



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † February 2010

From the Principal's Desk...

For a short month there is certainly a lot packed into February! We begin the month with the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools-Dividends for Life" is particularly pertinent as today's financial crisis has many families struggling with the decision to provide their children a Catholic education. I am pleased to say that re-registration is very strong and judging by the number of phone calls, we are anticipating a number of new registrants. This is great news especially in light of the pending announcement by Archbishop O'Brien regarding school closures and consolidations. I am grateful for the hard work of the pastor, faculty and staff, school board, home and school executive committee, development committee, parishioners and parents who support our school. I will be introducing our school to new people on Wednesday and I believe our greatest strength is the wonderful and dedicated families that make up the St. Augustine School community.

This month we begin a new Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday the church will call us to pray, fast and give alms as the means of growing closer to our God. I know the pace of life for many of our families is extremely quick. Each day is packed with activities and obligations that make it difficult to even eat together. So finding time to pray as a family and reflect on the spiritual disciplines of fasting and caring for the poor is very, very challenging. One of the blessings of a Catholic education is that it affords the children the opportunity to integrate prayer and reflection into the school day. In many cases the children are able to remind us adults of what is most important. I believe that together parents and children can grow in faith, hope and love. Lent is a gentle, but persistent reminder to slow down and pay attention to what is truly most important. My prayer for each of you is that this year's Lenten journey will bring all of us closer to God and one another.

Plans are now underway to develop a strategic plan for the school. The school board has formed an ad hoc committee to oversee this important task. In the next couple of weeks we will be seeking the input of all school families to help us craft a plan for the future growth and development of the school. A committee of parents and teachers is also working with a consultant to create a new technology plan for the school. At the same time the parish is conducting house meetings to identify how St. Augustine's can better serve the needs of all parishioners. I hope to conduct a couple of those meetings here at school. All of this effort is to make a great school and parish even better!

Finally, the second trimester ends on February 19. Finding time to study and getting enough rest to make time spent learning at school most productive is indeed another challenge for students and parents. As we approach the time for progress reports it is a good opportunity to examine how school and study time is spent. Some families will need to make changes in order for the children to be more successful. Focusing on one positive change at a time will allow time for that change to become a part of your regular routine. Studies show that it takes six weeks for a new habit to become established. This is also the duration of the Lenten season. May you have a holy and family enriching journey during which you are alert for God's blessings.

~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal



Registration for 2010-11 School Year Underway

Open registration is now in progress for the 2010-11 school year. If you have not yet re-registered for next school year, please do so as soon as possible to guarantee a space for your child(ren). Whether families are returning to St. Augustine's next year or not, the re-registration form must be returned. For returning families, the \$250 registration fee must accompany the re-registration form. In order to register your child(ren) for next year, all of your accounts must be current. Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to educating your child and serving your family again next school year!

TMS now offers an online application process for those families wishing to apply for tuition assistance. Please visit the "Tuition & Fees" page of our website for the link.

Catholic Schools... Dividends for Life

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Catholic Schools Week has begun and we are in the throes of a host of fun, enriching activities to celebrate this very special week. Thank you for recognizing the importance and value of a Catholic education by choosing to send your child to St. Augustine School!



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

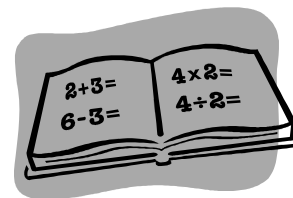
SAS Open House... Spread the Word

Our Open House for prospective families will be held on **Wednesday, February 3** from 9-11 AM. If you have a friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbor who is looking for a Catholic school for their child, please encourage them to attend. **Remember...if you refer a new family to SAS and they attend for the entire school year, you will receive a \$500 tuition credit the following school year.**

Important...in the event of inclement weather and we have a 1 or 2 hour delay, the Open House will be held from 11 AM-1 PM. If school is closed on Wednesday, the Open House will be held on Tuesday, February 9.

Congratulations, Math Masters!

Congratulations to the following students who achieved "Math Master" status for the month of January:



Grade 3: Katrina Manabat, Monica Mercurio

Grade 4: Eddie Madera, Noah Bahur, Julia Hoffman, Rachel Hall, Dominique Buteau, Jesse Whitehead, Jessica Schneck, Matthew Elias, Johnny Dutan, Olivia Gretz, Adam Mills, Nicky Beautz.

Grade 5: Shannon McDonnell, Jason Schneck, Hope Dunphy, Jenny Davis, Natalie Lybrook, Dominic Rivera, Sam Goodman, Julia Stanitski

Annual Fund Needs Your Support!

The Annual Fund deadline is **Friday, February 5**. It is our sincere hope that each and every SAS family will show their support of this extremely important fundraiser by making a contribution. As of now, **65%** of our school families have contributed. **Remember, it's not the dollar amount that counts, it's the participation number!** If all classes reach 100% participation, we will celebrate with a special assembly and popcorn for all students. Please show your support today by making a donation. Thank you!

Save the Date... The Race is Right Around the Corner!

Our **6th Annual Race for Education** will be held on **Friday, April 30**. Thanks to the support of you, your family, friends and neighbors, the Race is our biggest fundraiser each year! If you would like to have some fun while earning volunteer hours, we could use your help! Please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org to volunteer. In addition, we are looking

for local businesses to sponsor the Race so we can provide t-shirts to all the students on Race day. If you own a business, or know someone who may want to sponsor the Race, please contact Mrs. Mobley. Thank you!



Maryland Catholic Conference

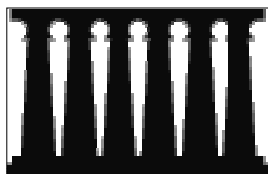
Catholic education...is an outstanding apostolate of hope... Their long-term sustainability must be assured. Indeed, everything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that they are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.”

-Pope Benedict XVI

We at St. Augustine School and Church are working hard to ensure that every family who desires a Catholic education for their children can have one. This means we must do everything possible to grow the tuition assistance endowment, increase funding through the St. Augustine School Annual Fund and lobby the state of Maryland to provide some assistance to its citizens who desire an education where a child can be formed spiritually as well as intellectually. Our families save the state 1.5 billion dollars every year. Other states provide much more support for its citizens in parochial schools. Maryland can do better! The Maryland Catholic Conference is lobbying hard for two initiatives that would provide financial help for our schools. They are the BOAST Maryland Tax Credit and the Nonpublic Student Textbook Program. All families are urged to participate in the Catholic Schools Week E-Mail Campaign. If you are not already signed up to receive notices from the MCC, just go to www.mdathconf.org. It only takes a few seconds to let your legislators know that you need them to support Catholic education.

Pillar of the Month— Respect

Treating people with respect means letting them know that their safety and happiness matter, that they are important and worthy simply because they are fellow human beings. The teachers will review the seven basic rules of respect with their students. These are to honor the individual worth and dignity of others, show courtesy and civility, live by the Golden Rule, accept differences and judge on character and ability, respect the autonomy of others, and avoid actual or threatened violence. Students learn most effectively when they receive the same instruction and are held to the same standards at home.



CHARACTERCOUNTS!

Friendly Reminders

Following the school rules and abiding by established procedures is a sign of good character. Doing so shows trustworthiness, responsibility, respect and fairness. All parents are reminded of the following expectations of every one:

- Pick up is from the back parking lot. Folks who are late and in the top lot must wait for the back lot to be emptied.
- All communication sent by parents and/or room parents must first be approved by the principal.
- Re-registration forms are now past due.

All students are reminded that:

- Homework is due the day after it is assignment.
- Being prepared for class everyday is expected.
- Wearing the proper uniform is required.
- keeping self to self at all times shows respect for others.

Thank you to the many grandparents and special friends who came to “Grandparent/Special Person Day” today! It was wonderful to see so many smiling, proud faces in the crowd as our talented students performed.



Thank you also to the students, faculty, parent volunteers, and Miss Ruth for making the event a success!