

Saint Mary Academy Newsletter

May 2011
Volume 9, Issue 4



Principal's News

By: Mrs. Bobi White

Dear SMA Community,

Happy May! Spring flowers and warm days make us all realize how close we are to the end of the school year. I think we can finally say with some confidence that our last day of school will be Monday, June 20th and graduation on June 16th. Ms Wood and I enjoyed the NCEA conference in New Orleans. There is nothing like 10,000 Catholic

educators in one location to recharge your batteries and provide motivation. Mass with a jazz beat was a new and different experience.

Next year the NCEA conference will be in Boston-something that only happens approximately once a decade. We are planning so that our entire faculty can experience this wonderful professional development opportunity next April.

May also means many, many activities for the SMA community. These activities include science fairs, plays, luncheons, and teacher appreciation. Please check the calendar, Sycamore and the website for more details.

I want to thank all the parents for attending our first "State of the School" meeting in April. Our School Board and faculty did an excellent job of presenting information about the school and strategic plan. It was followed by a question and answer period. The slides from the presentation are posted on both the website and Sycamore. I have had many questions about next year's calendar and budget.

Currently they are both in Manchester and we are awaiting final approval. I will share both when I receive them.

Next year is a transition year for our new uniforms. Both uniforms may be worn next year. I have been asked about extending that time frame. I will ask anyone with extenuating circumstances to please let me know and we can address each individually. I do ask that you remain mindful of the reason for uniforms-to provide a uniform appearance. Continuation of multiple uniforms does not accomplish that goal.

The City of Dover has just let us know that they will begin paving Church Street on Thursday May 5. I am working with the police department to determine the best way to handle an alternative dismissal process. You will be receiving that information as soon as one is created. If weather is cooperative, the detour is anticipated for 3 weeks. As always, if you decide to pick up your child in the school lot-you may request a walker card.

You are all invited to our May Crowning which will be held on May 16 We will meet in the church and process to the statue of Mary in our school yard. Children are asked to bring flowers to give to Mary. Please check the website or Sycamore for more information on the many activities here at SMA.

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May Events & News

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Home & School Assoc.

By: Mrs. Beth Evans, HSA President

Thank you to Stephanie Bolduc and Nicole Bosco and their committee for the Daddy-Daughter Dance. A good time was had by all who attended.

Also thank you to Michelle Wood and her committee for the fun Mother-Son event. These events would not be possible without the volunteers who make them so special.

Thursday May 5th is part 2 of the Cyber Bullying seminar. It is sure to be a very informational evening for parents. This is being done by the Dover Police Department. We hope to see you all there.

Thursday May 19th is the staff appreciation luncheon chaired by Ileana Hoeing. Please look for the flyer with information on how you can help and participate in this wonderful day thanking the teachers and staff of Saint Mary Academy.

Anyone interested in being part of The Home and School Association Board please contact bethann.d.evans@comcast.net we would love to hear from you and can share more information on how you can get involved.



Dennis Uniforms – Save the Date! By:

Mrs. Carie Wood, Assistant Principal

Mark your calendars for June 1st, 2011 from 1:30pm-6:00pm!

Dennis Uniforms will be transforming our school gym into a Dennis Uniforms clothing store and they'll be offering a 10% discount on all purchases made. All of the uniform pieces will be available in all sizes, crested and ready to go. There will be change rooms for students to find the right fit, parents can purchase right there in the gym and walk out with your back-to-school shopping done! If for some reason they don't have your size, you can place your order and Dennis Uniforms will ship the items to your home for free.

Cool new items! There are a few new items which are worth checking out. The students are sure to love the new ¼ zip sweatshirt, full zip hoodie, skorts for the girls, and the cool new warm up pant and jacket for gym! Also, there is a matching plaid tie for the boys which will match the girls' plaid items. Imagine how nice our student body will look at Mass with our boys in white oxford shirts and plaid ties, matching the girls!

Please rest assured that the transitional period into Dennis Uniforms will be one year. Your child/children need not wear Dennis pieces if you already have SMA uniforms in good condition. However, after the one year grace period, Dennis Uniform pieces will be necessary.

If you have any questions prior to the date, please feel free to call or email me.

Happy shopping!

PreK & Kindergarten News – Mrs. Dugmore, Mrs. Finnigan, Mrs. Burns & Mrs. McKernan

The Pre-K and Kindergarten building has a busy month planned for May. Pre-K is learning about Farms. Mrs. Dugmore's class has started their chick hatching (embryology) unit as well. We will be taking a joint field trip to the Children's Museum of NH on May 26. Kindergarten is learning about oceans and have a field trip planned to the Seacoast Science Center on May 17.

The last day for Pre-K and Kindergarten will be on Friday June 10. We will again be enjoying our Family Fun Day at New Castle Commons on this day!

The week of June 13-17 we will be offering daycare services for the pre-k & K children from 7am - 5:30pm.



1st & 2nd Grade News –

Mrs. Cronholm, Ms. McGurty,
Mrs. Pinsince & Ms. Smith

The first graders have been hard at work memorizing their lines and getting in tune for the Mother's Day Tea which will be held on Friday May 6 at 1:30pm. We are grateful to Mr. Mercer for coming and practicing with us to make this a memorable event. You will want to be sure to bring your cameras, video cameras and of course tissues to this special occasion.

The second graders are getting ready to begin their animal projects. These projects will be due Tuesday, May 31st. A letter providing all the details will be coming home soon.

Congratulations to all second graders who will be receiving their First Holy Communion.

The May Crowning will be held on Monday May 16th.



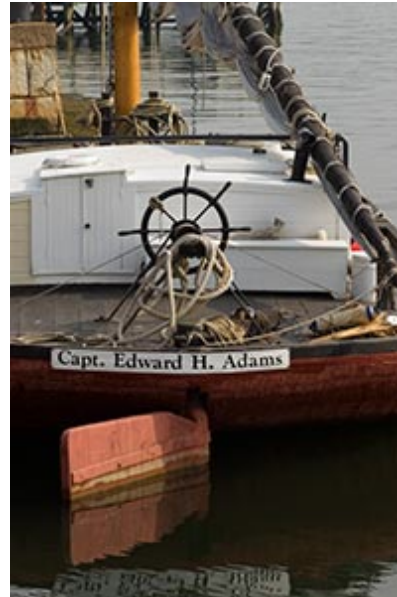
3rd Grade News – Mrs. Bilodeau & Ms. Winget

We are almost in the home stretch and we have been working hard on our Career Day Reports and also our Video Book Reports. The children are eagerly waiting to view their classmates doing a review of their chosen books.

Our Reading Bulletin Board has grown by leaps and bounds thanks to all the books the children have read. Well done!

Deacon Bob has been in speaking to us about Easter Season and the Resurrection. He will also be talking with the children about Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.

The children are eagerly awaiting their last Progress Reports for 3rd Grade. They have been working so hard and it is great to see them rewarded with their good grades. It seems hard to believe that they are almost 4th graders.



4th Grade News – Ms. Landry

Our Gundalow presentation previously scheduled for April had to be rescheduled to May. I am sure that the children will thoroughly enjoy Mrs. Mauer's presentation. Hopefully, we will be able to go onboard the Captain John Adams vessel when it is docked at Prescott Park in mid-June.

The children just finished reading the novel *The Midnight Fox*. They loved working and sharing their answers in Literature groups.



5th & 6th Grade News – Mrs. Boal, Mr. Duffy, Mrs. Gagne & Mrs. George

Six Grade Social Studies will be focusing on the completion of their study of Medieval Europe. Our quest for knowledge will then move toward the Renaissance, Trade Routes, Conquest, and European Colonization.

Fifth graders are enjoying their learning experience, which has been centered on the American Revolution. After completing their study of America's fight for independence the students will turn their attention to America's Founding fathers' endeavor to form a new government.

Six Grade Literature class will be reading a chapter book. Theodore Taylor's *The Cay* is an exciting story about an old man and young boy's struggle to survive on a small island in the Tropics.

5B reading will finishing their literature circle packets soon. The next book that they will be reading as a class is, *Island of the Blue Dolphin* by Scott o'Dell.



Junior High News – Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Houle, Miss Gitschier & Mrs. Roberts

The 8th grade has chosen the theme "City of Lights" theme of their Social.

The Social is June 13; the Junior High Awards Assembly is June 15; and graduation is June 16.

The SMA Science Fair will be held on Tuesday May 10 from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and in the evening from 6:15 p.m.-8 p.m. in Mercy Hall. We hope to see you there.



Student Council Happenings

By: Susan Dromey-Heeter, Karen Finnigan & Teresa Zelle, Student Council Advisors

A heartfelt thanks to ALL Student Council members who captured the essence of all that is Saint Mary Academy during the Living Stations of the Cross. This event was held on 15 April and not a sound could be heard in Mercy Hall as every single student, staff, parent, visitor was brought right back to what it is all about: Jesus dying for our sins, Jesus rising from the dead. Ben Finnigan did an amazing job as Jesus, Kelliann Banaian exemplified beautifully the sorrow and acceptance of Mary. Please thank the amazing students of Saint Mary Academy Student Council for providing their time, their love, their passion for what captures all that is Saint Mary Academy. Bravo! He lives!

Our upcoming events include Bingo at Riverside Rest Home, Tuesday May 17, our year end picnic, and upcoming officer elections for next year. Speeches for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will take place in Mercy Hall on Friday, May 20. Details will follow. Student Council members are also continuing to care for their school with energy, drive and focus as we clean up the grounds and continue recycling. This has been an amazing year! Thank you, parents, for your support. As I write this I cannot recall one moment of whining or complaining from ANY Student Council member...truly. You parents are doing so much right. Thank you.



St. Mary Academy

Presents

Emperor's New Clothes

Thursday, May 12, 2011

6:00pm

In the St. Mary Academy Gymnasium

The doors will open at 5:15pm
Concessions will be available to support HSA

Admission at the door or tickets can be purchased by Mrs. St.Hilaire on Mondays and Thursdays at 4:40
Adult tickets \$5.00
Student tickets \$2.00
Immediate family ticket not to exceed \$15.00
Proceeds from admissions will go to support future drama club presentations.

Please contact Kristin St.Hilaire at ksthilaire@stmaryacademy.org with any questions or for more information



The Guidance Guide

By: Mary Schwoerer

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) is a one-day conference focused on providing middle school girls with opportunities to connect with women who are in under represented career fields including science, engineering, mathematics and technology. The Exeter Area General Federation of Women's Clubs along with NH-GFWC is proud to support Expanding Your Horizons by annually organizing an Expanding Your Horizons Conference for the New Hampshire Seacoast.

This year the conference will be held at the Cooperative Middle School in Stratham, NH on May 21, 2011. For more information on this specific conference, volunteer opportunities, workshop leaders and donations please e-mail us at: eynhseacoast@yahoo.com The goals of EYH include:

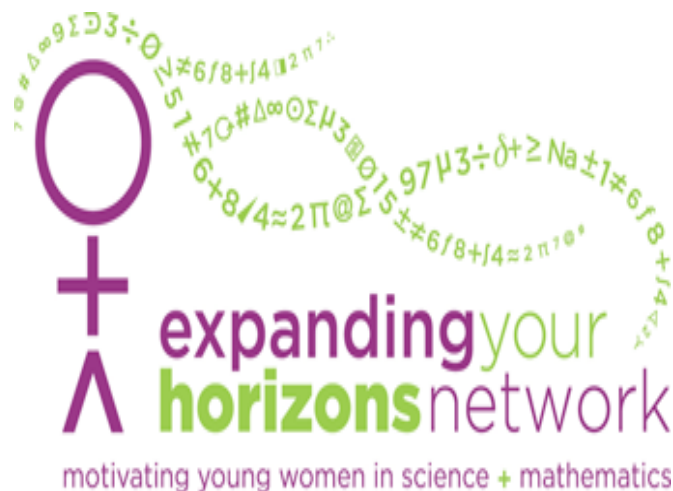
- provide young women with opportunities to meet and interact with positive women role models who are active in math & science related careers;
- involve young women with limited opportunities for success in positive experiences in mathematics & science;
- increase the interest of young women in math and science by providing exciting and fun hands-on learning experiences;
- encourage young women to study as much mathematics & science as possible by showing them the benefits of education and its relevance to their lives;
- foster awareness of career opportunities in science & mathematics related careers. *(courtesy of the Math/Science Network, 2000)*

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who attends the EYH Conference? The conference is open to girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grade who are interested in learning more about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Space is limited, however, we do accommodate as many girls as possible. Registration for the conference will begin April 11, 2011.

Why just girls?

Research on educational equity clearly indicates that girls benefit from opportunities to explore their options and potentials in an environment that is free of competition or other pressures of social and sexual stereotyping. This is a conference when they can do just that.



EYH Conference schedule

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 9:00 | Registration begins - lobby |
| | Refreshments - Cafeteria |
| 9:30 | Breakfast and ice breaker |
| 10:00 | Welcome & Key Note Speaker |
| 10:30 | Workshop Session I |
| 11:30 | Workshop Session II |
| 12:30 | Lunch (provided) |
| 1:30 | Workshop Session III |
| 2:30 | Workshop Session IV |
| 3:30 | Closing Activity and prizes |
| 3:45 | Parent Pick-up |

Specials

Library News By: Mrs. Zelle

BOOK FAIR !!!

Tuesday, May 31st - Friday, June 3rd
8:00am - 2:30pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00am - 6:00pm Wednesday
Come shop the Book Fair and support our school library!

Art News

By: Mrs. St. Hillaire

The architecture unit is in full swing for the 6th graders and 8th graders. The 6th graders have learned about Romanesque and Gothic style churches and now are in the process of creating their own churches out of paper. It is great to see them brainstorming, working in groups and creating a floor plan, pews and walls all out of white drawing paper. The 8th graders have started blue prints on designing a house using mat board. Many have decided to make a removable roof so they can also develop the interior space of their homes. In this process, students will learn the safety of working with exacto knives and hot glue guns. These are just a few projects I am doing with classes. Please take time to look at the art section of your child's class on Sycamore. On the website, you will find the project we are working on for that week, along with the objectives.

Recyclable materials are coming in consistently. Thank you so much for taking the time to save and bring in your recyclables, it is a big help for the art program. I am going to have to stop collecting recyclables until the first day of school. After the play, I will be cleaning out my room to get ready for the summer clean up and organizing the materials to be able to handle more recyclables in the fall. For the fall, I will be requesting the same items and possibly some new items. One thing I really do need right now is shoe boxes. As part of my organizing mission, shoe boxes would be great item to help with my small storage issue. Please bring them in at anytime between now and the end of the year. I will take shoe boxes of all colors and sizes.

I will be teaching art classes this summer through Garrison Players Arts Center. The classes are once a week throughout the summer and I also will be offering a week long painting and jewelry class. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail and I will send you more information. Thank you all so much for your support for the SMA art program.

Spanish News

By: Sra. Dromey-Heeter

Cascarones or confetti eggs are festive, hollowed-out eggs filled with small toys or confetti and originated in China. In Spanish, *cáscara* means *eggshell*. Decorated, confetti-filled cascarones may be thrown or crushed over the recipient's head to shower him or her with confetti. Having a cascarón broken over one's head is said to bring good luck. Students in all Spanish classes have been creating cascarones in preparation for Cinco de Mayo and other events in May...and fun has been had by all! Who knew de-yolking an egg could be so much fun? And DO try this at home...it's cultural, fun and a delightful use of those shells that might otherwise go to waste after making an omelette!

Computer News

By: Mr. McGurty

As the year comes to a close, SMA students are continuing their exploration of computers and the Internet.

8th graders have begun designing the new SMA website and have gained excellent progress on creating the home page. If things continue the way they have been, they should have the site completely designed by the end of the school year.

7th graders have begun create how-to-video using the Common Craft method. Once the videos are complete they will be available for viewing on the Sycamore website.

5th and 6th graders just completed their Day In History projects. Everyone did a wonderful job.

4th graders have begun using the Web 2.0 tool, Prezi.com. They have learned how to use concept maps during the Prezi process. I am very excited to see their finished products.



SMARt Directory

By: Mrs. Bilodeau

Beautiful weather is here, Spring cleaning is in the air, and those jobs that need to get done are waiting for someone to do them. If you need help with any of your tasks, there are people that can be of assistance! Remember to go to the SMA Website and look at all the businesses who have advertised in the SMARt Business Directory. If you need help around the house - an electrician or a plumber, etc. we have just the people who can help! People who advertise their business in the SMARt Directory are SMA parents or Alumni who are here for your convenience. Please patronize these businesses – some of them even offer discounts to SMA families. If you have any questions, or would like to be added to our growing list of businesses, please contact me at:

mbilodeau@stmaryacademy.org

Circus Luncheon

Is your life a Circus? Continue living the theme at this year's

CIRCUS/CIRCUS VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON on Friday, May 27!

Who: ALL of the wonderful VOLUNTEERS of Saint Mary Academy

When: Friday, 27 May - 11:00 - 1:00

Where: MERCY HALL CIRCUS TENT!

Come one, come all! Come celebrate our SMA Circus and all *you* do to support the children and staff of SMA!!

We'll see you under the BIG TOP!

Family Fundraiser

Summer Country Family Night Fundraiser

Thanks to all who participated in this event on March 29th. The school raised \$119.03 and we look forward to returning again soon!

Office News

Moms on the Run ~ 5th Annual Mother's Day 5K Run/Walk

Join us on Sunday, May 8th, at 8.30 am at Dover High School as we walk together and raise funds to benefit *Our House For Girls* located in Dover. *Our House For Girls* was established in 1975 as a non-profit community based residential home for girls aged twelve to eighteen who are experiencing serious difficulties in their lives. As we thank God for our children and the many blessings in our lives, let us come together as a community to support these adolescents as they strive to overcome their struggles. As Jesus taught us, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven".

Registration forms were emailed. Please complete the form and submit it with payment directly to Moms on the Run.

Knights of Columbus Seacoast Golf Tournament
Save the date – September 16th 2011

We are pleased to announce that Saint Mary Academy will host a Par 3 hole during the Seacoast Golf Tournament on September 16th at the Pease Golf Course in Portsmouth. This is a wonderful opportunity to support SMA and the many organizations that count on the Knights of Columbus to assist them in their worthwhile endeavors. Brochures detailing golf registration and sponsorship opportunities will be available soon.

ST. MARY ACADEMY SUMMER PROGRAM 2011

8 Weeks: June 21 – August 12

To be held at the Kindergarten/Pre-K building on Locust Street

Hours: 8:30-4:00, Monday – Friday

\$165.00 per week (\$135 for 2nd child, \$120 for 3rd child)

Extended Care available 7:30-8:30 and 4:00-5:30 (\$4.25 per hour)

\$50 non-refundable payment required per week per family to reserve a spot

Children entering 1st grade through Grade 7 are eligible

Activities include field trips, sports and games, crafts and weekly themes.

Questions? Contact Mrs. McKernan at mmckernan@stmaryacademy.org

To reserve your child’s spot in this popular program, please complete the following form and attach payment. Only those children with paid registration on a first come/first serve basis can be guaranteed a place.

Name(s) of Child(ren) _____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____

Address: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail _____

Weeks you wish to reserve:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ June 21-June 24* (Fort Foster) | ___ July 18 – July 22 (Ellacoya) |
| ___ June 27 – July 1 (Pawtuckaway) | ___ July 25 – July 29 (Wallis Sands) |
| ___ July 5 – July 8* (Milton Beach) | ___ August 1 - August 5 (Wentworth St. Park) |
| ___ July 11 – July 15** (Water Country) | ___ August 8 – August 12 (Newcastle) |

*\$130.00 Week of July 5 (No camp on July 4) Week of June 21

** \$14.00 surcharge for trip to Water Country

All trips are tentatively scheduled – awaiting confirmation

Parent’s Signature _____