

VISIONS

NEWS FOR THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

January 2008

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1
WINTER 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from the
Superintendent Cover

ARTICLES

Safeguarding Personal
Information 2

Operation TEACH Interviews 3

Holy Childhood Association 3

SCHOOLS 4 - 18

Western Vicariate News 4 - 7

Eastern Vicariate News 7-15

Urban Vicariate News 15-18

Division of Catholic Schools
Marketing 19

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 20

My Dear Colleagues,

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Happy New Year!

In Roman mythology the god Janus is depicted as having two faces--one facing forward and the other facing backward. It symbolized the Roman god as the doorway for the past and the future. It has trickled down to modern day parlance whereby in the month of January, when the New Year begins, we find ourselves reflecting on the past as we make resolutions for the future. It is the freshness of the New Year that creates the excitement of a new beginning, starting anew.

As we embark on the year 2008 I encourage you, not so much as to make resolutions, but more to reflect and ponder upon the great gift that has been entrusted to you. A gift that is constant both in the past and the future. The gift that you have been given is to take the subtle mind of a student and to influence that mind to seek heights that only the intellect can achieve. Accepting the responsibility of a teacher is not easy. Teaching does not put you on the road to fame, will not earn you a spot in *Fortune 500*, and will not fill up your shelves with awards. Often times you are unappreciated, underpaid and taken for granted. Everybody knows how to do the job better than you. Yet, you continue. Why?

You continue because there is nothing more exhilarating than to know that you are the catalyst for learning. You continue because in the schema of things, your presence makes a difference in a student's life. You continue because there is no greater joy than to know that you have been the cause for a student to recognize his/her potential. You continue because teaching allows you to look back and reflect upon all the lives that you have touched, as well as to look forward to those yet to come. You continue because everyday in the classroom is a new beginning.

As a Catholic educator, the gift of teaching expands even further. You are part of the teaching mission of the Church, an integral part of the apostolate that sees education as a holistic approach where the student is nurtured both spiritually and academically. Your teaching encompasses a broader dimension, where as mentor you give witness to the Gospel message.

As your Superintendent, but more important as your colleague, I celebrate the great gift in you, the gift of your being a teacher. Your gift is a treasure to the Church, to the students you serve and to the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Peace and all good things!



Visions is published three times a year by The Office of Schools Marketing for The Division of Catholic Schools.

The Marketing Office reserves the right to accept and edit all submitted information.

The Deadline for the Spring 2008 Issue is Friday, April 18, 2008.

Submissions received after the deadline will be considered for future publications.

Please submit information by email to kwhitelock@archbalt.org

SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL INFORMATION IN YOUR ORGANIZATION'S RECORDS

by Anne Fox, Esq., Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP

Do your parish or school records contain personal information such as social security or financial account numbers of students, employees, members, donors, or other individuals? Who has access to these records? How do you protect personal information from unauthorized access?

Following the recent enactment of a new Maryland consumer protection law, many organizations are facing questions such as these. The new law, the Maryland Personal Information Protection Act, requires businesses, including nonprofit organizations, to protect records that contain certain personal information of Maryland residents. The law also requires businesses to notify Maryland residents of unauthorized access to computerized records that contain their personal information under particular circumstances.

In addition to this new law, there are various other statutes and common law principles that protect individuals' personal information. For example, Maryland's Social Security Number Privacy Act prohibits public posting and certain transmissions of individuals' social security numbers. Common law concepts of negligence and invasion of privacy provide legal remedies for individuals whose private information is disclosed inappropriately. In order to comply with these laws and limit your organization's liability, it is important to protect personal information entrusted to your care.

Below are some suggestions to enhance the security of your records and prevent unauthorized access to or disclosure of personal information in these records:

- Identify the types and locations of information currently maintained: find out what information your organization keeps and where the information is stored, including electronically stored information.
- Identify the individuals who have access to personal information: find out who has access to records and how your organization monitors this access; limit access to the appropriate individuals within your organization; train these individuals in handling personal information.
- Limit the personal information you collect: substitute other types of identification numbers for social security numbers; think about whether your organization needs to collect certain personal information; update forms to eliminate collection of unnecessary information.
- Develop a records retention policy: decide how long your organization needs to keep records; set up a schedule to destroy records that are no longer needed; ensure that your organization adequately destroys records, including those stored on computer hard drives, so that personal information is unreadable or undecipherable.
- Develop a privacy policy: specify the ways in which your organization uses personal information and the procedures used for authorized disclosures of personal information.
- Develop a security policy: determine the steps and procedures your organization will follow to protect personal information.
- Establish a security team and security breach response plan: include administrative, information technology, legal, and communications members on the team; address the ways in which your organization should respond to a breach of security procedures or unauthorized access to personal information.

Anne B. Fox is an attorney practicing in the Employment and Education groups of the law firm Gallagher Evelius & Jones. Anne can be reached at 410-951-1418 or afox@gejlaw.com.

Operation TEACH Candidate Interview Dates

April 7 & 14, 2008

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**For additional information and to
schedule candidate interviews
contact Angela Simmons at
asimmons@archbalt.org
or 410-371-6404**

THE HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION LENTEN PROGRAM

As a preparation for Easter, the Holy Childhood Association once again offers its Lenten Program for children grades K-8. The purpose of the program is to promote daily prayer, sacrificial giving and sacrifice, and the growth and sharing of each child's faith. HCA is a 164-year old pontifical mission society. All funds raised are sent to missions around the world who serve only children, thus the HCA motto, "children helping children." Please join with children throughout the US and the world in this Lenten program of prayer and sacrifice.

For more information on HCA, go to our student website at www.HCAkids.org or www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org.

Should you be interested in having your students participate, please contact Kelly Hellmuth, HCA Program Coordinator for the Archdiocese at 410-625-8450 or khellmuth@archbalt.org.

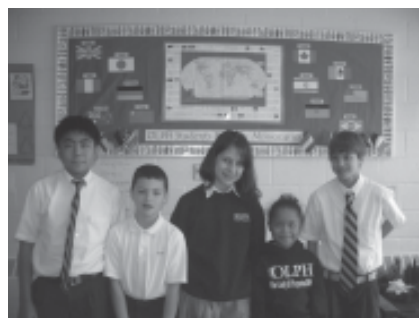


PHOTO: Students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help who are participating in the Around the World HCA geography program. Every week they sacrifice some of their money for children in the countries they are studying about.

SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP SHARES SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WITH FREDERICK CHILDREN

For Christmas this year, the National Honor Society of **Saint John's Catholic Prep** coordinated a service project that provided Christmas gifts for children in the Frederick County community. This year, gifts were provided for 26 young people who are truly in need and may not have received Christmas presents otherwise. Students, parents and faculty were all encouraged to participate. Each person was given a card with a family's wish list on it. They bought a gift and brought it into the school. Very generous participation this year resulted in more than 200 gifts collected and distributed.



A special thanks is extended to the entire Saint John's community for their help and support in making this, yet again, such a successful project.

WESTMINSTER WEATHER EXPERTS

At **St. John School, Westminster**, fourth grade students are studying weather patterns and the differences between "weather" and "climate" in the five regions of the United States. To nurture student creativity in their approach to meteorological data and news reporting, resource teacher, Amy Heilig, videotaped pairs of students giving live news reports about the specific weather regions to which they were assigned. Using maps of the United States in the background, student "Meteorologists" detailed weather forecasts and offered predictions of future weather patterns for their region. Teams used raw data and conducted their own analyses to produce quality television weather reports! Fourth Grade — teachers, **Mrs. Amy Hawkins** and **Mrs. Marcy Moller**, were confident that their students' stellar meteorological reports from "SJWest TV" would rival the Weather Channel's daily broadcasts!



TRINITY STUDENTS SCORE IN MATH OLYMPIAD

A team of eighth grade students from **Trinity School** won second place in the team competition at the 23rd Annual Math Olympiad held at the Catholic High School on Saturday, October 20.

Approximately 50 teams comprised of fourth to eighth grade students from 12 schools participated.

The team relay involved answering a combination of various word problems and quick answer questions. Representing Trinity on the first place team were **Elise Liberto, Alexis Brunson, Mary Kate Helm, and Augusta Mead**.



PHOTO: l to r Alexis Brunson, Elise Liberto, Augusta Mead, Mary Kate Helm

WESTERN VICARIATE NEWS

“BACK TO THE PAST” AT ST. JOHN SEVERNA PARK

Each autumn, third grade classes at **Saint John the Evangelist School** in Severna Park hold a Colonial Feast. This is a culminating activity for all that has been learned in science, social studies, technology, and language arts during the first trimester. In social studies, children learned about the colonial times of our nation. George Washington was studied not only as a president but as a farmer. The third grade saw this in person during their visit to Mount Vernon. In science, the children learned about plants, seeds and the food they produce. Learning about “steps in a process” in language arts was tied in with recipes. In technology class, the children learned to put borders and pictures with their recipes. The recipes were printed and bound into cookbooks that were presented to parents. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, each child made his or her recipe and brought it to school. Everyone was happy to sit down, give thanks to God, and enjoy the bounty of his or her work.



A COMMERCIAL-FREE CHRISTMAS AT MOTHER SETON SCHOOL

Mother Seton School's Home-School Association and faculty are taking steps to help parents create a commercial free childhood for their families.

St. Nick's Workshop, a Christmas Prayer Partner activity was conceived as a step in the right direction. Gone are the tables of trinkets sent by the Secret Santa vendor, along with the hidden message that Christmas is about shopping, spending and wanting more.

Enter a commercial free zone where younger students partner with older students to create something beautiful and meaningful for family members, wrap it with care, and give it with love. Christmas is not about having more, it's about giving love.



PHOTO: Working on a glass plate gift project pictured below are students and HSA parents: Laura Weber, Meghan Crouse, Mara Williams, Sylvie Damsky, Jack Hansbrough, Veronica Smaldone, and Nick Imes.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Students from **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School** in Ellicott City recently collected over seven hundred beanie babies to be sent to our US soldiers stationed in Iraq. Once received, the soldiers will distribute these small toys to local Iraqi children who cherish them. This was a very personal way for the school children to help other children the same age as themselves in a war-torn land.

Col. Michelle Foreaker of the state police in Delaware kindly picked up the beanie babies and shared with the children that they have successfully shipped 62,000 beanie babies to the children in Iraq thus far. Representing the armed forces was Master Sergeant Matthew Kerstetter. Our Lady of Perpetual Help students were proud to be part of such a generous effort.

WESTERN VICARIATE NEWS

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL IN ELKRIDGE TAKES TECHNOLOGY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

First, a computer lab. Then a mobile laptop computer cart. Now middle school students at **St. Augustine School** in Elkridge are using state-of-the art PC



tablets in their classrooms. The portable, light-weight computers are opening endless windows of learning opportunities for students in grades 6-8. Students are currently using the tablets to work in small groups to create newspapers where students have assumed the roles of editor, writer, researcher and graphic designer. Students are not only improving their reading, writing and research skills, but they are working collaboratively to achieve a goal and express themselves using their creativity and imagination. The students at St. Augustine's have also used technology to e-mail letters to soldiers and the families of fallen war heroes. This cutting-edge technology allows students to type on a keyboard as well as write directly on a small screen using a stylus. In addition to providing many enriching learning experiences for students, the tablets are holding students' attention longer, increasing their productivity in the classroom and making learning fun.

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL DEBUTS CHRISTMAS PLAY

St. Michael School students from Pre-School (3-year olds) through Grade 5 presented their first Christmas play, The Wishing Tree, on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. Under the direction of classroom teachers and music teacher, **Alison Welborne**, students memorized lines, learned songs, and choreographed dances.



PHOTO: Shown at practice (clockwise) are: Kaitlyn Miller, Claire Romaine, Joe McKenzie, Helen Patterson, Dan Wolodkin, Madison Lawrence, Evan Green, and Andrew Saku.

The annual *Story Book Holiday on Main Street*, held on Saturday, December 1, 2007, in Frostburg looked brighter to the students of **St. Michael School** this year, as they admired their hard work. Students from Kindergarten through Grade 5 constructed a window display, in which they fashioned snowmen and crafted decorations to create a scene from the children's book, Snowballs. Art classes, supervised by teacher, **Judy McKenzie**, were full of activity as students went about their work to complete the display, which could be viewed at the Main Street storefront by all until after the New Year.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL READS FOR OTHERS

St. Mary Catholic School (Hagerstown) students and faculty read for 100 minutes in order to earn money to purchase Christmas gifts for needy families. The READ-A-THON in past years was an activity enjoyed by primary and intermediate students. But this year, the middle school students also participated. Students in the younger grades enjoyed listening to stories by guest readers. The students in the older grades appreciated a good book as a quiet diversion from normal studies. Many of the middle school students were invited to read to the primary students. Besides encouraging students to value the gift of reading, this activity also gave students the opportunity to earn money for purchasing Christmas gifts for needy families. Each grade adopted a family through the Salvation Army. With the effort of our students and the generosity of our school families, many families less fortunate than us will have a brighter Christmas!

ST. JOHN REGIONAL STUDENTS SERVE THE COMMUNITY



Students at **St. John Regional Catholic School** are working together to better the community. That is the primary focus of the Light of Hope, a service group of fifth through eighth grade students. The group, which meets regularly after school, plans and participates in a number of community service projects. A 1950's Sock Hop was presented to the residents of the Homewood Nursing Center in Frederick. In observance of World Mission Month, students assisted

and gathered donated household items for Sarah's House, a homeless shelter in Anne Arundel County. Students also created cheerful holiday cards for hospitalized Veterans and decorated pumpkins as saints for Halloween to raise money for a young child with multiple challenges. In order to attain their objectives to build a better community, the students composed their own mission statement stating their intention "to spread the love of God to all people who need it...working to help the world one good deed at a time."

APPLE DUMPLING DAY A TRADITION AT VISITATION ACADEMY

The fall tradition of Apple Dumpling Day at **Visitation Academy** was featured in The Catholic Review. Working together with teacher and parent volunteers, the girls picked apples from the tree on the school grounds, prepared over 300 dumplings using the original Visitation Sisters recipe, and invited their community, parents and alumnae of Visitation Academy to join them for Apple Dumpling Day.

As they prepare for the new year and new projects, they are always thankful for the support of their friends in Frederick County. They received a \$7,500 grant from the Delaplaine Foundation towards a new sprinkler system. There are many people who give much of their time to support the **Visitation Academy** and they would like to thank them for their gifts of hard work and devotion.



PHOTO: 6th graders, Francesca Pandolfi and Katie Kreke prepare apples.

SAINT CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER STUDENTS ATTEND "WORLD-WIDE CHILDREN'S HOLY HOUR"



On Friday, October 5, 2007, 42 members of the St. Clement School "Children of Mary" group traveled to Washington, DC, courtesy of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer Sodality. The group attended the annual Worldwide Children's Holy Hour sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima USA. This 5th annual Holy Hour was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and was televised live on EWTN. St. Clement School is the only school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore that attended the Holy Hour. The St. Clement students

received the apostolic blessing of Pope Benedict XVI. Most Reverend Bishop Robert Finn D.D. from Kansas City led the students in prayer while Irish vocalist Dana Rosemary Scallon, winner of a number of Catholic Music Unity Awards, led the group in song.

When St. Clement Sodality was approached with a request for a donation to offset the transportation cost, Jeanette Doleschal, Prefect, readily responded that her group would gladly pay the entire cost of the bus to take the "Children of Mary" group to Washington.

SCOTT NOVAK, OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL STUDENT, RECEIVES OUTSTANDING YOUTH APPRECIATION AWARD



On Tuesday, November 20th Scott Novak, an eighth grade student at **Our Lady of Grace School (OLGS)** in Parkton received the “Outstanding Youth Appreciation” Award presented by the Hereford Optimist Club. Scott was one of six students honored for their talents in arts, athletics, academics and for their contributions to their community. Scott received the award for being a well-rounded student, active in academic clubs, the student council, and the OLGS band. Scott spends many of his evenings and weekends practicing on the North Harford Swim Team but still finds plenty of time to volunteer and serve his church and community. *“Scott uses his gifts for music, nature and academics to better the world around him”*, said **Sister Helen Wiegmann**, Our Lady of Grace School, Principal.



ST. AGNES SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN 40 DAYS OF LIFE CAMPAIGN

St. Agnes School students responded to the call of Cardinal Keeler’s request that they participate in the 40 Days of Life Campaign which took place throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore and 87 communities across the United States. In support of the campaign, St. Agnes School held a baby shower from September 26 – November 4 in support of the sanctity of life. Students collected well over 300 gifts for infants and their moms which were donated to the Pregnancy Center West on Frederick Avenue. All the gifts were placed in a baby’s cradle that overflowed to fill up most of the stage in the cafeteria where students could watch the stacks of gifts grow and grow every time they went into the cafeteria. The spirit of generosity shown by our families was a wonderful way to start the new school year!



JUSTIN FISHER CENTER DEDICATED AT CARDINAL GIBBONS

The Justin Fisher Fitness Center was dedicated at **Cardinal Gibbons School** in his memory by his parents and close friends on Saturday, November 17th in the Fine Arts Building. Much of the labor was performed by Brian Cromer and his Dad and a few of Justin’s friends. The funding was the result of his parents and friends raising the needed capital to make the dream a reality. This is a living testimony to the love of many people for Justin’s memory.

A very successful Bull and Oyster Roast was held in the gymnasium of the school for a packed house. Plenty of food and a Silent Auction assured a good time for all attending. It will be an annual event each year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening, especially **Jimmy Malone** and **Bruz Klima** and their assistants.

EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS

TOWSON CATHOLIC HIGH CONTINUES FESTIVAL OF TREES TRADITION



For the past 12 years under the direction of Art Department chair, **Sheila Gill**, Towson Catholic National Art Honor Society has designed Christmas trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses for display and sale at the Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees. The profit from the sale of these items helps the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Towson Catholic students raised money for this cause by painting faces at the Immaculate Conception Church - Legion of Mary booth at the Towson Spring Festival. Senior, **Breone Byrd**, has designed Towson Catholic's gingerbread houses for the past three years, receiving second and third place for her work. This year the theme for our large tree was "Venetian Masquerade". The Festival of Trees was held on November 26, 27, and 28.

SACRED HEART OF MARY BOOK PARADE "FLOATS" THROUGH SCHOOL



On Friday, November 30th the third, fourth and fifth grade classes of **Sacred Heart of Mary School** had their third annual book parade. Each year students from each class are assigned to read a book of their choice and then create a diorama float from a favorite scene of the book. The fifth grade this year as a class read "*The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*" by C.S. Lewis and individually created their own interpretation of what they would want their fantasy boat to look like. Parents as well as the entire school are invited to view the book parade and commend the students on their hard work.

Once again, the book parade consisted of many creative and visually stunning floats and proved that a child's imagination and creativity has no limits.

ST. MARGARET SCHOOL WELCOMES 700 GRANDPARENTS!

On October 26, **St. Margaret School** held its annual Grandparents Day Program for its students in grades 1-5. Over 700 visitors came to the Elementary School Campus who, through a well-coordinated rotation, attended a prayer service, visited classrooms, and shared a continental breakfast with their grandchildren. Many grandparents purchased books in honor of their grandchildren for donation to the Elementary School Library. All grandparents had their pictures taken with their grandchildren and enjoyed live entertainment provided by members of the second grade class.

TEACHERS AT OUR LADY OF VICTORY PILOT NEW TECHNOLOGY

Three teachers at **Our Lady of Victory School** are piloting some new technology equipment. Tablet PC's paired with wireless overhead projectors are being installed to help further integrate technology into the classrooms. The educators can use the PC's to display notes, documents, and web pages, and to use slideshows and other media to enhance learning.

The primary department prepared for the school's Christmas program which was handled differently this year. There were two different presentations. The Christmas Primary Program was held on December 19th at 6:45 p.m. and on December 20th at 1:15 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory School is also preparing for Catholic Schools Week. A couple of former alumni that will be making presentations for Career Day. Different activities are scheduled for the whole week of January 27, 2008 to February 1, 2008.

EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS

POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA

Some exciting events are happening at **Our Lady of Hope/St Luke School:** The second graders are participating in an Internet Postcard Exchange. They are hoping to receive a postcard from every state and learn about each state as they go along.



PHOTO: Pictured with the postcards they received so far and helping plot them on the map are Megan and Abby.

Katie Tennant, an eighth grade student, at Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School, placed first in the local school division of the Dundalk Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest. Katie and her family attended the Awards Dinner where she received a \$100 prize

Through a generous grant of \$28,000 from The Knott Foundation, **Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School** was able to install interactive white board technology in approximately 6 to 8 classrooms

PENNY QUEENS IN ACTION



PHOTO: NDP's 2007 Penny Queens: Sam Duvall '10 (as Gene Simmons); Katie Corrigan '09 (as skate board dude); Rebecca Guthrie '08 (as Ninja warrior); and Maura Perry '11 (as Cindy Lou Who).

For 35 years, four intrepid Penny Queens at **Notre Dame Prep** don funny costumes and perform zany antics to raise money for NDP's El Salvadoran sister school, Ignacio Ellacuria. This year's Penny Queens raised more than \$17,000 which will provide scholarships for young people to attend high school in El Salvador. Each spring since the 1980s, an NDP delegation of students and teachers travels to Ignacio to deliver the funds raised through Penny Queen and other fundraisers. The community has seen long-term results from the NDP connection. For instance, El Salvadoran students who attended high school thanks to NDP support have gone to college and then returned to Ignacio to teach the next generation.



A CIVIL WAR AT ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL

Members of the 3rd Maryland and the North Carolina 54th visited St. Philip Neri School back in November. The Civil War re-enactors set up camp on the school playground. Throughout the day, the students and their teachers visited the camp to learn about life as an average Civil War soldier. On display were different styles of tents and equipment. The re-enactors gave a dental demonstration, played drum & fife music, and taught the students tactile marching. Later in the day, all the students, teachers, school/parish staff, and neighbors that live in the area gathered on the playground for a Civil War Re-Enactment between the Union and Confederate Soldiers, complete with firing of muskets. The entire event was setup by **Michael Bealefeld**, a 2005 graduate of SPN. Michael currently attends Cardinal Gibbons High School and is a member of the 3rd Maryland Company B of the Potomac.

IT'S ALL ABOUT SERVICE AT SCHOOL OF THE INCARNATION

At this time every year you can count on a couple things at **School of the Incarnation**. Lots of cereal and backpacks! Each year the eighth grade boys hold a cereal drive. Last year they collected approximately 1,000 boxes. On Wednesday December 5th 1,992 boxes of cereal were delivered to 5 different pantries/shelters in our area! Great work guys!

Also this year, **School of the Incarnation** collected enough money to fill 608 backpacks through Giving Back, Inc., a non-profit that sponsors the Help the Homeless Drive in Baltimore, Anne Arundel County and now Washington, DC. The program was founded more than 20 years ago by Linda Greenberg of Annapolis. Over the past three years, Giving Back has developed a program to provide backpacks to the people directly on the streets of Baltimore. Each backpack includes a heavy duty hooded sweatshirt, thermal underwear (top and bottom), a hat, warm gloves, and a warm pair of socks. Last year they distributed over 1,000 of these backpacks.

THE POWER OF PINK

Breast cancer is no stranger to the **St. Mary's High School** community. Each year they pray for the parents of students or teachers who are struggling with or who have fallen to the disease. For five years, math teacher **Mary Raleigh** has organized students for Pink Day—a day when students wear pink shirts with jeans and contribute \$5 to raise awareness. This year's effort raised nearly \$2000.00.

The majority of the money was donated to the Sajak Pavilion Breast Center at Anne Arundel Medical Center. The remainder of the money was donated to Lee Denim Day and Susan G. Komen for the Cure in the name of Senior **Jessica Creekmore**. Jessica is personally very active in breast cancer awareness fundraising and was key in making sure that the St. Mary's event was a success.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CELEBRATES LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



Over the years, **St. Joseph School** (Cockeysville) has established many traditions. Two very special ones make their celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas even more memorable. The first is their annual collection at Thanksgiving to benefit the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor at St Martin's Home. The St. Joseph School Student Council collects canned foods and other staples from each classroom and helps to load the Sisters' van. The Sisters are always amazed at the generosity of the children and their families. This year, the proceeds (about \$300) of our Chick-Fil-A night were also given to Sister Pauline so she and the Sisters could purchase turkeys and hams. During December, each of the school's homerooms "adopt" several retired Sisters at the Villa on Bellona Avenue. The Sisters give us a wish list and the students and faculty fill gift bags with the items the Sisters have requested. The students write Christmas cards to their special Sisters and some of them write back to the children. Just before school closes for the Christmas break, the choir and **Mrs. Isabel Blevins**, choir director, and **Mr. David Pomplon**, music teacher, perform for the Sisters and deliver our gifts. It is a fantastic afternoon for everyone!



EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS

SAINTS IN ACTION FOR OTHERS

November was a special month at **St. Mary Elementary School** as the students shared their blessings with others and honored those who serve our nation. Wearing red, white, and blue in remembrance of Veteran's Day, the children contributed to the purchase of global minutes phone cards for wounded soldiers at Camp Balad Hospital. Seventh and eighth graders made hand-written cards to accompany the phone cards. They also made American flags as they reflected on the gift



of freedom and especially the freedom to be Catholic. Students in all grades made ornaments and included a hand written Christmas message which was shared with Veterans on Christmas morning through the Purple Heart Service Foundation. In addition, each class sponsored a child for the Christ Child Project that provides clothes and toys to children who are less fortunate at Christmas.

IN THE NEWS AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Senior **Troy Franklin** recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Towson University. Troy, who is a two time all-conference selection for the Cougars, is leading his team in scoring this year while they are off to a 3-0 start.

Congratulations to middle school science teacher **Mrs. Cathy Wiley**, who has been nominated for recognition by the Essex-Middle River-White Marsh Chamber of Commerce as an outstanding teacher. She will be honored, along with other outstanding educators, at a dinner in January.



Fourth grade teacher **Carol (Kriss) Ruggiero**, who is an alum of the high school as well, has published a children's book, *Rudy the Steam Engine*. It is a simple but heartwarming story of an old steam engine's determination to help the children that love him. You

can find the Book at Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com or Borders.com.

SENIOR CITIZENS DISCUSS FAITH WITH CLASS

St. Joan of Arc School's 7th grade class and some of the senior citizens from the St. Joan of Arc parish have begun having monthly get togethers. The first breakfast meeting occurred after the All Saint's Day liturgy. Over coffee, juice and donuts, the seniors and the students discussed their favorite saints. On December 11th, the group met again after an Advent liturgy to discuss the Nativity. The class recited a poem, performed a skit and prayed together. According to **Kathy Ruth**, Assistant Principal, *"It is a wonderful opportunity for the students to spend some quality time with members of our parish. I believe both the students and the parishioners are enjoying the experience."*



EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS



THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS

One year ago VISIONS ran an article about **Xavia Pirozzi**, a student at **St. Joseph, Fullerton** who had been in a hospital in Philadelphia for almost a year waiting for a heart transplant, and the efforts underway to help her family with their huge medical expenses. The “Heart of St Joe’s” fundraiser and the “Silver for Xavia” collection brought in OVER \$140,000! We would like to offer a special thank you to the many Catholic schools who donated to this tremendous event having read about it in VISIONS. On January 6, 2007, the Feast of the Three Kings - The Epiphany of the Lord, Xavia received her new heart. She has enjoyed a wonderful recovery. She even returned to school by the last week of May!! Xavia has happily entered Middle School and continues her great health. She participates in all school classes and activities, Girl Scouts, entertaining her siblings, 3rd grade triplets Adria, Ianna and Darius and younger sister, Alita. Xavia and her family just returned from a fun-filled week in Disneyworld, sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where she enjoyed riding every ride with no restrictions. What a wonderful difference a year makes!

SEVEN MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Mount Saint Joseph is happy to announce that this year seven seniors were named National Merit Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

These Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the competition by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). **President Brother James Kelly, C.F.X.** remarked, “I’m grateful to these young men for upholding the Mount’s tradition of academic excellence.” Congratulations to **Ryan Button, Tom Connely, Pat Gorman, Chris Henry, Mark Law, Colin Leach** and **James Paul**.



PHOTO: Back – Principal Barry Fitzpatrick, James Paul, Colin Leach, Tom Connely, President Brother James Kelly, C.F.X. Front – Pat Gorman, Chris Henry, Mark Law, Ryan Button

JOHN CARROLL SUPPORTS “ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD” INITIATIVE



The Freshman Human Geography classes at **John Carroll High School** raised over \$3,000 to help support the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) program. The One Laptop Per Child program is designed to provide children around the world with new opportunities to explore, experiment and express themselves. From November 12-26 OLPC opened a Give One Get One initiative. During this time period for every \$399 donation, one computer was donated to OLPC and one was to be given to John Carroll. John Carroll’s computers were raffled off to raise money for the initiative. Two of the raffled computers were donated back to the program by the raffle winners.

John Carroll’s donation will fund ten computers to be sent overseas and three to be sent to John Carroll.

EASTERN VICARIATE NEWS

OPEN HOUSE OPENS DOOR FOR MOUNT DE SALES ACADEMY ARTIST



On Sunday, November 4th hundreds of families toured **Mount de Sales Academy** during the annual open house for prospective students. However, one current student never expected the tour would lead to a phone call with an offer to purchase a piece of her artwork. The artwork of numerous students lines the hallways of Mount de Sales Academy, but for Mr. Jim Lerch, one piece in particular stood out during his tour of Mount de Sales. The piece was by **Maeve Jopson '09** and portrayed hands playing the piano with fingers spelling the words “make music.” Upon seeing the artwork, Mr. Lerch decided the piece would fit perfectly in his home, over the family piano. Mr. Lerch contacted Mount de Sales Academy and Maeve agreed to her first art sale. Congratulations to all of the artists at Mount de Sales whose talent touches the hearts of the faculty, staff, students, parents, alumnae and visitors.

“PRIDE” PROGRAM OPENS AT THIRD LOCATION

St. Jane Frances School is proud to announce a new program that was introduced to the school community this 2007/2008 school year. This program is called PRIDE (Pupils Receiving Inclusive Diversified Education). PRIDE is an innovative archdiocesan program designed to meet the special needs of students of average and above average intelligence with minimal various learning abilities in grades one through eight.

A specific program is designed to meet the personal needs of each child. Small class sizes ensure that each child is taught with individual attention, thus strengthening the values of integrity, respect and dependable work habits. The program is progressing very well under the direction of teacher **Mrs. Susan Reagoso** and her assistant **Mrs. Dawn Gardner**.

St. Jane Frances School is the third school in the Archdiocese that offers this program. St. Jane is a school that lives up to its mission statement--St. Jane Frances School is a faith centered community which encourages the intellectual, spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of its students. PRIDE remains a source of hope for parents who want their children in a Catholic school environment.

CALVERT HALL SENIOR ESTABLISHES BRADY'S HEART FOUNDATION



Brady Vontran, who established Brady's Heart Foundation to raise toys and funds for critically ill children at The Children's Houses at Johns Hopkins and St. Casmir's, received the Association of Fundraising Professionals Youth Award at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in November 2007. He has also been featured in an ad for Johns Hopkins Hospital in *Baltimore Magazine*; on ABC2 News' "Life Lessons" with Jenny Glick; and in the *Baltimore Examiner* and the *Catholic Review*. Brady also hosted the "Snow Ball at The Hall" on December 16, 2007 to raise additional toys and funds for Johns Hopkins.

EASTERN AND URBAN VICARIATE NEWS

NEW SCIENCE LAB REMEMBERS DEPARTED PARISHIONER

St. Stephen School in Bradshaw, MD. has a new science lab thanks to a one-year giving campaign that helped the school reach its goal of \$125,000. The lab, named Fischer Lab, was dedicated in loving memory of Ray and Helen Fischer in October. The Fischer's were long-time parishioners and Mr. Fischer was a school board member for many years. His children wanted him remembered in a way that promoted Christ-centered education.

Materials for the lab were donated by Towson University and area colleges, schools, such as John Carroll High School, and hospitals. Features of the new lab include a projection device, a visual presenter, white dry-erase boards, sinks, lab tables, cabinetry, and various other lab equipment.

Construction and current lab equipment costs total \$90,000. Family, friends, and parishioners raised the bulk of the money. The remaining money will be placed in a fund and used to purchase future supplies and equipment.



HOMEWORK HELP AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES MARK ST. MARY'S/LOYOLA PARTNERSHIP



Well after the final school bell rings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, studious activity continues at **St. Mary of the Assumption School** in Govans. More than 50 students pack the cafeteria for Homework Help Club, the most popular extra-curricular activity at the school. Led by Loyola College students, the club is just one of many enrichment opportunities that define the unique partnership between St. Mary's and neighboring Loyola College.

The homework help initiative was one of the first products of the partnership, which began last school year. More than 40 Loyola students work with first through eighth-graders three afternoons a week. There is no cost to participate; however, students are expected to adhere to the stringent code of conduct that keeps the environment conducive to learning.

Whether students need help with study skills or require clarification on an assignment, the college students provide one-on-one attention, assuring that students complete homework assignments, prepare for exams and get the support they need for success in the classroom. These efforts are paying off. Most of the participants in last year's club raised their grades at least one letter in at least one subject, and some students showed improvement in as many as three courses.



VISIONS FROM SAINT URSULA SCHOOL

Saint Ursula School welcomed all of our students back to school in September. We feel we are seeing double in our kindergarten class because we have 6 sets of twins. This brings our total number of twins to 18!



URBAN VICARIATE NEWS

THE INSTITUTE OF NOTRE DAME ANNOUNCES THE SISTER HILDA MARIE SUTHERLAND, SSND, SCHOLARSHIP

More than fifty years ago, Sister Hilda Marie Sutherland, SSND, began her ministry at the **Institute of Notre Dame**. Over the years, her steadfast dedication, faith, compassion, and generosity have touched and graced many lives. In honor of Sr. Hildie, as she is lovingly known, the Institute of Notre Dame is pleased to announce The Sister Hilda Marie Sutherland, SSND, Scholarship.

The scholarship which is based on need, will be awarded to academically talented and motivated students. It will give girls the opportunity to attend IND and to experience its rich 160-year tradition of educating students to become women of discernment, active leaders, lifelong learners, and responsible citizens of the world.



HVAC IMPROVEMENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT CATHEDRAL



Since June 2007, the **School of the Cathedral** has been involved in a major capital project—the installation of a modern climate control and ventilation system that will provide central air conditioning and up-to-date ventilation and heat for the entire building. Made possible by the success of a recent parish-wide Capital Campaign, the new system will make a tangible difference in the everyday life of the entire school community. **Monsignor Robert Armstrong**, Pastor, and **Sister Josephann Wagoner SSND**, Principal, are grateful to all who pledged their support and raised the necessary funds for this important project. The school's faculty and staff are proud of achieving 100% participation in the Capital Campaign! Scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2008, this project will serve the school community in many ways. The energy-efficient system will improve the air quality for students and staff, enable the school to be better stewards of the environment, and provide the climate and ventilation controls necessary to safeguard the ever-expanding technology in the computer lab and the classrooms. In essence, the completion of this project will support the **School of the Cathedral** in continuing its legacy of educational excellence as a premier school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

MIDDLE STATES REACCREDITATION PUT TO MUSIC

Father Kolbe School recently completed its Middle States re-accreditation. The Team offered positive compliments on its Curriculum Mapping project as well as the presentation of the entire process. Kudos to principal, **Melanie Conley**, music instructor, **Gary Lushbaugh**, and 2nd grade teacher, **Christina Hofmann**, for composing an original song, *Curriculum Map*. Our chorus entertained colloquium guests with everyone snapping their fingers to the song's beat set to the theme of the *Addams' Family* television show.

As a **Christmas outreach**, the Student Council sponsored a collection of supplies for St. Mary's Above the Rocks School in Jamaica. Small personal items and Christmas cards were sent to the military in Iraq. Mittens, hats, and socks were collected for Baltimore County Social Services. The chorus visited FutureCare Nursing Center in Canton to share Christmas songs and friendship with the residents. Students, faculty, and staff take pride in generously supporting all of Father Kolbe's outreach activities.

URBAN VICARIATE NEWS

CD RELEASE A FIRST FOR ARCHBISHOP CURLEY



The Archbishop Curley High School Choir recently released its first CD, a collection of sacred and popular songs, entitled *An Evening With the Archbishop Curley Choral and Handbell Ensembles*. The Curley Choir was founded in 1997 to showcase the vocal talents of Curley students and to expose them to the craft and aesthetic of choral music. The choral program now includes the Schola, Luminare Choir (which includes Curley alumni), and the Archbishop Curley High School Ringers (the hand bell choir) in addition to the Curley Choir, which now consists of more than seventy students. Under the direction of **Mr. Michael Gaffney**, the Curley Choir regularly performs for the school community and participates in school liturgies. The CDs cost \$20 and can be purchased through the on-line campus store at www.archbishopcurley.org.

Ss JAMES AND JOHN SCHOOL CELEBRATES 160 YEARS.

Ss. James and John School, part of the Queen of Peace Cluster, celebrated its 160th birthday Oct. 8 with a blessing and rededication of the school building. A prayer service in front of the school was followed by a performance of the St. Frances Academy, Baltimore choir and the Institute of Notre Dame, Baltimore choral group.

Students, faculty and staff were dressed in yellow T-shirts and birthday party hats on Somerset Street and made a special dedication to the school library, recently renovated with a \$15,000 grant from Citifinancial Corporation.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame began teaching girls in their first U.S. school, St. James Parochial, in October 1847, operating in the basement of the old St. James Church. In 1873, the school eventually incorporated boys into its system and in 1966 became Ss. James and John. Principal **LaUanah King-Cassell** heads the school which she said is the oldest Catholic elementary school in the city.



MERCY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

From politics to parades, **Mercy High School's** students have participated in a variety of projects this fall.

In November, ten Mercy students traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Model Organization of American States. There, students worked in committees, drafted resolutions and learned firsthand how the OAS functions in the real world.

Participating were Juniors **Rose Kane, Rebecca Libercci, Colleen Monaghan, Erin Scrimger, Lisa Shanty** and Seniors **Ashley Cunningham, Rachel Kirk, Joanna LaBoue, Alicia Secada-Lovio** and **Alyssa Wernecke**.

In December, "Into the Mind's Eye," a show curated by Mercy High School's Art Club opened at gallery M.i.M. in Hampden. The show featured two and three-dimensional work by Mercy students and ran until Jan. 15.

Finally, Mercy High School was well represented by the varsity and JV cheerleading teams at the Mayor's Christmas Parade in Hampden. The two teams placed first in the parade's cheerleading competition and were awarded a trophy.

WRITERS' TEA AT ST. WILLIAM OF YORK

On November 29, **St. William of York School** held the first of three *Writers' Teas* that it will sponsor during the current school year. The event offers two writers from every class, Kindergarten – Grade 8, who have demonstrated quality and creativity in writing, to read their work before an audience comprised of fellow students, faculty and invited guests – parents, grandparents and other family members. Readings for this event included journal entries from kindergarten students, poetry from those in intermediate grades, and narratives from middle school writers. Some enhanced their work with illustrations.

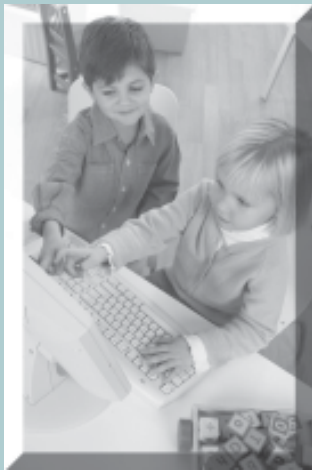


PHOTO: Writers honored at St. William of York School Writers' Tea

After the readings, the writers and about 50 invited guests shared cookies and refreshments, with tea and coffee for the adults. The *Writers' Tea* is only one facet of a project designed to meet St. William's school-wide goal to encourage and celebrate good writing throughout the student body. The event has inspired many students to work on improving their writing skills in order to participate.

The writings presented at the teas, which take place once each trimester, will be bound into a book and placed in the school library.

Ideas4Us Our NEW Website Just for You!



For the last two years, a Web site specifically for our division of Catholic School educators has provided a quick and easy way for our teachers and administrators to find answers to frequently asked questions. The site is informal, easy to navigate and quick to be updated. It's a first stop shop before asking for help from others. Visit today, find the answers and suggest other information that you would like to see included simply by pushing the CONTACT US button or writing your suggestions to credline@archbalt.org

Do you know:

- ❖ Where to find information on how to renew your teaching Certification?
- ❖ The rules and regulations for Senior Teacher Exemption?
- ❖ What professional development courses are offered for our teachers?
- ❖ Where our ONLINE classroom is located?
- ❖ What the latest technology opportunities are?
- ❖ Where to locate our specific curriculum standards?
- ❖ How to apply for MSDE credit for an approved course?
- ❖ How to apply to teach an MSDE course at yourschool?

The answer to these questions and many more can be found on this website planned for ease of access by the teachers and administrators of the Division of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Maryland. <http://ideas4us.com>

SEE YOU AT THE TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE MARCH 3RD AT THE JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL!!



Have you noticed the Division of Catholic School's Marketing new promotional look?

Appearing now through the end of March, the above banner can be seen on the tails of 30 buses in the city and surrounding counties. This banner was used for Catholic Schools Week ads in local papers and will continue to be used in future advertising.



Coming soon. . .



Billboards!! And stay tuned to Comcast Cable and other TV network affiliates to see Catholic Schools commercials filmed with our own students!

DIVISION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

February

- 6 ASH WEDNESDAY
- 8 Secondary Principals' Meeting (8:30am-2) Loyola Blakefield
- 13 Library Certification Seminar II (9-12n) (Media Resource Center)
- 13 Child Nutrition Food Service Meeting (1:30-3:30) CC
- 14 Elementary Principals' Collaborative Council (9am-2)
- 18 PRESIDENTS' DAY
- 19 High School Decision Letters Mailed
- 20 Library Certification Seminar II (9-12n) (Media Resource Center)
- 22 Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principals' Meeting (9am-2:30)
- 27 Library Certification Seminar II (9-12n) (Media Resource Center)
- 28 Teacher Focus Group (1-3pm)

March

- 3 AOB Technology Showcase and Conference Elementary Schools closed
- 4 ALMA (9-12n)
- 5 Library Certification Seminar II (9-12n) (Media Resource Center)
- 5 Elementary Principals' Collaborative Council (9am-2)
- 5 High School Registration Deadline
- 10 PowerSchool Training for Office Staff (8:30am-3)
- 11 PowerSchool Training for Office Staff (8:30am-3)
- 12 Library Certification Seminar II (9-12n) (Media Resource Center)
- 12 Child Nutrition Food Service Meeting (1:30-3:30) CC
- 13 ESPA (8:30-3) Martin's West
- 16 PALM SUNDAY
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 20 HOLY THURSDAY
- 21 GOOD FRIDAY
- 23 EASTER
- 25-28 NCEA (Indianapolis, IN)

April

- 2 ESTA (3:30) Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 3 Secondary Executive Committee Meeting (1:30pm-3) John Carroll
- 5 Teacher Job Fair (8am-12n)
- 7-11 Stanford 10 Testing-grades 3-8
- 9 Child Nutrition Food Service Meeting (1:30-3:30)
- 10 Teachers' Award Banquet (6pm-9pm) Martin's West
- 14-16 Stanford 10 Make-up Testing
- 16 Last day to return Stanford 10 Testing
- 23 Elementary Principals' Collaborative Council (9am-2)
- 23 SECRETARIES' DAY
- 25 Secondary Principals' Meeting (8:30am-2) TBD
- 29 Distinctive Scholars Convocation (7:30pm-9pm) Mercy High School)