



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † October 2009

From the Principal's Desk...

I am currently serving on a team that is tasked with visiting and evaluating the viability of three schools in the archdiocese of Baltimore. The faculty, staff and I are also getting ready to welcome such a team of educators to our school on October 14. Thus I have been spending a great deal of time thinking about the value of Catholic education and its future in the archdiocese, where the Catholic School system began two hundred years ago. Despite huge economic challenges and the fact that we are no longer educating a predominantly immigrant population, I am more convinced than ever that a Catholic education forms children for a life of discipleship and service like no other education. In addition, our school is providing an academic experience that is comparable to what can be found in the best public schools and in an environment where everyone knows them by name and is concerned about their well being and safety. My belief in not only the viability of our school, but in its absolute necessity for the good of our church and our society was confirmed recently when I read the prayers for a new school year written by our third graders. With very little prompting from their teacher, Ms. Sunderland, the students beautifully expressed their desires to learn not only about math, science and social studies, but how to be more kind, responsible and loving children of God. These prayers will be published on the school website soon. I urge you to read them, especially if you are in need of a little inspiration.

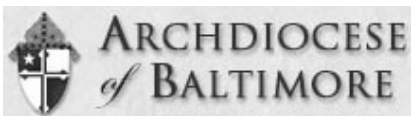
On a number of dates listed on the invitation included in this newsletter, the archdiocese and the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee, the task force planning for the future of our schools, will be conducting a listening session at various locations. The members of this committee need to know that we value our schools and the contribution they make to our children, our families, our church and our community. I attended the meeting last night at Resurrection School. It was encouraging to hear parents and teachers express their dedication to Catholic education. If you cannot make any of these meetings, I urge you to send your comments to the Blue Ribbon Committee at www.archbalt.org/blueribboncommittee. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the sacrifices you make to give your child a Catholic education. I am confident that God will bless you abundantly for all you do to help your child be the best student and best person he or she can be.

~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal

Parent Access for grades 3-8 is now open. Please note the **NEW** website address for Parent Access: archbalt.powerschool.com/public/. If you are new to Parent Access (new student and/or 3rd grade student), you must complete Parent Access training and sign a disclaimer form before receiving your user name and password. This training is now available on the homepage of our website. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Graf at rgraf@staug-md.org.



Regional High School Information Night

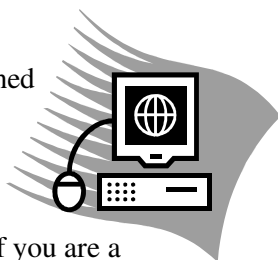


The regional high school information night will take place on **Monday, October 5** from

6:30-9:00 PM at St. Augustine's. Although this is the meeting assigned for St. Augustine students, they may attend any of the regional meetings. A list of all meeting dates and the high schools participating in each can be found in the application information booklets given to each of the 8th graders. Since 6th and 7th grade students are also encouraged to begin looking at schools and gathering information, this list was also distributed to them at school.

Parent Access/Power School

Parent Access for grades 3-8 opened on **Wednesday, September 30**. Parent Access is a valuable tool designed to help you stay informed regarding your child's grades and academic progress. If you are a third grade parent or the parent of a new student and are having difficulty logging in with your user name and password, please e-mail Ms. Graf at rgraf@staug-md.org.



Halloween Bingo...Get Your Tickets Now!

Please join us on **Friday, October 30** for Halloween Bingo in the Hall. This spooktacular event is lots of ghoulish fun for the whole family! Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6 each. Come dressed in your favorite costume and you may just win a special prize! There will also be a 50/50 raffle and door prizes! Food will be available for purchase, including pizza, meatball subs, hotdogs, chili dogs, nachos, soda, candy, and desserts. This event is always a sell-out, so get your tickets early! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bailey or Mrs. Munter.



Spread the Word about SAS!

Do you have a relative, friend, co-worker or neighbor who is considering a Catholic education for their child? If so, please encourage them to attend our **Fall Open House** on **Tuesday, October 6, 13, 20 & 27, November 9** from 9-11 a.m. Prospective parents of children entering grades PreK-8 will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet with Mrs. Schratz, teachers and parents, and gather valuable information about St. Augustine School. **Remember...if you refer a new family to us and they remain in the school for one full school year, you will receive a \$500 tuition credit!**

Boxtops Contest Winner!

Thanks to everyone who participated in our September Pizza Contest. Through your efforts, we collected **\$609.20** for our school. Congratulations to the winning class...**5th Grade!** 5th Grade will receive a pizza party and free dress passes. The top three classes will be awarded certificates: (1) 5th, (2) Kindergarten, (3) 3rd. Start collecting box tops for our Batty for Box Tops Contest. If you turn in 20 box tops, you get a free dress pass (one per student). **Thank you Mrs. Box Tops for all of your hard work!**

Save the Date... October Family Dinner

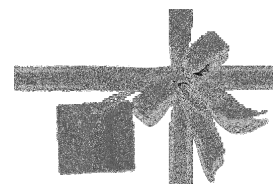
Our next Family Dinner will be held on **Friday, October 23** from 4-8 PM. Take a break from cooking and join us for another one of Miss Ruth's delicious homemade Italian buffets!

Volunteers are needed to set-up, serve food, help in the kitchen, and clean-up. To volunteer, please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org or call the school office. Thank you!



Christmas Shopping Made Easy!

The holidays are right around the corner...Scrip makes gift-giving simple and easy! There is a **huge selection** of scrip (gift cards) available for order. Gift cards make great presents for family, friends,



neighbors and teachers – and easy stocking stuffers. Scrip can be purchased every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning in the hall, after school on Tuesday and Thursday, by sending in your order and check with your child, or online in the convenience of your own home. For a complete list of available retailers, visit www.shopwithscrip.com and click on “shop.” This valuable program benefits **YOU** and our **SCHOOL!** Thank you! If you have any questions regarding Scrip, feel free to contact Mrs. Marc in the office.

Calendar Notes...

Thursday, October 15 will be an early dismissal day for students and a work day for the faculty. After Care will be available. School will be closed for students on **Friday, October 16.** The faculty and staff will be attending a retreat.

Thank You, St. Augustine Sodality!

We would like to extend a very special thank you to the members of the St. Augustine Sodality for their very generous contribution of \$2,000 toward the new playground and tuition assistance. We truly appreciate the ongoing support provided by this special group of ladies!



Annual Asbestos Statement

This note is to inform you that St. Augustine School contains friable and non-friable asbestos containing building materials. Inspections and sampling have been performed by Aerosol Monitoring and Analysis, Inc. of Maryland. An Operations and Maintenance Program has been implemented to maintain these materials in good condition, as well as prevent disturbance or damage. The Management Plan is available in the school office for review.

First Reconciliation



The Parent-Child Retreat for families preparing for First Reconciliation will be held on **Saturday, October 24** at 9:30-12:00 (M-Z) and 1:00-3:30 PM (A-L). Your completed book should be turned in at the retreat. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Carlin.

Thank you, 8th Grade!

A very special thank you to the 8th grade parents for providing the delicious lunch on Wednesday for the faculty and staff. Your kindness is appreciated!

Congratulations, Student Council!

We are pleased to announce the new Student Council officers for the 2009-2010 school year:



President: Rebecca Lewis

Vice-President: Katie Connolly

Secretary: Kristel Penaso

Treasurer: Michael Berhane

Religious Coordinators: Faith Rico, Laura Gretz

Class Representatives: Grade 4: Nicole Beautz, John Peyla (Alternate); Grade 5: Hope Dunphy, Natalie Lybrook (Grade 3 Representative), Dennis Munter (Alternate); Grade 6: Terese Beach; Zachary Lintz (Grade 2 Representative); Grade 7: Gabriella Schoenbeck, Laura Arvin (Alternate), Taylor Swenski (Preschool Representative), Juliet Beach (Preschool Alternate), Rachel Feliu (Grade 1 Representative), Samantha Clarke (Grade 1 Alternate); Grade 8: Ryan Weglein, Scott Beautz (Kindergarten Representative), Michael Weglein (Kindergarten Alternate).

The student council had their first meeting on Wednesday. The members decided to sponsor two free dress days. The first will be on October 30 and participating students are to wear black and orange in honor of Halloween. The second free dress day will be on November 13 and students may wear any sports jersey in honor of the start of football season. Students may participate by donating \$2.00 for each event. Proceeds from the October event will be used to educate one seminarian in the Ukraine for one year. Money raised in November will be sent to the Hendrickson family to defer the cost of Kendra's treatment.

Back to School Dinner a Success!

Thank you to everyone who attended the “Back to School Dinner & Family Fun Night!” The event was a HUGE SUCCESS, raising **\$4,000** for our school! A very special thank you to **Miss Ruth, Mrs. Nowak, Mrs. Hoffman,** and the many volunteers who worked so hard to make the evening fun for all! The Gold Buy Back was highly successful, with many people walking away with checks for hundreds of dollars for their broken or unwanted jewelry! Another Buy Back will be scheduled in the near future. Watch for more information!

SAS Goes "Green"

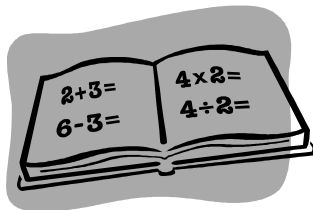
The school continues its effort to be eco-friendly by recycling paper, plastic and aluminum and providing students the technology to complete the majority of their writing electronically, rather than on paper. We are currently using approximately 300,000 sheets of paper per school year. In order to cut down on this usage, and "Go Green" we would like to provide families the opportunity to opt out of receiving paper copies of the majority of handouts that are sent home (Friday Flier, Monthly Newsletter, HSA News, etc.). All of these publications are posted on our website. If you choose to opt out of receiving paper copies, please complete the form below and return it to the school office as soon as possible. If you do opt out, we encourage you to be committed to checking our website regularly so you are aware of important school news and information.



Congratulations, Math Masters!

The following 5th grade students achieved Math Master status in September:

Jenny Davis, Emily Dunham, Hope Dunphy, Isabel Gabin, Sam Goodman, Natalie Lybrook, Dominic Rivera, and Julia Stanitski.



Parent Access

One of the benefits of a Catholic school is the close partnership between parents and teachers. Yesterday Parent Access opened for our grade 3-8 families. I urge you to visit this website to see how your child is performing in school. If you have questions, you can easily email the teachers through Parent Access. You can

also arrange to be automatically reminded to check your child's grades via email. Families new to Parent Access should have received more detailed information. When emailing teachers, please be aware that teachers are not expected to respond from home and during the day it may be several hours before they receive and respond to email due to the fact that they are teaching. Teachers are not on the computer while teaching. Therefore, our school policy is that teachers have 48 hours to respond to email. Usually, the response time is much less. However, in the event that it exceeds 48 hours, please resend your communication to the teacher and to Mrs. Schratz. Occasionally, email can be lost or overlooked. We have just been informed that we are having some issues with Power Grade and these are being addressed. If your child's grades are missing or look very strange, please wait a day or so before e-mailing the teacher, as the technology glitches need to be worked out by Ms. Graf and the archdiocesan Power School help desk.

Pillar of the Month

This month our focus on the six pillars of character is on **trustworthiness**. Trustworthiness embodies four ethical principles: integrity, honesty, promise-keeping and loyalty. Trust is essential to meaningful relationships, and successful associations in school, extra-curricular activities and the workplace. Trust is an essential factor in achieving sustainable success. Thus, we really want our children to be trustworthy. We are asking parents to support our efforts by paying special attention to honesty. We will be helping the children with honesty in their communications and in their conduct. We should all tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, be sincere, and forthright. Trustworthy conduct means no cheating and no stealing. Honesty is often difficult for children due to their fear of punishment and their desire to please. It is quite common for children to distort the truth in order to avoid taking responsibility for wrong doing. A very important way to teach children to be honest is to model honesty and hold them accountable for distorting the truth.

CHARACTERCOUNTS!

GO GREEN! REQUEST FORM

Yes, our family would like to opt out of receiving paper copies of the Friday Flier, Monthly Newsletter, and other handouts. We are committed to viewing this information online at www.staug-md.org.

Family Name: _____ Signature: _____