



The St. Augustine Monthly

St. Augustine School † Founded in 1857 † www.staug-md.org

A School You Can Have Faith In † September 2009

From the Principal's Desk...

The school year is off to a great start! Our 8th graders had a marvelous team building day on August 25. Please check out the amazing photos on our school website. It was wonderful to begin with Mass and a very special blessing of the playground. The children are enjoying the new equipment immensely. We also had a wonderful celebration for the feast of St. Augustine. I encourage parents to celebrate their children's patron saint feast with something special and festive. Thanks to Mrs. Mobley and Mrs. Broglie for planning the afternoon. I am also very grateful to our parent volunteers who give so generously. Thanks to them everything went very smoothly. The children were refreshed by tasty snowballs donated by Mr. Claude Sacker, owner of Cindy's Softserve and grandfather of Adam, Matt and Will Quick. Our short first week concluded with the first of many family dinners by Ms. Ruth. The food was delicious and the children had fun visiting with one another. In addition to providing an opportunity for fun and fellowship we raised \$1,500. These funds are being used toward outfitting another classroom for interactive white board technology. So far equipment has been purchased for six classrooms. We need to raise an additional \$7,500 to outfit the remaining three classrooms.

This week our focus is on academics. Our introductions and celebrations are behind us and the teachers and students are beginning to tackle new curricula and explore new concepts. I am delighted that the children in kindergarten and grades 2-5 have new reading texts and students in grades K-7 have new math programs. Technology is more integrated into these programs and the possibilities for challenging the students are nearly limitless. Ms. Graf and Mrs. Mobley will be helping the teachers utilize technology to engage the students in many ways. Although the religion curriculum has not changed, we are using an updated version of the religion series in grades K-5. One of the improvements to the texts is in the area of family involvement. I urge you to read these home pages and try some of the activities suggested.

The teachers are busy preparing for Back to School Night. They are anxious to meet with you to discuss specifics regarding their curriculum and their expectations of you and your child. I hope that every child will have a parent in attendance for these very important events. Parent involvement and good communication between home and school are critical keys to student success. The Back to School Nights afford you the opportunity to connect with your children's teachers and begin to develop a partnership that enhances their school experience. Reading materials from school like this newsletter help to keep you informed and involved. I realize that there are many attachments to *The Monthly* in September. I urge you to review them all. I ask that you especially note the invitation from Archbishop O'Brien's Blue Ribbon Committee to voice your opinions about the importance of Catholic Schools to you and your children. If you cannot attend the listening sessions, please go on line and let your voice be heard. I am also happy to hear your concerns and suggestions and look forward to doing so at any time. I will be hosting a Principal's Coffee on September 24 at 9:15 AM and 7:15 PM.

As we begin a new year I hope that all of us will once again make a commitment to do our best to support the children. Our mission is first and foremost to form the children into disciples of Christ. As parents and teachers our choices, attitudes and actions provide an example that the children will follow. Respecting one another, complying with the rules, remaining positive and giving one another the benefit of the doubt are choices that build up the kingdom of God. The six pillars of good character reinforce the Gospel values and provide a framework that helps us achieve our primary mission. I pray that we will all work together and with God's help we will all grow in wisdom and grace.

~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal

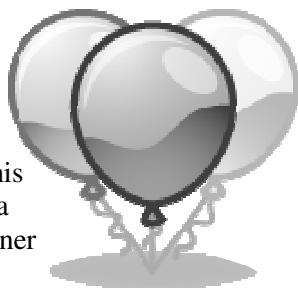
ATTENTION PARENTS! Room Parents are still needed for grades K, 2, 4 and 5. Room parents receive an **automatic 20 hours** of volunteer service. If you are interested, please contact the school office as soon as possible. **THANKYOU!**

Expanding Extracurricular Offerings

We would like to encourage our students to discover their talents and expand their interests by offering some new after school sports and clubs. We are seeking parents who might be willing to lead some small after school groups. If you have a talent to share and are willing to make a short term commitment to our students, please contact the school office. Our first new offering will be a middle school cross country team. **We have been invited to join a local Catholic School cross country league. It is a very limited commitment. If you are willing to coach our first cross country team, please contact the office immediately.**

Join Us for an Evening of Food & Fun!

Don't miss St. Augustine School's "Back to School Dinner & Family Fun Night" on Friday, September 25 from 4-8 PM in the hall. This very special event will feature a delicious homemade buffet dinner prepared by Miss Ruth, fun games for kids, moon bounce, DJ, face painting, baked goods wheels, 50/50 raffle, and fun for the entire family! Please see the attached flyer for details. **Donations of homemade baked goods are needed. Please return the attached form if you are able to donate homemade brownies, cupcakes, cookies, cake, fudge, etc.** Thank you! We look forward to seeing everyone on the 25th!



The Book Fair is Right Around the Corner...

St. Augustine's Scholastic Book Fair will be held **September 3-10** in the Burke Wing. The Book Fair will be open from 6:00-7:00 PM prior to both Back to School Nights (September 3 & 8). Please take advantage of this great opportunity to purchase books for your children... Christmas is just around the corner! The book fair offers many titles of quality and award-winning literature for children and adults alike. Teachers will be posting their own "Wish List" of books for their classrooms and they



would greatly appreciate any purchases from their list. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. If you have volunteered to help at the Book Fair, you will receive a reminder slip indicating the shift you will be working.

Hot Lunch Expands

Hot lunch is provided every day to students who have ordered it in advance. Lunch order forms are sent home the month prior and orders and payment must be turned in by the due date at the bottom of the form. **Payment by check is preferred. If you must pay in cash, please send in the exact amount so no change has to be sent home. In addition, please do not send in more than \$1 in coins.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



New this year...Soup, salad and fresh fruit are available for purchase on a daily basis. Soup and salad are \$1.50 each and fruit is .50. We thank Miss Ruth for providing these "extras" for our students to enjoy!

Scrip Takes Off!

The new Scrip Committee is working hard to increase our SCRIP profit. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for the school this year. There are new ordering options which we will present at Back to School Night. Scrip is on sale every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:34-9:40 a.m. in the hall and Tuesday afternoons from 3:20-4:00 p.m. in the Burke Wing. **Don't miss this great opportunity to support a program that directly benefits your family and our school!** Our scrip inventory includes grocery stores like Giant, Safeway and Super Fresh, restaurants like Red Robin, Red Lobster and Outback, and popular shops like Kohl's, Home Depot and Bed Bath & Beyond. For a complete list of participating retailers, please visit www.glscrip.com.

Welcome Back, Parents!

Please mark your calendar for "Back to School Night" for grades K-5 on **Tuesday, September 8** at 7 p.m. Topics for discussion will include the student handbook, uniforms, volunteer hours, aftercare, upcoming special events, HSA activities and much more. Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about their plans and expectations for the new school year. "Back to School Night" for all middle school parents will be held on **Thursday, September 3** at 7 p.m. Parents of children in

grades 6-8 are urged to attend this important meeting where goals and expectations of the middle school team will be discussed. We hope to see you there!

Uniform Exchange

Please join us in the library at 6:30 p.m. at both Back to School Night's where we will have used uniforms on sale. All pieces are a bargain at only \$5 each! Do you have uniforms that your children no longer wear or have outgrown? Bring them with you and exchange them for something else, or receive a credit for a future exchange. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Uniform Exchange Coordinator, **Mrs. Kirsten Allen**, at kallen246@aol.com. Volunteers are needed to help at both exchanges. **To volunteer, please contact Mrs. Allen as soon as possible. Thank you!**

Save Those Boxtops!



School is back and so is the Fall Box Tops Contest! Please save your box tops from participating products and send them to school in a baggie or envelope labeled with your child's grade (**Don't forget to trim the box tops to size!**). **Every box top means money for our school!** The class with the highest average of box tops by **September 30** will receive a **pizza party** and **free dress pass!** Ask family, neighbors and friends to help you! If you have any questions regarding the boxtops program, please contact Mrs. Joseline Castanos at 410-582-8032 or j_castanos@comcast.net. Thank you for your support! There will be several contests throughout the year so keep an eye on the Monthly Newsletter, Friday Flier, and our Box Tops Webpage at http://www.staug-md.org/box_tops.asp. Thanks!

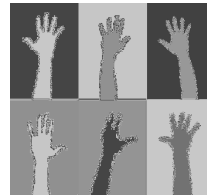
CHARACTER COUNTS!

Once again this year, we will be working diligently to promote good character within our school community. Students will be encouraged to demonstrate the 6 pillars of good character (**trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship**) both at school and at home. Teachers and staff will model these pillars and teach students how they can make a positive difference in the community and the world by exemplifying good character. We encourage all of our parents to take advantage of opportunities at home to stress the importance of the six pillars of good character. Together, we can all make a difference!

STAND Information

If you are interested in working with children in any capacity at St. Augustine's you must complete STAND training. STAND packets were distributed to new families today. The STAND training video and printed materials are now available on-line at www.archbalt.org. If you prefer to have the training in person a session will be held on Wednesday, September 23 from 7-9 PM in the convent basement. Pre-registration is required by calling 410-796-3040. You are not STAND certified until all the paperwork has been submitted and processed. You may not volunteer until your STAND card is issued to you. If you are interested in obtaining STAND certification, please contact the school office.

Earn Your Volunteer Hours Now!



Volunteers are needed to assist with the "Back to School Dinner & Family Fun Night" on **Friday, September 25**.

Parents are needed to help prepare food, set up the hall, serve food, sell tickets at the door, and assist with the

games, moon bounce and baked goods wheel. Please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org or 410-796-3040 if you are interested. This is a great, fun way to get a jumpstart on your volunteer hours!

Thank you for donating your time and talent in order to make this a great event!

Home & School Association News...

The HSA is looking forward to a year of fellowship and fun for our families, friends, and surrounding communities. We have many exciting events planned so please mark your calendar:

- Halloween Bingo...October 30**
- Longaberger Basket Bingo...November 14**
- Pasta Dinner with Santa...December 4**
- Roller Skating...February (TBA)**
- Art Auction...March 6**

At our Back to School Nights we will be presenting more about the HSA, its role and our need for volunteers to make our events successful.

Thank you,
Deb Goodman, HSA President