

## Grant Gives St. Mary's Students Chance to Study Science

**Boise**—St. Mary's School, Moscow, is a beneficiary of a special grant awarded to Dr. David McIlroy, Department of Physics and Dr. John Davis, College of Education, at the University of Idaho.

This National Science Foundation Grant puts graduate fellows in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to help them learn about physical science.

Miles Beaux, graduate fellow, worked with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders first semester and is now in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom.

"Miles Beaux brought a fresh approach to teaching science. The students responded well to Miles," said Karen Herrenbruck, fourth grade teacher. "They loved his sense of humor and the activities he engaged them in. He brought in 'cool science toys' that he used to present basic concepts of physics. The students loved having him in class and really appreciated his enthusiasm."

Some of the activities students have done include an egg drop (to see if it can be cushioned to not break), using red cabbage juice to learn about acids and bases, dissecting a computer and a worm, and figuring out why things float or sink.

He also started a science club several days a week to get away from the traditional way of teaching science and to let the students discover things on their own.

Some comments from fourth and fifth graders about the program are:

"It's fun! We're learning about acids and bases." *Richard Palmatier*

"You get to do things you don't usually do in science class." *Dru Rooney.*

"We discovered that if you put an egg in two halves of a tennis ball, cotton and packing peanuts, add balloons and drop it from the fire escape, it will survive."  
*Tony Quesnell*

The overall goal of the University of Idaho's National Science Foundation grant program "is to improve the communication skills and teaching ability of graduate students in physical sciences and engineering, while increasing inquiry-based physical science being taught in rural elementary schools (grades 4-6) in North Idaho."

[Photo on next page]



**WORM DISSECTION — Miles Beaux, University of Idaho graduate fellow, standing, and Paul Allan, his supervisor, dissect a worm with St. Mary's Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders, from front to back, Cherish Connelly, Hannah Kiblen and Kennedy McGurkin, Moscow. (St. Mary's staff photo)**