



# The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † April 2009

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

Our Lenten journey is nearly over and for me, one of its most powerful experiences occurred yesterday. I had the great privilege of spending a little over an hour in prayer with our middle school students. The focus of our worship was our friendship with God and his merciful and unconditional love as expressed in the sacrament of Reconciliation. I was so moved by the prayerfulness, reverence and attentiveness of the students. Over the 28 years that I have been in education, I have never seen such faith and maturity in a group of middle school students. Gathering 85 adolescents together and expecting them to be quiet and prayerful in many schools where I have served would be a recipe for frustration, if not disaster. Not so, at our school. Most students spent their quiet time reflecting and writing about their experience of God's friendship with them and with others. All students were quiet, with teachers able to do some spiritual reading and praying, rather than the more customary monitoring. I was particularly humbled when a couple of students invited me to read their writing. As I read their words these words of sacred scripture came to mind, "Unless you become like a child, you shall not enter the kingdom of God." I pray that all of you will be blessed through the simple, yet profound, faith of your own children. We have so much to learn from them if we slow down a bit and allow ourselves time to truly listen. The Church in its wisdom and providence calls us to be quiet for these forty days, especially during the coming Holy Week.

On Sunday the Church will begin the most important week of the liturgical year. With the waving of palms and the reading of Our Lord's Passion we will usher in Holy Week. Our Lenten journey is coming to a close and we will soon be celebrating the great feast of Easter. Whether you have diligently celebrated each of the days of Lent to date or you have not really gotten around to it, God is calling you to focus anew on the Good News of our faith. Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again. I urge our school families to spend some time together in prayer around the sacred mystery of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. We will celebrate a beautiful and very powerful telling of this story at Tenebrae on Wednesday at 2 PM in the church. This annual Lenten worship service is led by our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students under the direction of our music teacher, Mrs. Andrasik. All are welcome. The Mass of the Lord's Supper and the Living Stations on Good Friday are very meaningful liturgies that children can relate to. Participation in these services will enhance the children's and our religious experience of Easter.

Our school proclaims in its mission statement that we exist to form our students into disciples of Christ. One of the characteristics of discipleship is an awareness of those in need and a desire to respond to that need. Developing this awareness is an important part of our curriculum. Everyone of our school families was given a "rice bowl" as a reminder that some of our brothers and sisters are without food. It was also meant to be a vehicle for almsgiving, one of the three disciplines of Lent. All families are invited to send in their rice bowl "alms" on Wednesday, April 8 or Monday, April 20. Checks or cash are appreciated. Please convert your coins to the nearest dollar. These funds will be sent to Catholic Relief Services for their work on behalf of the poor overseas.

For me, the experiences of Reconciliation with the students, the upcoming celebration of Tenebrae, and Operation Rice Bowl are just three simple events that confirm the value of a Catholic education in general, and the strength of St. Augustine School, in particular. I know we are all facing economic challenges and the lure of good public schools is more tempting. I know that other Catholic schools may have a nicer gym, newer classrooms or better fields. Yet, I am more convinced than ever, that our students are truly second to none in kindness, respect and faith. What could be more important?

*~Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal*

## Volunteer Service Hours

As you know, every St. Augustine School family is required to complete 20 volunteer service hours each school year. The deadline for completion of the 20 hours is **Thursday, May 14, 2009**. For any hours not completed, families will be billed at the rate of \$20 per hour. Payment of outstanding hours is due by **Friday, May 29, 2009**. To verify the status of your family's completed volunteer hours, please contact Mrs. Marc at [cmarc@staug-md.org](mailto:cmarc@staug-md.org) or call her in the school office. **As always, we value your time and dedication to our school and students throughout the school year. We could not do all that we do (and do it so well) without your support!**

## 5th Annual Race for Education



We're gearing up for **St. Augustine's 5th Annual Race for Education on Friday, May 1!** This event will promote physical fitness among students while raising much-needed funds for our school! Students always have fun at this annual event! With everyone's support of this fun fundraiser, we hope to raise over \$35,000! **All label sheets were due today. Thank you to everyone who sent the labels in on time. If you did not send in your labels, please do so as soon as possible. No labels can be accepted after April 3. Remember...each class that has 100% participation will receive an ice cream party. Your support is greatly appreciated!** We invite parents to come out on race day and cheer for the students!

## Field Day 2009

Field Day for grades 1-8 will be held on **Friday, May 1** in conjunction with the Race for Education. Many fun activities are planned throughout the day for students. **Volunteers are needed for the entire day.** This is a great way to fulfill your 20 service hour commitment. Set-up will begin at 7:30 AM. To volunteer, please send in the attached form to the attention of Mrs. Mobley no later than **Monday, April 13**. Thank you for helping make this a special day for our students!



## Spring Has Sprung!

We are now gathering outside in the morning. Students should line up along the sidewalk by the school hall. In order to ensure the safety of all students, please adhere to the following reminders:

- Please do not drop your child off until **8:15 a.m.** There is no supervision available before 8:15 a.m. and you may not leave your child unattended.
- Please be very cautious walking children from the back lot since the buses will drive through that area to make the turn into the main lot.
- Please remind your children that there is to be no running around as we wait for the first bell.

Students may begin wearing their summer uniform on **Monday, April 20**. Please note that summer uniforms are optional and if the weather gets cold, winter uniforms may be worn. However, combinations of the two are not permitted.

The summer uniform is nearly the same for all grades and genders and consists of:

- Navy twill knee-length walk shorts with a brown or black belt or, for girls, a navy skort.
- The regular (white for grade 6-8 boys, yellow for everyone else), short sleeved, monogrammed shirt.
- Regular uniform tie or buckle, flat shoes with plain, white crew socks (over the ankle).

## Call for HSA Nominees!

The Home & School Association is very important to the ongoing success of our school. The HSA leadership is a vital link between the parents and the school. We are currently searching for volunteers to run for the elected positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, in addition to chairpersons for several standing committees, for the 2009-2010 school year. Please consider lending

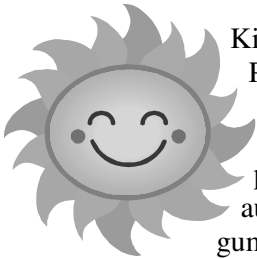


your time and talents to our children and their families. Your participation can make a real difference in our school! If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Mrs. Lisa Filar, HSA President, or Mrs. Schratz. Thank you!

## Join us for Dinner!

We will hold an all-you-can-eat family dinner on **Monday, April 27** from 5-9 PM in the school hall. Miss Ruth's buffet menu will include fried chicken, pulled pork and much more! Bring the whole family and dine in or stop by and pick up carry-out! This is a great opportunity to enjoy a delicious homemade meal while socializing with other members of the St. Augustine community. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Mrs. Mobley at [smobley@staug-md.org](mailto:smobley@staug-md.org) to sign up.

## School's Out! Supper



Kick-off the summer in a big way... Please join us on **Friday, May 22** from 4-8 PM for a wonderful homemade dinner, children's games, face painting, DJ, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction! The menu will feature chicken gumbo, pit beef/ham/turkey, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, corn, country fried potatoes, baked beans and desserts. This is a great way to end the school year with friends! Volunteers are needed! Please contact Mrs. Mobley at [smobley@staug-md.org](mailto:smobley@staug-md.org).

## Barnes & Noble Book Fair

The Book Fair is back! Join us at the Barnes & Noble in Ellicott City on **Tuesday, May 26** at 6 PM for your chance to purchase books for summer reading, while being entertained by Mrs. Filar, Mrs. Wendel and Mrs. Schratz who will be reading to students. In addition, there will be a special appearance by Froggy for the younger children – bring your camera! Before or after the Book Fair, please stop by Pizzeria Uno's in the Long Gate Shopping Center to enjoy a delicious dinner while helping raise "dough" for SAS!



## Congratulations!

*Congratulations to the following students who achieved academic excellence by making the Principal's List for the second trimester:*

### Grade 6

Laura Arvin  
Rachel Feliu  
Laura Gretz  
Gabriella Schoenbeck  
Taylor Swenski  
Olivia Tan



### Grade 7

Katherine Connolly  
Rebecca Lewis  
Kristel Penaso  
James Peyla  
Michael Zerhusen



### Grade 8

Aida Berhane  
Timothy Ankrum  
Samantha Brunner  
Hollie Byer  
Mary Connolly  
Ciara Morales  
Johnathan Sage  
Lauren Schneider  
Rachael Taylor



*Congratulations to the following students who achieved academic excellence by making the Honor Roll for the second trimester:*

### Grade 6

Noelle Bailey  
Jamie Dunphy  
Nicole Kyle  
Joseph Mercurio  
Olivia Stanitski  
Margaret Yuan



### Grade 7

Scott Beautz  
Patrick Bibeau  
Faith Rico

### Grade 8

William Hendron  
Thomas Kyle  
Milena Novotny  
Stephanie Pearre  
Dana Pirezchalski  
Liana Shelly  
Karina Wolfe



## SPRING B-I-N-G-O!



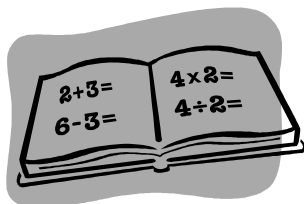
Don't miss the "Spring Bingo" sponsored by the HSA on **Friday, April 24**. Doors open at 6 PM and Bingo starts at 7 PM. In addition to Bingo games, there will be a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and a Bonus Bingo for a chance to win Disney Park Hopper Passes! There will be pizza, meatball subs, hotdogs, chili dogs, nachos, soda, candy, and desserts available for purchase. Tickets are \$6 each. For ticket information, please contact Carole Bailey at 410-760-4965. To volunteer, please contact Susan Gibbs at 410-997-5437. We hope to see you on the 24th!

## Math Masters

*Congratulations to the following students who achieved "Math Master" during the month of March:*

### Grade 3:

Andrew Black  
Danielle Brunner  
Abbey Bulla  
Dominique Buteau  
John Dutan  
Olivia Gretz  
Eddie Madera  
Julia Hoffman  
Gregory Peterson  
John Peyla  
Jessica Schneck  
Jesse Whitehead



### Grade 4:

Nicholas Buonaccorsi  
Emily Dunham

### Grade 5:

Sean Hendron  
Jenna Polignone

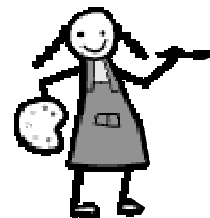


## Spotlight on Specials... Music



This month's spotlight is on **Music**. Directed by Mrs. Maria Andrasik, our music program shines a bright light on our many talented students. In addition to teaching music classes during the school day, Mrs. Andrasik directs the school choir and prepares them for masses, as well as many special performances, including the Christmas Pageant, Advent Play, "Hansel & Gretel," and Tenebrae. In addition, younger students are able to participate in Piano Lab and older students Guitar Lab. As a result of Mrs. Andrasik's hard work and efforts, several of our students recently performed in the Archdiocese's "Celebration of the Arts" performance and many of our students have been accepted into the Children's Chorus of the Peabody Conservatory. The music program at St. Augustine's fosters students' love of music and encourages their many talents.

## Expanding Extracurricular Activities



For the 2009-2010 school year, we would like to offer additional opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities. We will soon be sending out a survey to our students to determine what clubs they would be interested in joining. We know that we have many talented parents and relatives at our school. If you are willing to share your time and talent with students leading an after school club for one hour per week, for a limited time period, please call the school office. We welcome all of your ideas and thoughts! Thank you!

## Principal's Coffee



You are invited to attend a "Principal's Coffee" with Mrs. Schratz on **Thursday, April 23** from 8:45-9:45 AM. Topics of discussion include middle states report, staffing and our math program. Of course, your questions, comments and feedback are always welcome! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mrs. Franchy at [jfranchy@staug-md.org](mailto:jfranchy@staug-md.org) or call the school office by Monday, April 20. Thank you!