

St. Augustine School

Faith + Family + Future

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

The Saint for the month is Mother Clelia Merloni.

The value for the month is Humility.

This month of the Year of the Priest we honor St. Maximillian Koble.

The value for the month is Generosity.

****IMPORTANT TO ALL PARENTS****

Beginning January 2010, we will be going “paperless”. All mail and fliers from school, HSA and SASAL will be done by email. All fliers are posted on our school website. Please take the time now to go online and see what is there.

If you need to update the school with your email please do so.

Strategic Plan For Development - In our ongoing efforts to consistently improve SAS, we engaged the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD) to help us prepare a Strategic Plan for Development (SPD) and create a dynamic vision for our future. The result of this effort will help us best serve the students, parents, faculty and staff, alumni and the surrounding community for many years to come. This effort began in June with a Development Assessment and has continued with the creation of both a Core Team and a Development Advisory Board (DAB). These individuals from both the school and parish will be working together over the next several months to identify strategic solutions to a number of key challenges (i.e. communications, enrollment management, alumni relations and revenue development) that were identified in our development Assessment.

The DAB met for the first time on Thursday, October 22nd and provided valuable input and constructive suggestions on how we can improve both communications and the involvement of people in our mission and vision. The DAB will meet again on Thursday, November 19th at 7:30 PM in the Zoeller Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. At that meeting,

we will be collecting ideas on how to improve enrollment, alumni relations and collaboration between the parish and school.

If you have any questions, or are unable to attend but would like to have your voices heard, please contact Beth Rooney at 364-0443 or girlsoncamphill@optonline.net

Clothing Drive - HSA is sponsoring a clothing drive under the direction of Mrs. Marisa Schmidhauser. It is a simple and easy way for SAS to raise money for the school and gives all of us the opportunity to recycle. The clothing drive will occur on **Wednesday, November 11th 8:30 am - 1:00 pm in the school parking lot.** Items that can be donated are: used clothing (summer and winter), shoes, purses, household linens, towels, and crib sheets. It is a great way to get rid of clothes that you have no use for any more!

SASAL Program - The **Saint Augustine School Athletic League** began on September 26th. It is an intramural basketball program for boys and girls in grades 2-8. We have about 60 students involved. Special thanks to Mr. Patrick Solages and all the parent volunteers. If your child has yet to register, you may still join.

Halloween Carnival - On Friday, October 30th, the HSA sponsored the Halloween Carnival for the Catholic Charities, St. Nicholas Project. We raised \$1,000.00. All the students enjoyed games, raffles, and refreshments. Hosted by the 8th grade, it was truly a cooperative event. Many students and their families donated cash or prizes. *A sincere thanks* to Mrs. Schmidhauser and Mrs. Angela Rizzo and their outstanding team of parents. Thank you to all involved for an absolutely super, fantastic day!!!!

Family Night Bingo - Our Annual Family Night Bingo was held on Saturday, October 17th. Thank you Mrs. Linda Whitmore for the super fantastic job you did! This was your last Bingo Night since Carter graduates this year, we will miss your presence. We hope we can fill your shoes. You are welcome back anytime you want to come.

Thanksgiving Service Project - We will be collecting food this month to help fill the shelves at the Rockland County Food Pantry to aid our fellow

community members. Please check the school's website to see what items are to be collected. I know our school family will be generous in aiding those less fortunate individuals.

Uniforms - Winter uniforms are to be worn beginning November 2nd. All students are required to wear their school sweater to school. All boys are required to wear a belt with their pants, excluding Kindergarten. Boys in Grades 5-8 are to wear the school tie with the Oxford shirt. **NO GOLF SHIRTS ARE TO BE WORN BY STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8** (that shirt is part of the summer uniform). The skort is a summer uniform option and can no longer be worn. It can be worn again beginning May 1st. Girls in grades K-6 can wear either green knee socks or green/blue or black tights. Girls in 7th and 8th grades are to wear green/blue or black tights. Pantyhose **ARE NOT** part of the uniform and are **NOT** to be worn. Sneakers are worn only on gym days. The gym sweatshirt can only be worn on gym days, **NOT** in place of the school sweater. Jewelry is **NOT** to be worn on gym days. This is a safety issue. Please make sure that dangling earrings and hoop earrings are **NOT** worn to school; once again this is a safety issue. Makeup and nail polish are **NOT** to be worn to school. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook about proper uniform policy.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - These conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 18th. **Dismissal on this day will be at 11:00 A.M.** 7th and 8th grade students are to attend the conference with their parents.

School Wide Thanksgiving Theme - On Tuesday, November 24th, the entire school, Pre-K through grade 8, will sit down together to give thanks as the Pilgrims and Native Americans did 388 years ago. It will be an exciting day!

Thanksgiving Mass - The school will be attending a special Thanksgiving School Mass on Wednesday, November 25th at 10:00 A.M. and the 5th Grade will lead us in this celebration. All are welcome to attend. **Dismissal on this day before Thanksgiving will be at 11:00 AM.**

Class Activities -

Pre-K - visited DeCiccio's market as an extension of their Social Studies and Science curriculum, on Thursday, November 5th. They learned where and

how the vegetables and fruit grow. They saw how these food items are sorted for sale. Thank you DeCiccio's for allowing us to visit.

Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade - had a visit from the Clarkstown Fire Department on Wednesday, October 21st. They learned so much about fire safety. They tried on the fire helmet, the coat and even the oxygen tank that the firemen wear. All the children enjoyed getting to sit in the fire truck including Mrs. Murphy. We all had a great time.

4th - 8th grade - Mrs. Adele Pascucci, former principal of Immaculate Conception School, gave a presentation on Henry Hudson on the 400th anniversary of his trip up the Hudson River.

5th grade - The class went to visit the Sterling Hills Zinc Mine in Ogdensburg, New Jersey on October 29th. This is a national historic site that has a spectacular mineral fluorescence display in a natural environment. They learned much about the process of metal mining.

6th grade - has adopted a soldier. Kristi is a nineteen year old from Idaho deployed from Tennessee serving in Iraq. The class is excited and already class emails have been sent. They have received photos from Kristi. (We have the poster with the photos hanging under the TV across from my office.) The class sent a video singing Happy Birthday to her. It made her day. We will pray daily for Kristi and her platoon that they are safe and out of harms way.

8th grade - On October 21st, nine of our 8th grade students participated in 11th Annual St. Joseph's Regional High School Scholastic Olympics. Even though we did not take any prizes, the students enjoyed the experience. I want to acknowledge the students who represented us at the competition: Cassandra Charles, Terence David, Shannon Fegan, Victoria Forlini, Alessandra Garcia, Danielle Pavon, Meghan Pierce, Emily Walter, and Wisdom Zhao. Thank you!

On Wednesday, November 4th, they attended the dress rehearsal of Albertus Magnus' Drama Production - *Death By Dessert*.

Cold Weather - Please keep in mind as the weather gets colder, the children should dress appropriately (warm coats, gloves and hats). **ALL CLOTHING**, including the uniform, **MUST BE LABELED**. We will be going out at lunch daily, provided it is not raining or the temperature is not below freezing.

Box Tops - Our Student Council is collecting General Mills Box Tops. If you purchase and use General Mills products, please clip the Box Tops For

Education and send them into school. The Student Council will receive 10 cents for each box top they redeem from General Mills. Thank you for your support.

Campbell Soup Labels for Education - Start saving your Campbell Soup Labels and other Campbell product labels. Just look for the emblem that states Campbell Soup Labels for Education. Remember to send them in!!!!

Coupons - Sister Diane would appreciate receiving all the manufacturer's coupons that you do not use. It would be most helpful if they were not cut out. Thank you for your support.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Give thanks to the Lord –

It's easy to do.

Start counting your blessings;

It may surprise you!

Just list every one –

The good things you know,

Like family and friends.

Then watch your list grow!

Each kernel of corn

Will help you count one;

You'll run out of kernels

Before blessings are done!

Keep counting your blessings;

You'll never be through.

Each one is a gift

From God, who loves you!

CTA, Inc. 2005

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

