



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † March 2009

From the Principal's Desk...

Our celebration of Lent began with a very reflective and reverent celebration of Mass. I know St. Augustine students struggle from time to time with getting along and being attentive. They are, after all, children. However, at the liturgy on Wednesday it was clear to me once again, that our students are very well behaved and a pleasure to take to Mass, on field trips and to assemblies. Guest performers, docents and bus drivers almost always compliment our students on their attentiveness, good manners and respectful demeanor. This is a testament to good parenting and a school environment that fosters and values good character. It is also imperative that we continue to work on helping our children make good moral choices and be the best they can be. During this season of Lent when we put forth greater effort in being more Christ-like, I would suggest that all parents and teachers think about what behaviors they are modeling for the children. Bad language, unkind remarks, negative humor, bursts of temper, gossiping and telling little white lies are examples of behaviors that we see between students from time to time. If we all have high standards and work together we can help our children be people of good character.

Following Mass on Wednesday, the PK 4 through second grade students participated in a morning of activities that connected the pillars of character with the call to conversion and growth. The children learned that Jesus wants them to be like him because when they are they will be most happy and everyone around them will benefit. Being trustworthy and fair helps them make and keep friends. Being responsible and respectful improves their self-esteem and helps them be successful. Caring about others and doing what they can to make their homes, school and community (citizenship) a better place enables them to cooperate with God's plan for them.

Students in grades 4-6 will begin Holy Week with a morning of reflection, while the middle school students will have an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation and a mini-retreat in mid-March. In addition to these special days the students and faculty will participate in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Thursday mornings of Lent and Stations of the Cross on the Fridays in March. We will conclude our school celebration of Lent with our annual celebration of Tenebrae led by our 8th grade students. Parents and grandparents are invited to attend any and all of these celebrations.

In addition to being well behaved our students are hard working. I am pleased to announce that seven of our 8th grade students were awarded scholarships to Catholic high schools. Congratulations to **Aida Berhane, Mary Connolly, Megan Davis, Ciara Morales, Dana Pirzchlaski, Madison Feliu** and **Lauren Schneider**. Progress reports will be distributed on Friday, March 6. The information contained on these reports is meant to help the students and their parents affirm efforts at studying and identify areas where more effort is needed. If students are attaining high grades with no effort then a greater challenge is needed. Teachers and parents working together can help. On the other hand, if a student is working hard in class and at home and still attaining low grades then additional support is needed. Clear communication between home and school is very important to assure that children are getting the appropriate help. Finally, we have many students who have talents in the vocal and performing arts. On March 23, five students will be performing at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in the Archdiocese of Baltimore's "Celebration of the Arts." Congratulations to **Ciara Morales, Dana Pirzchalski, Aida Berhane, Kristel Penaso** and **James Peyla**. Tickets for this very entertaining evening are \$25 each and can be purchased directly from the Meyerhoff box office by calling at 410-783-8000.

~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal



Lent leads us to Jesus!

Students Receive High School Scholarships

Congratulations! We are extremely pleased and proud to announce that many of our 8th grade students have been awarded academic scholarships for the 2009-10 school year. These scholarships are a reflection of our students' hard work and dedication throughout their school career at SAS. A heartfelt congratulations to the following students and their families: **Aida Berhane, Mary Connolly, Megan Davis, Ciara Morales, Dana Pirzchlaski, Madison Feliu and Lauren Schneider.**

Save the Date...Dinner in the "Big Apple"

I ♥ NY. Miss Ruth will be serving up more delicious food on Monday, March 9 from 5-9 PM in the hall. This "restaurant style" dinner will feature burgers, hotdogs, chicken sandwiches, fried shrimp and much more! There will also be candy, Joe Corbi's pizza kits and cookie dough products on sale. In addition, there will be a 50/50 raffle. **All proceeds from this special dinner will benefit the 8th grade educational trip to New York City. We hope you will support this family event!**

2009-2010 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. We have a number of spots open for next year, 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.**

We look forward to serving your family again in the 2009-2010 school year!



5th Annual Race for Education

Our **5th Annual Race for Education** will be held on **Friday, May 1, 2009**, in conjunction with Field Day. The Race will be held in the morning for grades K-8, followed by Field Day after lunch for grades 1-8. 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 even 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 or Mrs. Broglie if you'd like to help out. 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 school will be closed **Thursday, April 9 through Friday, April 17** for Easter Break. School will resume on **Monday, April 20.**

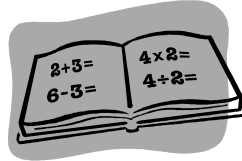


Volunteer Hours

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.**

Congratulations, Math Masters!

The following students achieved "Math Master" status in February:



Grade 3

Noah Bahur, Nicole Beautz, Andrew Black, Danielle Brunner, Abigail Bulla, Dominique Buteau, John Dutan, Matthew Elias, Julia Hoffman, Eddie Madera, Gregory Peterson, John Peyla, Jessica Schneck, Chloe Shoemaker, Jesse Whitehead.

Grade 4

Emily Dunham, Nicholas Buonaccorsi.

Grade 5

Liam Blackwell, Joseph Dagirmanjian, Madeline Donnelly, Sean Hendron, Andrew Mills, Sydney Mour, Dalton Schuman.

Ready to Roll?

Don't miss Roller Skating at Wheels in Odenton on **Saturday, March 21** from 5:45-7:45 PM. This fun-filled family event is sponsored by the HSA. A ticket order is coming soon!



Standardized Tests

The students in grades 2-8 will be taking their standardized tests during the week of March 23. Although the testing schedule will vary somewhat from grade to grade, all classes will begin testing right after prayers. There will be no testing in the afternoon. It is extremely important that students arrive to school on time and that no students are absent for appointments in the morning. Obviously, if children are sick that week, they

are not to come to school. There is time the following week for make-up testing.

There are some ways that you can ensure that your child performs his or her best on each day's tests. Adequate sleep the night before the tests and a nutritious, low sugar breakfast each morning will give your child a strong advantage. In some cases, getting enough sleep may mean that certain evening activities may need to be curtailed that week. Finally, it is important to avoid speaking of the tests in a manner that induces anxiety in your child. They are a source of valuable information to you and to the school, but they are not part of the child's grade. The students need to understand that they are to do their best, but they cannot fail these tests. The results of the tests are due back to us in mid-May. These reports will be sent home upon their arrival.

News from the Class of 2009

Our eighth grade students have been notified of their acceptance into area high schools. Tomorrow they must make their commitments to the high schools. Seven out of 22 students that applied to Catholic high schools were awarded merit scholarships. Eighteen out of these 22 students were accepted into their first choice schools, 2 are wait listed and were admitted into another Catholic high school. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and grateful for the dedication and efforts of the teachers who prepared them.



This year the 8th grade students will culminate their studies at St. Augustine School with two very educational field trips. These will not be replacing the traditional trip to Hershey Park. These three events combined are quite costly. To help defray this expense the students and their parents are working to raise the funds to finance the trips. We are hoping that all the families of our school will support their efforts by attending the "Big Apple Dinner" on **March 9**.

Happy St. Patrick's Day