

# St. Mary Academy Newsletter

October 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 1

## Principal's News

Mrs. Cynthia Kuder, Interim Principal



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### Attachments:

*Calendar*

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Photo day (10/5)
- ◆ Student Council elections (10/15)
- ◆ Parent-teacher conferences (weeks of 10/19 and 10/26)
- ◆ Family Halloween Dance (10/23)
- ◆ Kindergarten-PreK pre-registration (starts 10/26)

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that September is over. Everyone seems to have adjusted to the new school year and I still see smiling faces. So, I'd say all is well.

It's been a busy month with Pre-K going apple picking (I found fresh picked apples on my desk!! Thank you, Pre-K.), 3L visiting the food pantry, and the Junior High off to Nature's Classroom in Freedom, NH. Grades 1 through 4 also had a great day entertaining their grandparents at the Grandparents' Luncheon.

Grade 5 needs to be congratulated on its awesome adjustment to the third floor and changing classes. I understand that this month they will be making models of plant and animal cells in science. Grade 6 will be visiting the State House and Grade 3 is off to the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are already looking at St. Thomas Aquinas. STA information Night will be October 7 at 6:30 in the library and on October 19 they will be going to St. Thomas for a visit. We have not yet heard anything about Dover information sessions.

On October 2, Phase II of our fundraiser begins. This is a great opportunity to stock your cupboards with coffee and your freezer with pies for the holidays. They will be here

before you know it! Coffee also makes a great Christmas gift.

Picture Day will be Monday, October 5. Students do not need to wear uniforms for their photos, although dress code does apply and we encourage "dress up" attire.

Put October 23 on your calendars. You don't want to miss the princesses and scary little creatures at the Family Halloween party. There will be no "fog machine" this year. Last year it set off the fire alarm, but the firemen did arrive in firemen costumes.

Parent Conferences will be taking place during the week of October 19 and October 26 for grades 1 - 8. This is a great opportunity to get to know your teachers and help them get to know you. More information will be coming from the teachers on the specifics.

Also looking forward, the date for the PreK-K Open House has been changed from Wednesday, Nov. 4 to Tuesday, Nov. 10.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone, faculty & staff, school board, parents and students for the unbelievable support and help that you have given to me during this transition. Especially on very busy, sometimes chaotic days, it was great to feel your support. Thank you all! I could not have asked for more.

## *Mission of the Month – Mrs. Kuder*

This month's mission collection is going to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund (or originally the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

UNICEF, is an agency devoted to the welfare of children and cooperates with the World Health Organization in immunization programs.

UNICEF was established in 1946 and currently has over 200 offices in 115 developing countries. The current focus is on establishing long-term human

development and on providing emergency relief and rehabilitation assistance when needed.

This October, make Halloween count by Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF. Doing so will help us get things like water, education and medicine to the children who need it most. Your efforts will show that you believe **ZERO** children should be without the basic necessities that we often take for granted.

**October  
Mission  
Collection  
UNICEF**

Thursday,  
October 8 and  
Friday, Oct. 9



## *Office News – Mr. Hall, Mrs. Allyson, Mrs. Kuder*

We are still looking for **Lunch room volunteers**. There are openings for Monday and Tuesday and also for substitutes. Required hours are 11:30-1:15 every other week. Any questions, please stop contact Maryanne Dalleo at [mareinarra@aol.com](mailto:mareinarra@aol.com) or stop by the kitchen and speak with Karen.



### **Reminder**

St. Mary's encourages students to perform community service as part of their development as Christians. The following are minimum expectations for each grade level:

Grades 1-4 - 4 hours/year

Grades 5-8 - 10 hours/year

Community Service forms are available in the classrooms and on the website and may be used to track hours.

Please check out our **SMArt Business Directory** on the SMA website for a list of businesses that may be helpful to you. These businesses are owned and operated by SMA parents and also alumni of SMA. We have received many comments about how helpful it is to have this directory and people are surprised by how diverse the listings are. Please check out the listings - there is something for everyone!

If you would like to list your business in the **SMArt Directory** or if you have any questions about this service please contact Mrs. Bilodeau at [bilodeau@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:bilodeau@saintmaryacademy.org)

Thank you and have a great year at SMA!

## *Development News– Mrs. Puglisi*

### **SMA Plans for Dover Holiday Parade -Get Your Holiday Spirit and Join Us!**

The Dover Lodge of Elks has passed the reigns over to Saint Mary Academy (SMA) to organize and produce the Dover Holiday parade. The parade is scheduled for its traditional time of year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 29 and its theme is "*Simple Gifts*."

On Monday, October 5 at 7 p.m. in the SMA library, the parade committee will be holding an informational meeting about parade details and also ways to volunteer and be a part of the parade!

The parade committee has already met with local business owners to create a collaborative effort between downtown Dover and the parade and are focused on trying to make this parade even more exciting than it has been in years past because it really is a celebration of the season and the wonderful "gifts" of our Dover community.

The theme of the parade "*Simple Gifts*," represents the philosophy that in tough economic times especially, it's the simplicity of the holiday and the joy of celebrating that wonderful spirit with friends and family that is ultimately the greatest gift. It shouldn't be so much about the specific gifts we spend on people during the holiday season, but the true simple gifts we can offer one another.

For more information about the parade or to get involved, please contact Meaghan Puglisi at [Puglisi@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:Puglisi@saintmaryacademy.org) or call 603-742-3299 or Stephanie Bolduc at [doverholidayparade@gmail.com](mailto:doverholidayparade@gmail.com). Parade forms and information can be

found at [www.saintmaryacademy.org](http://www.saintmaryacademy.org). (Click community events then Dover holiday parade)

### **Open Tours - Invite Friends and Family to Visit SMA**

Saint Mary Academy will be hosting a series of monthly tours beginning Tuesday, September 29 at 9:30 a.m. The goal of these tours is to reach out to families interested in exploring options for their child's future and will allow parents to see the school, ask questions, and experience the St. Mary academy culture while interacting with other parents with similar interests and questions.

For more information about these monthly tours please contact Meaghan Puglisi at 603-742-3299 or email [Puglisi@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:Puglisi@saintmaryacademy.org).

### **Tuition-free Raffle Tickets On-Sale Now**

Back by popular demand, we will once again be offering the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win tuition free for one year, for one child at SMA. Tickets are \$25 each and are on-sale now through March 20. Winner's name will be drawn at the auction which is set for Saturday, March 20, 2010. Tickets can be purchased at the main office or by contacting Shelley MacGregor, raffle chair at [shelleymacgregor@comcast.net](mailto:shelleymacgregor@comcast.net).

### **Auction Information Meeting**

Save the date for the 2010 auction to be held on Saturday, March 20. The auction committee is inviting everyone interested in participating in this year's big event to attend an informational meeting and volunteer sign-up on either Thursday, October 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the library or at 7 p.m. in the gym. For additional information, please contact auction chair, Leslie Barbini at [leslie@theweddingbelle.net](mailto:leslie@theweddingbelle.net).

## *Development News– Mrs. Puglisi (con't)*

### Box Top - Helps Us Earn \$50K by Clipping Box Tops!



the difference  
1 can make.

Looking for another way to help your school earn money without having to do more than logging onto your computer? Well here is how.

Box Tops for Education is have a 1,000,000 Bonus Box Top drawing. You can sign up and enter every day until October 31<sup>st</sup> for a chance to win a Grand Prize of 500,000 Bonus Box Tops totaling \$50,000 or two chances at 250,000 Bonus Box Tops totaling \$25,000.

Log onto <http://www.thebigclip.com/index.tbapp> and register yourself as a Saint Mary Academy Family and you can enter every day until October 31<sup>st</sup>. The more entries, the better our chances. Or log onto Betty Crocker's website [www.bakelifesweeter.com/win100boxtops](http://www.bakelifesweeter.com/win100boxtops) and register to win 100 box tops. This competition only runs until October 13<sup>th</sup>. Either of these contests could earn Saint Mary some free money, no purchases necessary.

Teachers you can go to [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) and setup a registry of items needed for your classroom. Click on Earn/ my class essentials and register yourself as a Teacher from Saint Mary's and setup your registry where families from our school can shop for items that you need for your class and 2% of their purchase we be credited into Saint Mary's account.

Parents can also do their holiday shopping through [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) . If you log onto the site and click on Marketplace there is a listing of over 100 stores that you can shop at online and

next to each store lists their percentage of donation to Saint Mary's account. Some examples are: Staples, Target, Oriental Trading, 1-800 Flowers.com, Personal Creations, Red Envelope, and lots more.

Please remember that every penny counts. A small little box top may seem like nothing looking at it, but it represents \$.10 earned for your school, simply by cutting it out and sending them in, once a month. With all the products out there that participate in the box top program, you could earn you school \$5 a month by sending in 50 box tops. And if every family earned \$5 per month that would be \$60 per year per family. And say we have 300 families collecting box tops that would earn Saint Mary's \$18,000. All that money just for clipping out the box tops and sending them in once a month. So that \$.10 didn't look like much to begin with, but in a group setting it is a lot.

So please help me make this fundraising program a huge success for Saint Mary's. Our goal this year is set at \$5,000, but we would love nothing more than to sky rocket through that number. And to help Saint Mary's save on postage, when cutting out the box tops cut as close to the dotted lines as possible and remove any excess cardboard, it definitely saves on postage costs, when you have over 3,000 box tops you are mailing in at once.

Don't know where to send the box tops just send them into school with one of your children and each classroom has a designated container for box tops. And in October and January, I will be collecting them and bunching them up to send into the company. If you want to track our progress simply log onto [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) and log in and you will see a message from me, about different things you can do each month, as well as check our progress on reaching our goal.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me Cathy at [cilley13@comcast.net](mailto:cilley13@comcast.net).

## *Grade 1 & 2 News –Mrs. Cronholm, Mrs. Cruz, Mrs. Pinsince & Ms. Smith*

It was wonderful to see so many grandparents at the Grandparent Luncheon. This is such a special day for all! In November we will be going to the Rochester Opera House to see the play, "Charlotte's Web." More details will follow. Also, as many of you know, the first and second graders participate in our

annual "Saints Day Parade." Now is the time to start thinking about a Saint's costume for your child. There will be books about the Saints in the sitting area outside the office. If you need additional ideas, or possibly a costume, you may get in touch with our many "veteran" parents. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

## *Grade 3 News –Mrs. Bilodeau & Mrs. Leonard*

3B has been busy with seed projects and we are waiting to see if our "eggheads" sprout grass. We have also planted different types of seeds to see if they will grow. We will be starting our studies of the solar system very soon.

Deacon Bob is seeing both 3rd grades in the chapel every two weeks and the children always look forward to his visits. His first visit was Sept. 24 and he told both classes about the role of a deacon in the Church. In the weeks to come, he will be talking to the children about the different parts of the Mass and the prayers and responses that we say, and also the Liturgical year of the Church.

Our first 3B book report - a mystery - will be due at the end of October. We are also looking forward to our field trip to the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in the middle of the month. PSNH will be in our classroom at the beginning of the month to show us how to be a "Watt Watcher".

We have been working very hard on all our studies. Thank you to all parents for your support. Have a great month!

On Thursday, September 24, 3L went to visit the local food pantry. The children donated many wonderful items to the pantry, ranging from personal care products like soap and toothpaste, to

cereal, beans, corn, jelly, pasta, and meats. The people there were very grateful and presented us with a letter of appreciation for our donations on the spot. The children took a quick trip through the storage areas to see how the pantry stores and sorts the foods which they have for the 300 families that use their services every month. Thanks to all of the parents who made this possible with their generosity.

The seeds projects for 3L were due on Oct. 1. The children have specific directions for this project in their binders. It will be interesting to see their first big project of the year.

On Oct. 2 Mrs. Cheryl Sprague with Public Service New Hampshire will be visiting grades 2-4 to give presentations on the safety and conservation of electricity. This is an annual event that is always well received.

On Oct. 1 both third grades gathered together to discuss the Operation Christmas Child (Shoebboxes of Love) project which will be our Christmas mission this year. They will bring home fliers and additional information after this presentation. The shoeboxes will be due on November 9. Thanks in advance for your participation in this project.

## *Grade 4 News – Mrs. Gagne and Mrs. Landry*

### MASSABESIC AUDUBON

Grade 4 will be going on a field trip to the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn, NH on Friday, October 9. The students will learn about animal habitats including threatened and endangered species. They will also embark on a scavenger hunt in the woods searching for various species of plants and animals. This field trip is an immersion activity in preparation for the Virtual Zoo.



### UNICEF

Grade 4 is sponsoring a charitable fund raising campaign on October 8 and 9 to raise money for UNICEF. Posters were made by the fourth grade students and will be displayed around the school to raise awareness for this important event. Our school goal is to surpass last year's total of over \$1000.



## *Junior High News – Mrs. Furino, Mrs. Houle, Ms. Gitschier and Mrs. Roberts*

8th grade visits St. Thomas Aquinas High School on Monday, October 19.

Jr. High will be going to an STA concert on Wednesday, October 21.

The Jr. High Halloween Dance is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 6 (note that this is a change from the Handbook calendar

because of Trick or Treat). Chaperones are needed. Please e-mail [gitschier@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:gitschier@saintmaryacademy.org) or call the school office at 742-3299

Thanks very much.

## *Library News – Mrs. Zelle*

What a great start to the new year! The students have been busy checking out books and listening to stories. Please remind your child to bring back their library books on their library day.

Kindergarten Friday  
1CZ Friday

1C	Tuesday
2S/2P	Monday
3B	Tuesday
3L	Friday
4G/4L	Friday
5B/5G	Tuesday
6G/6D	Monday

## *Nursing News— Mrs. Bender, R.N.*

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a safe and healthy summer. It's wonderful to see the children back to school. I want to thank the parents that were on time in getting the new immunization changes in.

On the subject of flu, the best thing we can all do is get immunized.

**Stay home when sick, including the staff.** Keep your child home if sick, keep your child away from



sick people, wash hand frequently, cough or sneeze into a tissue and if you do not have a tissue to cough or sneeze into, cough or sneeze into your sleeve where your elbow is. Then wash your hands and if you do not have soap readily available

then use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. If you are not sure whether your child is sick, call their physician.

This year any child that appears sick will be sent home whether they have a fever or not. I can assure you that Mrs. Kuder, the Diocese, and I are diligently on top of what the latest news and expectations for the different flu viruses are. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. I can be contacted at 742-3299 or at [bender@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:bender@saintmaryacademy.org)

A good resource is to go to the New Hampshire Department of Health Services and the CDC.

We are all a team together, staff and parents. Please reinforce the frequent hand washing and coughing and sneezing etiquette.

May God bless each and every one of you.

## *Spanish News – Senora Dromey-Heeter*

What fun it is to meet the 7th graders, though having my desk in Mrs. Boal's room for years, I am lucky to already know many of the wonderful chicos and chicas in this delightful class. Spanish runs smoothly, we're currently reviewing, reviewing, reviewing in the 8th Grade and learning the alphabet in 7th grade. Students seem to be very comfortable using Schoolnotes.com and you'll note that I update it often and am using it for attaching documents including Permission Slips for our upcoming trips to Dos Amigos. By the way, parents, please join me in our trips to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. 7th grade will travel October 8th, 8th grade will visit our favorite Mexican restaurant on the 9th. I so value parents who join me on my trek down Central



Avenue. Let's face it, most of your wonderful children do not want to sit with the teacher! This is their time to celebrate the wonderful friendships they are making at SMA.

I will continue to update you with information as our year progresses. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade/ PreK Kindergarten Amigos/ Amiguitos Program will begin in October and 8th graders are eager to meet their new friends.

Vaya con Dios. We are off to a fabuloso start!

## *Guidance Guide – Mrs. Schwoerer*

Hello and welcome (back) to SMA. I am Mary Schwoerer, the guidance person who is VERY serious about assisting in your child's academic, social and emotional success. I do this by holding your children accountable for their actions, and being responsible for their choices, and by providing as much TLC as possible. If children are happy and connected socially, they will be productive academically. As I watch them build and initiate new friendships, I am reminded that the smallest measure of patience and understanding goes a long way to support the development of their social skills.

As parents, we (sometimes) have expectations that our kids recognize social cues and respond immediately in favorable ways. As we embark on this new school year, let us all be reminded that our children are LEARNING how to use the right words to express themselves and LEARNING how to be a friend and keep friendships alive.

Our teachers here at the school continue

to integrate the Open Circle Curriculum, a social competency program based out of the Stone Center at Wellesley College. This researched-based curriculum recognizes the critical role that relationships play in the social/emotional development and academic success of children. PLEASE ask your child today what he/she is learning in Open Circle! If you would like to learn more about the grade differentiated concepts and skills that are being taught, please consider joining our Open Circle Parent series that will be offered this spring.

In the meanwhile, let us continue to make a difference in the lives of our children by taking the time to notice them in small ways, smiling a lot and to look into their eyes when they talk to us. I look forward to serving you and your family this year. I work part time (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and can be reached by phone (742-3299) or email [schwoerer@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:schwoerer@saintmaryacademy.org)

## *Student Council News – Mrs. Zellem, Mrs. Finnigan and Senora Dromey-Heeter*

### **Student Council**

I write this right after the Grandparents' Luncheon where the new Student Council Officers greeted, served and represented Saint Mary Academy beautifully. Special thanks to President Katie Foster, Vice-President Johanna Gleason-Vergados, Treasurer Emma Teague and Secretary Kellianne Banaian. SMA has some wonderful leaders this year; does your child want to be one, too? Student Council is open to students in Grades 5 - 8. The following are important dates:

October 9: Petitions to run for Student Council available at the Student Council Bulletin Board

October 15: Student Council Elections

October 20: Student Council Inductions

Please email if you have any questions: [heeter@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:heeter@saintmaryacademy.org).

Each month, Student Council celebrates people who exemplify the Virtue of the Month. September's virtue was COOPERATION. The following list are people who were chosen as wonderful examples of this virtue: Jean Hibscheiler (3B), Shawn DeKorne (3B), John Kelliher (3B), Katherine Austin (3L) and Mrs. Cruz's ENTIRE FIRST GRADE CLASS was listed as exceedingly cooperative. And our own fabulous Custodian, "Mr. Paul Carle" was nominated for his invaluable service to SMA. Thank you, all for your wonderful powers of example to our SMA Community.

## *Student Council News – Mrs. Zellem, Mrs. Finnigan and Senora Dromey-Heeter (con't)*

You may have noticed our "Welcome" sign on the new SMA fence. This was made up of pool noodles and worked beautifully to welcome students and teachers back to school. If you have any old pool noodles you would like to donate to Student Council we would greatly appreciate them. Thank you.



And, as always, "recycled" uniforms are available for you as a service from Student Council. Simply email [heeter@saintmaryacademy.org](mailto:heeter@saintmaryacademy.org) for information on availability.

Again, we have wonderful leaders for Student Council. President Katie Foster swept the entire parking lot as a way to help out during the first days of school. Bravo! We are richly blessed here at SMA!!

Take good care.

## *Public Service Announcements*

### Protecting God's Children Workshops in October

**Location:** St. Ignatius Parish, St. Martin Church Basement, 120 Maple St., Somersworth

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register, contact Janet Jacobson at (603) 692-5878 or e-mail at [janetjacobson@comcast.net](mailto:janetjacobson@comcast.net)

**Location:** Corpus Christi Parish, St. James Church Hall, 2075 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth

**Date:** Tuesday, Oct. 20 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register, please e-mail the Faith Formation Director at [faithformdir@corpuschristinh.org](mailto:faithformdir@corpuschristinh.org)

**Location:** St. Thomas More Student Center Gym, 6 Madbury Rd., Durham, NH

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct 28, 7-9 p.m.

To register, please e-mail the Parish Office at [kbrunetstm@comcast.net](mailto:kbrunetstm@comcast.net)

# October (additions/changes are marked with \*\*)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Faculty meeting	2 Phase 2 fundraiser starts	3
4	5 Photo day  <b>**Parade mtg, 7 p.m., library**</b>	6	7 STA info night, library, 6:30 p.m.	8 Grade 6 to Statehouse	9	10
11	12 <b>No school- Columbus Day</b>	13	14	15 Student Council Elections  <b>**Auction mtg., 8:30 a.m. library**</b>  <b>**Auction mtg., 7 p.m., SMA gym**</b>	16 Gr. 3 to planetarium  Progress reports grades close	17
18	19 School board meeting, 7 <i>Progress reports go out this week</i> Parent teacher conferences this week <i>Phase 1 deliveries</i> Phase 2 ends <i>Grade 8 visits STA</i>	20 Student Council Inductions	21 <b>No p.m. buses available</b>  STA concert for Junior High	22  →	23 <b>No school- Teachers' Workshop</b>  <b>**Family Halloween Dance**</b>	24 Family Halloween Dance
25	26 Parent teacher conferences this week <i>Kindergarten/PreK re-registration</i>	27	28 <b>Early release- no p.m. available</b> Nov. lunch \$\$ due	29	30 **Jr. High Dance** <b>**Moved to Nov. 6**</b>	31  →