



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † January 2010

From the Principal's Desk...

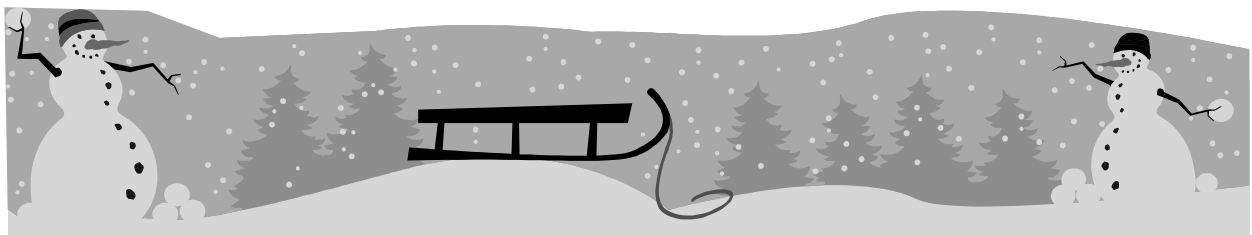
Happy New Year to all of you! It was great to see the children after our unexpectedly long Christmas break. It was wonderful for the children to have a white Christmas following days of playing in the snow. Of course, it did present a number of challenges for us adults.

Yesterday the Church celebrated the feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded the American Catholic School system in Baltimore. At the end of the month we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The activities that are planned are in this newsletter. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life." According to Karen Ristau, NCEA president, "Catholic schools provide good things for students and families—high expectations and daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the theme also reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education—students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline—last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future—or the future of our world." Marie Powell, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted: "We realize that in most parts of the country a Catholic education is not without some cost. But I can't think of a better investment in the future than to invest in the education of a child."

I am very aware that all of our families make sacrifices in order to provide a Catholic education for their children. I believe these sacrifices will indeed reap great dividends in the lives of the children and in our society. Forming children in the faith and building people of character is priceless. As we begin a new year let us all commit ourselves once again to strengthening our character and growing closer to our God, who loves us more than we can imagine.

You will soon be receiving your registration form for the next school year. It is awaiting the School Board's decision on next year's tuition. I want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to keep the increase as low as possible, while at the same time providing an outstanding education for your child. Tuition increases are offset by our fundraising and grant efforts. The Race for Education and the Annual Appeal are major sources of income that affect tuition. The Annual Appeal is currently underway and I am asking every family who can afford to support this effort to please do so to the best of their ability. For families that are really financially strapped I am requesting a small donation that would help reach our 100% participation goal. The participation rate is a factor in our ability to compete for grant money. I am sure you are aware that the current financial crisis has resulted in a huge decrease in grant funds. Despite this, we recently received a \$12,500 grant to add a much needed guidance counselor to our staff and a \$5,000 grant in addition to our parish appeal rebate of \$6,634 from the Archbishop's Lenten Appeal for tuition assistance. I am grateful to Mrs. Mobley and the dedicated parent volunteers on our Development Committee, who are working on marketing and fund raising. Our school is strong in so many ways. Your continued support will ensure that our community continues to reap many dividends from St. Augustine School.

~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal



Catholic Schools Week 2010

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

Our entire school community will celebrate "Catholic Schools Week" **January 31-February 5, 2010**. A schedule of special events planned for this week is attached to the newsletter. We are in need of many parent volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up at several

events (Grandparent's Day, Student Appreciation Day, etc.), as well as to serve as tour guides at our Open House. This is a great, fun way to earn volunteer hours! Please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org or 410-796-3040 to volunteer. Thank you for donating your valuable time to our school in order to make CSW a success!

Invite a Friend...Open House!

We will hold an Open House for **prospective families** on **Wednesday, February 3** from 9-11 AM. If you have any family, friends, neighbors or co-workers looking for a Catholic school for their child, please encourage them to attend this Open House. Applications will be accepted for new students at this time. **Remember: If you refer a new family to SAS and they attend for an entire school year, you will receive a \$500 tuition credit!**

Second Collection

During each mass on **January 23 & 24**, the second collection will be dedicated to the school. At each mass, we would like to have student greeters and families to take up the gifts. **To volunteer, please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org as soon as possible.** Thank you for volunteering your time to benefit the school!

Re-Registration Right Around the Corner

It's hard to believe that re-registration is right around the corner! Forms will go home in January and will be due by **January 29**. Families must re-qualify each school year for the discounted parishioner tuition rate. To qualify for parishioner status, families must contribute a minimum of \$500 per calendar year to the support of the church. In the event that you have not met this

requirement, please contact the parish office to make your donation. Families who no longer qualify for the discount rate will be informed by letter by **January 15**.

Winter Weather Has Arrived



Temperatures and our response to them are a very individual experience. Yesterday I talked to a salesperson in Minnesota. He complained about the weather. It was -35 degrees and I told him it was 32 here and we were cold. He said 32 degrees is sweater weather in Minnesota. Some children are shivering when it is 45 degrees and others are running around without coats. Doctors assure us that you cannot get sick from the cold and I know that fresh air and a chance to run around is very good for the students. Therefore, **we will be having outdoor recess on dry days even if it is cold.** It is essential that children wear heavy coats, gloves and hats. Girls in grades 1-8 are encouraged to wear navy slacks on cold, non-PE days.

In the event of snow or ice, we follow the decisions made by the Howard County Public Schools for late openings, early dismissals and closings. Please listen to WBAL for this important information.

***Please note: If the school closes early due to inclement weather, there is NO AFTER CARE.**

Annual Fund...It's Not Too Late!

We understand that many families were not in a position to contribute to the Annual Fund due to the costly Christmas holiday, so we have extended the deadline for Annual Fund donations to **Friday, January 29**. It is our sincere hope that this will enable more families to participate in this critically important fundraiser. To date, only 16% of our school families have participated. **Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation by making a tax-deductible contribution today.** We rely, in large part, on the Annual Fund to help make up the difference between tuition income and the many expenses related to operating the school. In addition, income from the Annual Fund helps us to keep tuition increases to a minimum, while at the same time continuing to provide a high-quality educational program and staffing the school with highly skilled teachers and staff.

A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Congratulations, Math Masters!



The following students achieved "Math Master" status in December...great job! Please continue to practice math facts at home with your child.

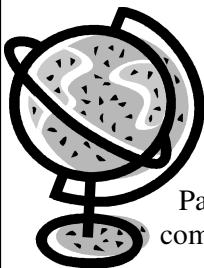
Grade 3 – Kylie Riddle, Arielle Rivera, John Shinnamon, Kristen Zaranski.

Grade 4 – Matthew Elias, John Peyla, Eddie Madera, Greg Peterson, Nicky Beautz, Jesse Whitehead, Olivia Gretz, Andrew Black, Dominique Buteau.

Grade 5 – Jenny Davis, Emily Dunham, Hope Dunphy, Isabel Gabin, Sam Goodman, Natalie Lybrook, Dominic Rivera, Julia Stanitski.

Join us for a Family Dinner!

Take a break from cooking and enjoy a homemade, all-you-can-eat dinner in the hall on **Friday, January 29** from 4-8 PM! Miss Ruth's menu will include homemade BBQ chicken, roasted pork, meatballs in gravy, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, corn, salad bar, desserts, and drinks. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, clean-up and serving food. To volunteer, please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org. We hope to see you on the 29th!



Geography Bee

The school finals for the Geography Bee will take place on **Friday, January 8** at 2:45 PM in the hall.

Parents are welcome to attend this competition and cheer for our students!

Basketball Clinic Reminder

Basketball Clinic begins on **Saturday, January 9**. Grades K-1 play from 11 a.m. – 12 noon and grades 2-3 play from 12-1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schallmo at pschallmo@verizon.net.

Box tops Update

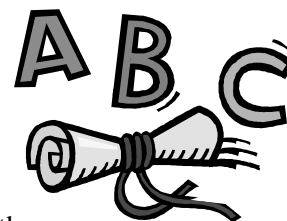
Congratulations to preschool student **Adam Hermann** for winning the Christmas stocking in the Boxtops for Education contest! Thanks to everyone pitching in with box tops! This year we have collected **\$949.20** (\$113.50 in December for the Christmas Stocking Raffle). We are well on our way to meeting our **\$1,826 goal** with two contests to go: the ice cream party contest currently underway and the extra recess contest in the spring.

The Ice Cream Party Contest is on right now! The class to turn in the most box tops by **February 26** will win an ice cream party. Make sure you don't cut off those expiration dates. If the expiration date is passed or cut off, General Mills will not honor the box top. **Get in the clipping spirit and help our school!**



Spelling Bee

Students in grades 4-8 are currently competing for the Scripp National Spelling Bee. Hopefully, the students were practicing over the long break. We are anticipating that the class finalists will be ready for the school bee on January 12. Please check the Friday Flier for further details.



Morning Drop-Off

Now that winter weather has arrived, the children will gather in the hall from 8:25-8:40 a.m. The car line will form in front of the school so that children may enter the hall door nearest the school.

