



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † February 2009

From the Principal's Desk...

The ice and snow did not deter our faculty and students from doing their best to have a great Catholic Schools Week celebration. Welcoming the grandparents and taking the opportunity to express just how special they are is one of the highlights of the school year. The students enjoyed bingo and buddy activities and had a blast dancing and competing in the hula hoop contest. Our cheerleaders generated lots of spirit for the many school basketball players and the teachers felt very appreciated as they enjoyed a delicious lunch that was beautifully served by some of the parents. The theme of service was embodied by the many parent volunteers who gave of their time and talent to help with the week's events. This theme was also the central focus of our prayer service where we honored Sisters Suzanne and Gertrude Marie for their many years of selfless service to the People of God through the ministry of Catholic education. Despite the fact that the schools are no longer staffed predominantly by sisters, the Catholic school system is the legacy of these generous and courageous women. Though the economy and vast secularization of our culture present challenges to us I am confident that our school will continue to thrive. Our neighboring public schools are very good. However, they are simply not free to educate the whole child. As the children discussed ways that we live the Corporal Works of Mercy during the prayer service, I was struck once again by how fortunate and privileged we are to be able to form the children's spirits as well as their minds. I am confident that God will bless the many sacrifices our families and teachers make to ensure that the children come to know, love and serve Him.

One of the many events of our short Catholic Schools Week was the science fair. The students proudly displayed their work and discussed their findings with the younger students, teachers and parents. The quality of the projects improves every year. For the first time our fourth and fifth grade students participated. Next year we plan on having the fifth grade do small group projects and the sixth grade students will work in pairs. The teachers recently reviewed the science curriculum and were amazed at the tremendous breadth of our science program. The science teachers are meeting this week to select some topics for more in depth study, with an emphasis on having the students apply the skills of scientific inquiry and discourse.

As you know the Howard County Public Schools transportation office informed us that their schedule for our school must change in August. The challenges that this change presents were discussed at the Home and School Association meeting last Thursday night. The county bus officials assure me that they will try to extend the routes and expand service a little. Enclosed in this newsletter is a tentative schedule for next year as well as a request for further information. I hope that the proposed schedule will have enough flexibility so that everyone can be accommodated. I also hope that our school families will try to work together to help one another make this new schedule work. Every family is valued and I would not want to lose a single student because of this. I urge you to contact me if this change will force you to choose another school.

Finally, we are planning to welcome prospective families to our open house and registration tomorrow. The weather may require another postponement. However, this important event will occur eventually. Interest in our pre-school, kindergarten and middle school is high. Thank you all for what you do to promote our school.

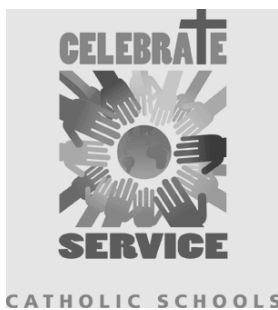
~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal



Registration for 2009-2010 School Year Underway

Open registration is now in progress for the 2009-10 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. (If paying the registration fee now poses a financial hardship for your family, please note this on the 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!**

Catholic Schools Week



Despite our school closings due to the snow, Catholic Schools Week was highly successful. This year's theme was "Celebrate Service." We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to educate your children and help form them into disciples of

Jesus. We had a very successful week, thanks to the hard work and efforts of our faculty, staff and parent volunteers.

A very special thank you to...

- The Catholic Schools Week Committee (**Mrs. Claytor, Mrs. Pilecki, Mrs. Broglie, Mrs. Wendel, Mrs. Dupree and Mrs. Mobley**), the HSA Executive Committee (**Mrs. Filar, Mrs. McDonnell, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Ricciuti, Mrs. Sudano, Mrs. Whitehead**), **Miss Ruth, Mr. Dave and the many volunteers** who contributed their time, talent and energy to make our Catholic Schools Week a success!
- All of our grandparents and special friends who visited our school on Monday. It was our pleasure having so many wonderful guests in attendance.
- The parent and student volunteers who spoke at Mass – **Mr. Stanitski, Mr. Franchy, Mrs. McDonnell, Mrs. Weglein, Rachel Filar, Ashley Jones and Laura Gretz.**

- **All other volunteers** who donated their time, energy and talents to make Catholic Schools Week so special!
- **St. Augustine parishioners** who contributed to the second collection for the school. We collected \$5,304.



And the Winner Is...

Congratulations to the **Abendschoen Family** who won 1st place in the tuition raffle! The 2nd place winner was the Pittman Family and 3rd place was Cindy Wolfe. Thank you to everyone who supported this HSA fundraiser by purchasing a raffle ticket. We raised **\$1,775**. A very special thank you to **Mrs. Janet Peyla** for coordinating and managing the raffle.

Open House...New Date!

Due to school closings, we have rescheduled our **Open House for prospective families** for **Tuesday, February 3** from **9-11 AM**. If you have a friend, family member 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.

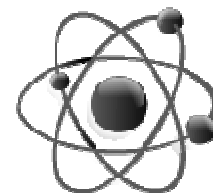
Congratulations, Math Masters!

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully mastered addition:

Grade 4: Nicholas Buonaccorsi, Natalie Lybrook, Jason Schneck

Grade 5: Madeline Donnelly, Rachel Filar, Juliana Ruggiero, Zachary Lintz

Science Fair Winners



Congratulations to all students for the wonderfully presented projects they displayed in the Science Fair!

We hope you had a chance to view the Science Fair while it was set up. Congratulations to the following students were our winners in the competition:

8th Grade:

1st Place...Danielle Flaherty – “Tire Air Pressure”

2nd Place...Madison Feliu – “Forget the Fat”

3rd Place...Megan Davis – “A Shield from the Hot & Cold”

Honorable Mention...Mary Connolly – “Electromagnetism...Feel the Pull”

Honorable Mention...Rachael Taylor – “Concentration”

7th Grade:

1st Place...Faith Rico – “To Fish or Not to Fish”

2nd Place...Scott Beautz – “Supercool Water”

3rd Place...James Peyla – “Chosen to be Frozen”

Honorable Mention...Kristel Penaso – “Do or Dye”

Honorable Mention...Matthew Franchy – “Eggname!”

A special thank you to our Science Fair judges (Dr. Christina Yuan, Dr. Daniel Yuan, Mr. Dennis McMenamin, Mrs. Janet Peyla, Mrs. Patty Zaranski and Mr. Ty Rydl and to Mrs. Rydle for planning and implementing the Science Fair.. We are also grateful to Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Arvin and Mrs. Broglie for their help in instructing students on their project displays.

Annual Fund Results

Although we did not reach our monetary or participation goals, we are very pleased to announce that the Annual Fund raised **\$18,236** for our school and **74%** of our families participated. Considering the tough economic times many of us are experiencing, we are pleased with these results. We would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the many families who contributed to the Annual Fund. We know that in many cases, making a gift was a true sacrifice. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated!

A Celebration of the Arts

Please mark your calendar for March 23 when the Archdiocese will host “A Celebration of the Arts” at the Meyerhoff. This event is a wonderful showcase of student talent. We are very pleased that the following SAS students will be performing in this year’s Celebration: **Ciara Morales, Kristel Penaso, James Peyla, Dana Pirzchalski and Aida Berhane.**

Thank You, Mrs. Nichols

Due to a change in her work schedule, Mrs. Aida Nichols is no longer able to volunteer her time teaching Spanish to our preschool and kindergarten students. The students have thoroughly enjoyed their time with Mrs. Nichols and we are thankful for the many months she has volunteered her valuable time to teach Spanish. If you speak Spanish would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Schratz.



Save the Date...The Race is Back!

Our **5th Annual Race for Education** will be held on **Friday, May 1**. 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 to volunteer. Thank you!

Boxtops News

Thanks to everyone pitching in with box tops! This year we have collected **\$929.70** for our school. We are over two thirds into our **\$1,300 goal** with two contests to go: the ice cream party contest and the extra recess contest in the spring. **The Ice Cream Party Contest** is underway! The class to turn in the most box tops by **February 20th** will win an **ice cream party**. Get in the clipping spirit and help our school! **Box Tops Sweepstakes** - Our school could win **1,000 box tops** in this contest. To enter, simply go to www.boxtops4education.com/love between February 2nd and March 1st, 2009 to sign up.



First Eucharist

Just a reminder of First Eucharist Enrollment on **February 7-8 at 6 PM, 9:15 AM, or 12:15 PM**. Families should attend one of these Masses if they have a child making First Eucharist in May. First Eucharist Mass reservation form and pledge of commitment due by **March 1**.