

St. Augustine School

Faith + Family + Future

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

The Month of The Rosary
Respect Life Month

The Saint for the month is Mother Mary Veronica Starr.
The value of the month is Compassion.

Farewell Reception for Mrs. Mary Ann Casey on Sunday, October 25, 2009, 12:00 Liturgy with Reception immediately following in the School Auditorium. Please join the SAS Family to celebrate and thank Mrs. Casey for her many years of dedicated service! RSVP is to be done on our school website, www.saintaugustineparishschool.com

Honeywell Instant Alert System - Every family **MUST** be registered. There will be NO calling parents. If you do not have access to a computer to register, please call the school and we will assist you in registering. Be sure to update your information if you have any changes with phone numbers and/or email addresses. You will receive all notifications of closures or early dismissals due to weather issues via this system.

Special Reminder - Any visitor to the School must first report to the Main Office, sign in and receive a "Visitor's Pass". This is being done for the safety of your child(ren) and all the children in the building. Please be kind enough to follow this new procedure.

New City Festival - On Sunday, September 13th, St. Augustine School had a booth at the New City Festival that occurred on the County Court House Grounds. It was a good opportunity for the community to "view" us. Thank

you to all who made the day successful and to the families that stopped by and said "hello". It was a great day!

Book Fair - Our Fall Book Fair was held on Wednesday, October 7th and Thursday, October 8th in the Zoeller Center (Church basement). Grades Pre-K through 5th were invited to attend "Pajama Night" in the Zoeller Center where cookies and milk were served. They came in their pjs, bathrobe, and slippers. Special readers were there to read. A fun time was had by all!

Special Thank You - On behalf of SAS, I wish to thank Mr. Lawrence Abbamonte for his donation of an interactive white board to our Kindergarten. Very shortly the board will be installed in Kindergarten where Mrs. Romeo and her students will have the opportunity to interact in many of areas of the curriculum.

Lunch Program - I want to remind all students and parents that lunch orders are taken one day in advance. Some students have ordered lunch and then they did not purchase it. To avoid this problem, please speak with your child about ordering lunch and being sure they do not come to school with lunch. If you do not want your child to order hot lunch, please notify your child's teacher in writing.

Grades 5-8 School Dance - The first dance of this year will be held on Wednesday, October 28th. Be on the look out for the flyer. The theme of the dance is 50s - 80s. Come dressed in your favorite decade of dance!

Family Night Bingo - This annual event will take place on Saturday, October 17th in the School Gym from 6:00 - 9:30 pm. The 8th grade parents will be running the refreshment stand. Stay tuned for further information.

Fall Fundraiser - Thank you to all who supported this event.

St. Augustine School Art Program - Our Art program is advancing in the field of technology; we now have a full screen TV connected to the internet in the classroom. The potential for technology assists in the development for an innovative art curriculum.

We also have a Lab component where we can sit our computers, and explore Art History in combination with art making. The media program, Photo Shop is used widely by Graphic designers, and professional Art

Illustrators, students will be introduced to the process of creating art on the computer. In the classroom we continue with hands on projects developing skills, and facilitating meaningful art.

Last but not least, we have an After School Art Program where visiting artists come and speak of their work and their own experiences. In the program we experience group observations, encourage self exploration, learn painting techniques, sculpture, collage, and encounter unlimited art experiences.

After School Care Program - Our After School Program is up and running. If you are interested, please contact the School Office and we can send you home the information. You may also go on our school website, saintaugustineparishschool.com and download the information.

Before School Care Program - We started this new program this September. It is open 7:30 - 8:30 am. If you have any questions, just call the school. You may also go to the school website and download the information. If you have a morning that you need to use the service, just call the school by 3:00 pm the day before so we are ready to see your child(ren) in the morning. We are here to assist anyway we can.

Halloween Carnival - On Friday, October 30th the Home School Association is sponsoring this great event in the school gym. Our 8th Grade students will host the Carnival. We look forward to the entire St. Augustine School Family having a "super fantastic fun filled day". This year the proceeds of the day will be donated to the "St. Nicholas Project", which is a "year-round initiative that encompasses a number of Catholic Charities efforts to provide assistance", In keeping with the story of St. Nicholas, the work takes on a special meaning during the Christmas season. The money raised by our student will go directly to purchasing Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children in Rockland County.

Changes in Information - Please notify the School Office as soon as possible when you have a change in address, home phone number, cell phone number, or email address. If you have not given the school your email address, please do so. It will be beneficial to have every family's email address. It is the school's goal to use email as a means of communicating

with our families. We are striving to "think green". Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

From The Nurse's Desk - Mrs. O'Rourke would like to remind the parents of the following:

- Physicals are needed for grades 2, 4, & 7. They are due in her office by October 1st. If anyone has difficulty meeting the October 1st deadline, please call her at 634-7575.
- Dental check ups are due for grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2, 4, & 7.
- BMI (Body Mass Index) is a new mandate from the State. The form must be completed and signed by your child's physician and must include not only the BMI number but also the %. Mrs. O'Rourke has the forms in her office if needed. This is for grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2, 4, & 7.
- Scoliosis exams are required for grades 5, 6, & 8.
- Lice has been hitting a few of our local public schools (it's very common after camp season), so it might be a good idea to have a "check your head night" with your child.
- Strep throat has also been going around, so if your child is prone, has a fever and complains of a sore throat, it might be a good idea to have their throat cultured to find out if it's Strep or not.
- If your child is absent from school, you need to call her office (634-7575). This does not only apply to illness, but also any time your child is not in school. If you do not call the School, Mrs. O'Rourke is required to call you and sometimes it is very hard to reach you.
- Please do not hesitate to call Mrs. O'Rourke if you have questions or if she can be of assistance in any way.

SASAL - SASAL has begun. Any student in grades 2-8 that still wishes to join can! You can register on Saturdays. Just show up. The Clinic will run through the month of October. Games will begin in November. There will be no SASAL on Saturday, October 17th.

Class Notes -

Pre-K: They went apple picking on Wednesday, September 30th at Davies Farm. A good time was had by all who attended.

Kindergarten and Grade 1: They went to Matterhorn Nursery to pick pumpkins on Tuesday, October 13th.

Grade 3: Mrs. Cullingford and her class went to Starbuck's on, Friday October 9th to decorate the store's windows for Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Grade 5: The annual 5th grade trip to the mines will take place on Thursday, October 29th.

Grade 8: We are pleased to announce that nine of our grade 8 students will be competing in the St. Joseph Regional High School Eleventh Annual Scholastic Olympics on Thursday, October 22nd. It is a special academic competition open to 8th grade students in surrounding Catholic schools. This is our first time entering this competition. Mr. O'Gorman is our advisor for this competition. We wish them luck. It is an after school event. Come and cheer them on!

Grades 4-8: On Friday, October 23rd, there will be a Multidisciplinary Presentation to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson.

Uniforms - Winter uniforms are to be worn beginning Monday, November 2nd. All students are required to wear the school sweater to school. All boys are required to wear a belt. Boys in Grades 5-8 are to wear the school tie with the Oxford shirt. The skort is a summer uniform option and can **no** longer be worn. Girls in grades 7th & 8th are required to wear tights with the winter uniform. **Sneakers are only to be worn 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.

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.

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 - Please start saving your Campbell Soup labels and other Campbell product labels. Just look for the emblem

that states Campbell Soup Labels for Education. Just send them in to the Main Office. It is a way for the school to obtain gym equipment and other materials for the school. Thank you for your support.

PUMPKIN PRAYER

**Dear Jesus,
As I carve my pumpkin,
Help me pray this prayer.**

**Open my mind so I can learn about You;
(cut the top off the pumpkin)**

**Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do.
(clean out the inside)**

**Open my eyes so Your love I will see;
(cut eyes shaped like hearts)**

**I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose
at what You've given to me.
(cut a nose in the shape of a cross)**

**Open my ears so Your Word I will hear;
(cut the ears shaped like a Bible)**

**Open my mouth to tell others You're near.
(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)**

**Let Your light shine in all I say and do!
Amen.
(place a candle inside and light it)**