

## Press Clippings 04/22/2019

---The Daily Herald---04/21/2019

### Abbott Middle School places 4th in division at Science Olympiad State Finals

By: Diane P. Harty



"Team Abbott" from Abbott Middle School in Elgin came in fourth overall in their division at the Illinois State Science Olympiad Finals April 13.

It was a day of scientific victories at the Illinois State Science Olympiad Finals held at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Fifty middle schools and 50 high schools came together at U of I to compete in the Olympic Games of Science.

Varsity teams competed in 23 different scientific events and junior varsity teams competed in five trial scientific events.

Elgin Area School District U-46 was represented by Abbott Middle School in Elgin, Canton Middle School in Streamwood, and Eastview Middle School in Bartlett.

All three middle schools reigned triumphant and won a bid to state at the regional competition held at Rock Valley Community College in March.

However, it was "Team Abbott" that conquered and placed fourth overall in their division at the Illinois State Finals on April 13.

"Team Abbott," with 23 dedicated seventh- and eighth-graders and three coaches, has been working tirelessly for the past 7 months preparing to compete.

In the end, "Team Abbott" won medals in eight of 23 varsity events (including two first-place medals) and two of the five junior varsity events. This led to their fourth place ranking in the division.

In Abbott's six-year history in the Science Olympiad, this is the second time to state, but the first time ever placing in the top five schools of their division!

Elgin Area School District U-46, Abbott, Canton, and Eastview couldn't be more proud of all their victorious "Science Olympians!" It's a great day for science!

**---The Courier-News---04/21/2019**

## **Third-graders give \$1,000 to Food for Greater Elgin**

**By: Rafael Guerrero**



Hilltop Elementary School students present a \$1,000 check to Food for Greater Elgin at the April 10 Elgin City Council meeting. The third-graders participated in an in-school program about philanthropy that led to the donation.

When a dozen Hilltop Elementary School students presented a check for \$1,000 to the Food for Greater Elgin organization this month, it was a decision they did not take lightly.

The third-graders had spent weeks researching Elgin-area organizations that help people in need through a new program at the Elgin school meant to expand their grasp of the concept of philanthropy. The goal was to force them to think about how who should receive their money and why.

Hilltop is the only school outside of Maryland to participate in the Kids for Kids Fund, a program offered through Maryland-based nonprofit The Giving Square.

The premise is children know they want to be “good citizens, but there (isn’t) enough of a connection as to why,” Giving Square founder Amy Neugebauer said.

That Hilltop was chosen to be one of the 10 schools participating can be attributed to local parent Toya Randall, who had a connection to the program. Neugebauer said she visited the school last summer and immediately knew it would be a good fit.

The two sides finalized plans for the pilot program in the fall and launched it in January.

The students involved had to apply to be a part of it, and they and several adult volunteers met once a week for eight weeks to discuss what organization should receive the \$1,000 they’d been given by Kids for Kids, Hilltop Principal Kyle VonSchnase said.

Students had eight Elgin-area organizations to consider, and the experience helped them hone their communication, leadership and research skills, school social worker Madison Peppas said.

“A large portion of this program is to educate them on philanthropy,” Peppas said. “Many kids don’t have that exposure.”

The students were divided into two groups, and forced to narrow down their choices to just one.

Food for Greater Elgin stood out to the students, Peppa said, because they liked that the money would help area families get food. For every \$1 donated, the agency can purchase up to \$8 in food, according to Food for Greater Elgin.

Students presented their \$1,000 donation at the April 10 Elgin City Council meeting. At the meeting, Mayor Dave Kaptain read a proclamation recognizing the students' work.

"I'm only 9 years old and I'm already meeting the mayor," Zachary Randall said about the experience.

Food for Greater Elgin board members attended the meeting, as did Hilltop staff, volunteers and the students' parents.

"We can fill 400 grocery carts because of what you have decided to do," board member Scott Richmond told the students at the meeting. "Four hundred families will have food for a week because of the generosity and consideration of all of you in doing this."

The program had an impact on student Lillian Thornley, 8.

"I recommend it because you learn how to help your community, you learn how and why to help people," Lillian said.

## **SPORTS**

**---The Courier-News---04/19/2019**

### **Congratulations to our winner!**

Lexie Sinclair, Bartlett sophomore

**By: Jon Langham**



Lexie Sinclair, a sophomore guard for the Bartlett girls basketball team, was named the 2018-19 Courier-News Player of the Year. Sinclair, who has already started two full seasons on the varsity, averaged 15.3 points, 3.0 assists and 2.6 steals as the Hawks finished with a 29-5 record and reached a Class 4A sectional championship game. She scored 26 points to lead Bartlett to a 60-52 win over two-time defending state champion Geneva in the sectional semifinals.