I believe that we can help save the people who can make the world better!" Stephen Kopp

## GALA LIVE AUCTION ITEM

Come to the Gala to bid on this exciting opportunity to visit beautiful Alaska!



## Alaska Adventure

For husband and wife, FIRST CLASS non-stop flights with Northwest Airlines to/from Anchorage, short drive through a mountain to Whittier, Alaska, located on the tip of the Northwest tip of Prince William Sound. Chartered boat trip with Captain Terry Kopp and First Mate Debbie Kopp for up-close and breathtaking visits to calving Glaciers, Bald Eagles, Sea Otters, Sea Lions and even possibly Orca. Three nights lodging and meals included. July and early August weekends available.