



SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOLS - May/June 2004

Mater Dolorosa School Students Create "Personal Memories" CD at CTN Studios

Mater Dolores Junior High teacher Maureen Zane capitalized on her 8th graders' use of filming as an educational tool throughout their junior high years by having them plan and produce a "personal video memory book". In planning the project, the students reflected upon their years at Mater Dolorosa. "Part of the brain-storming for the production was to include a vision of where they will be in ten years. Their final production was meant to be a tribute not only to one another but also to Mater Dolorosa where they have spent the last nine years," said Ms. Zane.

CTN provided the studio and use of its equipment free of charge. "The whole experience of using professional equipment was all they talked about once we returned," Ms. Zane exclaimed. "Needless to say, [the staff] made us so comfortable, and [their] patient presence was just what allowed the class to be themselves and share what they planned."

More and more teachers are discovering the value of film production in education at all levels. Film projects help to develop students' research and planning skills as well as encouraging their imaginations. Videos serve as invaluable diagnostic and assessment tools for projects, presentations, and portfolios in every field of study and across all grade levels. To find out how CTN can help you incorporate video in the classroom, call Ron at (650) 326-7850 or email ron@ctnba.org.



Mater Dolorosa students in the studio at CTN



St. Mary's, Gilroy Takes Top Honors

Three teams of Junior High students from St. Mary's took top honors in the Future City Regional Competition sponsored by National Engineers Week held at Santa Clara University on January 24th. Each team of students was mentored by engineers. Participants were required to design a city in the year 2150 using SimCity 3000 software. They were also required to write an essay about the benefits of plastics for seniors in the future, and construct a scale model of a portion their city using recycled materials. The prizes were awarded as follows:

- *Quicksilver*, designed by Nickie Ellis, Rebecca Mantecon and Amanda Nojasdera won "Most Technologically Advanced"
- *Spheronia*, designed by Annie Crisp, Deanna McGill and Anthony Pichardo won "People's Choice Award"
- *Witney*, designed by Stephanie Castillo, Katie Hammon, and Mary Huggins won Fourth Place out of the more than 35 teams

St. Joseph's, Crescent City Catholic School Principal, a Model of Giving

Becky Wood at Saint Joseph School in the Diocese of Santa Rosa is truly special - not only did she step in and take charge of a school in May of last year but she did so without accepting a salary. Becky has a long-time connection with the school, all six of her children have or are attending. Her faith and care has spread throughout the community; there has been a jump in enrollment of over 40% since she took over as principal. Last year at the annual fund raising event, Becky won the \$10,000 first prize in the school raffle and immediately donated it to St. Joseph's. CTN welcomes Becky and the staff as new members of CTN's growing community.





St. Elizabeth Seton Students, Palo Alto Receive Honors, Scholarships Awarded

Pictured is Mr. George Schultz with two outstanding students from St. Elizabeth Seton's eighth grade class; Eric Abarca and Antonio Cornelio. Both boys received scholarship funds to continue their Catholic education at the High School level. Eric will be attending Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton and Antonio will be attending St. Mary's in Stockton. Mr. Schultz contributes to the scholarship program every year in memory of his first wife who was very devoted to St. Elizabeth Seton. He also gives talks to the student body; this year he told them interesting stories from his experiences in Washington, Russia, and Rome.

St. Justin's, Santa Clara Academic Decathlon Team Wins Big

St. Justin's Academic Decathlon Team took 2nd place in the Logic Quiz while competing against 22 other schools on March 6th at St. Francis High school. Two Eighth Grade students deserve special recognition; Daniel Friedenbach placed 1st in Math and Danielle Smith placed 5th in Religion.

Sixth grade student Joey Medieros will appear in a new Nickelodeon made for TV movie called Monster House. It will air this fall.



WINNERS AT ST. GABRIEL'S



Academic Decathlon, San Francisco Schools St. Gabriel, Good Shepard and St. Anthony

Congratulations to St. Gabriel, Good Shepard and St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception Schools for finishing 1, 2 and 3 respectively in the March 26th Academic Decathlon which was held at Serra High School. St. Gabriel will go on to represent the Archdiocese in the statewide competition to be held May 1st in Los Angeles.

St. Paul's Elementary School Up Close and Personal With Bugs In National Bugscope Project



The Bugscope project is an educational outreach program for K-12 classrooms. Classrooms that participate mail their own specimens for examination under a very high-powered microscope. Students in the classroom remotely operate a scanning electron microscope to image "bugs" at high magnification. The microscope is remotely controlled in real time from a classroom computer over the Internet using a web browser. During their session, St. Paul's collected 258 images.

To learn more about the Bugscope project, go to: <http://bugscope.beckman.uiuc.edu/>



St. Victor's, San Jose Sr. Sharon Ann Breden Appointed to the Board of Directors

Our hats are off to Sr. Sharon Ann Breden who was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores or Young Singers.

Having problems spelling? Well Alvin Ciby of St. Victor's certainly does not as he placed 4th in the regional oral spelling bee sponsored by the San Francisco Chronicle. The first place winner goes on to the national spelling bee in Washington DC. Way to go Alvin!!

St. Christopher School, San Jose Award Filled Year

- Sarah Brown received 1st place at the academic decathlon for Social Studies.
- Genevieve Kelly received 1st place at the academic decathlon for Science.
- Megan Blach was awarded the Michael Miner Spirit Award at the conclusion of this year's Travelers Classic Basketball Tournament.
- Congratulations to Science Teacher Leni Tomasso who has had multiple award winners every year at the Science Synopsis held in March at the San Jose Convention Center.

