

The Charger

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Science Fair features exceptional projects

By Michelle B.

The Science Fair began bright and early the morning of February 12. Participants were there by 8:30 a.m. setting up their various projects. One hundred students with their seventy-four projects were assembled in the gym waiting to be judged at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Fred Maier, head of the Itasca Nature Center, was one of the judges. Mr. Maier offered some tips on what the judges were looking for. He advised students to have a variable and a control, and to focus on only one thing.

Eighth grader, Liz F., won the Golden Test Tube, the highest award for Peacock students competing in the fair, for her project which tested to see which orange

juice brands lived up to the claims made on their labels.

Mrs. Kohles, a parent, particularly liked the Vitamin C experiment. She commented, "it was unique, as a consumer, it is something you don't often see."

According to several observers, there were many interesting projects at the fair. Seventh grade social studies teacher, Mr. Peel, commented that along with Liz Furgat's experiment, he thought that fourth grader, Julia N.'s density power point analysis, and sixth grader, Anthony M.'s germ experiment were exceptional.

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Today's students are tomorrow leaders

An interview with the mayor of Itasca

By Liz F., News Editor

According to Claudia "GiGi" Gruber, the mayor of Itasca, middle school students should be interested in politics even though they couldn't vote. All the issues raised now will eventually affect them.

Students, she said, are our leaders of tomorrow. If they couldn't understand what was going on today, how could they lead tomorrow? She also thought that it was very important for students to read newspapers and to stay informed about politics.

A Republican, Ms. Gruber, has been mayor of Itasca since 1998. She began her political career when she ran for village trustee and was elected in 1993 to be on the village board.

Mayor Gruber is not actively campaigning for any candidate in the primary, but she did say that she was personally supporting Texas Governor, George W. Bush.

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Peacock reaches for the Blue

By Patrycja M.

Peacock is definitely reaching for the blue, the Blue Ribbon award. Peacock Junior High School has been nominated for the first time to receive this nationally recognized award.

The Blue Ribbon award, which was established in 1982 by the Secretary of Education, is used to "identify and give public recognition to outstanding public and private schools across the United States." Peacock is one of one hundred and ninety-nine schools eligible to receive this award.

Getting this far in the competition is considered an achievement in itself. The application process took almost a year to complete. Some of the people involved in this project were teachers, Mrs. Angello, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Karttunen, Mrs. Bernahl, Mrs. Crown, Mrs. Laughlin, Mrs. Leikin, Mr. Loest, Mr. Poremba, Mrs. Slykas and counselor, Dr. West.

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All this and more!