

3/2/11

TEACHER RETURNS FROM CHINA WITH NEW EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff

mneal@fredericknewspost.com

Eighth-grader Coralie Jean-Phillipe touched an electronic stylus to an icon on a poster and a mechanized voice read a word in English.

Then Coralie's classmates at St. John Regional Catholic Regional Catholic School called out the same word in Chinese.

To see if they had called aloud the correct word, she touched the stylus to the corresponding Chinese icon.

The talking posters were included in a package of \$5,000 worth of instructional materials sent to the school by the Chinese government following a three-day seminar in China that was attended by St. John teachers Elizabeth Chung and Dong Li.

The teachers were among about 2,000 American educators accepted to the training sponsored by the Office of Chinese Language Council International, also known as Hanban.

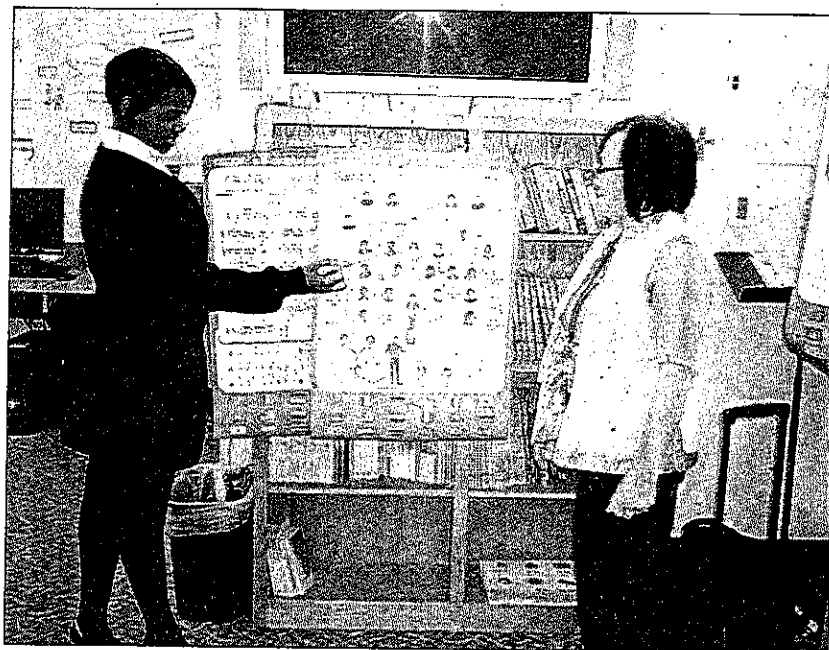
During a recent lesson at the school, Chung told her students it was important that they learn about China, the "awakening dragon."

"We Americans need to be competitive," Chung told her students. "We need to be global citizens."

Chung said the global training she received, along with the instructional materials, will help not just her students, but the entire school.

In addition to books to help teach the language, the gift included books in English about China's history, culture and traditions.

"Among these materials, students can use them across subject content such as social studies, geography, literature and philosophy," Chung said. "We have seen the motivation and interest of



Courtesy photo

St. John Regional Catholic School eighth-grader Coralie Jean-Phillipe demonstrates a talking poster for her classmates while Chinese-language instructor Elizabeth Chung watches.

these students are both greatly enhanced."

School Principal Karen Smith said that any time a teacher can participate in a professional opportunity, what that teacher learns benefits students.

"And an international opportunity allows for global connections," Smith said. "If Elizabeth had not attended this conference, we would not have been eligible to receive these materials."

The materials, which include books for students of all ages (including adults), Chinese character cards, educational software and multimedia materials as well as the talking posters, now

form a special section in the school's library.

At St. John, Chinese is a part of the school's FLEX language program. Students in grades five through eight take a different language each year. At the end of middle school, they will have received exposure to four different languages.

"While we have spent money on materials for the FLEX program, purchasing this amount of materials would have been out of the question given our annual budget," Smith said. "The materials will also allow all of our students access to these additional resources."

180-year-old school updates its image

St. John Regional Catholic School (www.sjracs.org) in Frederick is refreshing its brand.

"We're not changing who we are," says Karen Smith, principal of St. John Regional Catholic School. "Instead, we're putting into words how we benefit our students and their families. We really do believe we have some of the best teachers in the area and we really do strive to inspire one child at a time. It is simply time to let people know."

Paul Fer, assistant principal of St. John Regional Catholic School, adds, "We are the first truly modern Catholic School in Frederick County, despite being more than 180 years old. Too often people assume Catholic schools are behind the times in terms of classroom resources, technology and teaching approaches. Well, surprise – at St. John's, we're actually ahead of the times."

Students receive a number of benefits when they choose St. John Regional Catholic School, to include:

St. John's believes its teachers are the most effective educators in the area, as evidenced by their recent recognition as one of the 50 best private schools in the United States.

As the first truly modern Catholic school in Frederick County,

St. John's expert teachers, teaching assistants, and staff seamlessly integrate wholly new facilities, cutting-edge classroom technology, and innovative pedagogies with the values and traditions of the Catholic faith.

Day by day, month by month, and year by year, St. John's incredibly dedicated teachers work with your child to methodically assemble and then gradually strengthen a solid and lasting foundation of fundamental knowledge, individual spirituality, and personal self-confidence.

St. John's teachers, teaching assistants, and staff will know your child's name, their learning style, their strengths and limitations, and they will engage them daily with focused expertise, unwavering commitment, firm discipline, and genuine love.

St. John's continually reinforces both the Christian values and the basic human values your family is teaching your child at home so as to ensure they graduate St. John Regional Catholic School with morality, character, and compassion.

To learn more about St. John Regional Catholic School, visit www.sjracs.org or call Sheila Evers at 301-662-6722.

LOCAL

St. John Regional receives STEM school designation from Baltimore Archdiocese

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff
mneal@fredericknewspost.com

St. John Regional Catholic School has been recognized by the Archdiocese of Baltimore for its emphasis on science and math instruction and for its use of classroom technology.

The school is one of seven elementary schools to win the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics designation from the archdiocese.

"In a time when our nation and schools seek to provide our students with learning experiences which prepare leaders in a global and technologically advanced society, we are proud to recognize St. John regional Catholic School as one of the first schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to earn the STEM designation," said Barbara McGraw Edmondson, interim superintendent of schools for the archdiocese.

By increasing their emphasis on science and math instruction and the use of technology in classrooms, these schools are better preparing their students for future careers in the disciplines of science, math, engineering and technology, according to a press release from the archdiocese.

The STEM schools were recognized by meeting the criteria in the newly created process of designating STEM schools.

The Department of Catholic Schools within the archdiocese identified several elements that must be present in a school's methodology and curricular and extracurricular activities to receive the Catholic STEM school designation, according to the press release.

Those elements include continuous professional development for teachers, integrated use of computer technology and technology teaching tools, a success-

ful advanced math track, data-driven decision-making, the presence of a science lab, and partnerships with businesses and universities focused on one or more of the four STEM disciplines.

Principal Karen Smith said St. John was selected on the strength of its academic programs and technology already in place at the school.

Students have use of computer and science labs, classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, and some science classes are using electronic textbooks.

"People don't realize how much technology we are using here," Smith said. "Many people have the perception that Catholic schools are not well equipped."

St. John enjoys a professional development relationship with Mount St. Mary's University, which sends many interns to the school for their student teaching experience, Smith said.

"We will be looking to expand our relationship with Mount St. Mary's, and we will be working to form corporate partnerships to enhance this program," she said.

The designation does not bring any new money to the school from the archdiocese, and likely will cost the school money as it encourages its students to participate in STEM activities like robotics, Smith said.

The school will pay for robotics and Legos kits needed for students to compete in various contests and programs, just as an example of additional cost, Smith said.

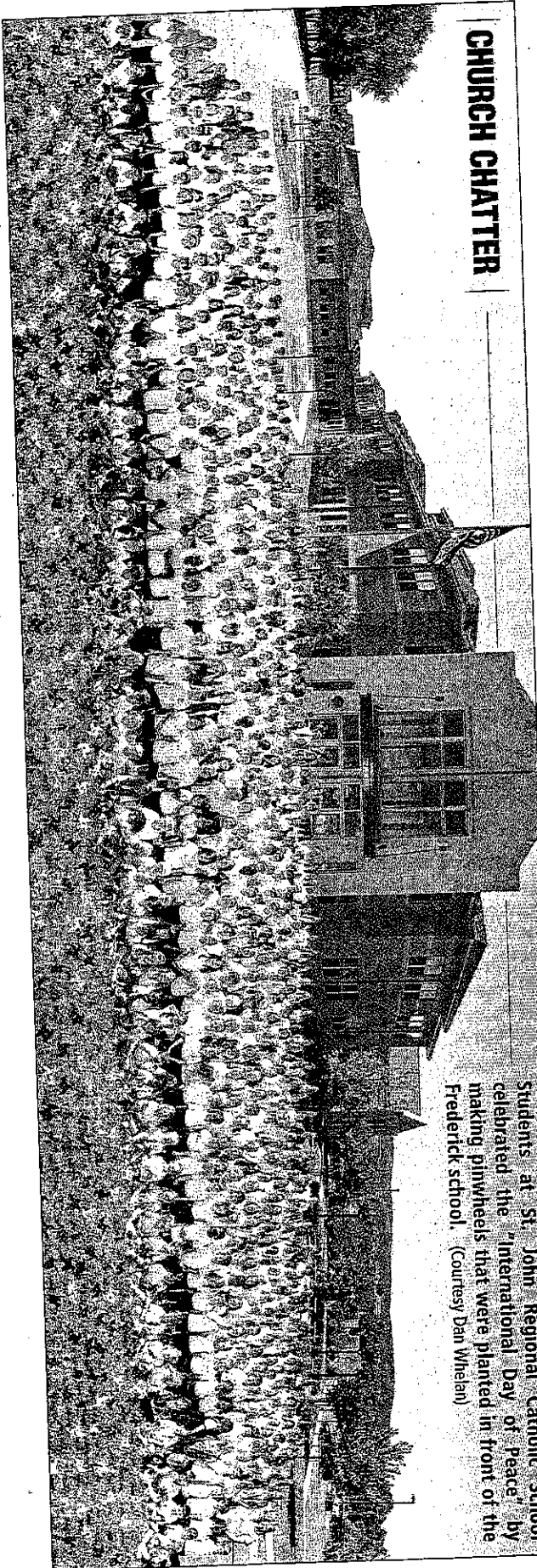
Smith said an increased emphasis on STEM instruction will expose more students to careers in those fields.

"And this more intense level of instruction will better prepare our students for high school and college," she said.

Eoo

CHURCH CHATTER

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School celebrated the "International Day of Peace" by making pinwheels that were planted in front of the Frederick school. (Courtesy Dan Whelan)



By MATT PALMER
mpalmer@CatholicReview.org

➤ Students at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick are putting their theme for this year, "Sowers of God's Peace" into practice, as students decorated about 600 pinwheels and planted them in front of the school.

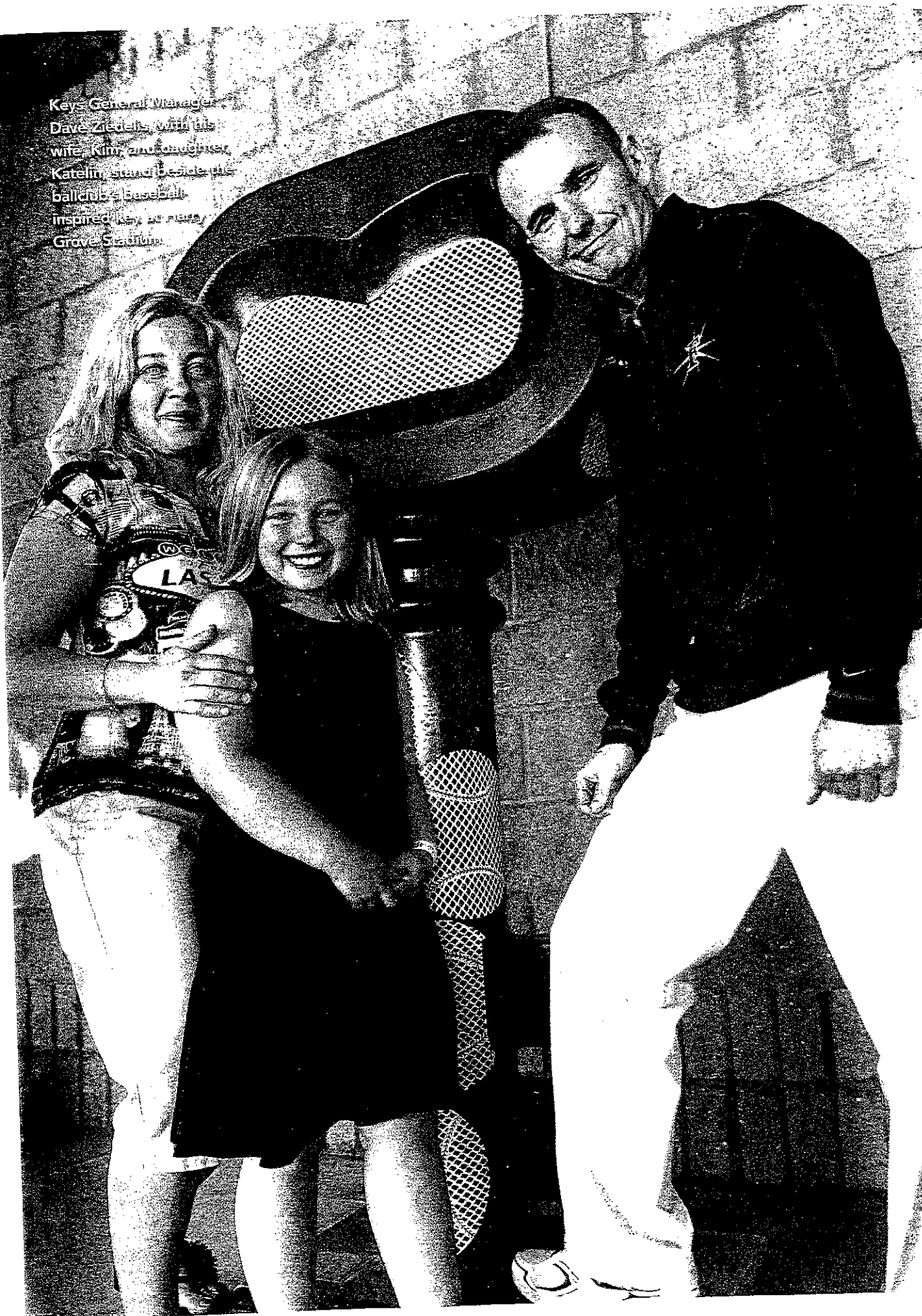
The school also has a values code that stresses tolerance and concern for others.

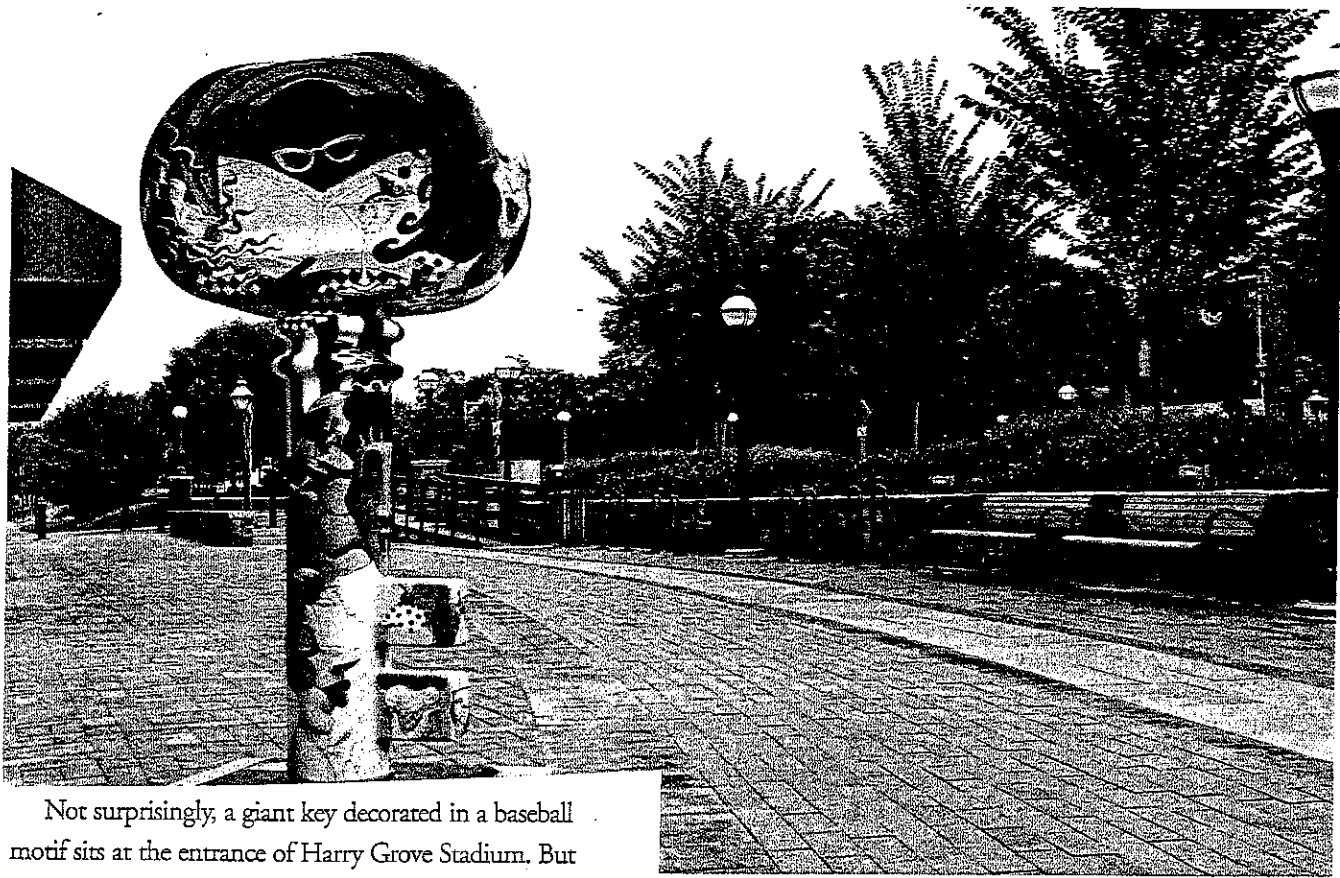
"It's something we try to instill in the students every day," Smith said.

Art teacher Lisa Cutchin coordinated the event. Principal Karen Smith had seen other examples of "Pinwheels For Peace," which was started by art teachers in Florida 2005. According to pinwheelsforpeace.com, an estimated 3 million pinwheels were spinning on the International Day for Peace in 2009.

Smith said teachers emphasize tolerance of others in classrooms.

Keys General Manager
Dave Ziedels, with his
wife, Kim, and daughter,
Katelyn, stand beside the
ballclub's baseball-
inspired key at Pura
Grove Stadium.





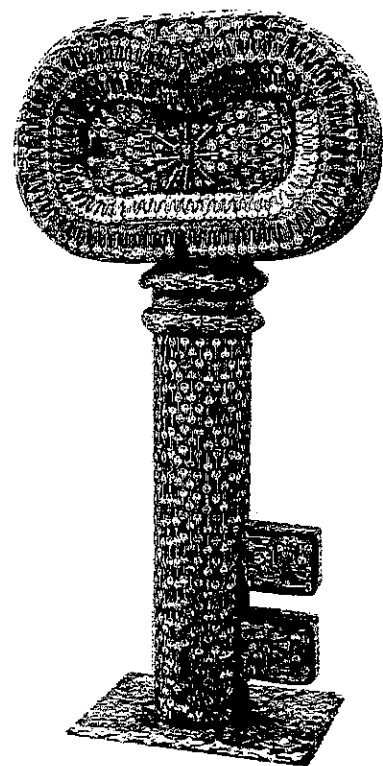
Not surprisingly, a giant key decorated in a baseball motif sits at the entrance of Harry Grove Stadium. But Dave Ziedelis, general manager of the Frederick Keys, says the key reflects more than just a connection to the club's

name. "For that year, the keys were *the* thing in Frederick," he recalls. "And it was such a worthwhile thing to be a part of that."

"The fact that we're named the Keys and the Arts Council's project was about keys ... there's such a tie-in with us in particular," Ziedelis says. "When you see that initial idea in its incubation stage and how it came to life, and the fact that we were there and were part of the kick-off event and obviously sponsored one of the keys, and now to have one here, it's tremendous."

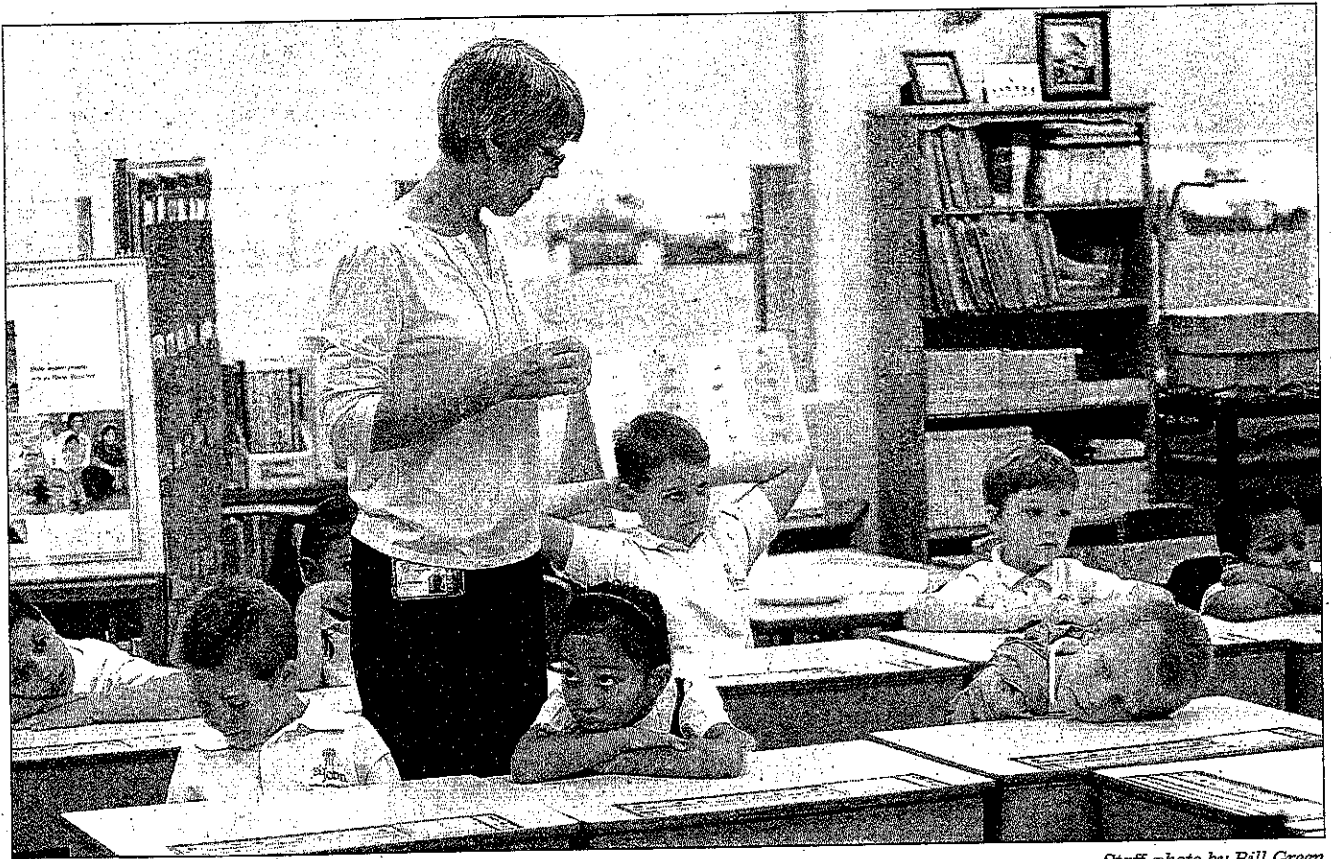
The Keys to Frederick served as more than just great conversation pieces. They were a salute to the great things that the Arts Council has accomplished in Frederick. "Those of us who live in Frederick know about all of the keys," says Ziedelis. "But out-of-towners who don't know about Frederick stop and read the plaque and ask one of our employees what it is."

Ziedelis is quick to point out other projects on which the Arts Council has partnered with the Keys, including special baseball jerseys worn by the team that were designed by local artists and baseballs decorated by artists and Keys team members that were auctioned off by the Arts Council. "Our key serves as a monument to the Arts Council and everything it does in the community," Ziedelis says. ✦



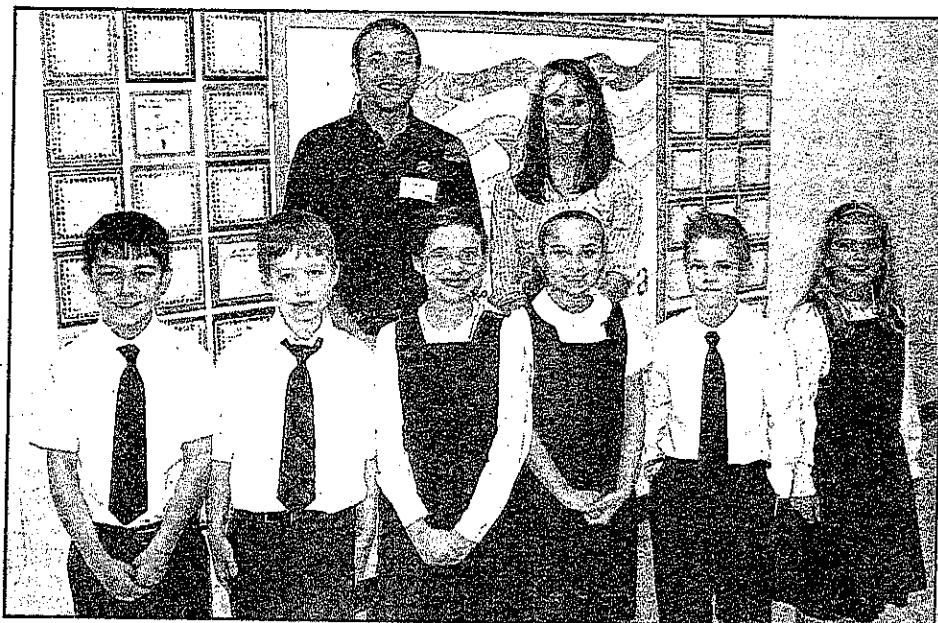
FNP 8/26/10

AROUND TOWN | SCHOOL DAZED



Staff photo by Bill Green

St. John's Regional Catholic School students began classes Tuesday morning at the Opossumtown Pike campus. This year the school will be home to 580 students from kindergarten to eighth grade. New first-graders in Sara Oxendine's class began their first day with some guidelines for morning arrivals.

*Courtesy photo*

Learning about power plants

St. John Regional Catholic School recently welcomed Joe Becker and Jill Hollan, back row, from Bechtel to speak on the basics of how power plants work. Three types of green energy, wind power, hydropower and solar power were discussed. Students were then asked to use their own brain power to discover advantages and disadvantages of each energy source. Shown with Becker and Hollan are, from left, Liam McFadden, Sam Caretta, Julia Staley, Leah Ryzco, Brady Gerst and Ava Lauterbach, third-graders.



Courtesy photo

Parent recognized

St. John Regional Catholic School honored an outstanding fundraising volunteer at the first Distinguished Volunteer Recognition Luncheon sponsored by Association of Fundraising Professionals. Bill Ballantyne, a parent at St. John's, was recognized for his contribution of time, talent and treasure to the school and his many fundraising efforts. Pictured, from left, are Ballantyne, Principal Karen Smith and Assistant Principal Paul Fer.

FNP 11/28/10



Live like saints

Fifth-grade students from St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick present a "Hall of Saints" program to students in the first through the fourth grade. The fifth-graders dressed as a saint of their choice and wrote a script about their lives. They presented their stories to their younger classmates. Christine Neuenschwander (from left) dressed as St. Casimir; Sarah Grace McElwain as St. Bernadette; Caroline Kelly as St. Elizabeth of Hungary; Paige Kamer as St. Veronica; Hanna Chang as St. Valentine; and Brian Murphy as St. Peter.

(Courtesy St. John Regional Catholic School)

Catholic Review 11/25/10

CIRCUITOUS ROUTE TO THE CLASSROOM

BRAIN SURGERY DELAYED FINAL LACROSSE SEASON, LED TO THE MOUNT AND FIANCEE

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff
mneal@fredericknewspost.com

As a healthy, fit, athletic 22-year-old college student, Brendan Flanagan didn't think much of it when he suddenly went deaf in his right ear.

He chalked it up to ear wax and figured a quick trip to the doctor would take care of it. When his hearing improved slightly before his appointment, he took that as a sign that it wasn't anything serious.

But scans revealed an acoustic neuroma, a benign tumor that grows on the nerve connecting the ear to



News-Post photo by Marge Neal

St. John Regional Catholic School fourth-grade teacher Brendan Flanagan helps students with multiplication.

the brain.

The college athlete, who was attending Butler University,

suddenly found himself a hospital patient undergoing

Slice of Life

ON THE WEB

VIDEO: Slice of Life: Brandon Flanagan
fredericknewspost.com

ing major brain surgery.

The Long Island, N.Y., native scheduled the surgery at New York University Hospital. During the procedure, his doctors discovered the tumor was of the "sticky" variety, which meant the removal was a much more intricate process than originally thought.

He spent a week in the

hospital following the 12-hour surgery, and then spent three weeks at home learning to walk and talk again. "It was kind of tough, being an athlete," he said. "I thought I would just be able to get up and walk."

The news of the tumor came on the heels of Butler announcing, at the beginning of Flanagan's senior year, that it was eliminating its lacrosse program.

After he received his bachelor's degree, he enrolled at Mount St. Mary's University with the plan to get his master's degree and play lacrosse, using his final

(See SLICE A-7)

Slice

(Continued from A-5)

year of athletic eligibility.

A torn hamstring muscle put an end to the lacrosse plans. Because National Collegiate Athletic Association rules allow for four years of athletic participation in five years, Flanagan had to ask for special permission to be granted a sixth year to use his fourth year of eligibility.

That permission was granted, and he finally remained healthy enough to get that final lacrosse season at the Mount.

In August, after receiving

his master's degree in education, Flanagan accepted a teaching position at St. John Regional Catholic School.

At the helm of a class full of fourth-graders, Flanagan believes he has a chance to do something for society.

If he has a message for his students, it is to persevere and never give up, he said.

"My favorite book is 'The Little Engine That Could,' he said. "I had learning disabilities as a child, and people told me I would never go to college."

Flanagan credits the

tumor with "actually working out well." Without it, he wouldn't have come to the Mount, where he met the woman he just proposed to after the two crossed the finish line at the Walt Disney World Marathon last month.

"There were 18,000 people in the race, and they all heard the proposal," he said.

There was just a little pressure for Jennifer Davison to say yes, he said.

St. John Principal Karen Smith called Flanagan a "wonderful addition" to the school staff.

"He is both compassionate towards his students and passionate about the teaching profession," she wrote in an e-mail.

"It is amazing to see how his students respond to him and how he is able to bring out the best in them."

Flanagan said he's lucky to be a part of the St. John staff, which he considers his family away from family.

"I have phenomenal students, I'm so impressed with the way they learn," he said. "I love my students and I love the staff — it's a great place."



The center court at Francis Scott Key Mall fills with harmony on Saturday morning as music students from St. John Regional Catholic School, Mother Seton School and Visitation Academy entertain with a concert as part of a Catholic Education Week kick-off event. Directing the students is Mary McClelland.

Staff photo by Sam Yu

Sampling Catholic schools

FREDERICK COUNTY KICK OFF CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK AT FSK MALL

Frederick County's Catholic schools gathered Saturday to kick off Catholic Education Week with a host of musical performances before getting down to the business of sharing information with potential students and their parents about what their institutions have to offer.

Representatives of five schools welcomed visitors to their tables during the four-hour event at Francis Scott Key Mall.

Michael W. Schultz, director of enrollment management at St. John's Catholic Prep, said his school at 889 Butterfly Lane in Frederick — the only Catholic high school in the county — boasts a 100 percent college acceptance record.

"For families looking for a smaller environment and for their children to receive a faith-based education, we could be just the answer," said Schultz, a graduate of St. John's himself.

Classes average 14 students; the student body numbers about 260.

Representatives of Mother Seton School at 100 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg said the presence of Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, is unmistakable on their campus.

Seton established the school in 1810. Enrollment is nearly 400 students from prekindergarten through eighth grade.

St. John Regional Catholic School at 8414 Opus-

sumtown Pike is planning an open house from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. Principal Karen Smith said about 565 children attend the school, representing prekindergarten through eighth grade.

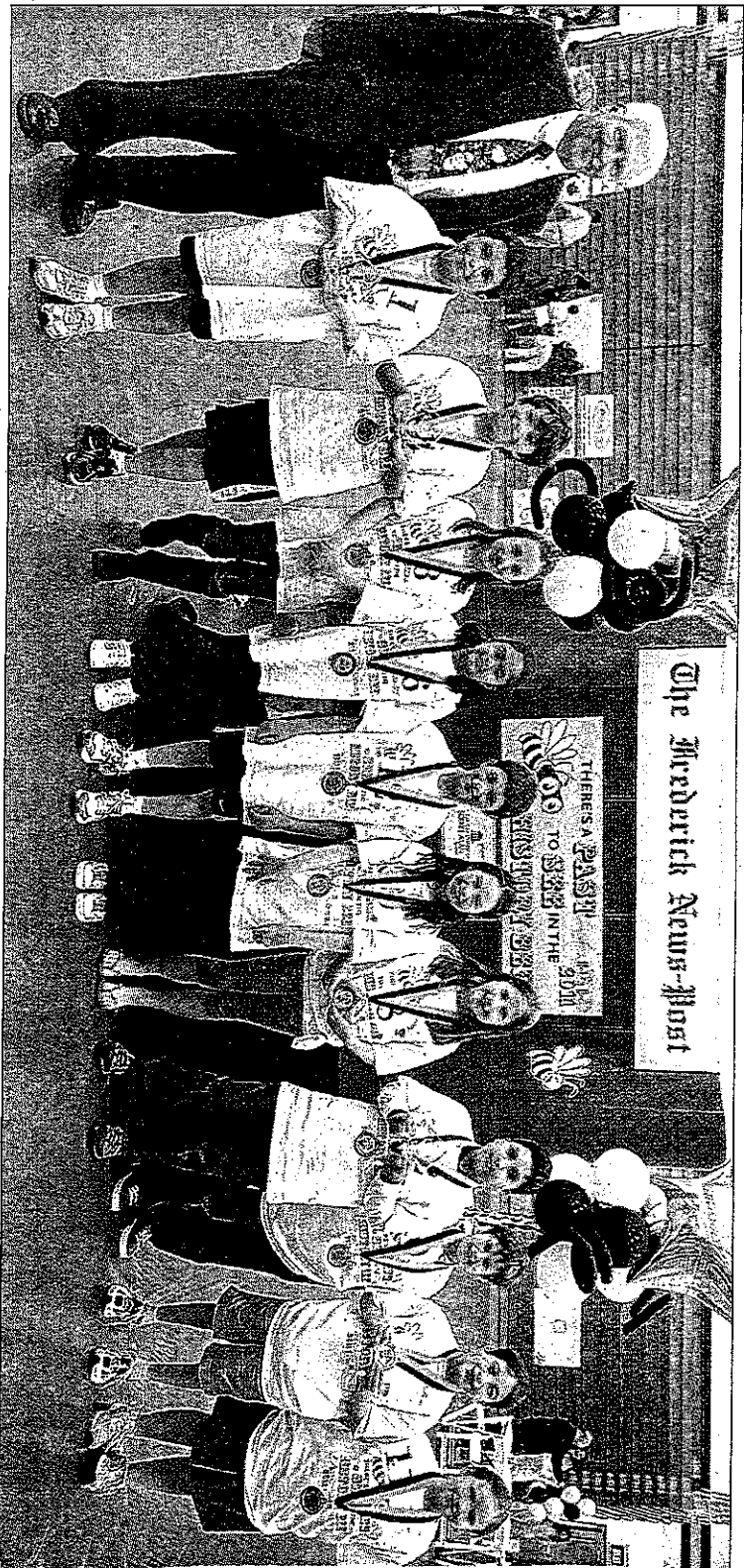
Visitation Academy, founded in 1846, also has open house plans at its school at 200 E. Second St. in Frederick. Two dates are available: from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday and from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 27.

The all-girls school offers classes to children from age 3 through eighth grade.

St. Thomas More Academy at 3989 Buckeystown Pike is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Its student body numbers about 130 students.

—Kate Lachic

FROM PAGE ONE



HISTORY BEE BUZZ



Staff photos by Sam Yu

LEFT: Haran Nadarajah, a New Market Elementary School fourth-grader, listens to a question from proctor Shelley Aloï during the History Bee at Frederick Community College on Friday afternoon. **CENTER:** Thomas Frazier, a St. John Regional Catholic School fourth-grader, ponders a question proctor Kim Swank asked. **RIGHT:** Luke Hartlaub, an Urbana Elementary School third-grader, signals to fans in the stands after a round of questions.

COMPETITION DRAWS 140 STUDENTS

By BETHANY RODGERS

News-Post Staff
brodgers@fredericknewspost.com

The cramming sessions might be over for this year's *Frederick News-Post* History Bee victor, but 11-year-old Brendan Kelly isn't kicking back quite yet.

"I'm bringing my grade in history up from an A to an A-plus," he said, grinning minutes after his win.

The fifth-grader from St. John Regional Catholic School tested his local history knowledge against that of more than 140 students from public and private elementary schools throughout the county. The third-, fourth- and fifth-graders and their biggest fans — parents and teachers — filled the Frederick Community College field house Friday afternoon for the 12th bee.

The *Frederick News-Post* sponsors the event as part of its NewsPa-



Proctor Julie Wohlfarth, right, shares a light moment during the History Bee on Friday at Frederick Community College.

per in Education program, which seeks to increase students' knowledge and appreciation of local history.

Brendan won by correctly answering a question about which mountain overlooks the Monocacy Valley. (The answer: Sugarloaf

SEE PHOTO PAGE, A-8

Mountain.) In previous rounds, he remembered the year of a major flood in Frederick County (1976) and the former name of the institution that is now home to the Historical Society of Frederick County (Loats Female Orphan Asylum of Frederick City).

Brendan said he learned the name of the asylum during his drive to the bee.

"This helps keep history alive for kids," Brendan's mother, Erin Kelly, said of the competition.

The final showdown capped a couple of hours' worth of quizzing that winnowed the field of competitors to 12. The final group then answered questions until only one student remained standing.

(See BEE A-2)

CATHOLICS CELEBRATE SERVICE

STUDENTS' COMMUNITY PROJECTS MARK WEEKLONG EVENT



News-Post photo by AJ Messer

Sixth-graders, from left, John Fearnow, Zachary Kasica, Michael Zerr and Bryce Shephard anoint themselves on Wednesday as they enter a St. John Regional Catholic School assembly.

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff

mneal@fredericknewspost.com

At St. John Regional Catholic School, community service is as an important part of the school day as English, math and science.

The school family on Wednesday held a prayer service to celebrate the community service projects students carried out on Monday to kick off Catholic Schools Week.

"Boys and girls, part of what you learn here at St. John's is the importance of giving back to others," Assistant Principal Paul Fer told students. "And even though we have a special day set aside this week for carrying out service projects, I know that is something many of you do every day."

In the past, St. John students have collected food and pajamas to give to the needy, raised money to fund a Peace Corps project and adopted a student in Haiti.

On Monday, each grade worked on a project to help local organizations. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students decorated lunch bags that were stuffed with sandwiches made by seventh-graders.

“

This day of service helps to reinforce that **THEY ARE SOWERS OF PEACE RIGHT HERE AT HOME.**

ELIZABETH BRACEY
Parent volunteer

Service

(Continued from A-5)

The meals were given to the Frederick Rescue Mission. Fifth- and sixth-graders collected games and art supplies for the Boys & Girls Club of Frederick. Third- and fourth-graders wrote valentine thank-you notes to local police officers and firefighters. First- and second-graders assembled gift bags for new mothers that were donated to Birthright of Frederick County. And eighth-graders collected hats, gloves and socks for Welcome Home, a shelter for homeless veterans.

"This day of service helps to reinforce that they are sowers of peace right here at home," parent volunteer Elizabeth Bracey said. "They're learning at a young age the importance of serv-

ON THE WEB

■ **VIDEO:** St. John Regional Catholic students hold community day assembly
fredericknewspost.com

ice to others and they will carry that throughout their lives."

Representatives from all the organizations were present at the assembly to accept an example of the projects made by students.

Frederick Mayor Randy McClement presented the school with a citation declaring Catholic Schools Week in Frederick.

"It's extremely important that you participate in your community," McClement told the students. "It's what leaders do — participation makes you great citizens."

FNP 11/17/10



Courtesy photo

Engineering topic

St. John Regional Catholic School recently welcomed Anne Spence, assistant professor of engineering at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, to speak with fifth- through eighth- grade students about engineering. Spence's visit was part of the "Nifty Fifty" program, where 50 science and technology professionals are visiting schools in the Maryland, Washington and Northern Virginia areas to excite students about careers in the sciences and technical areas. Spence told students to find their passion and follow it. The program was presented by the SJRCS Quest enrichment program, in conjunction with the USA Science and Engineering Expo. Pictured, from left, are Stacy Janulis, expo representative; Lisa Curcith, SJRCS Quest teacher; Spence; and Catherine Hyde, student.



Courtesy photo

National recognition

St. John Regional Catholic School eighth-grade student Erin Jones, left, received the second-place national award for her music entry in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education contest, from Kay Morrow, Catholic Daughters education chairwoman, Court Elizabeth Ann Seton. Jones composed and performed a musical selection with the theme "The Joys of God Surround Us." Her placement was for Division II, grades six to eight on the national level.

FNP
10/10

Robinson returns to role as top scorer for Catholic women's lacrosse

After missing most of last year with an ACL injury, Catoclin's Kate Robinson is back in her familiar spot as the top scorer on the Catholic University's lacrosse team. The senior midfielder leads the team in points with 18 and goals with 10. She had eight assists.

Robinson, a two-time Landmark Conference Player of the Year, was Lacrosse Magazine's Preseason Player of the Year last season. But she tore the ACL in her right knee in her second game and was out for the rest of the year. She had surgery in April and returned to the team this year as a graduate student.

This season, she has been joined by her sister Mary, a junior defender on the team. The two played together for two years at Catoclin. Mary Robinson transferred from Bridge-

water College, where she was an Old Dominion Athletic Conference second team pick as a sophomore. She has started three games for the Cardinals with three goals.

Meghan Murray of Urbana is a senior defender at CU. She has played in four games with three starts.

Tyler Catalani of St. John's is a reserve junior midfielder on the Catholic men's team. He has 12 goals and 11 assists in nine games.

Two former Urbana players are on the Ohio State women's lacrosse team. Lindsey Gysin is a senior midfielder who is a three-year starter. She has four ground balls this season. Kelsey Heine is a sophomore midfielder who has seen action in three games off the bench. She played in six games as a freshman.

Hailey Smith of Urbana has 13 goals in seven games off the bench for the University of Massachusetts team. The senior midfielder had 12 goals all of last year.

College Notes

By STAN GOLDBERG

Lauren Gannon of Urbana has played in four games with two starts as a senior defender on the George Mason lacrosse team.

Former Urbana players Hannah McBee and Jordyn Collins are on the Old Dominion team. McBee is a junior defender who has started four games. Collins is a sophomore midfielder who has one goal in two games.

Ron John Dadd of Urbana has one assist as a reserve attack at Bucknell.

Mike Rowse of Urbana has played in five games, three of them starts, as a senior defender at Robert Morris.

Sophomore midfielder Caitlin Costello of Linganore is tied for first in scoring with 23 points for at Bridgewater. The sophomore midfielder has 13 goals and 10 assists. Leslie Crawford of Middletown has 11 goals and four assists at Bridgewater. She is a senior attack.

Savannah Key of Brunswick has four goals and three assists as a sophomore defender at Bridgewater.

Lauren Bennett of Thomas John-son has played in eight games, two starts, at the St. Mary's College. The

junior midfielder has seven goals and six assists.

Three former St. John's students are on the Dominican College lacrosse team. Junior Korin Pierce starts at attack and has four goals and two assists. Sophomores Jon Kubala and Conlan Pierce are starting on defense.

Sophomore Myra Deryshire of Catoclin has three goals for Frostburg University. The midfielder has played in seven games with three starts.

At Stevenson University, Samantha Parker of Linganore has one goal and one assist as a junior attack. Sarah Pincus of Linganore has started seven games as a junior defender.

(See NOTES B-2)

EVENTS



Courtesy photo

Pictured, from left, are Caroline Pugh, FOCE executive director; Bishop Mitchell Rozanski; Cary Plamondon; Jim Plamondon; Lorrie Plamondon; Peter Plamondon Sr., 2010 McElroy Award recipient; Peter Plamondon Jr.; Gail Plamondon; and Carol Hinds, president of FOCE Board of Trustees.

Local businessman and philanthropist honored

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Friends of Catholic Education Inc. recently honored Peter H. Plamondon Sr. as this year's recipient of the Father John McElroy Award.

This award is given annually to an individual(s) whose actions or accomplishments have significantly advanced Catholic school education. Plamondon's support of and involvement in Catholic school education is extensive. He served on the Board of Trustees for Mount St. Mary's University for many years and is the current honorary chairman, along with his wife, Lorraine, of

the St. John's Catholic Prep Legacy Capital Campaign, which is raising funds to build a new school facility on Md. 85 near Buckeystown. Plamondon has also been a leading financial supporter for St. John Regional Catholic School. In 1991, he received the President's Medal from Mount St. Mary's University.

Keynoting this year's event was Maureen Dowling, director of nonpublic schools for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. John Fieseler, executive director of the Tourism Council of Frederick, served as master of ceremonies.

Celebrating 21 years of service, Friends

of Catholic Education Inc. is a local nonprofit organization that supports Catholic school education at the elementary, secondary and university levels in Frederick County. Since its inception in 1989, it has provided more than \$3.5 million in financial assistance through scholarships, tuition assistance grants, capital improvement grants and tuition credits through its Grocery Card Program.

For information about Friends of Catholic Education Inc., call 301-846-7804, visit www.friendsofcatholiced.org or write to FOCE, 53 E. Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701.

Philanthropic volunteer fundraisers honored

By NICHOLAS C. STERN

News-Post Staff

nstern@fredericknewspost.com

The Western Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals honored area volunteers Friday for their work in the community.

Robin Zanotti, a WMAFP board member and event chairwoman, said the honorary luncheon at Dutch's Daughter restaurant was also held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of National Philanthropy Day, officially held Monday.

The 15 volunteers given medallions and certificates at the lunch volunteer for organizations from four Western Maryland counties, Zanotti said.

Each of these organizations nominated the candidates whose efforts stood out, she said.

Essential characteristics of a fundraiser include tenacity and passion, Zanotti said.

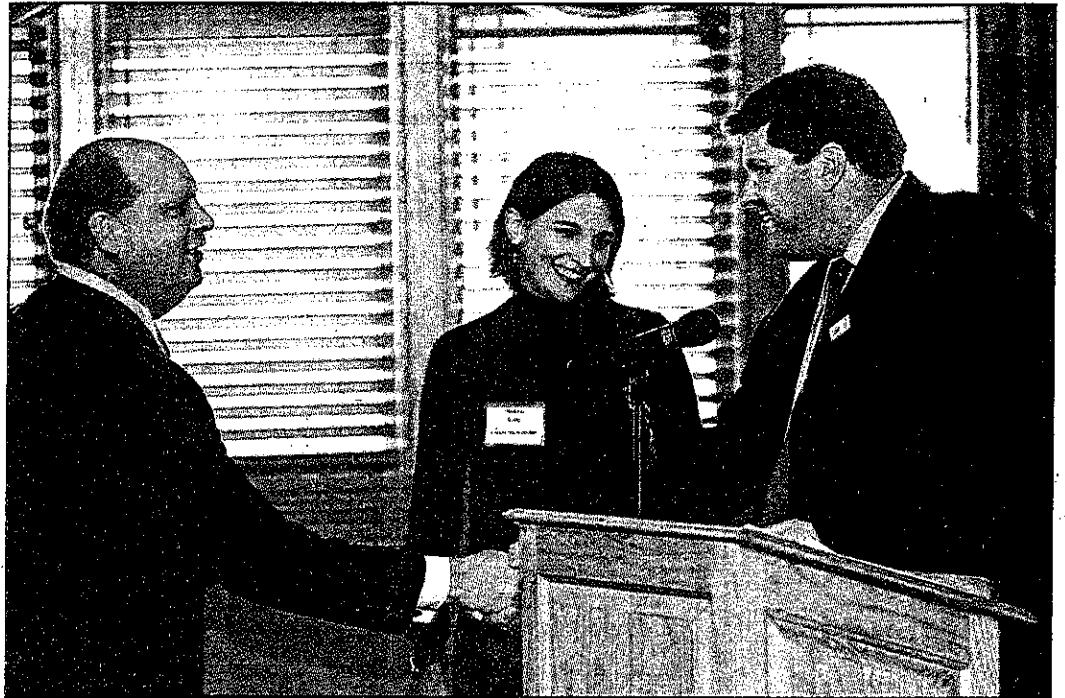
"They have to be persuasive and have to give back before they ask others to," she said.

The distinguished volunteer award winners include:

■ Bill Ballantyne, of St. John's Regional Catholic School

■ Ed Brewer, of Fahrney-Keedy Home and Village.

■ Kathleen Costlow, of the Community Foundation of Frederick County



Staff photo by Travis S. Pratt

Charles Jones, left, a founding board member for Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County, accepts an award from Megan Kula, WMAFP, and emcee Pieter Bickford, NBC 25, on behalf of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Western Maryland Chapter on Friday afternoon at Dutch's Daughter.

■ Lora Drezner, of Montgomery Hospice

■ Roger Fairbourn, of the Hagerstown Community College Foundation Inc.

■ Ralph Frith, of McDaniel College, Mary Grove, of St. Mary Catholic School

■ Pat Halladay, of Brook Lane

Health Services

■ Charles Jones, of Boys and Girls Club of Frederick County

■ Susan Keller, of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Frederick County

■ Leslie Kinhead, of United Way of Frederick County

■ M. Linton, of Frederick

Community College Foundation Inc.

■ Katherine Marshall, of Mother Seton School

■ Tom Meacham, of Rotary Club of Carroll Creek

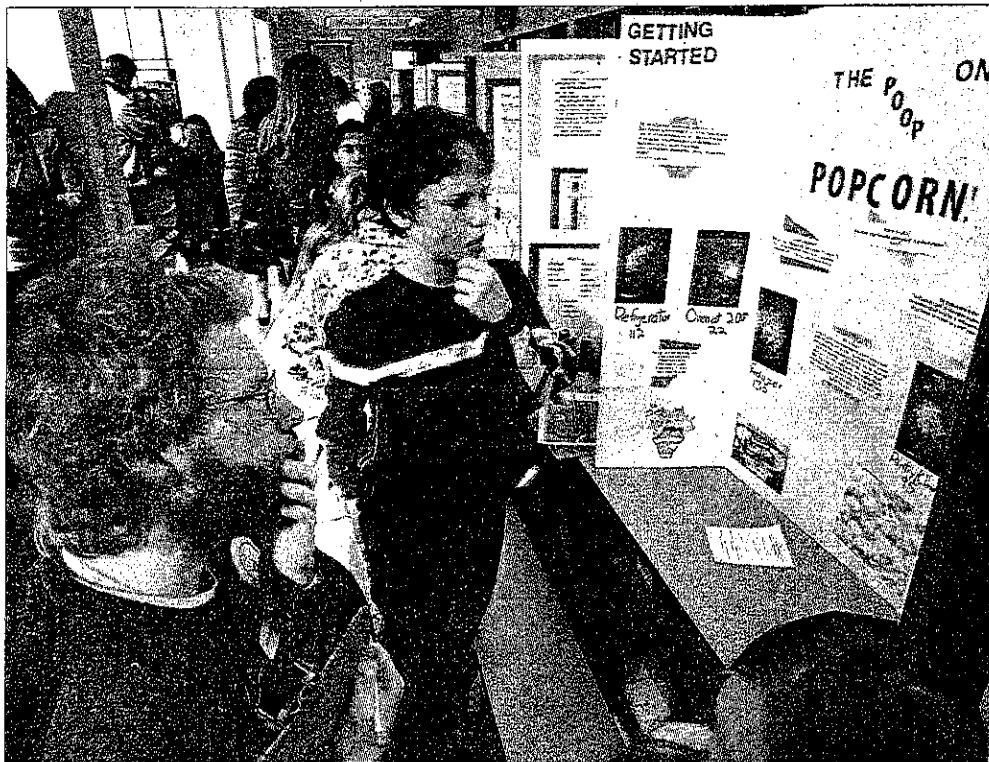
■ F. Silbernagel Jr., of Homewood Retirement Centers/Foundation.



Courtesy photo

Learning to save

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School recently visited with Trishan Hettiarachchi, a Capital One Bank assistant vice president and branch manager. Hettiarachchi presented "10 Ideas on How to Save and Grow Money" to fifth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students in Sue Mallak's "Money, Money, Money" cluster. After a brainstorming session on money management, students received check registers in hopes of cultivating smart spending and smart saving. Pictured, from left, are Michael Rempe, Kyle Bryant, Jake Breeden, Katie D'Addato, Thomas Keenan, Daniel Bellanton, Damon Lagana, Bernie Simms, Elie Haddad, Sam McFadden, Samantha Gallo, Cole Grieser, Andrea Hopkins, Garrett Lane, Noah England and Hettiarachchi.



About 300 students participated in the Elementary Division of Frederick County's 30th annual Science and Engineering Fair on Saturday at Oakdale High School. Here, judge Joshua Horne talks with Joey Thompson about his project on popcorn. Joey is a fifth-grader at North Frederick Elementary School.

Staff photo by Sam Yu

SCIENCE FAIR COAXES STUDENTS TO INVESTIGATE, EXPLORE

By PATTI S. BORDA

News-Post Staff

pborda@fredericknewspost.com

Tornadoes, volcanoes, toads, dragons and magnets attracted student scientists Saturday at the 30th annual Frederick County Science and Engineering Fair.

About 300 students in elementary grades and home schools from across the county brought their projects for central viewing at Oakdale High School. They showed what they had hypothesized, investigated and con-

cluded about plants, animals, behavior, the environment, physics and electricity.

Ty Gallagher, a fourth-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School, turned a screwdriver into an electromagnet with guidance from his grandfather Bill Shaheen.

Ty's mother, Anne Gallagher, said the fair had been an opportunity for learning and family bonding.

Gallagher, formerly a molecular biologist, has books filled with scientific experiments for children. When the call went out for science projects,

she offered Ty one of the books, and he stopped when he saw something that required a screwdriver and a battery.

Shaheen took an interest, and Gallagher said Ty listens better to her father than to her, so it worked out ideally.

"For me it's a wonderful process for my dad and son to work together," Gallagher said.

Shaheen's eyes glistened with pride as Ty presented his work to one of three volunteer interviewers. Three

(See SCIENCE A-11)

Science

(Continued from A-1)

times during the fair the participants must describe their projects to a single interviewer.

The interviewer shows interest and coaxes out more knowledge than the students might have realized they had. The fair makes no awards, but issues all participants a certificate and ribbon.

Behind Gallagher, another participant's bell clanged rapidly. It was from another electromagnetic creation, and Shaheen smiled with admiration.

"I couldn't find my old bell,"

he said.

Zaz Shiao, a fourth-grader at North Frederick Elementary School, had investigated kidney bean growth.

Interviewer Joe Daly, a fifth-grade teacher at North Frederick, asked leading questions.

"Did you keep your water constant? ... What did we find?"

For most elementary students participation is optional: "They've come because they really want to," Daly said.

That was true for Max Harris, a first-grader from Centerville Elementary, his mother, Roxanne Harris, said. She said Max

and his big sister, Rachel, both got excited about the opportunity to do a project.

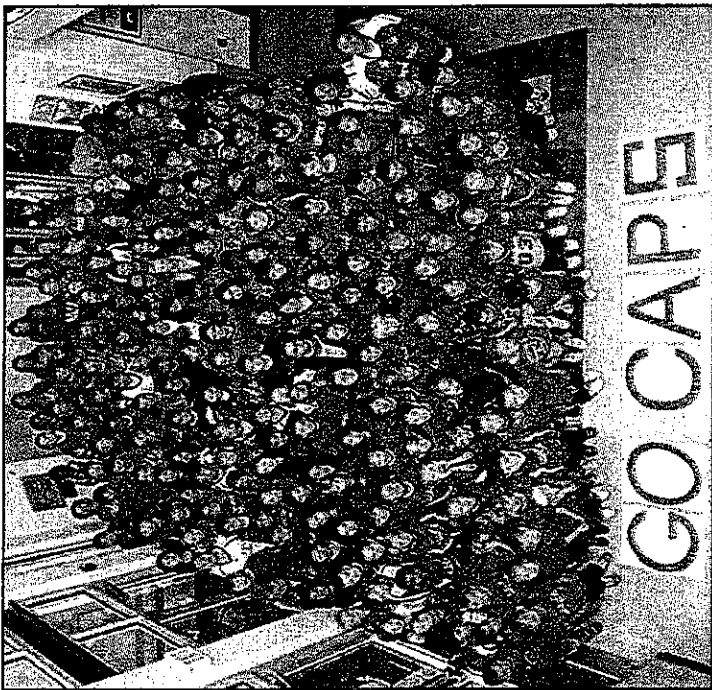
Max was dressed in his best blazer and necktie, ready to demonstrate tornadic activity in two liter-sized plastic soda bottles. Research and a mixture of detergent and water were about all he needed, he said.

Daly has nothing but praise for participants and the fair. The noncompetitive experience encourages student interest and holds anxiety at bay, he said.

"They've enjoyed science," he said. "Hopefully, they'll get hooked."

EVENTS

FNP 11/24/10



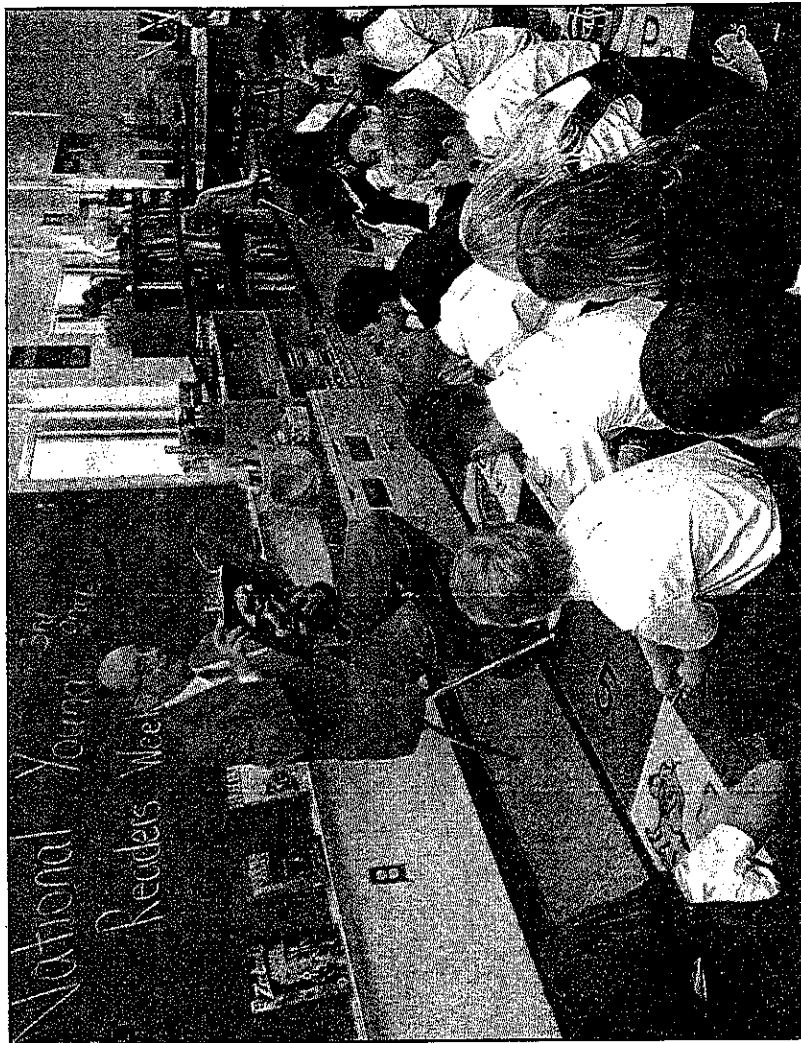
Courtesy photo

St. John 'Rocks the Red'

St. John Regional Catholic School students "Rocked the Red" by wearing Capitals colors on a recent out-of-uniform day. A photo was taken of 120 students and submitted to the Washington Capitals Click to Win program, which awards grants to metro area schools that demonstrate their Caps spirit. SJRCS was selected as one of five schools for the month of November to receive a \$500 grant for submitting its spirited photo. The school has the opportunity to win an additional \$1,000 grant from the Washington Capitals Charities if its photo receives the most online votes. Voting runs to Nov. 26 and can be accessed at <http://capitals.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=60466>.

FNP 11/24/10

EVE



Courtesy photo

Celebrity reader

Frederick Mayor Randy McClement recently visited St. John Regional Catholic School. In recognition of National Young Readers Week, the mayor was guest reader to students in the third grade.

EVENTS



Courtesy photo

Honored

St. John Regional Catholic School was recently recognized for its outstanding contributions to the economic vitality of Frederick County. Pictured, from left, are Michael O'Connor and Kelly Russell, Frederick city aldermen; Jean Wright, director of development/admissions, St. John Regional Catholic School; Michelle Day and Jackie Thomas, Frederick County Workforce Services; and Richard Griffin, director of the Department of Economic Development for the City of Frederick. The recognition was received during a recent tour of the school as part of the County Economic Development Office's Business Appreciation Month.

Maryland volunteers honored

By CATHOLIC REVIEW STAFF

Volunteers of Catholic schools in Central and Western Maryland are being celebrated.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Western Maryland Chapter honored Katherine Marshall from Emmittsburg's Mother Seton School for being an "outstanding fundraising volunteer" and for making a positive difference at the school in mid-November.

Marshall, the past chairwoman of the Mother Seton

School Board of Directors, chaired the Bicentennial Committee for the school's 200th Anniversary celebration and had been instrumental in securing contributions from benefactors.

"Kate lives the spirit of Mother Seton School in all that she does in her family, church, and community," said Sister JoAnne Goecke, a Daughter of Charity and the school's principal. "She is an enthusiastic, hard working, generous and thoughtful alum who gives back a hundred fold to the

school of her youth."

St. Mary Catholic School in Hagerstown volunteer Mary Grove was recognized by the AFP, even though her children graduated long ago. She continues to run rummage sales that raise \$15,000 annually, a com-

munity service to those who depend on the sale.

St. John Regional Catholic School parent Bill Ballantyne was recognized for his contribution of time, talent and treasure to the Frederick school and his many fundraising efforts.



St. John Regional School parent Bill Ballantyne (left) is honored for his volunteerism at the school as Principal Karen Smith and assistant principal Paul Fer offer their congratulations. (Courtesy St. John Regional School)