

Thursday Thoughts
Thursday April 1, 2010
Carlton Rider
Principal

A few weeks ago I shared with our Advisory Board the results of our Terra Nova Test in the area of mathematics. There are various sub-tests to the mathematics portion of the test which include: Number and Number Relations; Computation and Estimation; Operation Concepts; Measurement; Geometry and Spatial Sense; Data, Statistics, and Probability; Patterns, Functions, and Algebra; Problem Solving and Reasoning; Communication. During the past year, our teachers have concentrated on improving our students' math scores. As you know, for the past three years we have incorporated a program called Simple Solutions into our curriculum that provides daily review of math concepts. I believe that this program has helped our students to remember past material by reviewing the material on a daily basis. Many students are also involved in the Summer Simple Solutions program. I am sure that all of the above have factored into our students performing better on this year's Terra Nova, especially on the math portion of the test.

I wanted to share with you just how well our students did on this year's math portion of the Terra Nova. On the Grade 4 test, of the 9 areas tested our students scored at or above the diocesan average and were above the diocesan average in 8 of 9 areas. On the 5th grade test, our students scored at or above in all 9 areas and were above in 7 of 9 areas. Of the 8 areas tested by our 6th graders, our students were above in 1 of the 8 areas; were equal to the diocesan average in 4 of the 8 areas and below in 3 areas. Our 7th grade class scored above the diocesan average in all 8 areas tested. Our 8th graders were above the diocesan average in 2 of 8 areas; were equal to the diocesan average in 4 of 8 areas and below in 2 areas.

In a report from Battelle for Kids, which determines whether or not a class or individual has actually made at least a year's worth of progress based on that particular year's Terra Nova results, our current 4th, 5th and 7th grades showed an estimated mean gain of at most 2 standard errors below the reference gain but less than 2 standard errors above it while our 6th and 8th grades showed an estimated mean gain above the reference gain by 2 standard errors or more. Translated, that means that all of our classes tested showed at least a year's growth and in some instances more than a year's growth in the area of mathematics. That is very good news. Between now and the end of the school year I will be sharing more information from the Battelle for Kids program that shows class or student growth from year to year in the subject areas tested.

Congratulations to the following students who competed in the district science fair this past Saturday: Mikaela Brady, Allie McCrady, Kayla Miller, Jessica Wade and McKinley Walton. Receiving a superior rating at the district and earning a second alternate spot at the state competition on May 8th was Allie McCrady. Congratulations also to Kayla Miller, winner of a \$75.00 cash award for her project from the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Association. Thanks also to Mrs. Yapple for organizing this year's science

fair and working with our students in preparing them for our local as well as district competition.

I hope that you and your families will arrange to attend the special services that are a part of our Holy Week celebrations. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are the most important days in our church year and commemorate the institution of the Eucharist, the call to service in the washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday Mass, as well as recalling the passion and death of our Savior on Good Friday. With the blessing of the new fire and water at the Easter Vigil, we are all reminded of our baptismal promises and pray for those who will become members of our church during this special Mass.

Special blessings and prayers to all of you during this most holy of weeks.