

For Immediate Release

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Library Grant Inspires Local Students to Spread Their Wings
St. Michael Parish School Receives ISLMA Library Award

August 26, 2010 –Wheaton, Illinois- The St. Michael Parish School Library will receive a complete set of 2010-2011 Monarch Book Award nominees. This grant is awarded by the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) and the Library Book Selection Service (LBSS) Endowment Fund. Grants are given at four levels that correspond to the four Illinois children's book awards: Monarch (K-2nd) Bluestem (3rd-5th), Caudill (6th-8th), and Abraham Lincoln (high school).

This year, over 435 libraries applied for the 190 grants that were awarded at all levels. St. Michael Parish School Librarian, Lisa Palasek, applied for the Monarch grant. The Wheaton school was one of 50 winning schools in the Monarch division.

"I think the 3rd time is definitely the charm, because I applied for a library grant this past May for the third year in a row and this year we won," said Palasek. "We read many of the nominated books during library time and in February we have "election week" in the library. Students vote for their favorite nominee, and these votes are submitted to the ISLMA. In the spring, the state-wide winners are announced. I am so excited to receive these books. They are always very popular with the children."

About the ISLMA / LBSS Endowment Fund

The Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) has established the Library Book Selection Service (LBSS) Endowment Fund after accepting the LBSS assets.

Trustees of the LBSS Endowment Fund have set up grant opportunities for school and public libraries participating in at least one of the 2010 Illinois Readers' Choice Award programs - the Monarch, Bluestem, Rebecca Caudill, or Abraham Lincoln Award.

Those libraries may apply for a complete set of titles in one appropriate level. The object of the fund is to reach the children of Illinois and continue to promote reading in Illinois.

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Above (L-R): Morgan Haywood (2nd grade), Nate Keough (2nd grade), Nolan Shanahan (1st grade), Maggie Gnorski (1st grade)