



Contact: Jenny Van Soelen
Marketing Director
Phone: (712) 329-9000
vansoelenj@saintalbertschools.org

For Immediate Release

March 26, 2009

Saint Albert Student Sends Message to Space

Scott Theulen, an 8th grade student at Saint Albert Catholic Schools, has been selected as a semi-finalist in the “Name the Mars Rover” contest sponsored by NASA and Disney.

The contest challenged students throughout the country to submit a name for the space rover that will be sent to Mars. Scott’s entry, “Panorama,” was selected among the top 30 of more than 9,000 entries. Scott is the only student from Iowa or Nebraska to be selected.

As a semi-finalist in the contest, Scott has won the opportunity to send a written message stored on a microchip that will be carried to Mars on the rover. The rover is scheduled to launch in 2011 and land on Mars in 2012. The rover’s mission is to continue to look for life and water on Mars, which is an important step in human exploration to that planet.

Scott found out about the contest from his Junior High Science Teacher, Ms. Tarra Beyer. She provided extra credit to any student who submitted a name to the contest. Scott said he was shocked to be a semi-finalist, but he thinks “it’s really cool.” He plans to pursue a career in science and hopes one day to travel to Mars and retrieve his message.

Scott is still putting the finishing touches on his message for the microchip. “So far, I’m going to say that I hope to be the first one to find my message someday on Mars,” he said, “and that I hope whoever reads my message enjoys a ‘panoramic’ view of our planet.”

Scott is the son of Jeff and Julie Theulen of Council Bluffs.