



Photos by Raul Roa Staff

Fourth grader Michelle Perez, 10, above, of Whittier, writes a Social Studies paper in St. Bruno's Catholic School's computer lab on Friday. The school received a \$25,000 donation from local grocery store Valu-Plus for new computers and equipment.

Grocery store fills order for computers

By Sandra T. Molina Staff Writer

WHITTIER — Thanks to the generosity of a local business, the students at St. Bruno's Catholic School will have a lab equipped with 20 new computers.

Officials from Valu Plus Food Warehouse, 15055 Mulberry Drive, presented a check for \$25,000 to the kindergarten-through eighth-grade school, which will be used to buy new computers.

They will replace the seven-year-old, black Gateway computers currently used by students.

"It's huge for us to get this money to be used to purchase greatly needed computers for our students," said Principal Peggy Vice.

Although she called the donation by Value Plus "unusual," it's not for company officials.

"We've been doing this type of community outreach for 12 years," said Conrad Alvarez, store spokesman.

During that time, more than \$1 million has been donated to schools where stores are located.

St. Bruno's was one of four schools to receive money in California, Nevada and Utah.

The current computers, which teachers and students complain freeze, will be placed in the school's 10 classrooms.

"They're still good enough to help teachers with their lesson plans," Vice said.

Presently, classrooms are equipped with a single computer for the teacher.

"I think it's very good," said fourth-grader



Fourth grade teacher Tricia Holmquist, center, directs students in the new computer lab.

Sara Gee, 10, of the donation. "The new computers will help our school a lot."

Her lab partner, Lauren Gutierrez, 10, agreed.

"It was hard when the computers would freeze because it would take longer to do our work," she said.

In fact, said fourth-grade teacher Tricia Homquist, the delay caused by the outdated equipment would take up at least 20 minutes of learning time from the hourlong lab sessions.

"Students would move to another computer, and that one would quit too," she said.

"I'm so glad to be part of a company that supports the community, especially children," said Art Flores, Valu Plus store director.

"It'll be great when they get their computers, because it's a big part of their learning experience," she said.

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