



The St. Augustine Monthly

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

A School You Can Have Faith In † May 2009

From the Principal's Desk...

If wholesome fun and healthy exercise are the measures, the race for Education was once again a huge success! Although we will not be able to determine the financial success of this effort until the end of May, I am hoping that it will likewise be extremely successful. The projects that we want to fund with this year's Race money will be very exciting and beneficial to the children. Over the summer the playground behind the church will be relocated to a portion of the field. At that time we are planning to replace and/or add to some of the playground equipment and improve the field. In addition to the Race money, we are searching for grants and sponsors to help fund the project. If you work for a company that supports local charities, please let Mrs. Mobley know.

In addition to making the play area more exciting, we are bringing technology into the classroom to make learning more exciting. We are phasing in the addition of MIMEO equipment that will enable the students to interact with visual learning. We will initially outfit the art/music room, science lab, and a primary classroom with the Mimeo, whiteboards and mounted projection equipment. The art/music room and science lab are classrooms that are available to all teachers for a portion of everyday. The Grandparents for Technology drive has raised enough funds to provide this equipment for one classroom. The cost of outfitting the other two classrooms is covered by a portion of the technology fee. Our goal is to have this technology in place in an additional 7 classrooms as soon as possible. Our ability to do so will depend on the financial success of the Race for Education and the acquisition of donations and/or grants.

Of course, the other source of income for school enhancement is tuition. The factor that influences tuition the greatest is enrollment. Needless to say, the economy is impacting our enrollment. As I have stated before, our school is financially poised to help any families that are affected by unemployment. I am not concerned about losing families as much as attracting new families, who feel that parochial education may be a luxury that is out of reach in uncertain economic times. Those families who are willing to make the sacrifice for a Catholic education are in a position to shop around and take their time to register. I believe we have a great school! I received a beautiful affirmation of this from a parent who had attended the 1st and 7th grade field trip to the Chesapeake Bay last week. Observing the interaction between her child and his 7th grade buddy she was moved to write, "I was so thankful to observe the attentiveness, concern and caring approach that the buddy gave to my son. I would often see my son looking at him as a child would to his older brother...It is experiences like this that again confirm why I keep my children at St. Augustine." I know many of you feel this way. Please do your best to spread the word to friends and neighbors that our school is a great value, providing a nurturing and challenging academic experience. We also know that there is a limited number of people that we can reach out to. The development committee is having lawn signs printed to advertise our school. We are seeking families willing to put these on their property. We will also give families a \$ referral fee for anyone who registers as a result of seeing their sign.

Finally, one of the factors that enable me to stretch our tuition dollars is the outstanding generosity of our school volunteers. The hundreds of hours of service not only save us thousands of dollars, but enables us to do so many wonderful things for the children. The spirit of community that is created by people working together is priceless and it is one of our school's greatest assets. Thank you all for the many, many ways that you serve our school community. I look forward to being able to express our appreciation at the Volunteer Dinner on May 6.

Mrs. Patricia Schratz, Principal

Important Volunteer Reminders

The required 20 hours of volunteer service must be completed by each family no later than **Friday, May 14, 2009**. Any hours not completed by this date will be billed at a rate of \$20 per hour. **However, if you plan to volunteer at the Schools Out! Supper on May 22 and wish for this to count toward this year's hours, please contact Mrs. Marc in the school office at cmarc@staug-md.org.** In addition, if you are unsure how many hours you have served or have any questions regarding the volunteer program, please contact Mrs. Marc in the school office at cmarc@staug-md.org.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the many families who continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to volunteer more than the required 20 hours. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated by the teachers and students at St. Augustine's and we couldn't do all that we do with your generous support.

We hope you will join us on **Wednesday, May 6** at 6 PM for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner! The band will also perform at the dinner. This year's final HSA meeting and elections will be held immediately following the dinner. Parents are encouraged to run for an office on the Home & School Association Executive Committee. This is a great way to get involved in your child's school and make a real difference in the St. Augustine School community. To nominate yourself or someone else for a position, please contact Mrs. Schratz or Mrs. Lisa Madera Filar.

5th Annual Race for Education Takes Off!

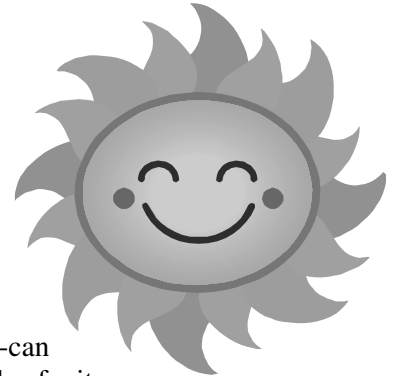


Today's Race for Education/Field Day was a huge success! We are very happy to announce that more than **\$12,000** has already been received in donations! All contributions are due no later than **Friday, May 29**. The class that raises the most money will receive a pizza party and extra recess. The top three students who raise the most money will each receive \$50. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser!

A BIG THANK YOU to our corporate sponsors who generously supported this year's Race for Education: *BB&T Elkridge Branch, CAC Direct Marketing Services,*

The Hair Station (Debbie Marc), Cindy's Soft Serve (Quick Family), Answer Quest Technologies (AnswerQuest.com), and Craig Dunklee Screenprinting. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

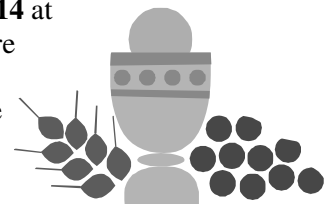
School's Out! Supper



Don't miss our end-of-year dinner and bash to kick-off the summer! The School's Out! Supper will feature a delicious, all-you-can eat homemade feast of pit beef, pit ham, pit turkey, Italian sausage and peppers, pork and sausage, country fried potatoes, corn, baked beans, desserts and drinks. In addition, there will be a DJ for dancing, awesome silent auction items to bid on, fun games and face painting for the kids, and a 50/50 raffle. This is an event you won't want to miss! For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Mobley at smobley@staug-md.org. Note: if you still need volunteer hours, this is a great way to earn them! **NOTE: CARRY-OUT IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE OF YOU GOING AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND.**

First Holy Communion

Our prayers and heartfelt congratulations are extended to our second grade students who are making their First Holy Communion this month. The school community will celebrate with the first communicants at our school liturgy held on **Thursday, May 14** at 9 AM. All parents and friends are invited to worship with us. Immediately following Mass, the second graders and their parents will be honored with a special brunch.



Vacation Bible School

Explore the wonders of the word! Vacation Bible School will be held **July 20-24 from 9 AM-12:15 PM**. VBS is an excellent opportunity for your child to grow closer to God while having fun and making new friends this summer. Forms are available in the back of church, in the REP Office or online at www.staugustinechurch.org. For questions or more information, please contact Mrs. Cathy Carlin at 410-796-8150.

Hats Off to the Class of 2009!

St. Augustine's Class of 2009 will celebrate its commencement on **Wednesday, June 3** at 7:30 p.m. The graduation will be celebrated at a baccalaureate Mass presided by Father Bowen. Following Mass, graduates and their immediate family will be honored at a special reception in the hall. Congratulations and best wishes to our St. Augustine graduates:

Timothy Ankrum
Samantha Brunner
Mary Connolly
Thomas Deskins
Madison Feliu
Maia Goldsberry
William Hendron
Darlena Lopez
Ciara Morales
Milena Novotny
Dana Pirzchalski
Jonathan Sage
Liana Shelly
Karina Wolfe

Aida Berhane
Hollie Byer
Megan Davis
Thomas Dunphy
Danielle Flaherty
Amanda Gretz
Thomas Kyle
Matthew McMenamin



Austin Mott
Stephanie Pearre
Natalia Rios
Lauren Schneider
Rachael Taylor



Final Boxtops Contest

The final boxtops for education contest has ended. The winning class will be announced on Monday. Thank you to the many families who collected boxtops throughout the school year. A very special thank you to **Mrs. Joseline Castanos** for coordinating the boxtops program this year! Please continue to collect boxtops during the summer months. We will have another contest in the fall.

Barnes & Book Fair!

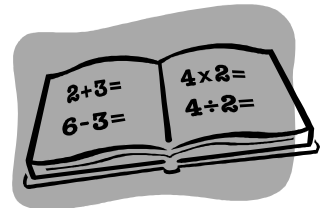
Please join us on **Tuesday, May 26** at the Barnes & Noble in Ellicott City (Long Gate Parkway) for our **2nd Annual St. Augustine Book Fair!** This is a great opportunity to purchase your child's summer reading materials. Every student who attends and makes a purchase will receive a "free dress pass" OR "no homework pass" at the register. There will be a special appearance by "Froggy" for the younger students, as well as book readings by Mrs. Filar, Mrs. Wendel and Mrs. Schratz. Please stop by Pizzeria Uno's before or after the Book Fair and enjoy a delicious meal and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to our school!

Please Support the HSA Bag Sale!

The HSA is selling brand new, eco-friendly reusable bags. These Eco Chic Reusable Bags are 100% polypropylene (very durable). Beautiful designs set them apart from all other reusable bags. Consider it as a travel, toy, beach, gift, file, book, project bag, etc. It's the "million use" bag! The bags cost \$6 (drug store bag), \$8 (grocery bag), \$9 (department store bag). Order are due by **Monday, May 4** and bags will be delivered on or around May 22. Thank you for your support! If you are wondering if it's really worthwhile to use fewer or no plastic shopping bags, please take a minute and watch the Plastic Bag slideshow at www.poconorecord.com. It illustrates the damage that is being done to wildlife and their habitats on land and sea. You will never forget your reusable shopping bags again.

Math Masters

Congratulations to the following students who achieved "Math Master" in April:



Grade 3: Noah Bahur, Nicole Beautz, Andrew Black, Danielle Brunner, Abigail Bulla, Dominique Buteau, John Dutan, Matthew Elias, Olivia Gretz, Rachel Hall, Julia Hoffman, Eddie Madera, Mary Marc, Adam Mills, Gregory Peterson, Jessica Schneck, Chloe Shoemaker, Jesse Whitehead and Maya Yearwood.

Grade 5: Sydney Mour, Anna Peyla, Juliana Ruggiero, and Sean Zaranski

Congratulations to SAS alumni **Tylar Abrams** for achieving Third Quarter Honors at Catholic High.

Congratulations to SAS alumni **Kristin Feliu** for achieving Third Quarter Silver Honor at the Institute of Notre Dame.



We wish Tylar and Kristin continued academic success!

Student Council News



The Student Council is currently sponsoring a canned food drive competition. The competition began on **Monday, April 27** and will end on **Friday, May 8**. The winning class will be announced the following week and will receive an ice cream party.

The Student Council will be sponsoring “Wacky Tacky Day” next **Friday, May 8**. Come dressed in a “wacky” fashion. Please dress appropriately and follow the SAS guidelines stated in the handbook. The cost is \$2 and all proceeds will be designated for a charity.

Thank you to all members of the Student Council and advisors Mrs. Madera and Mrs. Zaranski for a great school year!



Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to **Laura Arvin**, winner of the grade 4-6 division Spelling Bee. Laura will represent our school at the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee on May 14. The first runner-up was **Taylor Swenski**. The winner of our 7th and 8th grade competition was **James Peyla** and the

runner-up was **David Amponsah**. Isabelle Gabin (4th grade), Emily Thompson (5th grade), and Samantha Brunner (8th grade) were the top performers from their respective classes. Congratulations to all of our student competitors for a job well done!



Health Room News

With the outbreak of swine flu in Maryland and talk of a pandemic, obviously we are all concerned and have a heightened sense of protecting our children and keeping them healthy. The school is putting some practices into place to minimize the likelihood of the spread of any disease. The students will wash desks daily with alcohol. The nurses will wipe down all railings, door handles and the water fountains

with disinfectant every morning. Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom and students may also have their own.

Please remember to call the office when your child is absent for any reason.

We are following protocols and are preparing to be able to continue to instruct the children in the unlikely event that we will need to close school. You will continue to be informed of any further responses to this situation.

Public health officials are recommending that schools continue to monitor student health according to regular procedures and that people take the same precautions as would be taken for any other type of influenza prevention.

Recommendations are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze (Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective).
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get the flu stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are spread this way.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is updating their website frequently in response to the current swine flu outbreak. Visit www.cdc.gov. Information is also available on the Howard County Health Department site at www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_Homepage.htm

Our new nurse is Amanda Soares. Mrs. Soares is a registered nurse. Professionally she has worked and continues to work part time at Johns Hopkins Hospital mainly in the pediatric oncology unit. She is married and the mother of a one year old son.

Calendar for the 2010 School Year

The official calendar will be distributed with the packets of materials you will receive in June. However, for planning purposes the first day of school will be August 26 and school will close on June 4. The students will be off for Christmas from December 22 at 12:30 through January 3. Easter vacation begins on Holy Thursday, April 1 and the children return to school on April 12.