



# The St. Augustine Monthly

St. Augustine School † Founded in 1857 † [www.mdschblind.org](http://www.mdschblind.org)

A School You Can Have Faith In † December 2008

## *From the Principal's Desk...*

Happy New Year! No I have not lost a month, I am referring, of course, to the beginning of a new liturgical year. How great is our God to continually give us opportunities to begin anew. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger once wrote: "The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope. It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us, memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." In order for Advent to accomplish this task in us we must take the time to be still and reflect on those memories of goodness, those in our personal histories as well as those in the experience of salvation history. The readings of the season are full of simple folk used by God in the most extraordinary ways, of powerful events and great surprises. The themes of the season are rich and fruitful: hope, light, transformation, anticipation, expectation, God breaking into our reality. My advent prayer is that each and every St. Augustine School family will experience the season of Advent in all its fullness so that God our Father and Creator can continue to mold and shape each one of us into the beautiful and perfect creation that He intends us to be. If we allow ourselves to be molded and glazed by the Potter then truly the peace, joy, hope and love of the season will be ours.

Your children will have many opportunities to celebrate the Advent season. Our daily advent prayers, the Advent play and Christmas pageant, the celebration of St. Nicholas Day, class service projects, and gifts made for parents are just some of the ways we will help the children learn about God's greatness and His call to us to be His light in the world. Once again, I am struck with what a blessing it is to be able to share our faith in the school setting. This rich dimension of formation simply does not exist outside of parochial schools. The economic situation may require most of you to make even greater sacrifices to ensure that your children can learn in an environment where their spiritual lives are nurtured and formed. I am confident that God will bless these sacrifices and provide the means for us to continue the great work begun long ago by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

## *Please Join us for an Advent Play...*

*You are cordially invited to join us on Wednesday, December 3 at 10:45 a.m. in the church for our very special "Advent Play."*

*Students in grades 3 and 6 will perform the three messages of Archangel Gabriel. All parents are welcome to come and enjoy the show!*

*For details, please contact Mrs. Andrasik.*



## Santa Claus is Coming to SAS!



The Home and School Association is sponsoring an all you can eat pasta **Christmas Dinner with Santa on Friday, December 5** from 5-9 PM in the hall. In addition to a delicious buffet dinner of various pastas, sauces, garlic bread, salad and dessert, the event will feature pictures with Santa, make and take crafts for children to create for gifts, games, cake walk, fudge wheel, face painting and fun for the entire family! **This is one holiday event you don't want to miss!** For additional information, or to volunteer at this event, please contact Leah Ricciuti or Shari Sudano. **Scrip (gift cards) will be on sale at the dinner, so be sure to stock up for Christmas shopping and gift-giving!**

## Coming Soon...St. Augustine Book Fair & Pizza Uno's Night!



Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, December 2 at 7 PM** when we will hold our **2nd Annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair**. Curious George will make a special appearance and there will be book readings by Mrs. Schratz and Mrs. Filar. This is the perfect opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts!

**As an added bonus, each family that makes a purchase at the Book Fair will receive a FREE DRESS PASS for their child(ren)!** In addition, Pizza Uno's, located in the same shopping center as

Barnes & Noble (Long Gate Parkway, Ellicott City) will donate a portion of the proceeds from all SAS families who dine at the restaurant anytime that day or evening. **Remember to purchase Scrip (gift cards) to Barnes & Noble and Pizza Uno's!**



## Christmas Vacation

St. Augustine School will be closed for Christmas Break **December 22 – January 4**. Classes will resume on **Monday, January 5**. The administration, faculty and staff of St. Augustine School wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! We look forward to serving your family in 2009!

## Attention 8th Grade Parents...High School Entrance Test

On **Saturday, December 13**, all 8th grade students who wish to attend any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore must report to the high school that is their first choice to take the entrance test. Registration for the test is at 8:30 a.m. and the test begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. A \$30 fee (cash) is due at registration. Applications to the schools of your choice must be made directly to those schools. Please pay careful attention to their deadlines. All members of the St. Augustine School community are asked to pray for the success of our 8th grade students on this very important exam.

## Winter Weather Coming Our Way

As winter approaches, please remember that we follow the decisions made by the **Howard County Public School System** in regard to delays, early dismissals and closings due to inclement weather. To receive automatic e-mail alerts of delays and closings, please register at [www.schoolsout.com](http://www.schoolsout.com). This information will also be posted on the homepage of our school website.



## 2008 Annual Fund

The 2008 Annual Fund is currently underway. We would like to thank those school families, alumni and friends who have already supported this important fundraiser. Last year, 59% of families participated, raising \$22,000. **Our goal this year is to have 100% family participation!** As you know, the cost of tuition alone does not cover all of the many expenses associated with operating the school and educating our students. Any contribution, no matter how small or large, is a

tremendous help. The Annual Fund helps keep tuition increases to a minimum. **Please help us reach our 100% goal by making your donation today! Thank you for your support!**

## Flu Season

Flu season is upon us. We encourage you to have your child vaccinated against the flu so that he/she stays healthy throughout the year. For information on flu clinics in your area, please contact the Howard County Health Department Flu Clinic at 410-313-6503.

## Christmas Shopping Made Easy at SAS!

Purchasing Scrip (GIFT CARDS) is a great way to do your Christmas shopping. You can use Scrip to buy your gifts or to give as gifts. Your last chance to place special orders will be **December 15**, which should deliver to school by **December 19**. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Marc in the school office. Happy Shopping!



## SAS Students Shine!

We are very pleased and proud to announce that the following students received the **Principal's Award** for the 1st trimester:

**Grade 6:** Laura Arvin, Michael Berhane, Samantha Clarke, Rachel Feliu, Laura Gretz, Ashley Jones, Emma Madera, Gabriella Schoenbeck, Taylor Swenski, Olivia Tan.

**Grade 7:** Michael Bosley, Katie Connolly, Rebecca Lewis, Kristel Penaso, James Peyla, Michael Zerhusen.

**Grade 8:** Aida Berhane, Hollie Byer, Mary Connolly, Megan Davis, Madison Feliu, Stephanie Pearre, Anna Rogers, Johnathan Sage, Lauren Schneider, Rachael Taylor, Karina Wolfe.



We are also very pleased to announce that the following students made **Honor Roll** for the 1st trimester:

**Grade 6:** Noelle Bailey, Stephanie Colon, Jamie Dunphy, Nicole Freeman, Nicole Kyle, Sean McDonnell, Joseph Mercurio, Lauren Munter, Sid Rajan, Fauston Rollins, Olivia Stanitski, Maggie Yuan, Devon Zollinhofer.

**Grade 7:** Scott Beautz, Patrick Bibeau, Josie Bulla, Thomas Shoemaker, Ryan Weglein.

**Grade 8:** Tim Ankrum, Samantha Brunner, Tom Deskins, Tom Kyle, Ciara Morales, Milena Novotny, Dana Pirzchalski, Liana Shelly.

## Congratulations, Math Masters!

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

**Grade 3:** Jesse Whitehead

**Grade 4:** Jenny Davis, Hope Dunphy, Isabel Gabin, Dominic Rivera

**Grade 5:** Joseph Dagirmanjian, Sean Hendron, Zachary Lintz, Justin Lloyd, Anna Peyla, Jenna Polignone, Juliana Ruggiero, Emily Thompson, Sean Zaranski



## Thank You, Verizon!

We are very pleased to announce that St. Augustine School won 3rd place in the "Verizon Velocity Program" Back to School Contest, thanks to the efforts of **Mrs. Angie Pirzchalski** and the faculty and staff who signed up for the program with Verizon. We will receive a donation of \$655.

## Thank You, Mrs. Daniels!

A very special thank you to **Mrs. Barbara Daniels and her family** for holding a special brunch to benefit the school. The event raised \$250 for St. Augustine's! We are very grateful for the generosity and support of the Daniels family.

## Are You Using Goodsearch.com?

If you're not already using **goodsearch.com** when you search the Internet, please consider doing so. Each time you use **goodsearch.com** as your search engine, a donation is made to St. Augustine's. It doesn't cost you a penny! It's a very easy way to support the school. **Goodsearch.com** is powered by Yahoo! You need only register our school once (the first time you log on to goodsearch.com). For searches after that, it will

automatically default to St. Augustine's. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Mobley.

## St. Augustine's Cake Decorating Contest!

Friday, December 5

Grades 3-8



All cakes should be brought into school on Friday, December 5 by 8:30 AM.

All cakes must have a Christmas holiday or religious theme. All cakes will be used as prizes at the Cake Walk at the

Christmas Dinner. **For questions, please contact Mrs. McDonnell at 410-799-1899.**

★Please support the Annual Fund! Our goal is 100% family participation!★

### ST.AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

#### *2008 Annual Fund*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount:  \$25  \$50  \$75  \$150  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate my contribution to the following:

General Fund                       Character Education                       Technology Upgrades  
 Tuition Assistance                       Playground Equipment                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution is made in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My employer has a matching gift program. Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

I have included St. Augustine School in my will.

I would like information on including St. Augustine School in my will.

Kindly return this form by **Friday, December 19**, along with a check payable to St. Augustine School Annual Fund. A receipt letter will be mailed to you for tax purposes.