



DeTours

The Newsletter for Friends of St. Martin of Tours School

Fall 2016

www.smsmd.org

New Events Build Community Spirit



reminders that we are part of a larger community, with which brings both privilege and responsibility.

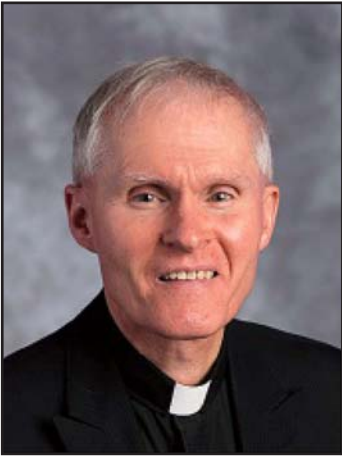
One of the most significant new happenings at St. Martin's School, has been the addition of a monthly Children's Mass held on a Saturday evening in the church. Students serve as ushers, lectors, gift-bearers, choir, and greeters. The intent of this Mass is to strengthen the ties between our school and parish community.

Adding to our many service projects, we held a Halloween raffle which raised \$550 for our Angel Fund. In addition to that, our 5th grade has begun challenging themselves to do good deeds for others and has invited the other grades to join them. So far they have collected cereal for the food pantry, led a morning school-wide prayer and expression of patriotism, and made scarves for our Mitten Tree, which along with hats and mittens, will be distributed to those in need this winter.



Children learn best when they feel they are part of a community, where everyone feels accepted. School community activities help to build that sense of inclusion and acceptance. We held our 1st annual Trunk or Treat, which is a tailgating event in the parking lot where families distribute candy from the decorated trunks of their vehicles to our school children and their younger siblings. This was a fun and exciting event for the entire family. The enthusiasm and level of participation from students, parents and teachers for these new events and happenings are symbolic of our community's dedication and commitment to St. Martin's School.





Dear St. Martin's Community,

My mother went to her parish school in Pennsylvania but when I was old enough for school our parish in Massachusetts had none. They built one but it started with grades 1-3. I was in 5th. Then we moved to the Washington area. Our new parish had a school – but it was full. I went to CCD classes in that school and avidly read the Catholic magazines stashed in the students' desks. I finally got to go to a Catholic high school and it was a great experience.

Can you see why I tell parents that St. Martin's is the kind of school I wish I could have gone to as a child? I love being the pastor of a parish with a vibrant Catholic school, where teachers go out of their way to share not only their knowledge of math, English, science and other subjects with their students but their faith as well. As should be true in our lives, so it is true in St. Martin's School: faith is integrated with knowledge and life. Whether it's praying before classes or learning about the sacraments or collecting canned goods for the poor, faith permeates the experience of children attending our school.

St. Martin's School belongs wholly to St. Martin's Parish. Fr. John Cuddy and a bold band of parishioners decided that they would have a parish school and they got one started in 1925. Earlier attempts to found Catholic schools in Montgomery County had failed; St. Martin's succeeded.

The parish still supports its school as a vital part of its mission to bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. The priests visit the classrooms periodically and celebrate Masses and confessions with the children. The parish gives annual financial support to the school and parishioners have contributed greatly over the years to our School Endowment Fund. The Church benefits from the school as graduates become leaders in Church life. Young people who attend Catholic schools are more likely than others to stay connected to the Church and value serving others. Some have entered or are considering entering the seminary or religious life. The faith that was nourished in our parish school bears fruit in adulthood.

Along with parish (and Archdiocesan) support, we need yours! These days a grand coalition of parents, alumni, friends, Catholic business people and foundations is needed to sustain Catholic education. It is a noble thing to help children and adolescents see that following Jesus Christ is a joyful and rewarding way of life, even if it demands sacrifices.

Your sacrifices to strengthen our school are greatly appreciated. Perhaps only in heaven will you know how much good you did. That's a good place to find it out.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Mark E. Brennan
Pastor

ADW Teacher of the Week



Teacher MaryJo O'Keefe

Congratulations to our third grade teacher, MaryJo O'Keefe on being selected Washington Archdiocese Teacher of the Week! Mrs. O'Keefe is a wonderful role model of the Catholic faith. She maintains a loving classroom as evidenced by referring to her students as "my love." Her students adore her and very much look forward to being called "my love" by Mrs. O'Keefe! She is an example of Catholic love without ceasing – she rarely sits down while teaching; she is always up and around to ensure that every student has what he or she needs to learn. MaryJo is so very responsive to her students' academic and emotional needs. Her colleagues love that she has a warm and generous

heart. Just this summer they were treated to a back-to-school event hosted by MaryJo and her family. She truly embodies what it means to be part of a community. Fortunately, that community is St. Martin's!

Bringing Literature to Life



students helped create a fun celebration of reading. We appreciate the City of Gaithersburg for their support.

Family Literary Night was a wonderful evening of storytelling, activities, and snacks featuring the tales of Anansi. Our teachers brought to life literature that the entire family could appreciate. Our faculty, staff, and

Hall of Saints Wax Museum

We met St. Martin of Tours, Joan of Arc, Mother Teresa and many more saints at our third grade Hall of Saints Wax Museum. Children in the other grades, along with parents and grandparents, visited our museum to learn about the personal history of the saints and how their faith impacted their lives. The third graders also led us in our All Saints Day Mass. Their teacher, Mrs. O'Keefe prepared them well for their big day.



Lemonade Sales Benefit Angel Fund



During the summer, most children's thoughts turn toward swimming, biking, and playing outside with friends. Yet for Bella, a first grader at St. Martin's School, efforts to help those in need were not put aside during the vacation break. Bella,

with the help of her father, built a lemonade stand at the corner of their cul-de-sac. She made the lemonade, advertised, handled customer service, and kept track of the donations. Bella raised \$97 for her efforts. She told her customers that the donations "would go to the Angel Fund which helps families that don't have enough money." Her neighbors were very generous and impressed by Bella's efforts to help others. Bella learned last year while in Kindergarten that money raised from monthly bake sales went toward the Angel Fund. This Fund is maintained by the school for emergency use in support of school and community families that are in crisis. Principal Anthony Sahadi and first grade teacher Susan Feudale admired Bella and thanked her for taking responsibility for helping those less fortunate.



St. Martin's School has a rich tradition of reaching out in service to our local community. This increases student awareness and offers multiple opportunities to provide service to others. During the school year our students donate thousands of cans of food during our Lenten Food Drive, help serve at our parish soup kitchen, the Lord's Table, collect hats and mittens during the winter for those in need, and raise money for our Angel Fund. We live the Gospel values at St. Martin's by spreading the message of love and service to each other and the extended community. We are proud of Bella for setting a wonderful example of living the life of service to God and neighbor.

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www.Twitter.com/smscrusader

Spotlighting Our Bingo Volunteers!



St. Martin's has wonderfully successful fundraisers such as our dinner, dance, and auction; dinner nights out; Breakfast with Santa; and more. But by far, our most lucrative fundraiser may be the least well known, which is Friday night Bingo. Every Friday, from

6:00-10:00 p.m. in the church basement, St. Martin's School hosts Bingo for our Gaithersburg community. It is staffed year round by rotating teams of dedicated volunteers who work at a variety of positions from caller, to cashier, to canteen server. For school parents, this job fulfills your required volunteer hours to St. Martin's. Wendy Woodland, a grandparent to children at SMS, recently began volunteering. "I enjoy it, it's fun. You meet nice people, and the time flies by." Wendy says the camaraderie is good "because we all know what an important impact it has on our school." We are very appreciative to our volunteers. The funds we raise benefit all our children. Parents Walter and Valeria Peralta schedule and train the volunteers and are there to oversee every Friday night. Unlike other volunteer opportunities at school, volunteering for Bingo does not require a background check because there is no contact with children. What this means is that practically anyone can volunteer and join the fun. We would love to have more help from school parents, grandparents, parishioners, or friends from our community. If you are interested, please contact Walter Peralta at walterperalta@yahoo.com. We would love for you to join us!



Ehrhardt Aftercare Program Dedication

A beautiful all-school Mass and Reception in Remembrance of Ursula Ehrhardt was held on

September 16. Mrs. Ehrhardt managed our Aftercare Program for 28 years. She is fondly remembered by the many students, parents, and staff whose lives she touched during those many years at St. Martin's. Our Aftercare Program is dedicated in her memory.

First Annual Trunk or Treat

The event was spooktacular! The wind was howling, and the fall leaves were blowing; it was a perfect night for our first Trunk or Treat. The car trunks were creatively transformed, each more elaborately decorated than the last. Children were thrilled to go trunk to trunk, trick-or-treating dressed as their favorite Princess, Super Hero, or Goblin. The McClure and the Javelosa families tied for Best Trunk. Best Youth Costume went to Nia in Kindergarten and Best Adult Costume went to Russ Young, father of Glenn in 2nd grade. The City of Gaithersburg graciously lent us their parking lot, playground, and pavilion for the occasion. This well attended and enthusiastically received school event was indicative of our strong cohesive community.



Ways to Support St. Martin's

If your workplace participates in the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign and you would like your tax deductible contribution to be directed to SMS, **please designate us by entering our number on your donor form. United Way (Member #8362) and Combined Federal Campaign (Member 85449)**



Other ways to support St. Martin's is through Amazon Smile, Good Search, Giant A+ Bonus Bucks, Safeway for Education, Target, Office Depot, or Donate a Car. To find out more information, go to www.smsmd.org and click on "Support SMS."

Endowment Fund Donors

Every Gift Matters, Every Year! Give Now for End-of-Year Tax-Deduction

We thank our alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends for your generous support. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our St. Martin's School Endowment Fund. The principal is preserved and invested responsibly in line with our Faith. The interest is used to give the gift of Catholic education to those families with financial need. In this way, your generosity will make a difference year after year. **For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed in this newsletter.** For more information concerning donations, please contact Anne Gemunder, Development Coordinator at 301-990-2441 x225 or email at agemunder@smsmd.org.

The Roster of Donors will be listed in our Summer DeTours which will include gifts received from June 15, 2016 - June 15, 2017. Many thanks to our generous donors for their contributions to the Endowment Fund.



Attention all Parents and Alumni

SMS Gala & Auction

Join us for the annual Gala and auction to be held **March 18**, at St. Martin's School. The evening includes dinner, an auction and fun for all!

Catholic Schools Week
January 30 – February 3



Open House

Come tour the school, meet the teachers and find out why St. Martin's Catholic School is a great choice for your child!

January 31 from 9 am – 1 pm

Contact the school for additional dates.

**Things
to Come!**

Parents, Past Parents, Alumni, Grandparents,
and Friends are always welcome!



**Join Us
AGAIN
This Year!**

Saturday Children's Mass

in the church.

December 10th

February 25th

March 25th

April 29th

May 20th

Breakfast with Santa

December 3 from 9 am – 12 noon

Scholastic Book Fair

December 1, 2, 3

May 11, 12, 13

Grandparents' Day

May 12



STEM Night
for the entire family.
April 4

**Endowment Appeal
Weekend**
at all Masses.
April 29 and 30

Alumni Class Notes

We would love to stay in touch! Share with us your news and we will keep you up-to-date on the happenings at St. Martin's School. Go to smsmd.org and click on SMS Alumni or email Anne Gemunder, Development Coordinator at agemunder@smsmd.org.

Class of 1967 Robert F. Bride Looking to Reconnect

Robert Bride would like to reconnect with anyone from his 1967 graduating class. He has been in California for many years but travels to Maryland to visit family whenever possible. He hopes everyone is well. Please contact Robert at mensrea@aol.com.

Class of 1992 Gabriel Petruccelli, MD, FAAOS Orthopaedic Surgeon

Gabriel Petruccelli graduated salutatorian from The Heights School in Potomac, Maryland, where he played basketball and soccer. He then attended The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., receiving his BS in Exercise Science. He continued his education with a post-baccalaureate program, receiving a Certificate in Physiology at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia, and subsequently received his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine. Relocating to New York City, Dr. Petruccelli completed his surgical internship and orthopaedic residency at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center/Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center.

His interest in sports medicine and shoulder surgery brought him to San Diego, California, where he completed his fellowship at San Diego Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine. There he worked closely with Major League Baseball's San Diego Padres. He also assisted the team physician for the San Diego State Aztecs, most notably their soccer (men's and women's) and football teams. During his fellowship, Dr. Petruccelli published surgical technique videos for multiple national orthopaedic society meetings. His practice, Greater Washington Orthopaedic Group, has four offices in suburban Maryland.

Dr. Petruccelli continues his interest in sports medicine by supporting the athletic programs at The Avalon School; Georgetown Preparatory School; and his high school alma mater, the Heights School. He enjoys exercise, travel, music, and cutting hair. Some of his most fond memories of his childhood and education came during his time at St. Martin's School. When asked about his time there he said, "My 8 years at St. Martin's was such a memorable time in terms of friendships, education and faith. My teachers and my principal (Mary Alyce Sullivan) were such great motivators. Their enthusiasm for teaching made wanting to learn a wonderful experience. Instilling this at a very early age carried on throughout my whole education."

Class of 1996 Megan Kathleen (Layden) Smith School District Administrator

Megan Smith reports that after graduating from Penn State, she taught middle school math in Catholic Schools for 12 years before taking a district administration position focused on educational data and technology. Along with her husband Theo, they have two amazing children, Hugh and Roselyn. Megan has expressed fond memories of her time at St. Martin's, both as a student and later assisting in the Aftercare program during high school. Mrs. Uschi Ehrhardt, Mrs. Regina Garfield, and Mrs. Rita Carlisi made particularly meaningful impacts on her life, and she will be forever grateful to them.

Class of 2013 and 2014 National Honor Society

Inducted at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Fall 2016.

Katie Forman (SMS '13)
Mariela Cabanillas (SMS '13)
Helton Rodriguez (SMS '14)
Matthew Cain (SMS '14)
Jessica Nguyen (SMS '14)
Matthew McVeigh (SMS '14)



Class of 2013 Katie Forman D1 Lacrosse Player

Katie Forman, currently a senior at Our Lady of Good Counsel, committed to play lacrosse at Dartmouth during National Letter of Intent Signing Day on November 9, 2016.

Class of 2013 Elijah Yator Recipient of Bro. Albert Mosser Scholarship



Elijah Yator is currently a senior at St. John's College High School. On May 12, Elijah became the first recipient of the St. John's Bro. Albert Mosser Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 1998 by a group of dedicated alumni to carry out Bro. Albert Mosser's simple wish: "Make sure St. John's is always there to help students." For years, every freshman at St. John's had Bro. Albert for typing class. Bro. Albert was known for his piety, sense of humor and faithfulness to graduates, especially when they were going through rough times. He was frequently out in the evenings at a wake or funeral of an alumnus or consoling the grieving as a result of the death of a member of the St. John's community. Kindness is a virtue that is often expressed when people speak of Bro. Albert, a Christian gentleman concerned about the children entrusted to his care long after they graduated from St. John's.

In the spring of his junior year, Elijah was selected as a Peer Minister. He maintains an excellent grade point average and is taking four Advanced Placement courses and is in Honors English. In addition to his academic success, Yator is a starter on the varsity wrestling team and a member of the Cadet Corps, Latin Club, and Mediterranean Club. He is also a member of the Prayer and Meditation Club and a leader in his parish Youth Group.

"His membership in these faith-based organizations is where Elijah finds his greatest fulfillment," said Tom Sipowicz, director of mission integration. "His kind and supportive disposition positively affects everyone who knows him, and his curious and deep intellect is a valuable asset." We are proud of Elijah's many accomplishments and his commitment to being kind, generous, and considerate of his fellow students. He reflects well the values of his family and of St. Martin's School.

Class of 2013 Neil Coronado National Merit Semifinalist

Neil Coronado, a senior attending Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, qualified for recognition as a National Merit Semifinalist. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation administers this national academic scholarship competition. Semifinalists are the highest-scoring program entrants in each state and represent the top 0.5% percent of the state's senior students. Semifinalists advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards.

Neil has had a success filled high school career. He is a straight A student, earning the highest grade point average in both his freshman and sophomore years. By the end of his senior year, Neil will have completed eleven AP classes and has received recognition as an AP Scholar with Distinction. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Speech and Debate Team, Math Team, It's Academic Team, and Student Ambassador. Neil has completed 150 hours of volunteer service as a counselor at Good Counsel's Robotic Camp. Last summer, he served as an intern at NIST, working on a project dealing with Wireless Networks of Manufacturing Robotics. Neil is thankful for the teachers at St. Martin's for providing him with a strong foundation that prepared him for the rigors of high school. His advice, to students at St. Martin's going off to high school, is to "manage your time well, take risks, join clubs, do it now and don't wait."

Neil is in the process of applying to many top-tier colleges on both the east and west coast. Neil's sister Isabelle, a 2008 graduate of St. Martin's, works at Google in California as a software engineer. According to Neil's parents, both children benefited from the strong academics and character development fostered at St. Martin's.

Gaithersburg Community Museum Looking for St. Martin's History

The Gaithersburg Museum, in honor of the 100-year anniversary of WWI is preparing to mount an exhibit: Life on the home front... how the war affected the families in Gaithersburg. Since St. Martin's is part of that history, they have asked that we put out a call for family stories, photos, and stories relating to food, job experiences, military service, and community service groups. Anyone familiar with the "Women's Land Army," of "Thrashing Machine Men"? If you have something to offer, please contact Karen Lottes, Education Coordinator, Gaithersburg Community Museum. Her email is klottes@gaitersburgmd.gov.





St. Martin's School
115 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

www.smsmd.org

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Is your child...

Inspired & motivated
to learn...



in a caring & inclusive
community...



respected & valued as
a child of God?



Our children *are* at St. Martin's Catholic School!



Join us for our
Open House & Tour
January 31 • 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Open
House
Jan. 31

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