

QUEST HEADLINES

Academy of St. Adalbert

2010 - 2011 School Year

Volume I, Issue I

December 2010

Quest Changes

The Academy of St. Adalbert Quest Program began this year with some changes that reflect recent statewide initiatives for gifted students.

Initially, the homeroom teachers reviewed each student's standardized test scores. Mrs. Bernardone, the Quest Teacher, then met with each homeroom teacher to discuss scores to determine eligibility for students at A.S.A.

To qualify for any gifted program in the state, students need to achieve a score in the top 1-2% of those students tested. In recognition of these standards, A.S.A. decided it was vital to the students'

continued improvement to include students in the top 5% of those students tested.

Each grade meets individually or with a team of students on a weekly basis. (See section of this newsletter for specific activities each grade is working on). Homework is typically given on a weekly basis, with a 3 strikes and you're out policy.

Another change implemented this year is with grades on the report cards. Mrs. Bernardone provides the homeroom teacher a Quest grade for each student in each subject area they have worked during the mark-

ing period. This means Quest grades now have the potential to impact the report card.

For questions regarding the Quest program, please contact Mrs. Bernardone at jbernardone@saintadalbert.org.



Quest for Knowledge!

Kindergarten Testing

Mrs. Bernardone provides testing for each student recommended to the Quest program by homeroom teachers. Prior to Mrs. Thompson's maternity leave, she made recommendations to Mrs.

Bernardone.

Testing will be conducted soon. Upon our return from Christmas break, eligible students will begin an introduction to the Quest pro-

gram when they meet on a weekly basis.



Inside this issue:

Newspaper In Education with The Plain Dealer 2

Stock Market Challenge 2

Diversity Conference at J.C.U. 2

A.S. A. Summer Enrichment Academy 3

Archaeological Dig 3

Special Activities to Challenge Yourself!

- Gr. 2-4 Book Club
- Gr. 5-8 Book Club
- SMAD: Student Council

Newspaper in Education with The Plain Dealer

The Plain Dealer's NIE program has been serving the Northeast Ohio Education Community for approximately 50 years. Over 500 schools use The Plain Dealer in the classroom each school year to teach a variety of subjects including social studies, language arts, mathematics, science and more.

By using the newspaper and accompanying curriculum guides, students gain a better understanding of their local community and the

world around them, cultivate critical thinking and writing skills, decision-making and problem-solving techniques through a variety of reading, writing, and research activities. Students also develop lifelong reading habits that serve them long after they leave the classroom to become tomorrow's consumers and workforce.

Research has shown that students who use newspapers as a learning resource, increase reading skills, have

a better awareness of the world and their achievement scores are higher. The Newspaper Association of America (NAA) Foundation commissioned a study, which found that students in schools with at least some Newspaper in Education programs scored 10 percent better than students in schools that had no Newspaper in Education programs.

All students in the Quest program will be using the Newspaper in Education program with support and guidance.



Stock Market Challenge

Students in grades 4—8 have participated in the Stock Market Game sponsored through The Plain Dealer and the University of Cincinnati.

This game is an online market simulation allowing students to manage a virtual portfolio with real-time data and compete against other teams and schools regionally. This encourages students to get engaged while teaching them the fundamentals

of economics and topics on saving and investing.

Each student starts with virtual cash account of \$100,000, students strive to create the best-performing portfolio using a live trading simulation. They work together in teams, practicing leadership, organization, negotiation, and cooperation as they compete for the top spot. The setup is engaging, and the learning is a natural part of the

experience.

The Stock Market Game™ program offers a vast library of learning materials correlated to national voluntary and state educational standards in Math, Business Education, Economics, English/Language Arts, Technology, Social Studies and Family and Consumer Sciences. This resource has inspired many teachers to incorporate the program into classes in creative ways - at all levels, from fourth grade to college, all across the curriculum.



Diversity Conference

Quest students in grades 6—8 were invited to participate in a Diversity Conference held on the John Carroll University Campus. Students were divided into separate groups. The groups then discussed the diversity, or lack of diversity, of their schools.

Students then came back with their classmates and shared their experiences. The

pivotal activity the group discussed was how to improve relations in their community. Topics included bullying, hate, and differences.

After the conference, Mrs. Bernardone's daughter, Talyah, who attends John Carroll University as a sophomore, provided students with an informal tour of the campus and her dorm room.

We are planning to attend the Spring Diversity Conference so that we can learn how to keep improving our school and community.

Chaperones for the day, Mrs. Bernardone and Mr. Fell, were very impressed with the students of A.S.A. and the students' commitment to bringing the message of diversity back to A.S.A.



After the Diversity Conference, A.S.A. students met with Mrs. Bernardone's daughter, Talyah who provided them with a quick tour of her campus.



Academy of St. Adalbert
56 Adalbert St.
Berea, OH 44017

Jane R. Bernardone,
Quest Teacher
440-234-5529
jbernardone@saintadalbert.org



Come and learn!

Exciting News!

Summer Enrichment Academy

Plans are under way for the first, annual Summer Enrichment Academy for students. Students who enroll in the Summer Enrichment Academy will attend a class for two and half hours each morning for one week, More information will be coming this February.

Johnson's Island Archaeological Dig

5/4 - Quest students in Grades 5-8 will go to Johnson's Island and assist Heidelberg College in finding artifacts from a Civil War Prison Camp.

More information will be coming regarding all of these events.....

"The Archaeological Dig is one of the best field trips I have ever been on. We actually had the opportunity to dig in the dirt to find Civil War Prison Camp artifacts."
Niko Bernardone,
A.S.A. Alumni

We're on the Web:
saintadalbert.org
Click on the Quest
Journal Section