

HeadNotes

Margaret Delk Moore

Interim Head of School



Welcome back to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School! In spite of the weather-related challenges we have faced, we are off and running in fine style. I arrived on campus in early July to a warm welcome from the faculty, staff, parents, students, and friends of the school. In my preparation work for this transitional year at St. Martin's, I have been most interested in listening to members of our school family as they share what they love about the day school and the visions they may have as we move forward.

As I have been in conversations with our faculty and staff, here's what I have learned from them. First and foremost, there is a deep love and commitment to St. Martin's and to the students that we are blessed to serve. Our faculty and staff are professional in every sense of the word, and they are dedicated to their work and to this school. I see enthusiasm, positive spirits, and energy every day.

When I asked the faculty and staff at our opening meeting together to share what they loved about St. Martin's, here are some of the major responses: the freedom to teach; the traditions; camaraderie; the hugs and humor; chapel; parent support and partnerships; the authentic caring and sharing; positive relationships with students; the safe place we offer for children to be themselves. At the core of all of these, however, is the profound presence of God in our midst. God is at the center and it is God that guides and directs all that we do. Through this presence, each member of our faculty and staff are able to make a difference in the lives of the students whom we serve. At the end of each day, our reward is in knowing that for this day, in a variety of ways, we have made a difference in the life of a child.

Our facilities at St. Martin's may not always be ship-shape, particularly with earthquakes, hurricanes, and tropical storms to contend with, but buildings alone do not make a school. A school is about the people within. A school is about the students who attend. A school is about the spirit that is woven throughout the day. This is St. Martin's-in-the-Field. Our mission is clear. Here we are all learners, leaders, and friends. Spread the good word. Great things are taking place. The year is full of promise.

Welcome back.

NEWS FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the Parents Association was held on Wednesday, September 7 in the Parish Hall.

Highlights from the meeting:

- Due to canceled events because of weather issues, the PA was able to use the money that had been dedicated to those events to give teachers and staff gift cards to Office Depot.
- Hot Lunch will be starting soon from Chik-Fil-A and Papa Johns, so get your forms in asap.
- All Room Moms—Please plan to attend the Room Mom meeting scheduled for Friday, September 16.
- PA turned over approximately \$35,000 to the school from fundraising events.
- Book Fair will take place October 4, 5, and 6.
- Collect your Box Tops! Boxes are in each classroom.
- Everyone is always welcome to attend monthly PA meetings, children are welcome!

The next PA meeting will be Wednesday, October 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We hope to see you there!



INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY

There are some new faces around our campus.

Please welcome our new faculty members:



Sheli Davis is the 5th-Grade homeroom teacher. She has an M.A. in Elementary Education, Campbell University, and a B.A. in History, Eastern Kentucky University.



Melinda Smith is the middle school Spanish teacher and resource teacher in Elementary. Melinda graduated from Jackson College of Ministries, in Jackson, MS, with a degree in Christian Education. She taught English while living in Puerto Rico and has taught elementary grades in Rhode Island and Maryland.



Nancy Jernigan is working with Stacey Lyons in the morning Pre-K class. She has done graduate-level work at Morgan State and Towson State universities and received a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Winston-Salem (NC) State University.



Karen Burke-White is teaming with Karen Wollentin in the Loft. Karen has a Master's Equivalency in General Education from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, and Towson University, Towson, VA. She obtained a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Towson University.

Kelly White is working with Betty McManamay in the three-day nursery morning class. Kelly has taken graduate-level classes in Counseling at McDaniel College and holds a B.S. in Elementary Education, West Virginia University.

Welcome to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School!



LEARNERS, LEADERS, AND FRIENDS AT ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD

Cynthia Barry, Librarian and Communications Director

As a learner, leader, and friend at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School, I asked: What could I do to create a ripple effect of the vibrant learning experiences that I witnessed every day at St. Martin's? How could I best encourage our students and other students to find joy in reading, listening, speaking, and writing—the arts of communication? As both a parent and a teacher, I believe that it is important to model lifelong learning, leadership, and friendship for our students. I wanted these worthy concepts to take a pragmatic form. What could I do?

Slowly, an idea took shape. In April 2011, I received the Christine D. Sarbanes Letters about Literature Teacher of the Year award, granted by the Maryland Humanities Council. That award increased my motivation to recognize, in turn, the work that teachers do. Using that award as an example, I decided to establish a national teacher of the year award for educators who use Touchstones Discussions to achieve great outcomes and lasting change with students.

I have led Touchstones Discussions in library class with the middle school students at St. Martin's-in-the-Field for more than seven years. I have seen the benefits of this program in terms of building confidence in speaking to others in a group, developing more active listening skills, and expanding the comfort zone in dealing with questions for which the answers are uncertain.

The Cynthia M. Barry Touchstones Teacher of the Year Award will be given annually, beginning in December 2011 at the yearly Touchstones Volunteer and Friend Gathering in Annapolis, Maryland. The teacher selected from a nationwide field to receive the award will be offered roundtrip travel and accommodation to make his or her attendance at the event possible. The nomination form has gone out to approximately 2,000 principals and teachers throughout the United States who use Touchstones Discussions in their schools and classrooms.

The award will recognize a teacher who uses his or her experience with Touchstones to promote civil conversation and civic engagement not only in the classroom but in their communities as well. In this way, the mission and values of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School will carry beyond the walls of our school. This was how I felt I could best honor the St. Martin's way of being a learner, leader, and friend.

This article is the first in a new series featuring short essays from the learners, leaders and friends of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School.

AUGUST 30—CLASSROOM VISITATION DAY



Thomas shows his mother their new carpool number.



Thomas and Maddison investigate the classroom pencil sharpener.



Mrs. Stanton welcomes Owen as he drops off his supplies.



Greg and Emily listen as the new 8th grade seating arrangement is explained



Megan (left) carries her supplies as Jack and Wes (right) race to their new classroom.

WELCOME BACK!

The first day of the 2011-2012 school year was as beautiful and sunny as the faces of St. Martin's students returning to campus.



Berj (left) and Hallie (right) demonstrate that St. Martin's middle school students are also happy to return.

Head of Middle School, Dr. Anne Andrews, guides Emily to the 4th grade class.



Nathan and Nina are ready to read in the "loft room" Pre-Kindergarten class.



Madeline carries her St. Martin's tote as she walks into the building.



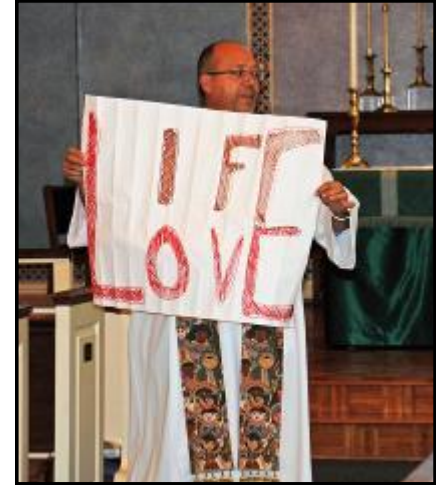
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Scott and Emma Grace carry the banner as Adrian carries the cross as the first through eighth grades await the beginning of the service.



Day School Chaplain Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson examines some of the items often carried in a backpack.



Reverend Pierre-Henry explains that students also carry a spiritual backpack and shows some of the things found in it.

Backpack Blessing

Gracious God, our *backpacks* contain all we need for school: lunches and snacks, books and papers, sweaters and shoes. **Loving God**, each day you provide for all our needs. Whether we walk, ride the car, or our bikes, we take our *backpacks* with us. **Lord**, we need you even more than we need our *backpacks*. **Lord**, keep us in the palm of your hand. **God**, you have called us by name as we belong to you. Nothing can separate us from your love. As we carry these *backpacks*, let us be your presence in the world, at school, at work, and at play. **Lord**, be the path we walk each day. Bless our *backpacks* and bless our journey. Guide us with your hand in gentle ways as we learn and grow.



The first grade class, also known as the Class of 2019, receives a blessing from Reverend Pierre-Henry.



The Class of 2012 receives their blessing as they begin their "senior" year at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School.

LES PETITS CHANTEURS SING AT ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD



In what is becoming an annual tradition, Les Petits Chanteurs, the children's choir from Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, will visit St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School this year on Tuesday, September 13, the choir's second visit since the earthquake that struck their country in January 2010.

Under the direction of choir director, the Rev. David Cesar, the 41-member choir is on a concert tour of the United States to raise money to continue the rebuilding of their school and the acquisition of new instruments. During the day, choristers and St. Martin's students will have lunch and play together on the playground, and the choir will sing for the school. In the evening, at 7:00 p.m., Les Petits Chanteurs and its chamber music group will give a performance that is open to the entire Severna Park community. An ice cream social in the Parish Hall will follow the concert.



We are looking for host families to extend St. Martin's hospitality to the choir members. Each host family would take a pair of children overnight on September 13 and bring them to the school in the morning. Please contact Laura Sheely, at 410-757-7220 (home) or at LCSheely@yahoo.com. Families who have hosted in the past have reported that it is indeed a pleasure for their families to host these young traveling musicians.



COMING SOON...



Yearbook Portraits
September 28-30



Scholastic Book Fair
October 4 - 6



Episcopal Schools Celebration
National Cathedral
October 12



Vision and Hearing
Screening

October 13

Make-Up Day October 28



“Fore the Kids”

Stay on Par by signing up Fore the 11th Annual Katie Fritz Scholarship Golf Tournament

On Wednesday, October 5, the golf tournament will return to Queenstown Golf courses for the largest fundraising event to support the school scholarship fund. **Sign up before September 15** and you will receive the early registration discount- only \$110 per golfer or \$400 for a foursome. The price will go up September 16 to \$140 per golfer/\$525 for a foursome, so take advantage of this incredible price now!

The golf event will include a 10:00 a.m. shotgun start, hole-in-one challenges, longest drive, closest to the pin, putting contest, raffles, free beer and drinks on course, lunch, and awards ceremony.

Register online at our website www.stmartinsdayschool.org or pick up a registration form at the main office or elementary reception.

We are also in need of sponsors, advertisers, donors, and volunteers.

For more information, please contact Patti Zielinski at patti.zielinski@verizon.net or 410-647-0769.

