

December 2011 Newsline

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Although the final accounting is not yet complete, this year's auction on the Singleton Campus was a resounding success. Thank you to Auction Chair Peyton Wells, her corps of volunteers and everyone who worked so hard and contributed so much.

Second grade teacher Ann Swift is taking a medical leave of absence. Please place her speedy recovery in your prayers. Gayle Augst is assuming Mrs. Swift's duties. Mrs. Augst is a gifted teacher who previously taught first grade at St. Michael's.

Father Greg Hodgson will be leaving St. Michael's Episcopal Church at the end of the calendar year. An interim priest should be appointed in January. Father Greg presented our Lower School services during his stay here. We will miss seeing him at Chapel.

A special thank you to alumni parent Andy Ferguson and current parent George Moore (son Aaron is in second grade) who are again coaching our Middle School swim team. The Ferguson boys have continued their swimming excellence since graduating from St. Michael's. Stuart is a scholarship swimmer at Auburn; Thomas swims for Trinity Episcopal and Peter swims for Collegiate. The Moore boys have also continued their swimming careers since leaving St. Michael's. Both Cameron and Collin swim for Collegiate.

Russell Fleetwood, Board of Directors member and parent of John and Andrew has almost singlehandedly cleared the fallen trees marring the Middle School view of Lake Winston. We should all be grateful that Russell's back and chain saw remain in working condition.

Cheryl Broga, Middle School Student Life Coordinator, reports that twelve of our Middle School students are currently working with students at St. Andrew's School in Oregon Hill each week. St. Andrew's is a tuition-free lower school where St. Michael's alumna, Becky Eschenroder '98, now teaches.

The Lower School Choir, under the direction of Carleen Ramsey, gave a much appreciated performance recently for the residents of The Crossings at Bon Air.

The Board of Directors has contracted Pureculture to develop a strategic plan for the school. The overall purpose of this initiative is to create a clear path to sustainable success for St. Michael's Episcopal School. More information will follow.

Two male high school students have been apprehended and confessed to participating in vandalism in St. Michael's Bon Air gymnasium this fall. According to the Chesterfield police, they are facing felony charges. They were surprised during their most recent illegal entry and fled on foot. Fortunately, they left a number of items behind including their cell phones. It is hoped that these young men will have to take responsibility for their actions. This should prove to be a very expensive lesson for them to learn.

ST. MICHAEL's ANNUAL FUND

Don't forget to add the 2011-2012 St. Michael's Annual Fund to your holiday gift list. Each gift supports the exemplary education received by each St. Michael's student.

Participation to date: Parents:

Annual Fund 2011 – 2012

Class Participation %: To date

Kindergarten	12%
First	17%
Second	14%
Third	17%
Fourth	13%
Fifth	32%
Sixth	9%
Seventh	19%
Eighth	17%

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please make a correction to Martha Hughes', financial officer, e-mail address.
It should read: mhughes@stmschool.net.

Additional corrections:

- 1) Caroline Stokes' cell # is 937-0038.
- 2) Alicia Grogan – remove home phone number.
- 3) Tonya Mallory – new email is tmallory@hdlabinc.com. (Use this for home and Tonya's email.)
- 4) Robbie Johnson – new email is raj0044@me.com. (Use this for home and Robbie's email.)
- 5) The Donnelly Family – new address is 225 Deer Keep, Richmond, 23238

ADMISSIONS

Betty Isaacs, director of admissions, reports that she is staying busy with new student inquiries. Thanks to many of you for encouraging your friends and neighbors to consider our school. If you have not done so, please encourage others to explore what St. Michael's has to offer. Our Middle School Open House is January 8, at 2 p.m. on the Singleton Campus. With your help this will be a great day for St. Michael's.

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

All of our fifth grade students and their parents are invited to the Middle School Open House at the Singleton Campus on Sunday, January 8, at 2 p.m., for a tour and to learn more about the advantages of the IB program.

Faculty, present parents and Middle School students will be available to discuss the many opportunities offered at the new campus.

A CHRISTMAS QUESTION

We are in the season where one of the most commonly asked questions is what did you get? At the end of the day, and perhaps in the true Christmas spirit, a better question is what did you give?

BARBIE BUNGEE

If you are cleaning out your closets and happen to find any unwanted Barbie dolls, please consider donating them to Mrs. Mikula for her Barbie Bungee Project.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

Heartfelt appreciation to all who so generously donated gifts to the angel tree project this year. Thanks to the continued support of St. Michael's families, 135 children will have a Merry Christmas! Special thanks to all who transported the gifts to the warehouse and to the Middle School students who assisted Maddison Furman in continuing this school-wide service project. Merry Christmas to all of you!

CALENDAR

December 8 – Choir Concert - 8:30 – Church

December 9 - Band Concert - 8:30 – Dundas Hatcher

December 9 – December 15 – Eighth Grade Exams

December 15 – Pageant for Lower School and Middle School

8:30 a.m. – Bon Air

December 16 – Pageant – 9:00 a.m. – Bon Air

11:30 a.m. – Kindergarten Dismissal

11:45 a.m. – Middle School Dismissal*

12:00 – Lower School Dismissal

December 16-January 2 – Christmas Break

January 2 – Classes Resume

***Please remember to pick up Middle School students before you pick up at the Lower School. Thank you.**

FIRST LEGO League



St. Michael's sponsored three FLL teams this fall. The students were challenged to explore the topic of food safety and examine the possible points of contamination food encounters – from exposure to insects and creatures, to unsterile processing and transportation, to unsanitary preparation and storage – then find ways to prevent or combat these contaminants. The teams also built, tested and programmed an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® NXT to solve a set of Food Safety missions. Throughout the season, teams operated under FLL's Core Values which stress that friendly competition and mutual gain are not separate goals, and that helping one another is the foundation of teamwork.

We are grateful to Barbara and Woody Coates and Amy Marshall and Tracey Van De Putte for coaching the Lower School teams this fall.

Super Fries

Nicholas Goradia
Gabe Lynch
Charlotte Marshall
Fletcher Marshall
Ethan McCool
Logan McCool
William Otero
Ben Slone
Alexandra Unger
Josh Van De Putte

Mac and the Cheeses

Christopher Bartle
Sophie Bruns
Cassidy Coates
Evan Park Dwyer
Leigh Salvucci
Mary Lewis Simpson
Hannah Sjovold

The Blue Dragons

George Bundy
Teddy Coyner
Tory Farmer
Maddison Furman
Trey Johnson
Will Markow
Luke Parry
Henry Pollard
Quint Street
Eric Sundberg

Coaches:

Amy Marshall
Tracey Van De Putte

Coaches:

Barbara Coates
Woody Coates

Coaches:

Leslie Eckmann
Michael Jones

The teams competed on November 19 at the regional qualifying tournament at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. The Super Fries earned the Judges Award for Division 1 and an invitation to the VA/DC championship tournament. The Judges Award is given to a team that stands out from the others for reasons other than the standard Robot Design, Project, Core Values (teamwork) categories. The Blue Dragons earned 2nd place for Robot Performance and 2nd place Champion's Award for Division 2, as well as an invitation to the VA/DC championship tournament.

The VA/DC Championship Tournament was held on December 3 and 4 at James Madison University with the top 100 (60 Division 1 & 40 Division 2) of the region's 510 teams competing. The Super Fries earned the 2nd place Teamwork Award in Division 1 and The Blue Dragons earned the 1st place Inspiration Award for Division 2.

We congratulate these students (and their coaches) for a very successful 2011 FLL season. They are examples that hard work and positive attitudes pay big dividends!

FIFTH GRADE STUDIES JUDAISM

Fifth grade students spent eight weeks studying the Jewish history, faith, beliefs, culture, people and the value of respect. They learned the unique sacred practices, basic concepts and cultural richness of the Jewish tradition. The study culminated with planning, preparing, celebrating and presenting three major Jewish festivals in class.

This year we had two guest speakers. On November 3, sixth grader Maddison Furman's father, Dr. Stan Furman, shared his life as a Jewish person with recollections of childhood memories and amazing real life stories. He enriched his presentation by showing Jewish symbols and sharing their meanings. On November 10, second grader Molly Fratkin's father, Bryan Fratkin, challenged students asking questions on their Jewish understanding and sharing his own Jewish faith from childhood to adulthood. Mr. Fratkin used humor and examples to keep the fifth graders attentive. What a way to experience Judaism! The fifth grade students interacted with tough and meaningful questions with both Dr. Furman and Mr. Fratkin.

SEVENTH GRADE – MEALS ON WHEELS

On November 9, the seventh grade students took a field trip to Meals on Wheels. St. Michael's students have been serving Meals on Wheels for the past 6 years. The students had a very powerful experience serving, caring and listening. We split into 10 groups, each coming back with their own sad, inspiring, powerful and often funny stories about the people they served. We were blessed to have the following parents drive and chaperone this endeavor: Mrs. Michael, Mrs. Andress, Mrs. Stallings, Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. Kenzakowski, Mrs. Sheppard, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. McMurtrie and Mrs. Flores. The students will share their MOW experience in the upcoming IB Values presentation in February. We invite all parents to experience this presentation.

In the words of Mrs. Sarah Kenzakowski *"I just wanted to follow up with you about our experience yesterday. The students were respectful, cheerful and cooperative. They worked very well together navigating, checking the food lists and conversing with the Meals on Wheels clients. I was proud to share in this experience and look forward to volunteering again in the spring."*

A NOTE FROM THE SMPA

Happy Holidays from the SMPA!!! It's hard to believe that almost half the school year is over. Our fall has been absolutely amazing. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and dedication to the SMPA. Enjoy your holiday break. We look forward to an even more wonderful 2012.

S.M.I.L.E.,
Susan Ferrell
SMPA President

BOOK FAIR

Need a Stocking Stuffer Idea?

St. Michael's Book Fair Gift Certificates are the PERFECT stocking stuffer and teacher gifts!!! Available in any amount, certificates can be redeemed at our book fair January 20 - January 27. Email Caroline Hyde (mphyde01@verizon.net) with the name of the person you would like to surprise and the amount of the certificate. All orders will be filled by December 16!

The SMPA's annual **Book Fair** will be held in the Atrium on the Bon Air campus, January 20 – January 27. We will be using **Bedford Falls** this year, so please be sure to visit and check out the new and different selections. Family Night is Wednesday, January 25.

BOX TOPS

Keep collecting your **BOX TOPS**! The second collection is in February! We are half way to our goal. With the holiday season upon us, there are many baking products that have **BOX TOPS** on them. Some brand names to remember are: **Pillsbury, Bisquick, Ziploc, Betty Crocker and Progresso soups!** Another way to earn **BOX TOPS** is to do some Christmas shopping online @ www.boxtops.com St. Michael's will earn EBOX TOPS on any item purchased on the web site. Thank you for your participation and Happy Holidays!!

SCRIP

'Tis the season for SCRIP! Between entertaining, traveling, and gift giving ... SCRIP has all of your gift giving needs. Orders are placed every Monday. You will receive your cards the same week. Check the website for an updated SCRIP order form.

A special thank you goes to the Grogan family for using SCRIP for their home renovations. In just one order from Home Depot, the SMPA received over \$60. Way to think outside the box!

Calling all pizza eaters!! Did you know that when your child orders Pizza Hut hot lunch, the SMPA reaps twice the rewards?? Not only does the school get credit for your pizza order, but we are able to pay the supplier with Pizza Hut SCRIP cards. Talk about a win-win!