



# St. Augustine School

Faith + Family + Future

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## **PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

**December 2011**

The saint for the month is Blessed Pope Pius IX.

The value for the month is Community.

### **REMINDERS:**

- School will be closed on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> for a Conference Day.
- Christmas Vacation begins at dismissal on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dismissal will be at 11:00 am.
- **There will be NO AFTERCARE PROGRAM on Friday, December 23, 2011.**

**Thanksgiving Feast Day** – Thank you one and all! What a great day! Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> was our school wide feast. Thank you, Miss Angela and Mrs. Rizzo for coordinating the Kitchen. Thank you also Mrs. Rizzo for coordinating the Class Parents, and thank you, all parents who assisted in any way that you did. Without your assistance and support the day would not have been such a huge success!

**Christmas Pageant** – All are welcome to attend our Christmas Pageant on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, in the Church. The children will report to the school at 6:30 pm. All parents and guests are to go directly to the Church. Again this year all grades, Kindergarten through eight, will participate. This is a beautiful Advent prayer as we prepare for the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. What a beautiful way for our St. Augustine School Family to celebrate this glorious event.

**The Lighting of the Nativity Creche** – on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm is the annual lighting of the New City Nativity Creche in front of the legislative building on New Hempstead Road. The blessing of the Creche will be followed by a short prayer and Christmas carols. Please wear your St. Augustine's uniform if you attend.

**Christmas Band Concert** – will be held on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 pm in the school auditorium for our experienced musicians in grades 4-8. All are welcome to come and hear our school band!

**Advent Project** – Once again, this year, we are asking each family to donate **ONE NEW ITEM** of basic baby clothing. These donations will be given to

Birthright of Rockland County, Inc. and Good Counsel Home. Our students will be collecting these items along with the students in the School of Religion. All unwrapped baby items are due no later than Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support with this service project.

**Toys for Tots** – I want to bring to your attention the fact that we have a box for ***Toys for Tots*** sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve in the school lobby. If you wish to donate, please send in **new and unwrapped toys only**. If you wish to participate in this great cause, please do so by December 19, 2011. This is a superb way to give a child a Merry Christmas. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

**Asbestos Inspection** – occurred on Tuesday, November 22, 2011. I am happy to announce that we passed the inspection.

**Emergency Closings** – Should a snowfall or another inclement condition cause the Clarkstown School District to close or delay opening, St. Augustine School will close or have a delayed opening. The IRIS Alert System will notify each family what St. Augustine School is doing.

**Honor Roll** – Congratulations to the following 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who made the Honor Roll for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

The Honors Breakfast will take place on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you HSA, especially Mrs. Pisano.

**5th Grade**

Principal's List

Isabelle Arevalo  
Elizabeth Rauchet  
Yena Woo

First Honors

Jillian Busetto  
James Fiore  
Reginald Lamarre  
Astrid Neblung  
Rachael Obe  
Otis Smith  
Neil Valdez

Second Honors

Samantha Dari  
Katelyn Spinks

**6th Grade**

Principal's List

Christopher Rauchet

First Honors

Nicholas Olano  
Samantha Pisano  
Tariku Smith

Second Honors

Roshan Dave  
Shannon Kelly  
Inaya Spradley  
Kyle TenEyck

### 7th Grade

Principal's List  
Gabriella DePinho  
Christine Jacob

First Honors  
Gabrielle Favre

Second Honors  
Isabelle Akinyemiju  
Maggie Mahoney  
Arianne Rowe

### 8th Grade

Principal's List  
Samantha Heavner

First Honors  
Preston Akalonu  
Isabella Bono  
Kyra Campos-Marquetti  
Aleksander Piatek

Second Honors  
Erich Christerer  
Stefan Dela Riva  
Matthew Hawker  
Allison Holandez  
Cesar Regalado

**Student Council News** – The Halloween raffle was a big success! The winners were: Jordan Antolin in grade 4 and Sydney Solages in grade. The total amount of money raised was \$315.50. This money will help support our sponsored boy, Christian in Ecuador. Thank you for your support. Student Council made 77 Thanksgiving cards for Sunrise Assisted Living here in New City. Be on the lookout for information on the Christmas Raffle!

### **Class Activities:**

#### **Grade 3:**

- On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the class had a visitor, Nicole from “Animal Experiences”. She brought with her many different animals. It was a fun and educational experience for the children to get up close and personal with a variety of animals, such as reptiles, mammals, amphibians, and even a tarantula. The children learned the traits of each group of animals and certain adaptations they have developed to survive. The children were able to observe and handle the animals.

#### **Grade 8:**

- The COOP Exam (entrance exam for Catholic high schools) took place at Albertus Magnus High School November 11<sup>th</sup>. They will receive the results in January.

**Cold Weather** – As winter approaches, please remember to have your child dress warmly. Hats and gloves are appropriate; the children will go out for recess daily provided the temperature is above 32 degrees. Be sure to label all clothing. This includes: school sweater, sweatshirt, coat, gloves, hat and lunchboxes.

**Save the Date:**

- The Father/Daughter Snowball is set for Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-9:30 pm in the Zoeller Center.
- Catholic Schools Week theme for this year is *Catholic Schools - Faith, Academics, Service*” We will be celebrating the week of January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Open House on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 – 11:30 am and 7-8 pm.
- Registration for the 2011-2012 school year will occur February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Box Tops** – Our Student Council is collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education. If you purchase and use General Mills products, please clip off the Box Tops For Education and send them into school. Thank you.

**Campbell Soup Labels for Education** – Save your Campbell Soup Labels and other Campbell product labels. Just look for the emblem that states Campbell Soup labels for Education. Thank you for your support!

**Coupons** – Sister Diane would appreciate receiving all the manufacturer’s coupons you do not use. Please do not cut them up. Thank you for your support.

**Shopping at DeCicco’s Food Market?** For all your purchases made at DeCicco’s, the DeCicco family will donate 1.5% total sales to St. Augustine School. At check out, simply tell the cashier that you want your rebate to go to St. Augustine School. It is that simple! Thank you for your support!

*The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”*

*Matthew 1: 18 – 24*

***A parent’s dreams***

*From the moment a couple learns that they will be parents, they begin to dream about and dream for their child.*

*The first dreams are for a safe birth, a strong and complete body, good health and physical development. Then parents dream that their son or daughter will excel in sports, master the sciences, distinguish themselves in the arts, music or literature. They may even dare to dream that their child*

may one day be elected President, quarterback the Forty-niners, sing at the Met, or conquer Wall Street.

Along the way, of course, the dreams will change. Where they once dreamt about the Nobel Prize, Mom and Dad will now settle for passing algebra. The dream of a World Series ring is quickly forgotten when anguished parents wait and hope that their son will walk again or that their daughter will wake up after a terrible accident. The dream of a Bill Gates – like fortune – all but disappears when Mom and Dad desperately pray for their child's safe return from a dangerous sojourn into the world of drugs, sex and violence.

Joseph dreamt dreams for his family as well. The angel assures Joseph that he should not fear about taking his beloved Mary as his wife despite her pregnancy, that his compassion and love for her will not be disappointed. We know also that the angel told Joseph to take his family to Egypt to escape King Herod's murderous search for the child.

Fear, disappointment, adversity and tragedy will change and alter our most grandiose dreams for our children. But, as Joseph learns from his dreams, the most important things we can dream for our children is that they know the love and safety of a family, the acceptance and forgiveness of understanding parents, the knowledge and wisdom of the God of graciousness and peace.

Christmas is the season of hope that the "dreams" of every family for happiness, peace, forgiveness and compassion be realized. In this season and in every season, may Joseph be our model for making those dreams a reality: Like Joseph, may we possess the openness of heart and spirit to behold God's presence in all things; like Joseph, may we possess the humility and selflessness to seek understanding and acceptance within our families even at the cost of our own expectations and hopes; like Joseph, may we possess the courage and commitment to be sources of affirmation and support for our spouses and children.

*(Author Unknown)*

*May the blessings of Christmas remain with you  
throughout the year. A Joyous Christmas and Holy  
New Year to you and yours,*

*Mrs. Katharine Murphy, Principal  
and  
The Faculty and Staff of St. Augustine School*