



Saint Mary Catholic School

October 2011

Dear Parents:

Happy Fall! I am just amazed at how quickly the months fly in a school year. Our students have done an amazing job of settling into a good routine in September. Now we are gearing up for an event-filled October. Please take a few minutes and read through the newsletter to learn about all the many events that will be taking place this month.

As a former science teacher, I am just thrilled at all the science experiments happening at the various grade levels. Eighth grade went on a field trip to determine stream health by using macroinvertebrate counts. Sixth graders have dissected owl pellets. Fourth and first graders teamed up in the new science lab to learn about how plants absorb water using celery stalks and colored water. I even found the kindergarteners in the new lab experimenting with making paper. Our students are certainly *learning by doing!*

THE ROSARY

As a Catholic school community, each year we dedicate the month of October to the Most Holy Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. During October we honor the Blessed Mother for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. As a school we start each day during the month with a decade of the Rosary.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop (Vicar) of the Saint Ann Seton Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, will concelebrate with Rev. Collin Poston, Rev. James Nirrapel, and Rev. John Jicha at our 10:30 A.M. school Mass on October 7. Please join us as we come together as a school community. Bishop Rozanski will bless our new science lab and pre-k classroom.

SISTER AL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sister Mary Aloysius Norman, School Sister of Notre Dame, is marking a milestone anniversary of her first profession of religious vows. She is among 48 jubilarians in the Atlantic-Midwest Province who were honored on May 7, 2011, in Wilton, Connecticut. The school sisters celebrated locally on August 6, 2011, with a prayer service and jubilee picnic at Villa Assumpta in Towson, MD, the residence of retired sisters of the Province and Motherhouse of the former Baltimore Province.

"Sister Al" taught at St. Jerome (1961-66), Our Lady of Fatima (1966-67), and St. Michael (1968-71) in Baltimore; St. James Frances in Pasadena (1971-1990 and 1993-2000); St. Clement I in Lansdowne (2001-02); and at St. Mary in Hagerstown (2002-) where she has served as the kindergarten and resource teacher and is now assistant in the pre-kindergarten.

ACCREDITATION

Saint Mary Catholic School, having met the requirements established by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission and Board of Trustees, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The Archdiocese of Baltimore is seeking system-wide Accreditation; therefore, a team from AdvancED will be visiting many AOB schools during the week of October 16.

INTERIM REPORTS

Interim reports for the first trimester will be sent home with students on October 7.

PARENT CONFERENCES

The Saint Mary Catholic School teaching staff is truly looking forward to the opportunity to meet with parents to discuss the individual progress of the students on October 11. Conferences provide a wonderful avenue for developing and strengthening the partnership between parents and teachers. This partnership is essential for our students to become the best that they can be. If you are unable to meet with your child's teacher at the scheduled time, please contact the teacher to arrange a time that is convenient. I realize that in today's world, technology, such as e-mails and telephone calls, replaces good old-fashioned talking in person. However,

please try to meet with your child's teacher if possible. **Parents should enter through the Primary Doors on conference day.**

FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Saint Mary Catholic School is required to offer a "Family Life" unit to students in grades K-8. The "Family Life" program will be taught for about two weeks beginning on November 7. Parents will receive their copies of the supplemental materials to be used at home during parent conferences. For parents who are unable to attend parent conferences, the supplemental materials will be sent home with the children in a sealed brown envelope on Wednesday, October 12. The Parent Intent Form should be completed and returned by Wednesday, October 19.

RUMMAGE SALE

If you have never experienced our Fall Rummage Sale, please consider volunteering on the set-up day (October 5) or the actual sale day (October 6). Last year the school profited \$12,646.51, thanks to the fall and spring sales. A warm thank you is extended to Mrs. Mary Grove and all the volunteers who return year after year! As an option this year, our cafeteria service will be offering a "bag lunch" option Wednesday and Thursday. Please read the attached flyer. A list of safeguards is included in this packet.

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is an exciting time for children to dress up and go trick-or-treating. Traditionally, our kindergarten through second grade students are given the opportunity to dress up in school and have a party. Father Collin is in favor of traditions, but he has asked that students choose appropriate costumes. Movie stars, princesses, athletes, book characters, or maybe even saints would be good choices. Witches, goblins, devils, and other ghoulish outfits are not appropriate for a Catholic School. Parents are asked to help their children select costumes that are acceptable and respectful of Father Collin's wishes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Good S.A.M.s

I want to congratulate our Good S.A.M.s for September: Henry Ortiz, Michelle Beck, Matthew Stine, Lauren Beck, Francis Carden, Morgan Giannoumis, Maura Hevey, Alexandra Martin, Tyler Gilks, Conner Caruso. **Thanks for your Service, Attitude, and Manners!**

HSA News

MESSAGE FROM HSA OFFICERS

Thank you to all of the families who attended the Annual Meet and Greet and Back to School nights. It was wonderful seeing everyone! If you missed these events, the information provided is on the school website.

Thank you to all who have paid their HSA dues. We have already been able to buy planners for the 3rd-8th graders and pay for the buses for the October field trips. We still have a number of families who need to send in their dues. Please do so as soon as possible.

FALL AUCTION

Buy your ticket now for the SMCS Fall Auction on November 13 at *Nick's Airport Inn*! A great evening is planned for all adults who attend. Enjoy a night out and help support SMCS!

Each family received a *Time, Treasure, & Talent* form to complete and return as soon as possible. We need every family to donate of their time, talent, or treasure to make this fundraiser a success. Remember, we have eliminated the smaller, more frequent fundraisers at your request. Making a success of the Fall Auction and Golf Tournament is essential.

BAKE SALES

Grade 1 will have a bake sale on October 4 and grade 7 will hold a bake sale on October 19.

SOCIAL HOUR

Middle School Social Hour will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 on October 7. A dollar donation is required to help offset the cost of drinks and snacks.

SCRIP

Last year, St. Mary families saved over \$30,000 in tuition by participating in SCRIP. SCRIP dates for this month are October 3, 17, and 31.

HEMPEN HILL RESTAURANT NIGHT

Eat at *Hempden Hill* on October 17 and HSA will receive a portion of the proceeds from your bill!

Martins A+ Rewards and Food Lion Shop & Save

Please sign up for these two great programs that generate money and cost nothing to participate! Once you register, all you need to do is shop and swipe your *BONUS* or *MVP* card every time you shop.

INNISBROOK ONLINE FUNDRAISER

HSA has an account with Innisbrook fundraisers. Go to Innisbrook.com and click on Family & Friends. Our school code is #102874. HSA will receive forty percent of each order.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

HOMEROOM REPRESENTATIVES

Homeroom representatives for this year's student council are:

Fourth Grade

Sophia Corsi, Alice Poffenberger, & Nicholas Radley (Sept.-Dec.)

Ava Giannaris & Rory O'Hanlon (Jan.-Apr.)

Fifth Grade

Quinton Reed, Sarah Sardina, & Ben Byers (Sept.-Dec.)

Morgan Giannoumis, Ellen Judge, & Frederick Farah (Jan.-Apr.)

Sixth Grade

Nader Fawaz & Seamus Murray (Sept.-Dec.)

Jennifer Elbin (Jan.-Apr.)

Seventh Grade

Jacob Epstein & Asher Starliper (Sept.-Dec.)

Nick Judge & Brian Tedeschi (Jan.-Apr.)

Eighth Grade

Annemarie Hilmoe, Maitlin Curtin, &
Ramsay Farah

All student council members may help with Fun Night in May.

SEPTEMBER TAG DAY

The Student Council appreciates the generosity shown by our students and families in donating

\$214.10 to the Red Cross in support of the hurricane devastation in the USA.

OCTOBER TAG DAY

TAG Day is scheduled for Friday, October 21, to support Breast Cancer Awareness. The theme for the day is **pink** (or red).

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The Back-to-School dance will be on Friday, September 30, from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. Dress is casual.

Other Newsworthy Items

HEALTH QUESTIONS?

If you have any health-related questions, please contact Ms. Paula Radley at (301) 733-1184, EXT. 104, or by email, radley@stmarycatholicschool.org.

NASAL FLU-MIST

Washington County Health Department will be offering the nasal flu-mist to students in grades K-5 this fall on October 20. More information is forthcoming.

INSTRUMENTAL BAND

Mrs. Susan Mott, a member of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra's flute section, will be providing instrumental music lessons to interested students in grades four through eight on Mondays. It is not too late to enroll in her classes! Contact the office if interested.

BOXTOPS & CAMPBELL'S LABELS

Thanks to Sister Corda, SMCS is able to profit from your BoxTops & Campbell's Labels. All you need to do is send in the actual BoxTops and Campbell's labels to Sister Corda and she will take care of the rest!

TARGET TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION

The school received a check from Target in the amount of \$238.20, representing a percentage of purchases made by parents and teachers of our school this past year. If you have a Target REDcard, please be sure to register your card number with our school at target.com/tcoe.

ART FEES FOR K-8

If you haven't done so yet, please remember to send in your art fee payment of \$5 per child to

Cheryl Hammond by October 21. If unpaid by that date, it will be reflected in your November tuition invoice. Please contact Cheryl Hammond if you have any questions.

MEMORY BOOKS

Ms. Poffenberger does a wonderful job of capturing the memories of the year on film and presenting them on the pages of our memory book. We appreciate her efforts and long hours devoted to creating such a special book. An order form will be forthcoming.

STORY/CRAFT TIME

Our first story/craft time of the year for 3 to 5 year olds is scheduled for October 26, at 1:00 P.M. Please RSVP to Mrs. Minahan.

CONFIRMATION REMINDERS

Eighth-grade Confirmation Candidates who are parishioners of St. Mary Catholic Church will have their *Contract of Investiture* on **Sunday, October 16**, at the 9:30 Mass. These students will go on a pilgrimage to McSherrytown & Baltimore on **Tuesday, November 1**. Students are to meet in the Parish Center at **6:45 A.M.** Students will return at **5:00 P.M.**

SACRAMENTAL NEWS

A Penance Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4, at 7:00 P.M., for St. Mary Parish parents who have students receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this school year. Parents and children of the Parish must also attend a First Eucharist meeting on Tuesday, October 18, at 7:00 P.M.

GOOD-BYE SUMMER UNIFORMS

Friday, October 14, is the last day students may wear the optional warm weather uniform. Please refer to pages 18 and 19 of the Parent/Student Handbook for the Regular Uniform dress code. Special attention should be given to the guidelines regarding shoes. **Sneakers may not be worn with the regular school uniform.**

TERRACYCLE

Please help St. Mary Catholic School Recycle and Earn Money! By participating in the **"TERRACYCLE"** program, SMCS will earn 2 cents for every drink pouch that is recycled. Juice drink pouches include products such as "Cool Aid", "Capri Sun", and "Honest Kids". Simply

collect your empty juice pouches at home and bring them into the cafeteria and put them into the container marked "DRINK POUCHES".

Please no straws or drink boxes. One or two volunteers are needed to help process the pouches for shipment (don't worry; we don't have to pay postage). Seventh and eighth graders are welcome to help. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please call Marian Blumenberg (240-446-8091). *Thank you for your support with this program!*

SCHOOL CLOSING REMINDERS

School will be closed for students on October 10 for an Archdiocesan Professional Day for teachers and on October 11 for Parent Conferences. There will be a 12:30 dismissal on October 28.

ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

SHADOW DAYS

Our eighth-grade students are invited to shadow a day at St. Maria Goretti High School. Eighth-grade parents should contact the Admissions Office at (301) 739-4266, EXT. 132, to schedule a day. Available dates are October 11, 20, and 28. The high school is also hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 23. Registration begins at 1:00 P.M., followed by a presentation. Tours will be given after the presentation.

SMGHS—SMCS Shuttle Service

If your child would occasionally like to take advantage of the shuttle bus between St. Mary and St. Maria Goretti High School, SMGHS is pleased to offer an Occasional Bus Rider Ticket. The cost of the ticket is \$1 and will be invoiced you by St. Maria Goretti. You just need to provide written permission for your child to ride the bus that day and have her/him get the bus ticket from Mrs. Minahan. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn Hevey at 301-739-4266, ext. 130.

SMGHS JUNIOR CARNIVAL

The Junior Class of St. Maria Goretti High School is hosting a carnival on Friday, October 7, from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M., in the Goretti courtyard. Bring the whole family for games, food, and fun!

STAND TRAINING

In July of 2007 the Archdiocese of Baltimore updated the procedures for volunteering in schools. "If a volunteer will have *Substantial Contact* with children, then the following must be completed before he/she begins to serve in the Archdiocese of Baltimore:

1. Application for Volunteer Service completed;
2. Names of references provided and checked;
3. VolunteerSelect Criminal Screening completed; and
4. Training received regarding child abuse and protection of children, including STAND video."

If you have a Volunteer Compliance Card from another parish and want to be a regular volunteer at St. Mary Catholic School, you must complete the Application for Service, including the reference section. **The STAND training is now available online.** A complete packet including directions for the online training is available in the school office or visit our website. On the Families Tab, select STAND.

As always, I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance and wisdom needed to serve as principal of Saint Mary Catholic School.

May God Bless You!

Patricia A. McDermott