

# VISIONS

NEWS FOR THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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Dear Colleagues,

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Recently my eldest daughter, Monica, traveled to Vietnam for a vacation. It is not the ordinary spot for a vacation, but my daughter is not one to choose the ordinary. During her stay she became fascinated with the culture and the simplicity of the people. While there she was deeply touched by a saying that eventually had significant meaning for her. The saying was simple but deep in reflection, "Same same, but different." Monica applied this reflection to her grandfather, my father, who recently passed away. You see, Monica lost her grandfather while she was half-way around the world and was unable to say her last goodbye. By the wonders of technology Monica sent her eulogy by e-mail and it was read by her brother at Mass. She took the proverb, which she recently learned, and applied it to her grandfather. She reflected that what the family saw as the same, her grandfather saw as different. He was so lovable but each of us loved him so differently.

As I was preparing for this first letter for **Visions**, I realized that this quizzical saying has real significance for us as educators. We do have "same same" experiences as teachers and administrators. What is the "same same" for us is the beginning of an academic year with its same predictable schedules, same curricular cycles, and same intent to have our students achieve. What is different? The difference lies in the students that we have before us. There is a difference in their approaches, attitudes, and thinking. The difference that they bring helps us to view the "same" as being different. We contend with what seems to be the same from year to year, but it is our students who make our teaching experience so different.

May this academic year allow you to see the difference in the "same same." May you be inspired by the beauty that difference can bring and, as a Catholic educator, celebrate the wonderful ministry that we similarly share, but witness so differently.

Peace and all good things!

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Ronald J. Valenti

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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Please submit information by email to [kwhitelock@archbalt.org](mailto:kwhitelock@archbalt.org)

## Immigration Law Compliance

by Kathryn Kelley Hoskins, *Gallagher, Evelius & Jones LLP*

Since 1986, it has been illegal for an employer to knowingly hire an unauthorized alien, or to continue to employ an alien knowing that he or she has become an unauthorized alien with respect to such employment. Employers are also required to properly complete and retain Form I-9 as required by law and must permit inspection of the I-9 Forms by certain government agencies.

New employees are required to complete Section 1 of Form I-9 on the day of hire (first day of employment). Within three business days of hire, the employer must examine the proffered documentation establishing identity and employment eligibility and complete Section 2. Reverification documents must be inspected by the date on which the original employment authorization expires. Receipts for lost or stolen documents may be accepted temporarily under certain conditions. Although **not recommended**, employers may photocopy the documentation; if this is done, however, it must be done consistently for all employees (*i.e.*, not based on national origin or citizenship status) and such copies must be retained with the Form I-9.

It is unlawful to require more or different documents than are needed to establish employment authorization. It is also unlawful to discriminate against an applicant or employee based on national origin or citizenship status. A new hire may not be permitted to work, even as an unpaid “volunteer,” unless work authorization has been verified. Current employees whose work authorization has expired and who have not produced a new authorization also may not be permitted to work.

Employers must retain Form I-9 for a period of three years after hire or one year after employment is terminated, whichever is later. For example, if an employee is hired on November 1, 2007 and terminated on July 5, 2008, the retention date is November 1, 2010. For an employee hired on March 27, 2003 and terminated on May 19, 2007, the retention date is May 19, 2008. Accordingly, employers should have a Form I-9 on file for all current employees hired after November 6, 1986, and for employees terminated within the past year.

Employers are permitted to complete, sign, and store I-9 forms electronically as long as certain performance standards are met. Employers are also permitted to electronically scan and store existing I-9 forms.

The Department of Homeland Security recently promulgated regulations to outline the steps that employers should take following receipt of a “No Match Letter” from the Social Security Administration or a “Notice of Suspect Documents” from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (While these regulations were supposed to take effect on September 14, 2007, enforcement of the regulations has been enjoined due to pending litigation.) Receipt of such letters regarding an employee can constitute constructive knowledge on the part of the employer that the employee is not authorized to work in the U.S. If an employer follows the steps outlined in the “safe harbor” regulations, however, it can avoid penalties for continuing to employ an unauthorized alien. Archdiocesan employers who receive “No Match Letters” or a “Notice of Suspect Documents” should contact the Division of Human Resource Services for advice as to how to proceed.

# Operation TEACH

by Angela Simmons, *Operation TEACH Coordinator*

**T**he **Operation TEACH** program welcomed 14 new participants in July to make a total of 24 participants serving in area Catholic Schools for the 2007-2008 school year. They are currently serving in 18 different Catholic Schools at the elementary level and high school level. They come from all over the United States and most are recent college graduates. They will spend two years teaching in their assigned schools and complete their Masters degree at the College of Notre Dame.

This unique program started 7 years ago with only two participants and has grown each year since then. It has truly made a difference in our schools, bringing energetic, service-minded young adults to our classrooms. **Curtis Turner, Principal of Seton Keough High School**, who has had two Operation TEACH teachers in his school, says they have had a positive impact on his school's environment. "Since the Operation TEACH teachers are being formed spiritually as well as pedagogically," he says, "their Christian witness reminds the rest of the faculty that our work in a Catholic school is truly a ministry, not just a job."

This year, Operation TEACH is happy to announce that two of its alumni have accepted administration positions within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. **Ms. Pam Walters** accepted the principal position at Sacred Heart of Mary School and **Casey Buckstaff** accepted the Vice Principal position at Mt. Carmel Elementary School. The program has not only impacted our schools, it has impacted the participants lives. Casey Buckstaff says the program has definitely impacted her life. "I think it is not so much what I 'got' out of the program but what it 'got' out of me. From a young grad wondering what to do with her life, operation TEACH provided one opportunity. In that opportunity I found myself. With children I am my best self, and in Catholic education I am at home. That is what operation TEACH got out of me." In addition, there are currently 8 alumni teaching in 6 different schools in the area. We are proud of all of our alumni and are happy to have them be a part of the Baltimore Archdiocese.

The recruiting for next year's group of participants has already started. The Operation TEACH Team interviews potential candidates beginning in January. We hope again to welcome a strong and dynamic group of individuals as we did this past year. If you are interested in having a volunteer at your school, please contact Angela Simmons, Coordinator of the Operation TEACH Program at [asimmons@archbalt.org](mailto:asimmons@archbalt.org).

## HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

**T**his fall, 15 elementary and middle schools will be participating in the pontifical mission society, the Holy Childhood Association. The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is a mission society for children in kindergarten through grade eight. Started in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson in France, the HCA asks children in the United States and around the world to be missionaries to their brothers and sisters served by the Missions. The students are taught about different countries where children are in need, and about the merits of sharing their love and their faith in Jesus with these children through prayer, spiritual and financial sacrifices. For more information, contact: Kelly Hellmuth 410-225-8450 or email her at [khellmuth@archbalt.org](mailto:khellmuth@archbalt.org).

## KENNEDY CENTER HONORS LOCAL EDUCATOR



**Dorothy M. Ridley**, Music Educator at the **School of the Incarnation**, was honored this spring for completing requirements of the Certificate of Study, a program designed to recognize educators who study on a continuing basis at the Kennedy Center.

Ms. Ridley completed Level IV or 450 hours of study since 1997. The Kennedy Center's Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers (PDOT), Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA), and the Kennedy Center/District of Columbia Public Schools Partnership programs endeavor to provide teachers with opportunities to learn strategies for integrating the arts across the curriculum.

## JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL ACHIEVES “GREEN STATUS”



After an arduous, two year process, the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) awarded **John Carroll** “Green School” designation. The designation honors schools for their outstanding achievement in environmental education. John Carroll is the first Catholic high school in Maryland to achieve this status.

MAEOE sets three objectives that must be addressed with multiple criteria necessary under each objective in order to be considered for Green School status. Clear initiatives and successes must be documented in Curriculum and Instruction, Operation and Design of School Building and Grounds and School and Community Partnerships. Among John Carroll’s many “green” initiatives were building an outdoor classroom, installing bluebird nest boxes and instituting a strict recycling program. Ongoing canoe trips, visits to Costa Rica to help protect leatherback turtles and camping trips to national parks are part of the school’s extensive environmental focus.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ST. URSULA SCHOOL

**Christine Lorber**, a teacher at Saint Ursula School, received the Mother Saint Joseph Teacher Grant for Summer Professional Development which was awarded by the School Board. Chris was able to attend the 6-day Curriculum Mapping Institute in Park City, Utah. Chris brought the information back to the faculty to help them better understand and implement this process. Saint Ursula School, under the leadership of **Sr. Joan Kelly, SND**, and the School Board, has already built a great foundation to support the process. It is through the encouragement of continuing education and grants like the Mother Saint Joseph Teacher Grant for Summer Professional Development that keeps teachers at Saint Ursula knowledgeable of current topics in education. The implementation of Curriculum Mapping is another tool to strengthen this already outstanding school.

## ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SCHOOL CELEBRATES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**Emma Dohmeier** and **Daniel Gonzalez**, students from **St. Michael the Archangel School** in Overlea, were recently honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY).

Special academic awards ceremonies in Maryland this past spring honored over 1,400 state elementary-and middle school students. Emma and Daniel were invited to the awards ceremony sponsored by CTY based on their exceptional performance on a rigorous, above-grade-level test given to second through eighth grade Talent Search participants.

“In hosting these awards ceremonies, we want these bright children to have their day in the limelight for their academic talent and to celebrate their abilities, just as we celebrate excellence in athletics or the performing arts,” said Lea Ybarra, Ph.D., CTY’s executive director. “Many students recognized at our awards ceremonies already know that ‘being smart is being cool.’ But there are others for whom their abilities come as a surprise to them and their families. We at CTY take great pride in helping all these deserving young people gain recognition at the state level for their academic potential.”

## ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF CATHOLIC TEACHING

**St. Augustine School** celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Gala event on Saturday, October 13, from 7-11 pm at the Great Room in Savage Mill. The Gala featured a gourmet buffet dinner, music and dancing, a silent auction of themed baskets and original student artwork, as well as a 50/50 raffle and door prizes.

St. Augustine’s is also very pleased and proud to announce that several of its talented students have been accepted into the Children’s Chorus of the **Peabody Conservatory**. Congratulations to **Gabriel Brunal, Isabel Gabin, Lauren Munter, Dominic Rivera, Lauren Schneider** and **Emily Thompson** on this wonderful accomplishment!

# EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS

## KINDERGARTEN SEARCHES FOR THE GINGERBREAD MAN AT MSGR. SLADE SCHOOL

Each fall, a brand new batch of kindergarten students arrive eager to learn about their new school and begin their educational journey. At **Monsignor Slade**, they also go on a hunt for the runaway Gingerbread Man! Now a tradition at Slade, the kindergarten teachers take their new students on a tour throughout the building in search of the delicious little missing man. While looking here and there, meeting staff members and finding places such as the gym, cafeteria and health room, the students are discovering important information about the building they now call "school." Finally, a clue leads them to the principal's office, where, amazingly – the Gingerbread



Man has been hiding! Each student receives a cookie to enjoy, thanks to the Center for Applied Technology. This yearly tradition is a favorite of teachers, staff, and students. What a fun way to learn about the school!

## UNITING TOGETHER AS WOMEN, AS WOMEN OF FAITH AND AS WOMEN OF HOPE

October will mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month and once again **Mount de Sales Academy** will participate in fundraising initiatives to support women receiving breast cancer treatment from Mercy Hospital. For the second year in a row, students may purchase pink shoelaces, to be worn throughout the month of October. Students will also have the opportunity to buy roses for their mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and friends. Each rose will come with a self-exam card, provided by Mercy Hospital. This year, Mount de Sales Academy invited six all-girl schools in the area to join the Pink Shoelace Campaign. The hope is that participation among several schools will help "tie" students together as a community of women who *are* or *will be* affected by breast cancer. The culmination of the Campaign will take place on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. during a prayer service held in the Mount de Sales Academy Chapel.

*Mount de Sales Academy's Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser, October 2006.*



## ST MARGARET SCHOOL PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

On September 21, **St. Margaret School** elementary students (grades K to 5), parents, faculty, and staff joined together on the lawn of St. Margaret Church to plant *Pinwheels for Peace* as part of the School's observation of *The International Day of Peace*.

The Peace Day observation included a brief prayer service followed by a procession of schoolchildren and their pinwheels to the front lawn of St. Margaret Church. Students planted their hand-made pinwheels in the ground to signify their commitment to peace. Pinwheels also were placed 2.5 miles away at the School's *Middle School Campus*.

St. Margaret School students made their pinwheels using paper, markers, and drinking straws. The colorful pinwheels feature student wishes and prayers for peace. Creating the pinwheels was part of the School's *Prayer Partner Program* which matches older and younger students together so that they can share a special Christian friendship.

*The International Day of Peace* was first celebrated in September 1982. *Pinwheels for Peace* is an art-installation project begun in 2005.

## IT'S EASY TO BE GREEN AT ASCENSION SCHOOL

June 2007 found **Ascension School** seventh graders up to their necks in mud and river water. Ten students, along with their teachers, **Sandra Ward** and **Donna Gallagher**, participated in a mass planting of underwater grasses at Rocky Point Park. From January until June the entire class tended the plants in their classroom, monitored their growth, and submitted data to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This restoration project is one that allows Ascension to maintain its status as a Governor's Green School.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PRE-SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

With the recent merger of OLMC and Our Lady Queen of Peace, the **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Children's Center** was established where former OLQP students were educated. The center was created to serve the parishes of OLMC and OLQP, as well as serve the communities of Essex, Middle River and White Marsh.

A graduate of the elementary school, **Alaina Williams '00** was quite busy this past summer. A Senior ballet student at Juilliard, she spent 3 weeks in Tanzania and Peru performing original pieces for underprivileged kids.

**Christina Polek**, a 2007 graduate of the high school, was one of five people named for the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott scholarship at Mount Saint Mary's University. Christina was a varsity cheerleader and a member of the National Honor Society.

# EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS



*Kiley Roohan,  
NDP Class of 2007*



## NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL INITIATES NEW SCHOLARSHIP

In 60 days, Notre Dame Preparatory School's Class of 2007—131 girls strong—raised \$53,000 to create the Class of 2007 scholarship. This scholarship is the first endowed fund a current NDP class established.

**Kiley Roohan** led the way by approaching **Sister Patricia McCarron, NDP headmistress**, with the idea. Roohan's infectious enthusiasm inspired support from all constituents at NDP—faculty, administration, students, parents, grandparents, and friends.

Roohan's inspiration for the fund came through her classmates' work with Sisters Academy, a school for inner-city middle school girls. Roohan and her classmates wanted to provide an opportunity for an NDP education to a student who has faced the challenge of growing up in Baltimore's inner city.

At present, this fund provides a partial scholarship, and fulfills the "mission" of the Class of 2007: Provide a deserving student the chance to receive an NDP education, while creating their class' legacy for future support.

## ST. JANE FRANCES SCHOOL INTRODUCES "SUPERKIDS"

The **St. Jane Frances** Kindergarten Team is very excited to begin their new reading program. SJF has been selected as a pilot school for the reading program "Superkids." "Superkids" is a core reading program authored by Pleasant Rowland. This reading program has fully integrated all the language arts and reading skills. It is an engaging way to sustain the children's interest and motivate them as they go about the serious work of learning to read and write.



The children are introduced to the "Superkids," 13 unique, multicultural boys and girls and one dog, through stories and song. The multiple adventures of the "Superkids" are presented through read-aloud stories that coordinate with student pages. The program is packed with learning tools that the children love to use: Ice Cream Paper for handwriting instruction, bendable "Superkids" figures for oral language development and "Super Scene" with cling-on characters for vocabulary building. Included are libraries for reading and decoding activities. The Rowland Reading Foundation has developed a multi-model instruction format to accommodate students' different learning styles. The different modes reinforce one another, helping to train the brain. Using multiple modes also means that all children strengthen their individual learning paths.

## TRINITY IMPLEMENTS NEW SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

**Trinity School** has received a grant of \$45,000 from the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation and a grant of \$5,000 from the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Charities, both supporting implementation of the Julie Program in the present school year. Trinity also received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 for this Program.

The Julie Program has been designed to provide specialized instruction for students in grades K through 4 who exhibit mild language-based learning difficulties which impact their ability to read. Early intervention is essential in helping children be successful in later grades.

The grant money will be used to fund the specialized learning equipment needed for the program and to partially fund the salaries of the reading specialist and aide.

The program will be directed by reading specialist, **Susanne Foley**, who also has specialized certification in Orton Gillingham, LIPS, and Visualizing and Verbalizing.



# EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS

## SUMMER LEARNING SOARS AT ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL

The **St. Philip Neri Summer School Program** really expanded this past summer! In its fourth year it has expanded from 3 teachers with only a few children to 10 teachers with a total of 36 children. The six week session offered tutoring and enrichment in reading, phonics, math, science, and social studies. The children met with their teacher one-on-one for at least one hour a day, once or twice a week. The parents chose the subject in which their child was tutored. The children had fun learning through computer games, manipulatives, white boards, and other new materials. Mrs. Currie, Resource Department Chair and coordinator of the summer school program, was pleased to see that so many parents took advantage of this wonderful program to further enrich their children academically over the summer.

## OUR LADY OF VICTORY SCHOOL CELEBRATES A NEW YEAR

**Our Lady of Victory** has enjoyed a wonderful kickoff to the new year, welcoming new families with an Ice Cream Social as well as the training session for Powerschool's Parent Access program. Many third grade parents and parents of other new families welcomed the opportunity for more consistent access to their children's performance. OLV is proud to have an outstanding group of new incoming students and families!

Two new clubs are starting this year at OLV: A Crocheting Club for the students interested in learning more about making clothes, and a Healthy Lifestyles Club conducted by Kelley Wood, R.N., the new school nurse, that will raise the awareness of middle schoolers regarding their health and eating habits. The nationally recognized Scrabble Club, involving up to 150 middle school participants, will kick off at the end of September, building towards another successful National School Scrabble Tournament event in April for the Vikings!

## CALVERT HALL STUDENTS MAKING HEADLINES

**Michael Nesvold '08** was named a Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program while **Michael Helou '08**, **Michael McMonagle '08** and **Tyler Wagner '08** were recognized as Maryland Distinguished Scholar Finalists.

**Brady Vontran '08**, who established Brady's Heart Foundation, will receive the Association of Fundraising Professionals Youth Award at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in November.

**Andrew Eckroade '09** has completed his Level VII performance in piano at the Trinity Guildhall College with a "Distinction" rating.

**Bobby Sherron '09** was recognized as the Holy Name Junior Member of the Year by the Archdiocesan Holy Name Union at Camden Yards on August 24, 2007. He was chosen because of his efforts in civic labors; work in his church and for being a role model for young people.

**Harrison Poltrack '11** was featured in the *York Dispatch* and on ABC2 News (Baltimore) for running a summer soccer camp for children ages 4 through 6 in his backyard.

**Michael Helou**, **Michael McMonagle** and **Tyler Wagner** were recognized as Maryland Distinguished Scholar Finalists.

**Calvert Hall**, a Catholic college preparatory school for young men in grades 9-12, has been conducted by the De La Salle Christian Brothers since its founding in 1845 and at its present location in Towson since 1960. It has twice been recognized as an *Exemplary School* by the U. S. Department of Education.



## OUR LADY OF HOPE/ST. LUKE SCHOOL

**Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School** participated in the Annual Dundalk 4th of July Parade. The float supported the theme: "Freedom is.." and was awarded First Place in the Religious entry category.

# URBAN VICARIATE NEWS

## CATHOLIC HIGH TRANSFORMS CLASSROOM INTO HIGH-TECH LANGUAGE LAB



**The Catholic High School of Baltimore** is now home to a state-of-the-art language lab. The Renaissance 2200 Learning System, installed in early August 2007, provides the best in combining teaching and technology, offering a comprehensive way of learning a foreign language.

The system descends from the ceiling, converting a general use classroom into a language lab in seconds. The equipment includes headsets, recording devices, trays, LCD projectors, and laptops for teachers. Teachers will be able to monitor students' work using a laptop at the control center in the front of the room. Students can record their individual speaking responses, and teachers can instantly score the students' work and save the information to calculate an average grade and produce evaluation reports.

This fall, be sure to visit Catholic High's new language lab in room 208!



## ARCHBISHOP CURLEY HIGH SCHOOL HONORS WAR HEROES

On Thursday, August 16, members of the **Archbishop Curley High School** cross country team participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. During the ceremony, Taps was played by the Honor Guard and four representatives from the team were escorted before the tomb to present the wreath. "To hear the Honor Guard announce that the wreath that honors this tomb was supplied by Archbishop Curley High School gave me chills," **Coach Gene Hoffman** notes when reflecting on the event. Following this solemn event, the students participated in a team practice. They ran along the National Mall and visited several historic sites, monuments, and memorials including the White House, US Capitol, and the World War II Memorial.

*(l to r) Archbishop Curley seniors Patrick Hairfield, Kevin Sommers, Timothy Skarda, and Jonathan Sobczynski after presenting the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.*

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN FOREIGN STUDENT EXCHANGE



In June, 2007, ten students from **St. Francis of Assisi School** (grades 5-7) traveled to Costa Rica for two weeks. The students stayed with host families and attended classes at St. Paul's College, a

school started by Rodell Sneeringer, a graduate of SFA, and her husband.

During their stay, students were taken on wonderful field trips to a volcano, rain forests and other exotic locations. They also had the opportunity to attend classes. Although Spanish is the predominate language, most students at the school were bilingual and spoke English. The students were chaperoned by SFA teachers **Martin Miller** and **Renee Buettner**.

In January, 2008, students from Costa Rica will come to Baltimore before and during Catholic School's week.

## NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS SCHOOL

**Seth Wheeler**, from the Class of 2007, received a Knott Scholarship for Mt. St. Mary's College for all four years on his academic performance at Cardinal Gibbons.

**Cardinal Gibbons School** has been presented with three school buses in their school colors as well as a low speed vehicle, called the Brother Kevin Mobile, to transport athletic equipment and injured players from the playing fields. They were unveiled at an opening rally to the delight of the students.

Our Welcome Back Crab Feast for the Gibbons Parents and Students was a successful event in our newly equipped Courtyard, the work of the Parents' Club.

**Father Gerald Kasule**, Spiritual Chaplain, celebrated the opening Liturgy for the School year with invited parents on hand as well. Ms. Pauline Tobias, Director of the Middle School, announced that all three classes are full and a good year is already underway.

# URBAN VICARIATE NEWS

## MERCY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES STUDENT LEADERS



Leadership is not just a slogan at Mercy High School. This summer, several Mercy girls were selected to attend leadership conferences around the area. Juniors **Shinika Diggs**, **Alondra Sills**, **Sara Secada-Lovio**, **Maggie Marion**, and Sophomore **Anuli Duru** participated in the Archdiocese of Baltimore's High School Leadership Institute (High Li).

Three other Mercy girls, Junior **Koren Lee** and Seniors **Merrie Goodlander** and **Allexandra McIntosh**, attended the EE Ford Leadership Challenge 2007 Summer Challenge sponsored by St. Paul's School for Girls in Brooklandville, MD.

Finally, Juniors **Mary Stefanski** and **Emily Harris**, as well as Seniors **Merrie Goodlander** and **Danielle Abell**, attended the Mercy Leadership Conference at Gwynedd-Mercy College in Pennsylvania. The conference inspired the four students to raise money with other Mercy schools across the country in hopes of funding a new school in Cambodia.

## A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL

**St. Thomas Aquinas School** is very pleased to announce that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Weinberg Foundation to fund a new playground for the preschool and kindergarten.



## FATHER KOLBE STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR WORLD

**Father Kolbe School** students in PreK, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades will participate in a year-long program sponsored by the **Patterson Park Audubon Center**. They will experience hands-on, interactive science lessons such as Quack Like a Duck, Wacky Weather, Busy Bees and others. To prepare for these classes, all faculty members joined in an in-service to observe what we see around us and to become more aware of protecting our environment.

**Brooke Burghardt**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, attended the *Junior National Young Leaders Conference* in Boston, MA, to develop and sharpen her leadership skills to make a positive social impact in her community.

**Danielle Rivera**, daughter of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher **Vicki Zysk**, shared with all grades her experiences after living in Qatar, India, for a year. The younger students learned about clothing, shopping and eating while the middle school students learned about the cultural differences in men's and women's rights.

## CRISTO REY JESUIT WELCOMES INAUGURAL CLASS OF 121 STUDENTS



*Rev. John W. Swope, S.J., president, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, greets students as they arrive each morning.*

**Cristo Rey Jesuit High School**, located in Fell's Point, has opened its doors this fall with 121 freshmen. The first Catholic high school to open in the Archdiocese of Baltimore in more than forty years, Cristo Rey Jesuit has a specific mission: To provide young men and women from low-income families a rigorous academic program that will prepare them to attend and complete college.

Cristo Rey Jesuit is one of nineteen schools in the national Cristo Rey Network. All schools in the Network fund their operation through this unique work-study experience for their students.

In Baltimore, thirty businesses and nonprofit organizations have signed on to employ Cristo Rey Jesuit students as entry-level workers. Employers include Catholic Charities, Gallagher, Evelius & Jones, RCM&D, Loyola College in Maryland, Good Samaritan Hospital, Legg Mason, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore, among others.

## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH RECEIVES PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Arc of Baltimore presented its Public Service Award to **Mount Saint Joseph High School**. The Arc is an organization whose mission is to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have maximum opportunities to actively participate in all aspects of community life and to offer programs and services that support them in doing so.

Steve Morgan '68, the Executive Director of The Arc, joined in presenting the award to Mount Saint Joseph **President Brother James M. Kelly, C.F.X., Principal Barry Fitzpatrick, Ben Stevick**, a sophomore at the Mount with Down syndrome, along with Ben's teacher, **Cheryl Hall**, and Ben's mom, Doris Stevick. The Public Service Award recognizes individuals and groups that advance The Arc's mission by increasing public awareness and advancing the rights and quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities.

Mount Saint Joseph is the first Catholic high school in the Baltimore area to enroll a student who has Down syndrome. When Mr. Fitzpatrick was approached with the idea of Ben attending Mount Saint Joseph, he didn't see obstacles, but rather an opportunity to enhance the Mount's mission - offering an inclusive and compassionate education.

## ST. MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES EXCITING EXPANSIONS!



At **St. Maria Goretti**, the school year began with a number of exciting additions. First, the school welcomed its largest Freshman class in ten years. Seventy-one Freshmen from twenty-five different schools lend a broad diversity to the class. There has been a steady growth in enrollment over the past two years.

Also welcomed is the school's first **President, Mr. William (Bill) McKinley**, who comes with over two decades of experience in Washington County school administration. He will oversee school operations in partnership with the Principal. The school also welcomed the addition of a **Chaplain, Fr. Stephen Hook**, who is the administrator of St. Augustine, Williamsport, and St. James, Boonsboro. He will lead school liturgies and assist in Religion classes and school activities. A major change in facilities is an expanded, soon-to-be-completed addition of an all new Computer Lab, made possible by a grant from the Knott Foundation.



## ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL COMMEMORATES 9/11

**St. Joan of Arc School** commemorated the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 with their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "America Supports You Freedom Walk" on Tuesday, September 11th. The entire student body along with faculty, staff, parents, members of the United States Army,

veterans, police, firefighters, and the Aberdeen community participated in the walk. Due to rainy weather, the students walked from the school to the church.

The patriotic program led by Assistant Principal, **Mrs. Kathy Ruth**, also featured the Mayor of Aberdeen, Fred Simmons, who spoke to the students about service to their community. The students sang patriotic songs, and recited poetry and essays about what is a hero.

In addition, retired Army Lt. Col. Arthur W. Garrett was a guest at the Freedom Walk ceremony. Mr. Garrett talked to the audience about patriotism.



## CENTRAL MARYLAND EDUCATORS BEGIN YEAR WITH INSPIRATION AND REFLECTION



Over 150 staff members from five Central Maryland Schools met for an afternoon of Reflection on August 22, 2007, at St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor Parish in Buckeystown. Tom Butler of the Mount St. Mary's

Callings Program (inset) facilitated the day, sponsored by the Catholic Education Ministries Center of Central Maryland. Participating schools included Mother Seton School, Emmitsburg; St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick; Visitation Academy, Frederick; Saint John's Catholic Prep, Frederick; and St. Mary's School, Hagerstown.

# WESTERN VICARIATE NEWS

## ST. JOHN, WESTMINSTER, STUDENT HONORED

The Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals will honor **St. John, Westminster**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, **Celie Cellini**, with the highly esteemed **Outstanding Youth Fundraiser Award** at the National Philanthropy Day luncheon, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Celie and her committee enjoyed the support of the entire community to raise \$11,000 for needed campus technology improvements. They used the computers to create the "2007 St. John School Calendar" which they marketed and sold effectively! 125 volunteer hours went into the production and sale of 300 calendars sold to families, friends and the greater community!

Congratulations to Celie and crew who worked together to achieve this very prestigious award for such a worthwhile project, truly demonstrating their dedication!



*Signing the PDS agreement, left to right: Dr. Ronald Valenti, Superintendent, AOB; Dr. Linda Burgee, Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools; Dr. Thomas Powell, President, MSMU.*

## SJRCS PARTNERS WITH MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

**St. John Regional Catholic School (SJRCs)** has partnered with Mt. St. Mary's University's (MSMU) Education Department as a member of the Professional Development Schools (PDS) network.

As a PDS network member, SJRCs is able to benefit from the placement of education students as interns into its classrooms at various levels of their college careers. MSMU continues to have a well-established relationship with all of the Frederick County Public Schools. During the past school year, MSMU students were given the opportunity to complete observations, teach lessons, and fulfill their student teaching experiences in elementary and middle school classrooms at SJRCs.

Each student-teacher is assigned a mentor teacher from the SJRCs faculty. According to Assistant Principal Paul Fer, "Partnering students with our more veteran teachers presents a unique opportunity to all Mount students who step into our school. Both mentor-teacher and student-teacher enjoy an experience in which learning and development occurs for all involved."

## GRANDPARENTS TAKE OVER AT MOTHER SETON SCHOOL

Descending in multitudes upon **Mother Seton School**, grandparents took over the corridors, classrooms, playground, and every spare inch of space during Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>'s celebration to honor Grandparents of Mother Seton School students. Over 200 strong, they created a beautiful scene of delight, joy, and good humor as they moved about from room to room, hallway to hallway to make sure every grandchild was visited and assured of their love and interest.

**Deacon John Hawkins** of St. Anthony/Our Lady of Mt Carmel movingly encouraged them: "In days past, others shepherded you. Now you, in turn, are called by God to shepherd your grandchildren."

Miraculously, the assembled multitude got right back into their long forgotten school day routines and followed the dismissal calls, gleefully joining their grandchildren at the atrium to travel home together.



## ARR-GH!! FOOD AND FUN AT ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL, FROSTBURG

**St. Michael School's** faculty and staff offered face painting, pirate flag making, and creating a pirate mural as part of the Pirate Express Train Experience, which took place in Frostburg, MD on August 1st. Several hundred visitors rode to Frostburg on the train and were treated to "pirate grog" by parent volunteer, Julie McKenzie. Everyone enjoyed a chance to cool off while youngsters took part in activities within the school. Faculty members were also on hand to provide information about the school to prospective parents. This was a joint effort with the city of Frostburg and Frostburg State University.

The annual celebration of Grandparents' Day was held on Monday, October 1, 2007, at St. Michael School, Frostburg, MD. Grandparents were invited to join students for morning Mass, followed by coffee and donuts in the cafeteria. Grandparents then visited classrooms. The grandparents of the Pre-K class met their little ones in the classroom for donuts and participated in a special keepsake project.



# DIVISION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

## October

10	Library Certification Seminar I (9 AM – 12 Noon, Media Resource Center)
10-12	Curriculum Mapping for registered Elementary Schools
13	Institute 2007 (Seton Keough)
15-17	Curriculum Mapping for registered Schools
17	Library Certification Seminar 1 (9 AM - 12 Noon, Media Resource Center)
18	Elementary Principals' Collaborative Council (9 AM - 2 PM)
22	AOB Professional Day--Elementary schools closed
23	ESPA (8:30 AM – 3 PM)
24	Library Certification Seminar 1 (9 AM - 12 Noon, Media Resource Center)
25	Marketing Advancement Workshops
26	Marketing Advancement Workshops
31	Halloween

## November

7	Library Certification Seminar I (9 AM – 12 Noon, Media Resource Center)
9	Elementary/Secondary Assistant Principals' Meeting (9 AM - 2:30 PM)
14	E-Rate Meeting #1 (9 AM - 12 Noon, Loyola Graduate Center, Timonium)
14	Library Certification Seminar 1 (9 AM - 12 Noon, Media Resource Center)
14	Technology Coordinators Meeting (12:30 PM - 3 PM)
14	Child Nutrition Food Service Meeting (1:30 PM - 3:30 PM)
15	Elementary Principals' Collaborative Council (9 AM - 2 PM)
22	Thanksgiving

## December

6	ALMA (9 AM – 12 Noon)
8	Immaculate Conception
8	High School Placement Test (8 – 11:30 AM)
12	Child Nutrition Food Service Meeting (1:30 – 3:30 PM)
12	E-Rate Meeting #2 (9:30 AM – 12 Noon)
25	Christmas Day

## January

1	New Year's Day
9	Child Nutrition Food Service Meeting (1:30 – 3:30 PM)
14	Secondary Executive Committee Meeting (1:30 PM) - 3:30 PM)
16	Elementary Principals' Collaborative Council (9:30 AM – 3 PM)
21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
24	ESPA (8:30 AM – 3 PM)
27-2/2	Catholic Schools Week

## Catholic Schools Week 2008 January 27 - Feb. 2, 2008

The 2008 theme is: *Catholic Schools Light the Way*  
*National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools is Wednesday, January 30*



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