



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † October 2008

From the Principal's Desk...

My intention for some time has been to write a more thorough explanation of the school's financial plan in the newsletter. I did not expect to be doing so at a time when the nation is teetering on the brink of an economic crisis. I believe that our enrollment has been negatively affected by the increase in fuel costs. It is uncertain how our current economic situation will affect us. That said, I believe it is in the best interest of our school community to be well informed about our economic situation. There is certainly some good news to share. First, I am very grateful for the efforts of a very competent and hard working finance committee. This committee, which consists of former school board chair Nancy Croft and parents, Patrick Byer, Anna Lybrook, and Mark Gretz, meets regularly with me to craft and review the school budget. Although the demand for tuition assistance has doubled in the past two years, we do have an endowment fund that provides this assistance. With their guidance I was able to make up approximately \$70,000 of a shortfall due to less enrollment in last year's budget. This year's budget is more conservative and for the first time in a couple of years SMART reports indicate there is no delinquent tuition. The Development Committee of the School Board (Tom Quick, Frank Stanitski, Lisa Filar and Annemarie Hoffman) are working with Sherry Mobley, Father Bowen and me to launch an effort to create another endowment. The Home and School Executive Committee, whose members are Lisa Filar, Connie McDonnell, Shari Sudano, Debbie Schallmo, Carole Bailey, Jackie Kelly, Leah Ricciuti, and Jennifer Whitehead, is implementing a fund raising plan for this year that reflects the concerns you expressed through the HSA survey at the end of the last school year. It is the fund raising component of the budget that I would like to share more about today.

This school year the total projected cost of running the school will be \$1,398,980, making the cost of educating each child \$5,381. 84.5% of the funds to do so will come from tuition and fees. One half of a per cent of this money is donated to the school from the endowment in the form of tuition assistance. The rest of the income (15.5%) is received from fundraising. The main sources of this income are the Annual Appeal, the Race for Education, grants, donations, including two parish special collections, and the Home and School Association fund raisers. This year we have budgeted \$15,000 in income from the efforts of the Home and School Association. Finally, SCRIP and interest on our accounts generates some income. Both of these sources has been declining over the years. Meeting the projected goals for each of these items is essential and can only be accomplished with your support. I hope that making you aware of the role of fund raising in our financial plan will help you to understand how critical it is to do your best to support these efforts. Obviously, our ability to raise more funds than budgeted will enable us to spend money to further enhance the educational experience of the children as well as to offset further increases in tuition and fees. Creating a state of the art classroom is expensive, but providing the best possible educational experience for the children is worth every penny. Teachers today have so many resources available to enhance their instruction. However, time and money are needed to put these tools into their hands. I am now teaching two classes per day. Being in the classroom allows me to see how much richer my students' experience is when I can show them high quality video clips of actual historical events or recreations of events that took place long ago. I am unable to do so as frequently as I would like because it often takes more time to set up the projector than to view the clip. At times another teacher is using one of our two projectors on the second floor. This is just one of a number of items on our teachers' "wish lists." Of course our greatest wish is for every child to be engaged in learning every day. **Your generous support of the school's fundraising events will help make our wishes come true.**

The Pastor and I, with a great deal of support from an excellent School Board, are strongly committed to keeping our parish school affordable for you. Doing so is possible only with your generosity and support. Over 90% of you volunteer your time, enhancing our program and saving thousands of dollars. Over 71% donate to the Annual Appeal and 88% support the Race for Education. In addition, many families use SCRIP, attend fund raisers and give generously to the annual parish collections for our school. **With tough economic times ahead, I hope and pray that you will continue to do so to the best of your ability and with faith and sacrifice we will prosper.**

~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal

Regional High School Information Night

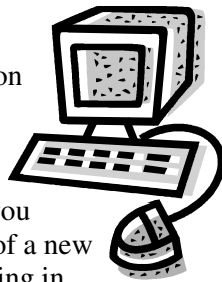


The regional high school information night will take place on **Thursday, October 2** from

6:30-8:30 PM at Resurrection. 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 **Monday, September 29**. Parent Access is a valuable tool designed to help you stay informed regarding your child's grades and 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 Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org.



Halloween Bingo... Get Your Ticket Now!



Tickets are selling fast! Please join us on **Friday, October 24** 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! A special thank you to **Mrs. Carole Bailey** and **Mrs. Geri Dunphy** for coordinating this special event again this year.

Fall Open House

Do you have a relative, friend, co-worker or neighbor who is considering a Catholic education for their child next? If so, please encourage them to attend our **Fall Open House** on **Sunday, November 9** from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.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. **If you'd like to earn volunteer hours by assisting with the Open House, please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org. Volunteers are needed to provide guided tours and to help set up and clean up refreshments, etc. Thank you!**



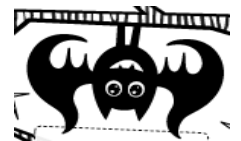
Boxtops News!



Thanks so much to everyone who participated in the Pizza Contest. The winning class is **6th grade!** Ms. Box Tops will be scheduling their pizza

party soon and everyone in the class will receive a free dress pass. In second place was **1st grade** and in third place was **3rd grade**. **Your efforts raised over \$400 for our school!** Our goal is to raise \$1,300 for the year so we're off to good start. **Thanks!**

Students - For the month of October we would like to recognize individuals who meet our **Batty for Box Tops Challenge**. Cut and paste box tops on two copies of the October collection sheet attached to the newsletter and bring them in by **October 31**. Anyone submitting two completed sheets (20 box tops) will receive a free dress pass. Please keep clipping those box tops!



Parents - Please visit www.boxtops4education.com and click on e-mail newsletter. If you sign up to receive the Box Tops Newsletter by e-mail, you will be kept informed of special bonus box tops' offers and coupons. In addition, our school will earn 5 box tops (50 cents) for every sign up. We hope you enjoyed seeing "**Ms. Box Tops 2008**" in the parking lot!



Have Your Purchased a Tuition Raffle Ticket?

Raffle tickets are now on sale! Just \$25 buys you a chance to win the grand prize of **tuition for one child (\$4275) or \$4000 cash!** Since there is a cash option, please encourage your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to purchase a ticket. The drawing will be held on **Friday, January 30, 2009.** For ticket information, please contact Mrs. Janet Peyla.



Annual Fund 2008

In the near future, you will receive a letter asking you to support this year's **Annual Fund.** As you know, tuition alone does not cover the many expenses of operating the school and providing students with a high-quality education. The sole purpose of the Annual Fund is to raise critically needed funds in order to continue our legacy of providing children with a top-notch Catholic education for another 150 years! With rising costs, it is more important now than ever before that we receive your support. As we've stated in previous years, it's not the dollar amount of your contribution that's important,

it's your support. Whether you give \$5 or \$500, your gift is critical to the success of the Annual Fund. Last year, **71% of all school families participated in the Annual Fund.** It is our goal to have **100% participation this year.**

All monies raised from the Annual Fund are **tax-deductible** and are used to directly support the educational programs and services provided to your child. The Annual Fund covers costs such as the reading and math resource programs, technology in the computer lab and classrooms, supplies and materials for classrooms, as well as general operating expenses (utilities, Internet service, copier supplies, cleaning services, etc.).

We ask that you please show your support and make a gift to this year's Annual Fund. Remember, a gift may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. In addition, many companies now offer matching gift programs to their employees, so please check with your employer to see if you are eligible.

If you have any questions regarding this year's Annual Fund, please contact Mrs. Mobley, Director of Advancement, at 410-796-3040 or smobley@staug-md.org.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and support!

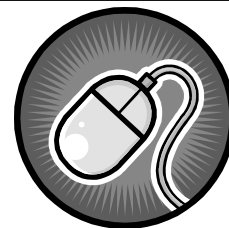
Spotlight on Specials

Each month in the newsletter, we will highlight a different "special" in order to share with you the many exciting things that are happening at our school and in your child's classes. **Our spotlight this month will be on technology/computers.** We have two technology/computer teachers this year – Mrs. Mobley for grades K-2 and Ms. Hardin for grades 3-8.

The lower grades are taught using the upstairs computer lab, which houses brand new desktop computers with Internet access and flat screen monitors. Through the use of computer software, interactive websites and educational games, students acquire a wide range of basic computer skills (and have a great deal of fun!), including: proper use of keyboard and mouse, identification of computer parts, proper start-up/shut-down of computer, correct use of disk/CD, use of appropriate software, and safety rules for using technology and the internet. In addition, students are encouraged to use their imagination and creativity to create original works of art and literature through various programs such as Microsoft Paint and Microsoft Word.

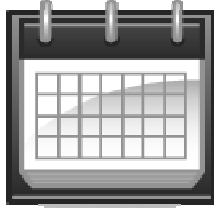
For students in upper grades, technology is integrated into many subject areas across the curriculum. In addition to the computer lab, students are using laptop computers and PC tablets with wireless Internet connections in their classrooms. These latest and greatest technological tools provide endless learning opportunities for students. They are using technology to take virtual field trips, participate in on-line experiments, type journal assignments, conduct online research and much more. In grades 5-8, a strong emphasis is placed on touch typing. Not only has technology helped to enhance student learning, but it has helped our school become more environmentally friendly by eliminating the need for excessive paper.

If you have any questions regarding the technology program at SAS, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org or Ms. Hardin at thardin@staug-md.org.



An Important Calendar Note

School will be closed for students on **Monday, October 6 and Tuesday, October 7** when teachers will have professional days.



Holiday Shopping Made Easy!

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

Scrip can be purchased every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning in the hall, or by sending in your order and check with your child. For a complete list of available retailers, please visit www.glscrip.com. Thank you for supporting this valuable fundraising program!



Congratulations, Alumni!

We are extremely proud of the many accomplishments achieved by our alumni. Congratulations to the following SAS graduates, who are currently students at Mount deSales Academy:

- **Gina Salacki**, named Secretary of the Freshman Class and member of the Junior Varsity Volleyball team.
- **Joy Penaso**, named Sophomore Representative of the Student Council.
- **Alyssa Larkin**, named member of the Varsity Field Hockey team.
- **Danielle Larkin**, named member of the Junior Varsity Field Hockey team.
- **Helene Hauf**, named to the Varsity Cheerleading team.
- **Caitlin Shoemaker**, named to the Junior Varsity Soccer team.

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 Reminders!

By now, you should have completed at least through Lesson Five in your book. Please bring completed book on October 18.

Retreats for Child & Parent(s)

Saturday, October 18

9:30 – 12:00 A-K 1:00 – 3:30 L-Z

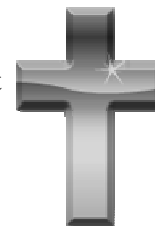
Sacrament of Reconciliation Services

Church at 6:30 PM

Monday, November 10 A-K

Monday, November 17 L-Z

If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Carlin.



Have you placed your “Subs to Go” order?!



All orders are due by **Friday, October 10**. Subs should be picked up and paid for in the hall on **Friday, October 17, 3-6 PM**.

Volunteers are needed from 3-6 PM to distribute food. Please e-mail Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org to volunteer. Thank you!