

# School

Find out if you  
than a middle

## Class Notes

By Joe Landon, Collier Public School

**T**he new television show, *Smarter than a Fifth Grader*, is a huge hit.

The week that the Fox network aired three episodes, it ranked fifth and sixth in the TV ratings, right behind the week's three "American Idol" episodes. I think Collier Public Schools has it a chance to see if you are smarter than a high school student.

No, The Education Channel hasn't produced our own reality shows. It's against real world television.

The chance to see if you are smarter than a high school student comes in the form of the Collier County Spelling Bee. See, the Spelling Bee featured Collier County students, all winners from 16 middle schools, a grade-level spelling bee at his or her school and the county-wide competition.

So if you want to see if you can beat seventh and eighth graders, just watch the telecast at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Tuesday, Mar. 27, on The Education Channel.

Now the other competition - you are smarter than a high school student or should I say a lot tougher? The 10th School Academic Tournament was held on The Education Channel at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 28, and 8 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 29.

Here are two examples of the questions:

- \* Math - Find all solutions of  $3x^2 - 10x + 3 = 0$  over the closed interval from 0 to  $\pi$ .
- \* Science - Name the type of cell that is found in the epidermis of the skin.



In the

Featuring  
Debbie Cox  
of Barron  
Collier School

Barron Collier High School Dean Debbie Cox is a 15-year educator who has served at Barron Collier High School and her husband Daniel, Asst. Principal at Gate High School, have two daughters. Her hobbies include spinning and reading. The strength of my school is the quality of the teachers who positively engage students, willing to go the extra mile, and a strong commitment to making Barron Collier a great place to learn.



Guest author Robert Dean Bair and his wife Mary Dell Tinsley-Bair (far right) are pictured with the Village School Bring a Book Committee. From left, front: Vicki Smith and Kim Heaslip. Middle: Julie Messenger, Dean Bair, and hostess Leslie Palumberi. Back: Janine Jones, Tina Boole, Linda Slade and Barbara Stein.

## Bring a Book expands its 'fun-raising'

By Cheryl Rondeau

**T**he fun is spreading. Karen Clawson's dream to secure library books and bring community together recently expanded from Laurel Oak Elementary to The Village School with a second Bring-a-Book, Bring-a-Friend Fun-raiser.

Clawson, president of the Supporters for the School Library, said the first-time event collected more than 300 new children's books for the media center.

"It was truly a magical evening," Clawson explained of the fundraiser. "It was an intimate gathering celebrating books and kids."

Clawson says that fundraisers like the Bring-a-Book, Bring-a-Friend, encourage parents, teacher, and community members—to come together to help enrich a child's life by donating a book.

"The school library books get lost, worn out, or just outdated," Clawson said. "It's important that we replace them periodically."

Guests were asked to inscribe a brief message in their donated book. Clawson says that most of them did and some were very sweet and inspirational.

"The kids love to look inside the cover and see who donated it," she said. "They get excited when it's someone they know."

Special guest for the gathering

*"This is a wonderful way to meet other people who are interested in giving great kids great literature..."*

**KAREN CLAWSON**  
Supporters for the School Library

was Robert Dean Bair, author of "The Cloisters of Canterbury," a spy thriller set in 1948.

Originally from Ohio, Bair and his wife, Mary Dell Tinsley-Bair, now call South Florida their home. A percentage of royalties from Bair's novel goes to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa.

Clawson believes that the Bring-a-Book, Bring-a-Friend concept is a frontline for education since reading is so important to enrich a child's life.

"Sometimes a book becomes a best friend," she said.

The Bring-a-Book, Bring-a-Friend idea came about several years ago when Clawson was looking for a low cost, high yield, way to help collect books for the library at Laurel Oak Elementary, where her children attended.

She says she was looking for a way to encourage parents to buy a book for the media center to help

offset some of the funding.

"School library budgets also have to include DVDs, CDs, and computer disks, not just books," she explained. "This is a wonderful way to meet other people who are interested in giving great kids great literature."

Guests at the Bring-a-Book, Bring-a-Friend event were treated to some edible works of art created by Norman Love Confections. Norman Love is a former executive pastry chef at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples. Her artistry in chocolate is known worldwide for his unique recipes.

The Village School is the second under the umbrella of the Supporters of the School Library, a not for profit organization started by Clawson, to spread the message of getting books into the hands of our children.

Barnes and Noble, along with Borders, hosted a book fair for the Village School Library by providing a "wish" table filled with books people could easily pick out for their donation.

Money that was donated allowed some of the students an opportunity to hand pick the books themselves. "We're still feeling our way. A lot of people love reading and are interested in giving the gift of a book," Clawson said. "And when the whole community gets involved, big things can happen."