

## HeadNotes

### *Margaret Delk Moore, Interim Head of School*



When was the last time you thought about your favorite teacher? Not the one who was perceived to be easy, nor the one who let the class get away with just about anything. I'm talking about the teacher who had the greatest impact on your life. Take a minute to reflect back to that person.

There were several in my life, from elementary school through graduate school. My favorite teachers were the ones who disturbed my comfort level and pushed me to new levels. They were engaging, transforming, inspiring, and firm. They ignited a fire inside of me. There was Mrs. Shearin who in 7<sup>th</sup> grade American history rode her broom around the room in illustration of Governor Spotswood riding across Virginia. She made history come alive for me.

In high school, Mrs. Sanborn was anything but warm and fuzzy. She scared me to death. I was new to the school and arrived clueless about how to take notes or even study. She rescued me from myself, pushing me to be a better student. I feared her piercing gaze, but I loved her as a teacher. I know that my success in college was much to her credit.

In graduate school, there was Dr. Sedgewick. He was life changing. He led our ethics discussions masterly each day and, for many of us in the class, the discussions continued into the wee hours of the night. We all left that class different. We searched our souls in a deep and personal way.

Teachers transform lives. Exemplary teachers will always challenge their students. They spend hours outside of school preparing lessons, searching for books of interest, planning special projects. The passion for shaping minds and hearts runs deep and wide. Of all of the professions in the world, teachers should rank close to the top in importance. Our future generations are always influenced early by teachers.

At St. Martin's-in-the-Field, we are blessed to have a host of excellent teachers. My observations from preschool through middle school have confirmed that on all levels the St. Martin's teachers inspire a desire for learning that will last a lifetime. Whether it is teaching numbers and letters, or learning to share or to walk in a line, a teacher is at your child's side. Whether it is finding the keys to reading, mastering math facts, constructing a well-written sentence, or learning to listen to peers who present a new way of thinking, a teacher is at your child's side. St. Martin's teachers surround our school community with their skills, experience, and love for the kids.

So here's the challenge. Ponder for a time whom *your* most influential teachers have been. Realize the impact they have had on your life when your paths converged. Give thanks for what they have meant to you. Then reflect about those women and men who are helping to shape your child in the classrooms at St. Martin's-in-the-Field. Give thanks for their partnership, wisdom, and expertise in igniting the fire of life-long learning as together we send forth another generation of learners, leaders and friends from St. Martin's. What a privilege we teachers have to be a special part of this chapter in your child's life. We, in turn, can reflect on engaging and inspiring students—your children.

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## CLASS OF 2012 REFLECTS ON THE LINES OF OUR LIVES

by Tracy Alexander, Middle School Social Studies and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher

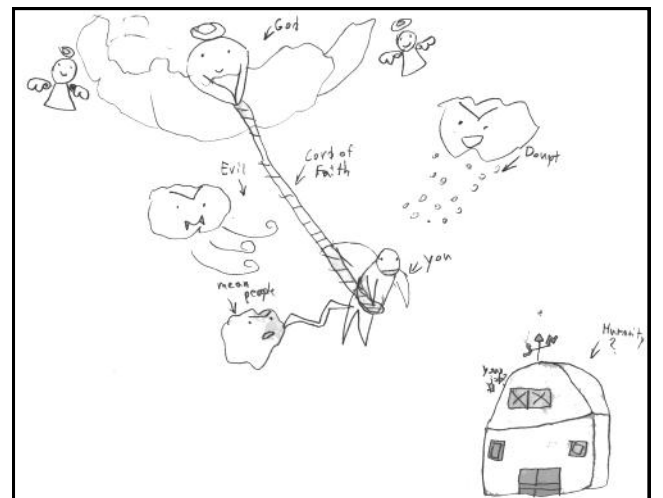
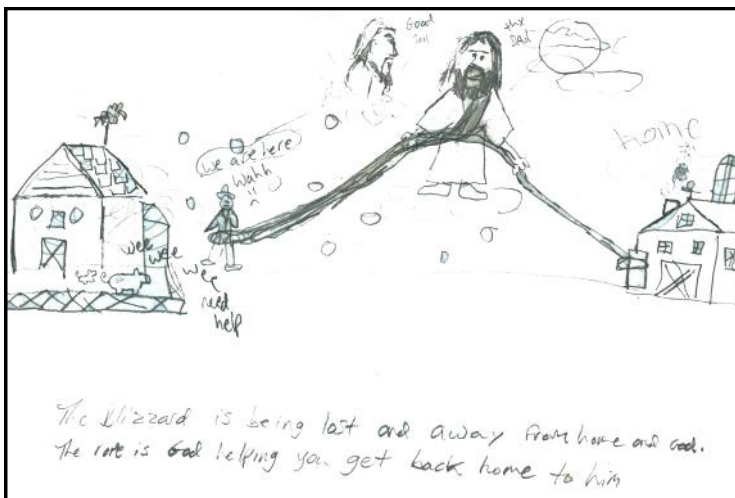
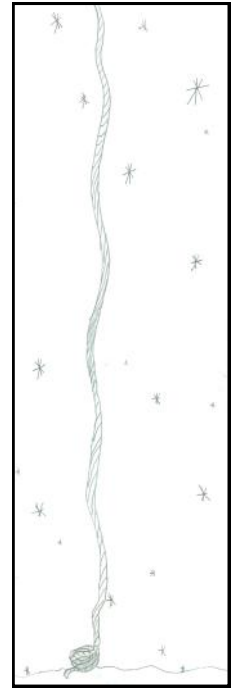
I just wanted to share this because sometimes our kids exceed my already high expectations. It was quite a beautiful experience. I had been listening to the podcast from Mars Hill Church this morning while washing dishes and waiting for the coffee to brew. The speaker told a story about how in the Great Plains the blizzards are so bad that sometimes people tie a rope to their farm house door and the other end around their waist when they have to go out to the barn because the snow is coming down so heavily that they can't see ahead of them and they could get lost.

This short story was part of a big sermon about the Eucharist, but the image stuck with me and I wondered if the 8<sup>th</sup> graders would be as intrigued by the visualizing as I. One morning at school in 8<sup>th</sup> grade History class, I told them about how our head of middle school, Anne Andrews, would really love it if we teachers prayed at the beginning of each day with our classes. With the Smiths on our minds—our Spanish teacher, Melinda Smith, has recently lost her mother and Andy Smith, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher, is with her in Ohio—I wondered if we could just have a moment of reflection.

They said it would be fine with them. I told them about the blizzard and the rope and the farmhouse and the barn. I asked them to consider—what is the rope? What is the farm house? The barn? The blizzard? Do they have the rope fastened around their waist? Do they even know a rope exists? We talked about how people sometimes got lost in blizzards and weren't found until the spring, and how this rope idea was probably lifesaving, yet so simple. I asked them to consider—Where are they? Safe in the farmhouse? Out in the blizzard? What is their blizzard? Have they ever experienced a blizzard? This morning? Last summer? Two weeks ago? How does the rope actually help?

It doesn't eliminate the blizzard. Do they know someone they'd like to tell about the rope? Did they forget to fasten the rope—and were they groping through the blizzard looking for it? We talked about the seasons—spring, summer, and warmth.

Oh my goodness, they were so amazing. I asked them to think and then write or draw a picture if they wanted. Or just think. No writing was necessary. I saw that they were really thinking, and I was so proud of them for letting themselves imagine. I played music and then we chatted and shared for a few minutes, and then we went on to President Jefferson Davis and the start of the Civil War. For a few minutes, at the start of the school day, we were in a special place at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, practicing what we say about being Learners, Leaders, and Friends. We were examining ourselves and learning a little bit more about who we are and the connections that make life well-lived.





## CALLED TO SERVICE—WORDS FROM THE BOARD

*Editor's Note: A new feature of the Guardian newsletter, this article will be written by the Board chair or a member of the Board. Its heading, "Called to Service," reflects our Mission Statement and also the philanthropic service performed by a board of trustees. Its purpose is to communicate Board news to our St. Martin's-in-the-Field community.*

### THE ROLE OF THE BOARD IN THE LIFE OF ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD DAY SCHOOL

by Frank Hilton, Chair, Board of Trustees

In your conversations with the head of school, a member of the faculty, or a staff member, you may have heard the words *board* or *trustees*. You may have wondered who **are** those people and what is their role in the life of St. Martin's Episcopal School? In this and future newsletter editions, we intend to shed light on the St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees is a body of fifteen members whose responsibilities are pointed to supporting the Head of School in keeping the school's mission and serving as fiduciaries for the school. The Board members, with the exceptions of the Rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church and the Head of School, are unpaid volunteers who serve for three years on the Board. Some are parents of school students. Others are members of St. Martin's Parish, while the remainder are members of the greater Severna Park community. This mixture captures varied perspectives that contribute to reaching a common goal. In coming months, we will highlight individual members and the common work of the Board.

I noted that the Board serves as the fiduciary of the school and as a partner with the Head of School in keeping the mission. To those basic roles, add the setting of broad institutional policies and the conducting of periodic assessments. This assures the Board itself, and all those who have a stake in the school, that all necessary policies and procedures are in place to protect the present and future integrity of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School.

The Board does **not** set the curriculum, select textbooks, hire faculty, or serve as a general grievance arbitrator. The Head of School is charged with the overall administration and daily operation of the school. The only contract the Board of Trustees signs is that which hires the Head of School. Thus it is much less like a public school system Board of Education and is not a school board administration. It functions as an independent school board of trustees, working to insure that the school remains strong as an institution into the future.

We close this month's Board article with comments on a task the Board has spent more than sixteen months accomplishing. For the first time in over twenty years, St. Martin's had to search for a Head of School. Our beloved Sharon Holsclaw stepped down for a well-deserved retirement. The Board's search committee, headed by Louise Knight, after lengthy interviews and discernment, made its recommendation to the full Board. The Board of Trustees hired the Rev. Dr. Frank Sawyer, a talented and energetic leader. Previously, that same search committee had identified our Interim Head of School, Margaret Moore. I can only say that those on the search committee have great talent and an enviable record: two for two grand slams.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW UNDER WAY



Spaces for the coming school year 2012-13 are filling up. **Re-enrollment contracts are now due.** In order to reserve your child's place for next year, please return your forms right away with a \$100 deposit. Enrollment is now open to the public, and some classes are approaching capacity. We'd love to reserve a seat with your child's name on it! If you have any questions, please call or email Director of Development/Admissions Mary Henry, [mhenry@stmartinsdayschool.org](mailto:mhenry@stmartinsdayschool.org) or 410-647-7055, ex. 16, or the Main Office.

## OPEN HOUSE MARCH 28TH

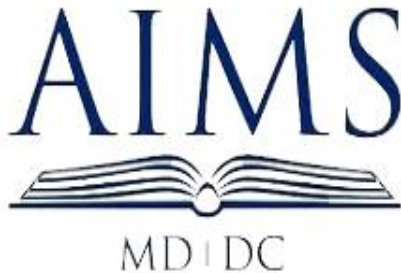


We are having an Open House on **Wednesday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Please tell your friends about our preschool through Grade 8 Episcopal school. We are open to all applicants without regard to race, gender, color, religion, national or ethnic origin. Financial aid is available for qualified applicants. Parents are our best advertisement source, so please share the good news about our fabulous program. The Open House is also an opportunity for current families to become acquainted with the teachers, programs, and classrooms of their child's upcoming year.

## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AIMS

by Cynthia Barry, Librarian and Communications Director

When I was looking at independent schools for my daughters at the 1<sup>st</sup> grade level and beyond, one of the first questions I had for a school was, "Who are you accredited by?" Actually, the very first question I had was, "What is the most respected accrediting agency for independent schools in the state?" I wanted the additional assurance of knowing that an outside objective agency had looked at all aspects of a school—things that I couldn't see or even foretell—and had decided that a school met all relevant standards. I wanted the proverbial "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for my children's education.



Because I was new to the area, I knew very little about various schools. I wanted more to go on for the important decision about where to educate my children than reputation or how a school happened to impress me on visiting day. These are all valid and good ways in themselves. We at St. Martin's-in-the-Field have benefitted enormously from word-of-mouth referrals and Open Houses. We are members of a number of national organizations, such as the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) and the National Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE). We are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education as a non-public school. We are a Maryland Green School.

The Association of Independent Maryland Schools is the premier accrediting organization for independent schools in our state. AIMS is itself accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools.

The AIMS school accreditation process is incredibly rigorous. It's a multi-year, multi-step examination of all aspects of an educational institution. The Self-Study process runs the gamut from looking at who puts a band-aid on a cut finger to parsing the ways in which the school's practices are congruent with its stated mission.

The process involves deep soul-searching on the part of the organization. In-depth, far-ranging conversations take place among all the constituencies of the school—parents, teachers across the grades, divisions, and disciplines, school leadership, administration, staff, board members, students, and church leadership. The process is time-consuming, maddening in the attention to detail required—and invigorating in the cooperation and vision it produces.

When AIMS accredits a school, parents know that school meets high standards in governance, programming, finance, health and safety, school and community life, counseling, personnel, and institution administration and advancement. AIMS evaluates every school in terms of relevant standards and the degree to which the school fulfills the promises it makes.

In mid-March (on the Ides of March, actually), we will submit our Self-Study Report and accompanying documentation. In mid-April (on tax day, as it happens) we will host for a couple of days the visiting team—educators and administrators from other Maryland and D.C. schools. We will have a year in which to respond to their comments.

One day in 2013, St. Martin's-in-the-Field will receive its first AIMS accreditation. On that auspicious day—perhaps March 17, St. Patrick's Day for good luck?—parents will be confirmed in what they already know: St. Martin's-in-the-Field is an inspiring, life-transforming educational experience. We will have emerged from this once-a-decade process a stronger, more focused, and re-committed school. You will be assured that you've made the right long-term decision, and your child will be the beneficiary.

AIMS Steering Committee:; Anne Andrews, Chair, Head of Middle School;  
Tracy Alexander, Middle School Teacher; Ellen Stanton, Elementary School Teacher;  
Debbie Pittenger, Kindergarten Teacher; Cynthia Barry, Librarian and Communications Director;  
Margaret Moore, Interim Head of School

### *Share the St. Martin's Experience*

Parents, do you have friends who are looking for a different educational experience for their child? Do you know families whose children would thrive at St. Martin's-in-the-Field? Invite them to come get a sense of our school. Your good words are our best advertising. Phone a friend today and share why you love St. Martin's.

#### **Open House**

**March 28 - 9:00 to noon and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Welcome Wednesdays**

**9:00 to noon**



# ANNUAL GOSPEL CONCERT!

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012, 5:00 PM

*Guest Choir*

### Mt. CALVARY United Methodist INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR

*and*

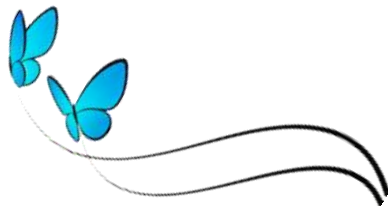
### YOUTH SINGERS FROM ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD DAY SCHOOL

LOOSE PLATE OFFERINGS GO TO SUPPORT THE

### KATIE FRITZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND, ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD DAY SCHOOL

REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW THE CONCERT

## PLEASE JOIN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR THIS UPLIFTING EVENING OF PRAISE AND SONG!



St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church  
375 Benfield Road, Severna Park 21146



Music to the glory of God and in memory of **Katie Fritz**

(Oct. 29, 1977—February 27, 1993).

The Katie Fritz Scholarship Fund was established by St. Martin's-in-the-Field parishioner Carol Fritz to honor the memory of her daughter, Katie, who passed away suddenly in 1993. The Annual Gospel Concert is the primary fundraiser for the scholarship fund that provides financial support for children who may not otherwise be able to attend St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School.



Representing all divisions of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School—preschool, elementary, and middle—students lifted their voices in song in February 2011 at the Katie Fritz Gospel Concert

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN TO THE ANNUAL FUND THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2012

Anonymous	Mr. & Mrs. Alwin & Kathryn Heller	Ms. Emily Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Ellen Allen	Mr. & Mrs. John & Natasha Henderson	Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Diana Phillips
Mr. William Asbury	Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Pam Hilton	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Sue Pistillo
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Alison Barrett	Ms. Mary Ann Hinchey	Mr. & Mrs. John & Anne-Marie Poulton
Mr. & Mrs. David & Sarah Bauer	Mr. & Mrs. John & Adrienne Holmes	Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Jennifer Pratt
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Kimberly Bellotte	Dr. & Mrs. Paul & Ellen Ingraio	Ms. Mary Raimondo
Benfield Tree Service	Mr. Joseph Romanchak & Ms. Natalie Itzoe	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey & Valerie Reich
Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Jane Bishop	Mr. & Mrs. Kurt & Laura Ivey	Mr. Robert Reiter
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Kathy Boeke	Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy & Kris Kadlec	Ms. Penne Romar
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Jean Boeke	Dr & Mrs. Kevin & Louise Knight	Mr. Scott Songer & Mrs. Stephanie Santos-Songer
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Borsoni	Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Marcia Kokoski	Mr. & Mrs. Wesley & Ann Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel & Tina Bradshaw	Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Samantha Lamon	Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Virginia Shaeffer Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Aimee Bullen	Mr. Merle Lebowitz	Mr. & Mrs. Howard & Laura Sheely
Mr. & Mrs. Brad & Kate Callahan	Ms. Gifty Maison	Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy & Jodi Simpkins
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn & Lisa Callahan	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne & Barbara Mallard	Mr. Trevor Simm
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Jennifer Callaway	Mr. & Mrs. David & Melissa Mallery	Mr. & Mrs. Rommey & Teresa Sizemore
Mr. & Mrs. James & Heidi Carney	Mr. & Mrs. Martin & Margaret Mardiros	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Melinda Smith
Mr. Robert Carney & Mrs. Kim Hale-Carney	The Marston Family Foundation	Mr. & Mrs. David & Elisabeth Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen & Christine Cattaneo	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew & Christina Matta	Mr. & Mrs. David & Gloria Jean Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Kate Cleven	Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Joyce Mattox	Mr. & Mrs. William & Nancy Sollers
Mr. & Mrs. David & Tina Cobb	Mr. & Mrs. Brett & Katie McCone	Mr. William Sollers
Mr. & Mrs. John & Barbara Cooke	Mr. Eric Trutenko & Mrs. Kara McCormack	Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan & Rachel Stabile
Mr. & Mrs. James & Gavin Craig	Mr. & Mrs. Rodney & Angela McKinney	Mr. Clancy Cornwall & Ms. Suzanne Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Donna Curtis	Mrs. Betsy Michael	Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Vera Summers
Mr. & Mrs. Dustin & Michele Davis	Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Christine Michaels	Mrs. Ingrid Tepelmann
Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Cristina Decker	Ms. Rebekah Miller	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Harriet Todd
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Ms. Barbara Duvall	Mr. Jeffrey Gelfand & Mrs. Christina Morganti	Mr. & Mrs. Omar & Lori Villegas
Mr. & Mrs. Ned & Melissa Dwyer	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Beatrice Mowry	Mr. Jon Walker
Mrs. Andrea Ebbenhause	Mrs. Kathleen Nelson	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne & Kathleen Wallace
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Mrs. Sharon Evans	Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Sidney Norledge	Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Allison Warner
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Ms. Jennifer Fleischer	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Michele Para	Ms. Karen White
Mr. & Mrs. Po Fung	Mr. & Mrs. Jason & Mikell Parsch	Mr. & Mrs. Eric & Jody Witzel
Mr. Mark Morsheimer & Mrs. Lisa Hale	Mr. & Mrs. James & Monica Pasko	Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Patti Zielinski
Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Barbara Hamilton	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Catherine Pelura	Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Susan Zucco
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth & Judith Hawes	Mr. & Mrs. Manuel & Lori Perez	
Mr. David Hays	Mr. & Mrs. Todd & Harriet Petrocelli	

The St. Martin's Day School Parents' Association is proud to announce  
its Annual Spring Fundraiser and Auction

# Bull and Oyster Roast

in-the-Field

Friday, April 27, 2012

6 p.m. Parish Hall

Let the fun and bidding begin!

All proceeds directly benefit our students' educational experience and foster their growth in becoming *Learners, Leaders, and Friends*.

To volunteer to be a part of the Auction Team,  
please contact Donna Curtis at 443-454-4446 or dietdel@yahoo.com



## CULTURE STRIKES TWICE ON MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

by Mel Kessler, Music Teacher/Band Director

I love football and other sports, but they are not the end-all to life. I try to impress that upon the students as often as I can in our discussions. Music and art, as well as sport and other endeavors, make us full human beings.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the middle school traveled to Baltimore to hear the Baltimore Symphony in an "Open Rehearsal" and to visit the Maryland Institute College of Art. The program for the BSO was Ravel's "Bolero," Piano Concerto #1 by Tchaikovsky, and "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by Strauss. The students found the program to be "fun," and they got to see how professional musicians conduct themselves in a rehearsal—posture, preparation for entrances, and, most importantly, their interaction with each other and the conductor.

After lunch we visited the Meyerhoff Gallery at MICA. The exhibit was a "common object" project students were given. Each student had to use a dish towel in their painting. Sounds ordinary, but it proved to be very interesting. It was amazing to see the creativity and imagination that each art student had used in their paintings. As viewers, we were inspired to see the ordinary in a new light.



Ruth Miller, *Shell and Dish Towel*, oil on canvas

## PERE JEAN LENORD QUARTORZE OF SISTER SCHOOL LA RESURRECTION TO MEET STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF LA RESURRECTION PARISH



Pere Jean Lenord Quartorze addresses St. Martin's students during his visit in October 2010.

Pere Jean Lenord Quartorze, the priest-in-charge of La Resurrection Parish, will visit classrooms at our school on Thursday, February 9, talking to our students about Haiti and answering their questions.

Advancing our relationship with La Resurrection school in Gros Morne, Haiti, representatives from St. Martin's-in-the-Field parish and school will meet with Pere Jean Lenord Quatorze, whose parish includes five mission churches with schools in addition to our sister school, and with representatives from Episcopal partner parishes in Maine, New York, and Connecticut. The partnership organization meetings will take place February 10-11, with worship service at St. Martin's-in-the-Field at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 12. The purpose of the weekend meeting is to establish a cooperative organization among the U.S. parishes or schools who work with the leadership and people of La Resurrection Parish in their schools, women's center, and health clinics.

## MUSIC AND READINGS FILL THE PRESCHOOL DAYS, PARENTS ARE INVITED TO LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE

by Stacey Lyons, 5PKAM3 Teacher



Mrs. Moore reads to the preschool students.

The preschool in its entirety gathered again in January. We all said the Pledge of Allegiance together and sang, "I'm in the Lord's Army" and "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing" as we do in chapel every week for the month of January. The children have shown great interest in singing in Chapel! Our Interim Head of School Margaret Moore came for a visit to read *Thomas' Snowsuit* by Robert Munsch and illustrated by M Martchenko, a classic that the children love to hear this time of year. The children's favorite part in the story was when the child and teacher end up in one another's clothes. The story was over and lots of hugs were given to Mrs. Moore before we left the PK Full-Day classroom and continued on with our day. The children enjoy getting together as a group, and we always look forward to hearing a story and practicing songs together.

Other titles by Munsch and Martchenko included *Stephanie's Ponytail*, *Mud Puddle*, *Angela's Airplane*, and *Smelly Socks*. With their colorful cartoonish drawings, these books and others by the Canadian writer and illustrator have proven popular as read-and-laugh alouds.

In February, preschool is looking forward to Valentine's parties. The Katie Fritz Gospel Choir Concert on February 25 at 5:00 is a wonderful family event that supports the scholarship fund for our school. Admission is free; loose plate offerings go to the fund. Looking further into March, St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School is having Open House on March 28, from 9 to noon and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This is a good opportunity to tour the campus overall and see preschool, elementary and middle school classrooms. Parents are invited to meet teachers, learn about our program, and get a sense of our school as a preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Episcopal School.

## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE MOVES FROM BOOKS TO GAMES TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM

By Donna Manuel, Third Grade Teacher

In February the 3rd grade will be playing the book report games that they made. Each student chose a book to read and then created a game to present this book to the class. We will be playing these games throughout the month of February. As part of our social studies, each student will also research and write a report on one of our U.S. presidents. In science, we are doing research and activities concerning our solar system. This material will be used as part of one of their technology projects, and our library has a very fine set of books about the planets. After we finish our president reports, we will be doing a unit on what makes our community diverse.



Bella teaches Theo and Phillip how to play the game she created based on *Pippi Longstocking*.



## WE WANT YOU...

Actually we want your photos. We see you at events and know you are taking photos of our students involved in the many programs and field trips St. Martin's offers. Please won't you share those photos with the us? **OUR PUBLICATION DEADLINE IS COMING SOON!** Photos can be emailed directly to [yearbook@stmartinsdayschool.org](mailto:yearbook@stmartinsdayschool.org) or copied to a disc and sent in to the office via your student.

Thank you, The Yearbook Staff

## FIRST GRADERS EXPLORE BIG WORDS, BIG CONCEPTS WITH CBF

by Anne Hodges, First Grade Teacher



**CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION**  
*Saving a National Treasure*

Do you know where rain water goes? First grade spent time outside on Tuesday with CBF environmental educators Melissa and Phillip. They were discovering and identifying definitions for two pretty high-level scientific words—"pervious" and "impervious." Using those definitions and several water bottles demonstrating rain storms, we discovered that rain water will run off impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, buildings, and brick walkways. That runoff can end up in the Chesapeake Bay or in other water sources.

Land surfaces that are pervious, such as playgrounds, parks, and grass, let rain water soak into the soil to be soaked up by trees, flowers and bushes. Stay tuned—next month the story of rainwater continues. Please come by our 1st grade bulletin board to see how we illustrated all of our findings for you to understand. Ask your 1<sup>st</sup> grader at dinner or while driving around to tell you what "impervious" and "pervious" means. Maybe as your drive around, your 1<sup>st</sup> grader can point out examples to you. They love to learn and show off what they learn!



## ART PROJECTS THROUGH THE GRADES BRIGHTEN WINTER DAYS

by Sue Maloney, Art and Technology Teacher

We have been very busy in the art room. The middle school classes are working on color with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade painting a 50 color master piece followed by an acrylic painting on canvas. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes are working on color mixing making color wheels and harmonies. They should be able to decorate their rooms with lots of color theory under their belt. Grades 3 and 4 just finished a Tessellation project with a color pattern and now are working on "Lines in Space." Grade 2 has just finished their "Elements Creatures" and is now working on balance. Grade 1 has been working their way through the elements starting with a line study and then a shapes project in Kandinsky style. They are now working on form and designing a 3-dimensional playground by turning their 2-D shapes into 3-D forms. We will be creating lots of pottery in February.

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Nativity Art Show at the Christmas Chapel!



Some of the artwork featured at the Christmas Art Show.



Grace and Chloe work on their "Lines in Space."

## PERUSING PROTOZOANS!

by Ginny Ready, MS Science and 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Homeroom Teacher



The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is studying microorganisms and has several samples of protozoans (unicellular animals) in the science classroom. Students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade have been invited to use microscopes to examine these tiny creatures. Youngsters have seen paramecia, blepharisma, chaos, and others. It is amazing to think that tiny animals can be found in a drop of water!

In addition to the above described samples, 7<sup>th</sup> graders are creating their own cultures of microorganisms in the classroom. They will be investigating changes in these populations over time. They are also examining water samples from local creeks and ponds in search of microscopic life forms.

## FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE FAIR

By Ginny Ready, MS Science and 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Homeroom Teacher

Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders have demonstrated desire and ability to investigate questions using the scientific method. In order for them to further satisfy their curiosity and hone their scientific skills, we will be having an intramural science fair for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Although an official date has not yet been set, we are expecting to invite parents to see the science projects in mid- to late March.



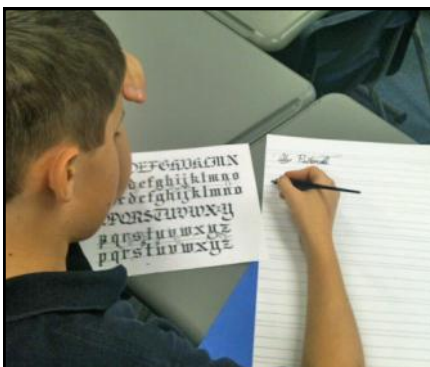
## THE VIEW FROM SIXTH GRADE

by Tracy Alexander, Social Studies and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade homeroom teacher

It's been a few years since I've gotten to share *The View from Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. I'd forgotten how much I loved this book. Set on a Saturday afternoon at an Academic Bowl game, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students miraculously make up one of the final two teams in a competition typically reserved for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. As the county commissioner reads each question, a student from the team answers and then we read the "back story" explaining why the student knows the answer. (Yes, it's kind of *Slumdog Millionaire*-esque – but this book came first!) The lives of the characters are delicately interwoven, and our students create "family trees" that show the connections.

Another wonderful aspect of this story is the opportunity it affords to discover the "cultural literacy" elements mentioned. One character learns about calligraphy, another speaks of "turtle love" while living on the coast of Florida. One character is in love with theater and gets to see *The Phantom of the Opera*. So, we've been writing with calligraphy pens (thank you, Mrs. Maloney, our art teacher) and watched a lovely documentary about turtles and the Sargasso Sea--all while listening to the amazing music from *The Phantom of the Opera*.

One minor character's cat's name is Thomas Stearns – for T.S. Elliott – a wonderful opportunity for us to look at his poetry and the musical *Cats*. The characters meet for tea (!), so we're planning a tea party as well. But, really, the book is about connecting to people. Through their adventures in the book, the characters grow to be deeply connected. Their lives intersect on many levels. One theme that comes out is about how being different is better than OK. Being different is applauded and lauded.



# TECHNOLOGY PROMOTES INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

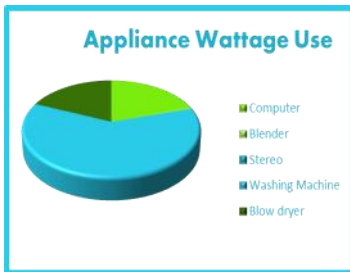
by Sue Maloney, Art and Technology Teacher

All grades just finished their energy unit in Microsoft Excel. Students in grades 1 through 8 did age-appropriate formulas, spreadsheets, column charts and pie charts to determine how much energy we use at home and how we can conserve energy. Be sure to ask your student how you can conserve energy at home. It could save you some money!

Our next project is a word processing unit where the students will learn how to use Microsoft Word to create publications that are traditionally designed using Microsoft Publisher. They will develop layout techniques and design skills to create a logo, flyer and/or brochure. This unit will be integrated with Godly Play and Sacred Studies. Grades 1-4 will be doing the Bible story, "Feeding of the Five Thousand." Grades 5-7 will be doing a brochure on Prayer, and Grade 8 will create a brochure on the "Lesser Saints."



Created by Scott, 2nd grade.



Created by Grace, 4th grade

Appliance/Electronics	Wattage	Hours Used per Month	Total Wattage Used per Month	Total kWh per Month	Monthly Cost*
Computer	300	56	16,800	16.8	\$ 1.68
Blender	300	1	300	0.3	\$ 0.03
Stereo	50	2	100	0.1	\$ 0.01
Washing Machine	920	56	51,520	51.52	\$ 5.15
Blow dryer	1,300	12	15,600	15.6	\$ 1.56
<b>Total</b>			<b>84,320</b>	<b>84.32</b>	<b>\$ 8.43</b>

\*Monthly costs are based on \$.10 per kWh

Appliance/Electronics	Wattage	Hours Used per Month	Total Wattage per Month	Total kWh per Month	Monthly Cost*	kWh Projection for the Year	Annual Cost Projection**
Frying Pan	1,200	21	25,200	25.2	\$ 2.52	302.4	\$ 30.24
Blender	300	6	1,800	1.8	\$ 0.18	21.6	\$ 2.16
Waffle Iron	1,200	2	2,400	2.4	\$ 0.24	28.8	\$ 2.88
Toaster	60	28	1,750	1.75	\$ 0.18	21	\$ 2.10
DVD Player	35	44	1,540	1.54	\$ 0.15	18.5	\$ 1.85
Mini Christmas Lights	25	28	700	0.7	\$ 0.07	8.4	\$ 0.84
Microwave	1,500	4	6,000	6	\$ 0.60	72	\$ 7.44
Washing Machine	920	56	51,520	51.52	\$ 5.15	618.24	\$ 61.82
Exposive Maker	1,250	28	35,000	35	\$ 3.50	420	\$ 42.00
Hot Plate	1,200	28	33,600	33.6	\$ 3.36	403.2	\$ 40.32
<b>Total</b>			<b>149,120</b>	<b>149.12</b>	<b>\$ 14.91</b>	<b>1,789.44</b>	<b>\$ 178.94</b>

\*Cost based on \$.10 per kWh

Created by Kelly, 7th grade.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Katie Fritz**  
**Gospel Concert**

February 25  
 Benefits Day School

March 5-9	Spring Break
March 13	End of 2nd Trimester
March 19 & 20	Spring Portraits, Class and Individual
March 23	Father Daughter Dance / Grades K—4
March 28	OPEN HOUSE
April 27	Bull and Oyster Roast

Easter  
 Break  
 April 5, 6, & 9



The Third Grade Class of 2010-2011  
 portraying "The Last Supper"

**THE PASSION PLAY**  
 PRESENTED BY THIRD GRADE  
 MARCH 21, MARCH 28, APRIL 4, AND APRIL 11  
 PERFORMANCES DURING MORNING  
 AND AFTERNOON CHAPEL

## NOTES FROM THE PA-- SPAGHETTI DINNER, MOVIE NIGHT ARE BIG SUCCESSES

by Marcia Kokoski, President, Parents' Association

The Parish Hall was buzzing on Friday night, February 3, for the annual Parents' Association Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you to all the St. Martin's-in-the-Field families, extended families, and friends who turned our Parish Hall into La Trattoria of Severna Park. Thank you to Elizabeth (Bess) Michael, chair of the event. Thanks also go to the middle school students who did a great job at the craft, games, and dessert tables and who also bussed tables and recycled.

Close to 300 people attended this popular, fun, successful event, which the PA could not put on without the many parents and staff who helped with setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. I'd liked to call out special thanks to Susan Zucco, who worked the event. Susan also did a fantastic job with our recent Movie Night, which raised \$300 for the upcoming homeless shelter dinner.

When the receipts are tallied by Tina Cobb, I will let you know how much the Spaghetti Dinner raised in a future Guardian newsletter. The popcorn was donated by the movie theatre at Marley Station Mall and the donut holes were contributed by the Dunkin Donuts on Ritchie Highway. Our thanks to our business friends!

PA meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays, February 15, and March 21. We welcome all! If you're new to St. Martin's-in-the-Field or new to the PA, please come!

Teacher Appreciation Week is February 27 through March 2—a good opportunity to thank our teachers for all that they do for our children. Mark your calendars for the big event of the spring—the Bull and Oyster Roast on April 27. Donna Curtis is chairing that event. If you'd like to help, give her a call.



Cristina Decker, winner of the Spaghetti Dinner Special Seating at the 2011 P.A. Auction, toasts to a wonderful meal.



Mrs. Hodges, 1st Grade Teacher, carries on the faculty and staff tradition of "service with a smile."



Middle School students volunteered at the crafts and face painting booth and dessert table.



Enjoying a delightful meal.

# Spaghetti Dinner



Scott leads the dancing along to music by the D.J.





# CLICK! A Snapshot of St. Martin's



Magician Willie Woo recently entertained the entire preschool. The students laughed and watched in awe as he performed magic. Everyone was amazed when Willie and his student volunteer made a rabbit appear in a once-empty container!



In a delicious integration of foreign language, culture and mathematics, each of the French classes baked a "pain de campagne" or country bread. From Pre-K Full Day up to 8th grade, Mr. Warfield used the lesson to teach recipe terms and measures as well as how food fits into the French culture.



Students from the Full Day Pre-Kindergarten class measure the ingredients for the "pain de campagne."



What do Galileo, Walt Disney, and Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton have in common? They are just a few of the famous people "hanging out" in the Elementary hallway. The 2nd grade class has once again brought us a glimpse of the lives of some well-known people in history through their biography projects. Stop by and meet some of these famous folk.



Even though cries of "shark!" can be heard from the 1st grade class, people shouldn't be afraid to swim through their classroom. The sharks are colorful projects created by the class as a part of the science curriculum. Each student studied one shark and reported facts to the class about that shark. The projects are very informative and creative.

