

VISIONS

NEWS FOR THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2
SPRING 2009
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Dear Colleagues,

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

We are coming to the end of another academic year. It has been a year full of challenges and uncertainties. We have seen schools close, tuitions increase and enrollment suffer because of the economy. Yet, despite all that we have to contend with, there is a great deal we need to celebrate and applaud.

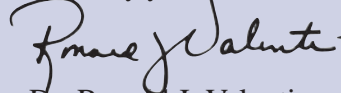
Throughout our Archdiocese, students will be graduating from our Catholic schools. They are leaving our institutions better prepared than when they entered. They have received the richness of a Catholic education, which imbues the spiritual with the academic. The successes of our students are the living examples of the long standing tradition of the quality of Catholic education. Acceptances to colleges are still at an all time high as scholarships for both of the elementary and secondary students demonstrates the value of the investment Catholic education to our parents.

This all happens because of the rooted commitment of our leadership and the qualitative instruction of our teachers. You are the very foundation upon which the strength of our Catholic schools rest. Our challenges cannot overshadow the good that we do, and we must continue to have hope. We will survive and our survival will rest on the continued support of our parents and the belief of those in Catholic education ministry--that our apostolate is an invaluable and integral part of the teaching mission of the Church.

Thank you for all that you do.

Peace and all good things!

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Ronald J. Valenti

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Visions is published two 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 Fall 2009 Issue is Friday, October 2, 2009.

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

Please submit information by email to kwhitlock@archbalt.org

WBFF/FOX 45 CHAMPIONS OF COURAGE



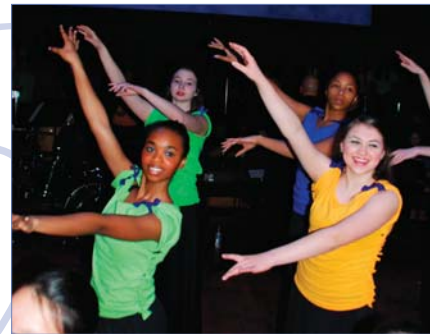
Three Baltimore-area students were honored as the top finalists in the 22nd Annual “Champions of Courage” Black History Month Essay Competition. The students were awarded U.S. Savings Bonds and their schools were presented with cash prizes.

The second place award went to eighth-grader **Matthew Conway** of **St. Ursula**. Matthew saluted Dr. Seuss and wrote in rhyming fashion how Dr. Seuss’ stories taught lessons expounded by Dr. King—fairness, equality, justice, and ethics. Matthew Conway was presented a \$200 Savings Bond and \$650 was awarded to his school. Cash prizes awarded to the schools show, by example, that when an individual achieves, his/her community benefits. The schools may use the prize money in any way they deem appropriate.

Other finalists included **Kendall Hamlin** and **Jessie Maes** from **St. Philip Neri School**, **Nia Jones** from the **Institute of Notre Dame**, **Carolina Paul** from **Mount de Sales Academy** and **India Primm-Spencer** from **Mother Mary Lange School**.

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS--NIGHT AT THE MEYERHOFF

On March 23, 2009, over 1600 people attended the “Celebration of the Arts--Night at the Meyerhoff.” The evening was filled with inspiring performances by our Catholic middle and high school students in instrumental, vocal, dance, and drama. Prior to the evening’s performances, visual art by our Catholic school students was displayed in the foyer of the Meyerhoff. Several photos of the evening can be viewed by going to the following URL--www.archbalt.org/schools/meyerhoff_photos. A CD with over 280 photos of the evening is available for \$10.00. If interested, please contact Linda Skeen at lskeen@archbalt.org or call her at 410-547-5387.



© photo by James Scherlis

TEACHERS GATHER FOR A EVENING OF FUN



Sr. Irene Pryle receives the Doris Musil Memorial Award from Dr. Valenti at the Teachers Awards Banquet

On Thursday, April 2nd, the Division of Catholic Schools held its annual Teachers’ Awards Banquet at Martins West. Over 400 teachers, principals, staff, and administrators gathered to honor their own.

The highlight of the evening was the bestowing of the Doris Musil Memorial Award. This year the honor went to **Sr. Irene M. Pryle, SSND**, Principal of **Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School**. The award is named for the late Doris Musil, an Assistant Superintendent who exemplified excellence in educational leadership.

Years of service ministering to students in Catholic Schools awards were given to one-hundred and sixty-two teachers, of which over 60 were for service 25 years and greater.

FLEXIBLE LEAVE ACT CLARIFICATION LEGISLATION

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

The Maryland General Assembly has passed legislation intended to clarify some elements of the Flexible Leave Act (FLA). The FLA, which took effect last year, allows employees to use leave with pay for illness of the employees' immediate family members. The new legislation, which will be effective when signed by the Governor (likely on May 21, 2009), provides definitions of certain key terms and clarifies the scope of the FLA.

The legislation makes clear that "immediate family" consists of an employee's child, spouse, or parent. It provides definitions of "parent" and "child" that are similar to those in the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. A "child" is defined as "an adopted, biological, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward who is "under age 18 or at least age 18 and "incapable of self-care due to a mental or physical disability." The legislation defines "parent" as "an adoptive, biological, or foster parent, a stepparent, a legal guardian, or a person standing in loco parentis."

The legislation also clarifies the fact that it applies to "paid time away from work that is earned and available to an employee" and that is either based on hours worked or granted annually for performance or service in a fixed number or hours or days. In addition to the existing types of leave listed (sick leave, vacation time, and compensatory time), the legislation adds paid time off and excludes leave provided under benefit plans subject to ERISA, insurance benefits, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, and disability or similar benefits.

Finally, the legislation adds a statement of purpose that the FLA is intended to allow an employee "to use leave with pay to care for an immediate family member who is ill under the same conditions and policy rules that would apply if the employee took leave for the employee's own illness."

For further information about the FLA, please visit the following web address: <http://www.gejlaw.com/whatsNew/pressItem54.html>.

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE UP TO \$4,000

Scholarships worth up to \$4,000 annually are available for current teachers and college students in exchange for teaching in the state's Catholic schools in a field with a critical teacher shortage. The deadline to apply for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grants for the 2009-2010 academic year is Wednesday, July 1. Undergraduate and graduate students who receive the award, which is renewable for up to five years, must become certified and agree to teach in Maryland's Catholic, nonpublic or public schools. Teacher shortage subject areas include special education, technology education, ESOL, and many middle and high school level foreign languages and sciences. For more information, please visit www.mdccathcon.org or call 1-800-974-1024.

MOTHER SETON HOUSE BICENTENNIAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The **Mother Seton House** on Paca Street sponsored an Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools Essay Contest. The contest is part of the Bicentennial celebration of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's arrival in Baltimore to open a school, marking the beginning of Catholic education in the United States.

The names of the Essay Contest winners were announced to the members of the Mother Seton House on Paca Street on May 13, 2009, at their Annual Meeting.

Five hundred dollars will be awarded to each winner and another \$500 to their school following an 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday June 7, 2009, at Old St. Mary's Seminary Chapel.



In the Grade 3 - 5 Division, the winner was **Clare Malloy**, Grade 4 at the **School of the Incarnation**. **Elizabeth Loundas** in Grade 6 at **Saint John the Evangelist School, Hydes**, won in the Grades 6 - 8 Division and **Sarah Triplett**, a senior at **The Seton Keough High School**, won in the Grades 9 - 12 Division.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM "Make a Difference on a Larger Scale"



Loyola's Master in Educational Leadership is designed for successful teachers who want to make a difference on a larger scale. The program provides an accelerated path to becoming an instructional leader. This 28 month M.Ed. program is offered in an innovative format that accommodates busy teacher schedules.

Meeting on Friday nights and all day on Saturday for three weekends, a group of aspiring leaders from the Archdiocese has just finished their first course. They started their second course in February and will take two more courses this summer. For further information, please contact Peter Litchka, Ed.D., program director, at 410-617-1656 or prlitchka@loyola.edu.

Program Benefits

- Addressing the shortage of school leaders/principals.
- Cohort-based – with a learning community of like-minded colleague-students.
- Accelerated program – completion is expected in 28 months.
- Condensed weekend/summer calendar – accommodates busy teacher schedules.
- NCATE Accredited/MSDE Approved.
- Directly aligned to Maryland Instructional Leadership Framework and the national standards for educational leaders.
- Aligned to Catholic school educational philosophy and leadership principles.
- Use of Archdiocesan administrators to teach some of the courses.
- Tuition-reduction for cohort members (40% reduction provided by Loyola).

AND THE WINNERS ARE. . .



Congratulations to all ten schools participating in this year's Flowermart! Despite the intermittent raindrops both students and adults had a great time!

Ascension School took the grand prize for the booth decorating contest with its pond setting. **Immaculate Heart of Mary** claimed second prize and the **Institute of Notre Dame** came in third.

Congratulations, also, to **Thomas McLaughlin, Michael Wicklein, Patrick Wicklein, Paul Olert, and Brian McShalley** of **Immaculate Heart of Mary** for winning the Crazy Cap Contest with the theme "Boys Like Flowers, Too".

Also participating in Flowermart this year were the **Division of Catholic Schools Marketing Office, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, St. Casimir, St. Ignatius Loyola Academy, St. Philip Neri, St. Elizabeth, St. Frances Academy** and **St. Michael the Archangel School**.

For additional photos taken of our schools, please visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/35779472@N03/>

HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

Over the years, many schools in the Archdiocese have participated in the unique experience of the Holy Childhood Association. Through prayer, sacrifice and contribution, students enrich their prayer life, learn the joy of sacrifice out of love, and creatively discover ways to contribute to the lives of children in 113 developing nations. We invite you to explore one of the many ways that HCA can compliment your existing formation programs.

- Membership filled with exciting activities year round
- "Around the World" enhances your existing geography program and helps students realize the affect that geography plays in the lives of children
- "World Mission Rosary" is a colorful compliment to any life of devotion
- Advent and/or Lent Programs continue to teach students about sharing the Gospel



To learn how you can offer your students the opportunity to live their baptismal call to mission TODAY, please contact the Missions Office at 410-625-8450.



BALTIMORE AREA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHERS!

A chance for your students to exhibit at the Contemporary Art Museum in Baltimore this fall! For more information, please contact Robert Haywood, Ph.D. at 410-783-5720 x 102.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

SLADE STUDENTS “CELEBRATING SERVICE” IN A BIG WAY

Monsignor Slade students were anxious to help others in “Celebrating Service” during Catholic Schools Week this year. Four different projects were chosen for 2009. The kindergarten and first grade students collected wish list items for the SPCA of Anne Arundel County, including towels, blankets, food, and toys. Second and third grade students brought in items for military care packages. Twenty-five boxes were then sent to military service men and women connected with the school. Fourth and fifth grade students donated items needed by the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Martin’s Home for the Elderly Poor in Catonsville. Middle school students brought in monetary donations to be used to purchase classroom and recess supplies for our sister school, Fr. Charles Hall Elementary School. Monsignor Slade students and their families always respond with their generous hearts when asked to serve those in need. We are proud of their efforts and know that we are very blessed to have a community that provides such support and generosity.



BALTIMORE CITY

ST. BERNARDINE COLLECTS ITEMS FOR OUR TROOPS

Keeping in mind the theme of Catholic Schools Week, “Celebrating Service”, the students and staff at **St. Bernardine Catholic School** collected 7 boxes of toiletries and snacks and delivered them to Staff Sergeant Lysaker. She sent them to Afghanistan to be distributed to our Troops. Classes also made and decorated cards to remind the soldiers that they are always in our prayers.



CARDINAL SHEHAN STARTS A TECHNOLOGY CLUB



Dominic Neal, Mecca Murphy and Jalon Payton demonstrate a robot they built and programmed in technology club as Dr. Valenti looks on.

Cardinal Shehan students were very excited to have an outside visitor who was interested in what they were doing. They were even more excited to get a chance to demonstrate what they have been working on these past months. Dr. Valenti visited the Cardinal Shehan School Technology Club which meets on Fridays after school to learn about computers and technology and to take part in lessons and activities they would not otherwise experience in the normal classroom setting. The Cardinal Shehan School Technology Club is open to all CSS students in grades four through eight.

ST. CASIMIR CAPTURES ANOTHER “FIRST”

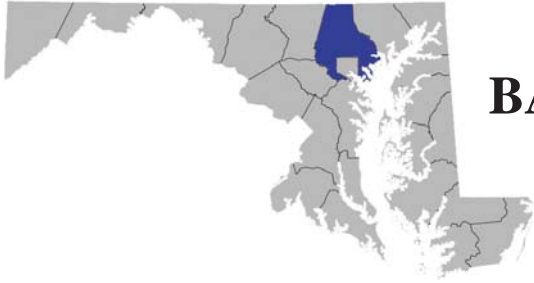
In 2004, **St. Casimir School** became the first Green School in the Archdiocese. They are proud to announce that they are now the first recipient of a Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini-Grant for the Maryland Artificial Reef Ball Initiative. In conjunction with the MARB, Maryland Salt Water Fishermen’s Association and Reef Ball Foundation, along with donations from local Canton businesses, students in intermediate grades and middle school will build 10 pre-cast concrete reef balls to be deployed to the reef made from pieces of Memorial Stadium. The reef balls will help rebuild vertical bottom structures now covered by silt runoff in the bay. This is an extremely effective habitat restoration project with documented results.



Eighth graders Morgan Boston, Naafee Rone, and Vincent Ruffini stir the cement to be used in the first reef ball constructed through our grant with the Chesapeake Bay Trust Foundation.

St. Casimir has also received a grant from the Parks & People Foundation to grade, level, sod, plant flowers and shrubs, and create a garden where our hand-crafted Peace Pole will be placed.





BALTIMORE COUNTY

ASCENSION SCHOOL'S SCIENCE PROGRAM



Ascension School's science program is forward-looking, creative, and highly interactive!

Ascension is raising bay grasses to transplant in a local waterway. Students extract seeds from pods, sow them in large growth chambers, monitor their growth, submit the data to the Department of Natural Resources, transport the plants to a local river and, finally, dive under the water to plant them. This project is sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Schools receive total funding for bus cost, substitute pay, and field trip fees through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Ascension has participated in this restoration project since 1999, and data from the school is available online.

Ascension's science program motivates students to become inquisitive, life-long learners, and stewards of the environment.

NDP STUDENTS GARNER SUCCESS IN LAW-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Notre Dame Preparatory School students who were named Mock Trial All-Stars: **Ava Calvano '11, Zoe DiGiorgio '11, Katherine Hirt '09, Seanna Hunt '09, June Jones '11, Christine O'Keefe '09, Valerie Parks '11, Rachel Reed '12, and Abby Singer '10.** Among the qualities considered for selection were preparation, knowledge, poise, decorum and presentation. Special recognition goes to Dennis Peters and Tom Peri, Mock Trial coaches for NDP.

NDP juniors **Irene Loizou** and **Kaitlin Coubo** placed second and third, respectively, in the annual Law Day Essay Contest. Sponsored by the Baltimore County Bar Association, the contest required that high school students from Baltimore County write a 500 word essay on A Legacy of Liberty, Celebrating Lincoln's Bicentennial. Each girl was awarded a savings bond for placing in the top three.



Notre Dame Prep Mock Trial All-Stars for 2009



HAPPENING'S AT THE HALL



The last several months have seen many successes by faculty/staff and students at **Calvert Hall**. Included are an extensive Lenten Program that featured prayer groups, Adoration, Reconciliation, an Easter Basket delivery to Archbishop Borders School and a Hunger Banquet focusing on global poverty. The school's most successful Mission Drive also raised over \$10,000 for Calvert Hall's twin school, Mount La Salle in Nigeria.

In Fine Arts, students displayed their work at "Celebration of the Arts--Night at the Meyerhoff" and Susquehanna Bank. The drama department presented *Footloose*, and the band performed in several concerts including one with the Maryland School for the Blind.

Academically, physics students won the Central Maryland Physics Olympics for the second straight year; AP European History students won the 6th Annual Georgetown University History Bowl; forty students participated in Central Maryland History Day with seven students advancing to the statewide competition; and students won awards in the *Voice for Democracy* and *Right to Life* essay contests.

MOUNT CARMEL STUDENTS GO GREEN!

The theme is "Go GREEN!" **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** in Essex, Maryland, is celebrating the world and joining together as a community to raise awareness and create "green" opportunities for children and families. The centerpiece of Mt. Carmel's efforts is their "Go GREEN!" Auction, held at the school on Sunday, May 17th at 6pm. Students, families, and parishioners have transformed glassware, pottery, wooden furniture, and paper into decorative and functional recycled pieces of art. The Elementary School celebrated Earth Day by taking a "Go GREEN!" hour. The entire school turned off all electronics and lights for an hour during the afternoon and spent the time creating their green masterpieces for the auction. These events bring the entire Mount Carmel community together to recognize each person and each school's role in keeping the world green.





FREDERICK COUNTY

CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

Saint John's Catholic Prep gathered to celebrate the diversity of its student body by sharing their talents and information about their national origins.

The assembly opened with an American piece written and performed by **Gabriel Sherman**. **Matt Grunwald** followed playing a beautiful Spanish/Aragonese piece on the guitar. **Alexandra Asuncion** performed an excerpt from the Russian ballet *Swan Lake*. Students **Jackson Monzon**, **Natalie Medrano**, and **Adriana Garcia** represented Latin America with the recitation of beautiful poetry. **Gabriela Arguello** and **Daniel Valentin-Morales** danced a salsa in the gym!

Helen Parshall and **Hannah Geerlings** danced a two-hand Irish reel, followed by **Jen Holcomb's** touching poem.

The Asian nations shared information about Korea and their culture. The students were treated to samples of Korean jelly candy. **Melvin Tang**, from China, played the guitar and sang, and Chinese students, **Haoyue Zhang** and **Sheng Tao**, shared their love of Chinese calligraphy.



(l to r) Haoyue Zhang & Sheng Tao proudly display their beautiful Chinese Calligraphy



ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL RECEIVES AWARD



l to r: Principal Karen Smith, Ric Adams, President and CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce and Jean Wright, St. John Regional Catholic School Development Director, receive the Summit Award

St. John Regional Catholic School was recently presented a Summit Award by the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce. The award annually recognizes Chamber member businesses and organizations, in various categories, that have made great strides within the past year. As a recipient of the Partner in Business Award, St. John's was honored as a non-profit organization that strives to make Frederick County a better place by developing effective partnerships within the business community. The school was recognized for its partnership with Homewood at Crumland Farms retirement community. Students in grades 5 - 8, representing the Light of Hope Service Group, regularly provide residents entertainment, crafts and fellowship. Reading resource students in grades one and two are involved with the Sunshine Readers Program. These students regularly go to Homewood and read to the residents, fostering better reading skills while building bridges across generations.

MOTHER SETON SCHOOL RECEIVES GIFT OF 22 STATUES

Mother Seton School students, teachers, and parents were excited to receive the gift of 22 statues of Mary during the annual May Procession. **Jennifer Buchheister**, Alumnae and school parent, worked with perseverance during the past year seeking donors to contribute either a statue or donation toward purchasing one.

Father Brett Brennan from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary blessed the statues during the May Procession. Kindergarten students made a special presentation of flowers, placing the traditional crown of flowers and singing a hymn to Mary. Afterwards, the new statues were taken to the classrooms to occupy a place of honor.

The school is very grateful to Ms. Buchheister and the many donors for this gracious gift. Their efforts will be richly rewarded through the many graces this wonderful addition of Catholic Religious Art will bring to our students and entire school community.





HARFORD COUNTY

ST. MARGARET SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

St. Margaret School proudly announces the following list of students who have been awarded scholarships to a Catholic high school.

Richard Alban	Calvert Hall College - Brianceau Scholarship
Maria Askey	Notre Dame Preparatory - The Kathryn Ollerhead McCardell Memorial Scholarship
Brian Bollinger	Marion Knott Scholarship Calvert Hall College - de La Salle Scholarship John Carroll - Academic Scholarship
Tony Butta	Loyola - Francis X. Knott Scholarship and Italian American Scholarship Archbishop Curley - Leadership Award and Soccer Scholarship
Elizabeth Galbreath	Notre Dame Preparatory - The Blair Leadership Scholarship
Cory Gercken	Notre Dame Preparatory - Sheridan Scholarship John Carroll - Academic Scholarship
John Gerety	John Carroll - Charles K. Riepe Athletic Scholarship
Sean Handerhan	Calvert Hall College - de La Salle Scholarship
Jonathan Sipe	Calvert Hall College - de La Salle Scholarship
Kyle Travers	Calvert Hall College - de La Salle Scholarship John Carroll - Academic Scholarship





HOWARD COUNTY

SIXTH GRADE GIRLS STUFF BEARS FOR HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

Sixth grade girls from **Woodmont Academy**, Cooksville, spent a recent Friday at Build-A-Bear in Columbia, stuffing animals that they will donate to an area hospital in memory of a former classmate.

The girls will deliver the animals to The Children's Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital on May 22. Their donation will be made in memory of Kelli Carter, who died in 2006. Many of the 6th grade girls were Kelli's classmate when she attended Woodmont.

Janet Lynch, mother of one of the current sixth grade students, shared news of the girls' project with Kelli Carter's mother, Jen, and says she was very moved by the gesture. She said, "It was the perfect thing to do in Kelli's memory and Kelli would have loved it." Mrs. Lynch was so pleased that Kelli had not been forgotten by her classmates.



Members of the sixth grade girls class at Woodmont Academy, Cooksville, pose with bears they made that will be donated to the Children's Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital



WASHINGTON COUNTY

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A CHICKEN



Pictured left to right: Jack Minahan, Nicholas Schmitt, Ethan Eberhart, and Gabriella Tedeschi with chick.

Kindergarten classes at **St. Mary's Catholic School** witnessed first hand the life cycle of a chicken. With much excitement and anticipation, the students cared for chicken eggs in an incubator for three weeks. They carefully watched, learned, and nurtured the new chicks to life. After the chicks hatched, the students had the opportunity to hold them. What better time for the students to go through this life-giving process than at the Easter season when they also learn about the new life in Christ.

AT-A-GLANCE

DIVISION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR

June

- 7 Mother Seton Essay Contest Awards presented
- 19 School Supplies Order Form is due
- 21 FATHER'S DAY
- 22 Library Online Summer Course(s) begin

July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 - 12 Mapping Institute (Park City, Utah)
- 14 New Administrators Orientation
- 16 AOB Professional Day
- 17 AOB Professional Day

August

- 3 - 5 AOB Curriculum Committee Training
- 3 - 7 Supply pick-up from The Catholic Review
- 4 PowerSchool training--new Principals and New Local Administrators
- 5 New Administrators Orientation
- 6 PowerSchool New Teachers Training
- 10 New Teachers Orientation
- 12 New Administrators Retreat
- 14 End-of-Year Marketing Survey Due (2008 - 2009)
- 14 Financial Operating Statement Due
- 17 PowerSchool Location Administrators
- 17 - 21 AOB Professional Day for Administrators and Teachers--Pre-K - 12
- 18 ESPA Board to meet with Administrative Team
- 18 OPERATION TEACH Commissioning Liturgy and Dinner
- 19 E-Rate Meeting--Form 486 and Bear Form
- 19 Staff Retreat Day/Principals and Teachers in Central Maryland
- 27 Harbor East/Metro West Regional Meeting

September

- 7 LABOR DAY
- 10 Metro East Regional Meeting
- 11 Stanford Post Test Meeting
- 12 Saturday Institute/Professional Development for Administrators and Teachers--Pre-K - 12
- 13 Catholic High Schools Fair
- 16 New Administrators Orientation III
- 18 Superintendent's Luncheon
- 19 Saturday Institute/Professional Development for Administrators and Teachers--Pre-K - 12
- 20 Catholic High Schools Fair
- 20 Catechetical Sunday
- 21 - 25 ACRE - Religion Curriculum Assessment
- 23 ALMA
- 23 Elementary Principals Collaborative Council
- 24 CLASS
- 25 West Baltimore County Regional Meeting
- 30 Fall 2009 Survey Due