



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † March 2010

From the Principal's Desk...

Though we still have mountains of snow and the possibility of more snow is looming, spring is coming! With spring come many exciting learning events for the St. Augustine School students. Every grade has field trips planned. Some destinations include the embassies of Japan and Saudi Arabia, the Folger Shakespeare Theater, Medieval Times, the Chesapeake Bay, the assistive technology lab at the Maryland School for the Blind, Mt. Vernon, the John Paul Cultural Center and Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. The eighth grade is working on Tenebrae and the Renaissance Faire for the school. Tenebrae, a Latin word that means darkness, is a retelling of the story of salvation history that includes dramatic reading, music and darkness. I strongly urge you to attend this moving spiritual event. It will certainly be a great beginning to your celebration of the Triduum, the three holiest days of the liturgical year. Since April 1 is a snow make up day, the celebration of Tenebrae has been moved to 2:45 on that day. Also in March, our school nurse, Mrs. Shouse, is working with Mrs. Broglie and parent volunteer and nutritionist, Mrs. Fair, to teach the children the importance of developing good food habits early in life. We have two assembly programs planned for this month, the Snyder Foundation for Animals and Women in History. This month our celebration of Lent continues as we focus on its three disciplines: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The children will be receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, praying the stations of the cross, attending adoration, making sandwiches for Our Daily Bread, and contributing to Operation Rice Bowl.

This month the Home and School Association will sponsor the Art Auction. This very enjoyable and lucrative fundraiser will take place on **Saturday, March 13 at 7 PM** in the school hall. All families are encouraged to attend. I understand that our band families have a conflict with the rescheduling of the Baltimore Blast game. This was unavoidable; I hope non-band families will make an extra effort to support this extremely important event.

I assume many of you saw the front page article in yesterday's *Baltimore Sun* regarding Catholic schools. This Wednesday at a meeting of pastors and principals Archbishop O'Brien will unveil the new plan for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. We are anticipating that some schools will be closed. Although I feel very confident that St. Augustine School will not be closed, there is no way of knowing how far reaching the new plan is. On Wednesday afternoon close to dismissal, I will be sending word out via the emergency notification system about the archbishop's decision regarding St. Augustine's School.

If we are being affected, a letter to parents from the archdiocese will be posted on our website. You will get a hard copy of this letter on Thursday. Fr. Bowen and I will be meeting with the faculty and staff after school on Wednesday, and respectfully request that you allow us time share this information with them. After much deliberation we concluded that if our school closes that parents would be the best people to convey such sad news to their children. We know you will need some time to do so within the family environment. On Thursday morning we will convene in church at 9:00. Students in grades one and two will attend this gathering until it is time to leave for their field trip. After students are dismissed from church to their homerooms, Father Bowen and I will remain in church for further questions or discussion. Again, I am anticipating that we will not be affected. However, in the event that the unimaginable happens, I pray that everyone will remain as calm and supportive as possible. We are people of faith and trust that God's will prevails and in adverse times we experience more profoundly His Grace.

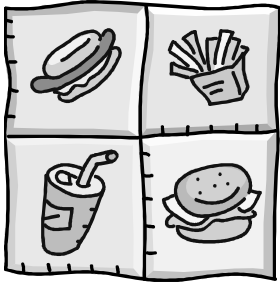
~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal

Respect is the March Character Counts! Pillar of the Month.

“Do not judge others until you have stood in their place.” ~Hillel

“The only way to have a friend is to be a friend.” ~Emerson

Save the Date... Restaurant Style Dinner



Miss Ruth will be cooking up more delicious food on **Monday, March 15** from 5-9 PM in the hall, while 8th grade students will be serving it! This "restaurant style" dinner will feature burgers, hotdogs, chili dogs, fried shrimp, onion rings, salad bar and much more! There

will also be candy on sale and an exciting 50/50 raffle.

All proceeds from this special dinner will benefit the 8th grade graduation trips. We hope you will support the Class of 2010 by attending this family event!

2010-2011 Registration

Thank you to all the families who have re-registered in a timely manner. We are very pleased that few of our students are moving from our school next year. At this time we have the same number of students enrolled as this year. We are expecting our enrollment to increase for the first time since 2001. We have a limited number of remaining spots open for 2010-2111, so if any of your friends, family members or neighbors is considering a Catholic education for their child, please encourage them to apply at St. Augustine's. **Remember, if you refer a new family to our school and they remain for the entire school year, you will receive a \$500 tuition credit.**



6th Annual Race for Education!

Our **6th Annual Race for Education** will be held on **Wednesday, April 28, 2010.**

The Race is always a fun, memorable event for the students. Last year's race raised nearly \$30,000! **With the support**

of all of our families, we are certain we can raise ever more this year! All students participating in this year's race will again be given specially designed t-shirts to wear on race day. **Please remember...all sponsor names and addresses that you submit will not be sold or distributed for any other purpose other than the Race for Education.** As always, thank you for your support – it's greatly appreciated...especially by our students! **Many volunteers are needed for the Race**

and Field Day. Please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org to sign up. Thank you!

Inclement Weather Policy



St. Augustine School always follows **Howard County when deciding whether to close or delay school due to the weather.** The only time we will announce a St. Augustine School closing on WBAL is if Howard County Public Schools are not scheduled to be in session when we are. In addition, the homepage of our school's website always has delays and closings posted.

Spring Break...Mark Your Calendar

Please note that due to the snow make-up days, school will now be **OPEN on Holy Thursday.** School will be closed **Friday, April 2 through Friday, April 9** for



Easter Break. School will resume on **Monday, April 12.** The faculty, staff and administration of St. Augustine School wish you a very blessed Easter holiday and an enjoyable spring break!

Important: Volunteer Hours

As you know, every St. Augustine family is required to complete **20 volunteer service hours** by the end of May. A very easy way to earn a volunteer hour is to work lunch/recess duty. There are many times when a class does not have a lunch/recess volunteer, which means the teacher does not receive a lunch break. It is our hope that our teachers will be able to receive a well-deserved break each day to eat their lunch. If you need volunteer hours (or even if you don't), please consider volunteering for lunch/recess duty. To sign up, please contact your child's room parent or teacher. **The faculty truly appreciates your time and thanks you for your volunteer service to our school.**

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day

Congratulations, Math Masters!

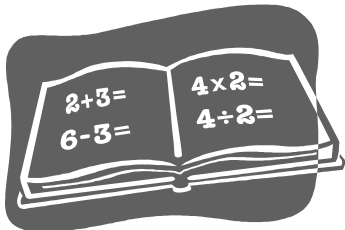
The following students achieved “Math Master” status in February:

Grade 3

Kylie Riddle
Kristen Zaranski

Grade 4

Jesse Whitehead
Noah Bahur
Dominique Buteau
Jessica Schneck
Nicky Beautz
Gregory Peterson



Grade 5

Hope Dunphy
Natalie Lybrook
Dominic Rivera

Back by Popular Demand...Art Auction!

The HSA is bringing back the ever-popular Art Auction on **Saturday, March 13** in the school hall. This fabulous event will feature a live auction of gallery quality artwork, delicious food and drinks, and an entertaining evening of fun with our auctioneer “Spike”! In addition, a beautiful piece of artwork from each class will be up for bid. The cost is \$25 per person in advance and \$35 at the door. The art preview and reception begins at 6:45 p.m., followed by the live auction at 8 p.m. If you’ve never come to an event like this before, now is your chance...you won’t be disappointed! Please use the order form attached to the newsletter to secure your tickets. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help at the event, please contact Lisa Madera Filar at lfilar@fildesign.com. Thank you!



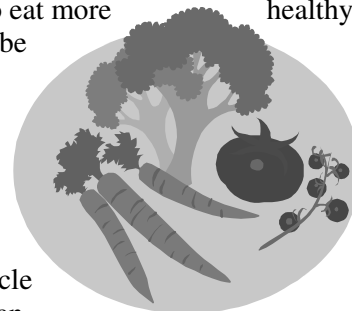
Thank you, families!

The HSA would like to thank everyone who attended skating at Wheels and dinner at Three Brothers on Saturday. This “friendraiser” was a wonderful success, raising approximately \$700. A special thank you to the **Fair Family** for their wonderful hospitality at Three Brothers! We hope everyone enjoyed the evening!



Standardized Testing Information

Toward the end of the month the students will be taking standardized tests. Of course, we want the students to do their absolute best on these tests. Though they are not considered in computing progress report grades, they are very valuable in determining a student’s achievement in relation to ability. The high schools look at the standardized tests in the middle school years, the county uses them to determine if a student is in need of special services and we use them to determine if a student is under or over achieving. There are some things that you can do to ensure that your child performs his or her best on these tests. One of the most important factors is adequate rest and nutrition. It is not enough that he or she rests the night before and eats a good breakfast the days of the tests. It takes a while for students to recover from lack of sleep and poor nutrition. I strongly suggest that you limit sleepovers and very late nights prior to the test. Since this is national nutrition month, it is a good time for the whole family to eat more healthy meals and snacks. We will be asking room parents to organize healthy snacks for the class on testing days. Look for a list of healthy snack suggestions from Mrs. Shouse soon. Also, please read the attached article about other ways that you can help your child do his or her best on standardized tests.



The Valentine’s Day Dance has been
rescheduled for
Saturday, March 27.

We hope you and your family will
plan to attend this fun family event!