

Contacting private schools

Grace Baptist Academy

201 E. Potomac St., Brunswick
301-834-5575
Grace Baptist Church of Brunswick

St. Thomas More Academy

pre-K-8
3989 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown
301-874-9014
<http://stthomasmoreacademy.org>
Tuition: \$4,500-\$6,500
Catholic

Mother Seton School

grades pre-K-8
100 Creamery Road, Emmitsburg
301-447-3161
<http://www.mothersetonschool.org>
Tuition: \$2,525-\$3,525
Archdiocese of Baltimore

The Banner School

grades K-8
1730 N. Market St., Frederick
301-695-9320
www.bannerschool.org
Tuition: \$8,632
Independent, nonparochial

Frederick Adventist School

grades K-8
6437 Jefferson Pike, Frederick
301-662-5254
www.fredericksdachurch.org
Tuition: \$290-\$430/ month
Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church

Frederick Christian Academy

grades K-12
6437 Jefferson Pike, Frederick
301-662-5254
www.fredericksdachurch.org
Tuition: \$290-\$430/ month
Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church

New Life Christian School

grades K-12
5913 Jefferson Pike, Frederick
301-663-8418
www.newlifecs.org
Tuition: \$4,300-\$5,150
Christian

St. John's Catholic Prep

grades 9-12
889 Butterfly Lane, Frederick
301-662-4210
<http://www.stjph.org>
Tuition: \$9,995
Catholic

St. John Regional Catholic

grades K-8
8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick
301-662-6722
<http://www.sjrcc.org>

Frederick News Post Sun., Aug. 27, 2006

KEEPING IT PRIVATE

Some families forgo public education despite the cost, commute

By ALISON WALKER-BAIRD

News-Post Staff
awalker@fredericknewspost.com

FREDERICK — Nearing the end of the first day of school Thursday, 10-year-old Katherine Edwards — dressed in a pressed white shirt and blue jumper — raised her hand emphatically to answer her teacher Carolyn Holcomb's questions.

The fifth-grade class at Visitation Academy, an all-girls Catholic school in Frederick, was peppered with girls who said math or science was their favorite subject.

Katherine and other private school students share this enthusiasm for learning because of the environment the schools offer, say teachers, students and administrators at the academy and about a dozen private schools in Frederick County.

The advantages of a nonpublic education, they said, are worth the extra cost and longer commutes.

An annual survey of students' parents at the independent Banner School in Frederick shows year after year parents want the school's small class sizes and individual attention, said Michael Mullin, head of The Banner School.

The average class size at Banner, which has students from kindergarten through eighth grade, is 15 for younger students and 18 for middle-school-aged students, Mr. Mullin said.

He said parents may be willing to pay tuition — thousands of dollars each year for private schools — to offer their children a specific experience, whether it be more individualized learning or a Catholic or Christian education.

"Frederick's beginning to have more nonpublic alternatives, so parents have greater choice," Mr. Mullin said. "The public schools in Frederick are pretty good, but it's nice to be in a community where there are alternatives. It makes Frederick a much more attractive community (for parents)."

Ethel Brauer, a teacher at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick for the past 17 years, said private school parents tend to be supportive of their children's school success partly



Staff photo by Bill Green

Kindergarten classmates at Visitation Academy head for the door following the first day of classes at the private Catholic school for girls on East Second Street.

because of the cost.

"They're investing their time and money into (their child's education), so they're willing to do their share at home," she said.

While the Maryland State Department of Education and Frederick County Public Schools don't keep records on the number of Frederick County students in private schools, an MSDE spokesman said nonpublic school enrollment in the state has increased slightly.

Between 1999 and 2004, the number of nonpublic school students rose from just more than 181,000 to nearly 188,000, said MSDE's Bill Reinhard.

The increase mirrors that of public school enrollment during the same time period, from about 847,600 in 1999 to about 865,600 in 2004, he said.

Instilling values

Betsy Day of Middletown waited for her daughter Meredith, a second-grader at Visitation Academy, outside the school Thursday. While Betsy's older four children attended public schools until going to private high schools, she decided to start her youngest, Meredith, in private school.

"My husband and I liked the idea of a values-based education and small class sizes," Ms. Day said. "It lays a great foundation for the rest of their lives."

Ms. Brauer said she believes parents choose a private, Catholic education because they want their children raised in an environment with high academic and character standards.

Values will be emphasized

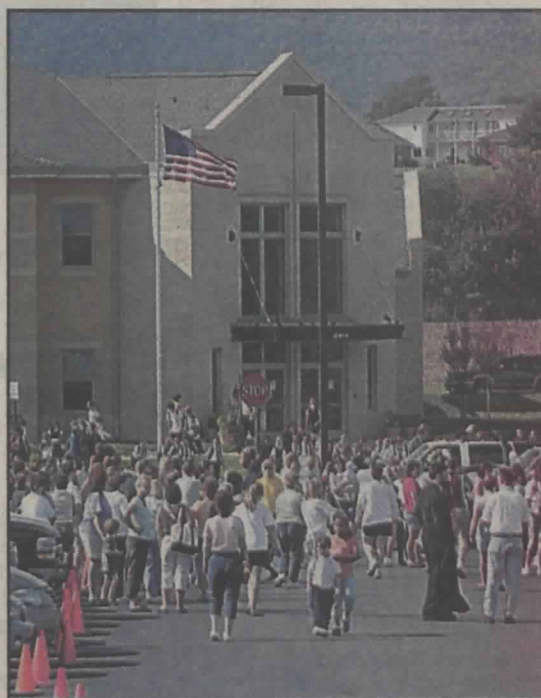
even more this year at St. John, said Jean Wright, the school's director of admissions and development. The school is adopting the Values First program, part of an initiative that has already been implemented in the Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic schools to teach and reinforce core values.

The Values First code includes honesty, respect, responsibility, hard work, tolerance and courage, Ms. Wright said. Participating schools post a list of these values and encourage teachers to incorporate the code in lessons and daily activities.

"It's an overall atmosphere for students, staff and teachers, to model examples of these values to each other," Ms. Wright said.

Safety in Our Schools

SECURITY A MAIN PRIORITY



Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

Students, staff and parents are everywhere at the end of the school day at St. John Regional Catholic School on Tuesday.

Officials are re-evaluating safety protocols after the recent violence across U.S.

By SARAH BREITENBACH and ERIN HENK

News-Post Staff

sbreitenbach@fredericknewspost.com
ehenk@fredericknewspost.com

FREDERICK — In the wake of fatal school shootings in Colorado, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, some Frederick County schools are taking extra time to consider security.

St. John Regional Catholic School reinforced security measures last week, according to Jean Wright, director of admissions and development.

"All the doors are locked now, and you can't get in until you're identified," Ms. Wright said.

INSIDE

SHOOTER HAUNTED BY DREAMS

Lurid details about the Amish school shooting are released A-3

The school's receptionist must identify every visitor on a video monitor before the person can enter the school, Ms. Wright said.

St. John officials started to buckle down after two shootings last week.

On Sept. 27, a man took six girls hostage in Colorado, sexually assaulted some of them and then fatally shot one girl before killing himself.

On Friday, a 15-year-old Wisconsin student shot and killed his principal.

The most recent attack took place Monday in a one-room Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pa., roughly 100 miles from Frederick.

Theresa Gillespie, the parent of a St. John parent, said Monday's attack was frightening, but she has faith in the security measures in place at the school.

"Last night's story — that was horrible," she said as she stood in the school parking lot during dismissal Tuesday afternoon.

"I know (my children are) safe at this school, but anything can happen. It's just the world we live in."

Her children, Brian and Erin, are students at St. John, and two of her older children also went to the school.

"We've been here at this school since '92 and feel very safe here," Ms. Gillespie said.

Monday's shooting is the "closest to home at this point. It just brings back memories of Columbine and how shocking that was and how easy it was," Assistant Principal Paul Fer said. "So I guess it's a responsibility of ours to tighten things up."

If someone suspicious entered the school, Mr. Fer said, teachers are prepared to lock down their classrooms.

Newsletters sent home to parents keep them

(See SECURITY A-15)

Addressing the problem

The Bush administration announced Tuesday that it would host a conference on school violence next week.

In light of the recent tragedies, the conference will bring together education and law enforcement officials to talk about potential federal action to help communities prevent such attacks and handle the aftermath.

Dana Perino, presidential spokeswoman, said the conference is still in the planning stages and specific location and date are not yet available.

It is not clear if the president will attend.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Security

(Continued from A-1)

informed of security measures, he said.

While she said Monday's shooting worries her, Krushi Patel believes her two children are safe at The Banner School on North Market Street.

Her daughter Ruhee, 9, briefly attended public school in Urbana, but Ms. Patel said she moved her to The Banner School primarily for safety reasons.

Security is tighter, and administrators and teachers are accessible, she said.

"It's extremely safe," Ms. Patel said.

Public Schools

Daniel Cunningham Jr., deputy superintendent for Frederick County Public Schools, said FCPS has not made any major security changes in the last week.

When a school shooting or an event such as the sniper attacks of 2002 occur, the school system analyzes the situation to help prevent something similar from happening in Frederick.

Swipe cards, cameras and building access restriction have improved safety, according to Ray Barnes, executive director for facilities services.

And by the end of the school year, every public school will require a swipe card to gain access to the building.

The credit-card size cards will be distributed to teachers, administrators and others who work in a school. They can be programmed to provide access only at specific times.

Mr. Barnes said the card swipes will eliminate the widespread access keys allow.

"Our goal is to control access into the buildings through only allowing one of our employees to open and close the building for after-school and weekend activities," he said. "Under limited circumstances, we can give a card swipe to a nonemployee, but those should be rare circumstances."

FCPS is also putting cameras both inside and outside of its schools.

New schools are designed to force visitors to travel through the main office and check in before entering the school.

"Once they come in in the morning, the school locks all of its doors that lead from the outside into the building, and there will only be one visitor access available," Mr. Barnes said.

Frederick News Post October 14, 2006



Playgrounds dedicated

St. John Regional Catholic School playgrounds, recently installed at the school's new location on Opossumtown Pike, were officially dedicated and blessed by the Rev. Keith Boisvert, St. Katharine Drexel Church, in a ceremony Sept. 22. Students, faculty, parents and 2004-05 annual fund contributors were on hand for the event with guest of honor, Matthew Warner, who contributed \$30,000 toward the \$60,000 playground construction. The contribution, made in the name of the R.W. Warner Fund Inc., honors both of Mr. Warner's grandmothers, Mary Jo Warner and Julia Agnes Summers, who attended St. John School on Second Street. Pictured, from left, are the Rev. Boisvert; Jean Wright, director, Office of Institutional Advancement; Karen Smith, principal; and Matthew Warner.

FREDERICK NEWS POST OCTOBER 27, 2006



Staff photo by Sam Yu

Creme de la creme

Second-grader Christina Malhotra was one of six students who, for being top fundraisers, won the privilege of hitting St. John Regional Catholic School Assistant Principal Paul Fer in the face with a pie Thursday morning.

Kids ready to make waves

Internet radio broadcast helps students learn by doing

By JAMIE BUSSEY

News-Post Staff
jbussey@fredericknewspost.com

FREDERICK — St. John Regional Catholic School has begun a quest to enrich students through weekly radio broadcasts via AreaRadio.com, an Internet radio site.

Staff and students broadcast the first weekly show on AreaRadio.com last week. The program is archived, so people can listen from

their home computer on their own schedule.

The hour radio show is organized by Joelle Pitts, one of the QUEST teachers at the school. The mission of the QUEST program is to provide various types and levels of enrichment to every student, encouraging their natural talents.

The Internet radio show is an additional way to promote the school and its students to the community, said Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement for

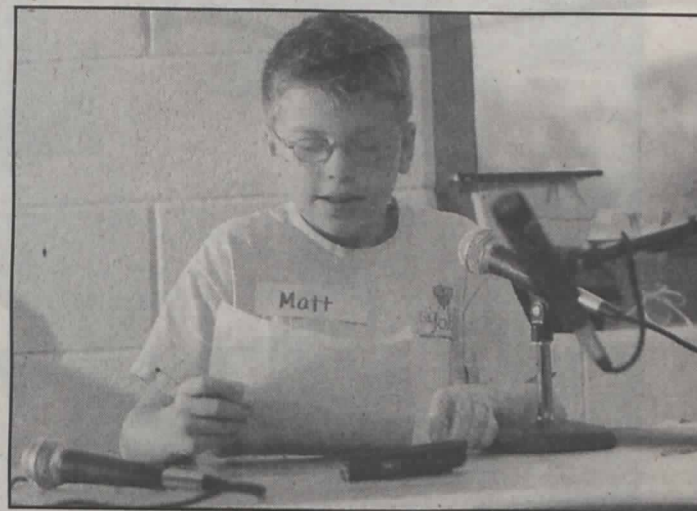
St. John school.

"We are on the cutting edge of a technology that will serve us well into the future," she said.

The radio show is put together by students from kindergarten through eighth grade and allows students to show off their different skills, Ms. Pitts said.

For example, Tuesday's show featured Matt St. Croix as the emcee, as well as a poem reading

(See RADIO A-6)



Staff photo by Doug Koontz

Radio host Matt St. Croix reads a script as he and students from St. John Regional Catholic School broadcast their first radio program.

Radio

(Continued from A-5)

by Cecilia Bracey, singing from Mary Ledyard's third-grade class, two piano pieces by Casey Aguilar and a black belt demonstration from Kate Kayak.

The show also informs listeners about what students are learning in the classroom, as well as what extracurricular activities they are involved in. Jackie Arguello, a seventh-grader, said the show is important in providing information about school activities that the audience might not hear about otherwise.

Barbara Phillips, media specialist at the school, said the show also provides students with the opportunity to learn real-life skills. By exposing the students to different media forms, teachers are encouraging students to ask questions about what they are seeing and reading.

"(They are) learning to judge the information they receive. And this can go across their careers — when they're in college, when they're doing research," Ms. Phillips said.

The show began when Ms. Pitts invited Craig Shipp of Fred-

ON THE WEB

■ VIDEO: On air at St. John's Regional Catholic School

www.fredericknewspost.com

erick.com and AreaRadio to be a guest speaker.

Mr. Shipp said he could teach the students more about radio by doing a live broadcast in the classroom, rather than just speaking about one. After broadcasting in the classroom, Mr. Shipp suggested the students set up their own show through AreaRadio.

AreaRadio began broadcasting a few months ago, and one of its initiatives is to feature non-profit organizations and local events, Mr. Shipp said. AreaRadio helped Ms. Pitts set up the technical aspects of the show, and the school received a donation to purchase microphones and other needed equipment.

Mr. Shipp said the first show went well, aside from the need for alterations in microphone levels. During the show, photos and live video are taken; they can be accessed at AreaRadio.com.

Catholic Review Jan. 25, 2007

Page 1 of 1

Frederick students surf radio waves

By GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.
gmatysek@catholicreview.org

Students of St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick have been bitten by the broadcasting bug. Through the magic of the Internet and with the support of a financial donor, every Wednesday the students produce a live program called the "St. John Radio Show" heard from 10:30-11:30 a.m. through www.arearadio.com.

The program features special guests, performances by student choirs, storytelling and more. A student's grandmother donated the funds to purchase microphones and audio equipment to make the program possible.

"We can digitally record events at the school like band concerts and then play them on the program," said Jean Wright, director of development. "Everything is archived through a podcast so listeners can go to arearadio and hear them any time they like."

Ms. Wright said the school has discovered many hidden talents among students of all ages who serve as announcers, interviewers and performers.

"It's building their self esteem and giving them more opportunities for public speaking," she said. "It's another way to promote our school. We're able to talk about open houses, enrollment and academics — and it can be heard anywhere in the world."

The first time the show was broadcast a few months ago, there were



CR Staff/Owen Sweeney III

St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, student David Allen (right) interviews Jean Wright, director of the Office of Institutional Advancement, during the school's Internet radio broadcast.

more than 300 hits to the arearadio Web site, according to Ms. Wright.

"It doesn't cost us anything, and it's limitless on where we can go with this," she said.

Students have already interviewed teachers and members of the administration, and they hope to interview influential leaders in the community such as lawmakers.

Joseph Cheli, a 10-year-old fourth grader, has served as an emcee for two of the programs. He called the experience "really fun" and the "best

thing in my life." During one of the programs, he interviewed a teacher about the history of the school.

"The hardest part was trying to think up questions," said the young parishioner of St. Joseph-on-Carroll-Manor, Buckeystown. "I try not to ask the same things."

Joseph's father worked as a radio disc jockey in the St. Louis area and his son said he was excited to follow in his dad's footsteps.

"He thinks it's really cool," Joseph said.

Frederick.com

Keyword Search

[Back to the Frederick.com home page](#)



**Do
You
Have
Something
To
Say?**

**Click Here
To Learn
How You
Can Publish
Articles Too**

Frederick.com
Businesses - Events - Classifieds

St John School LIVE Radio Show

On 9/26/06 AreaRadio broadcast LIVE from St John

By: Craig Shipp of Frederick.com

Dateline September 26, 2006

Today Joelle Pitts Quest Teacher at the St. John Regional Catholic School hosted a LIVE radio show for her students. The students organized and ran the one-hour show. The show was broadcast over the AreaRadio.com Network. The students did a wonderful job and said they are interested in producing additional LIVE shows for later dates.



Kent Courtney of AreaRadio

Below you'll find links to the audio from the show as well as some photos and video clips from the day's event. You can expect great things from these students and this Quest program in the coming years.



Kent and Joelle with some students



Nashville-bound
Brennen Leigh to
play WestSide Café
Page B-11

Slow down continues in housing market. Page A-53

Volunteers, runners ready for Frederick Marathon Sunday. Page A-4

The Gazette

Thursday May 3, 2007

FREDERICK CITY

25 cents www.gazette.net

The write stuff

Student excels at lost art

BY EVIE HAYMAN
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

When Colleen Crowley learned to write, she wrote backwards. "You could hold up the paper in the mirror, and read it perfectly," said her mother, Molly Crowley.

Today, Colleen, 10 — who now writes correctly — has continued to amaze her parents with her skills in penmanship. Last month, Colleen was named the state handwriting winner in Zaner-Bloser's National Handwriting Contest.

The award came as no surprise to the fourth-grader, as she was named a state winner in the same contest as a first-grader.

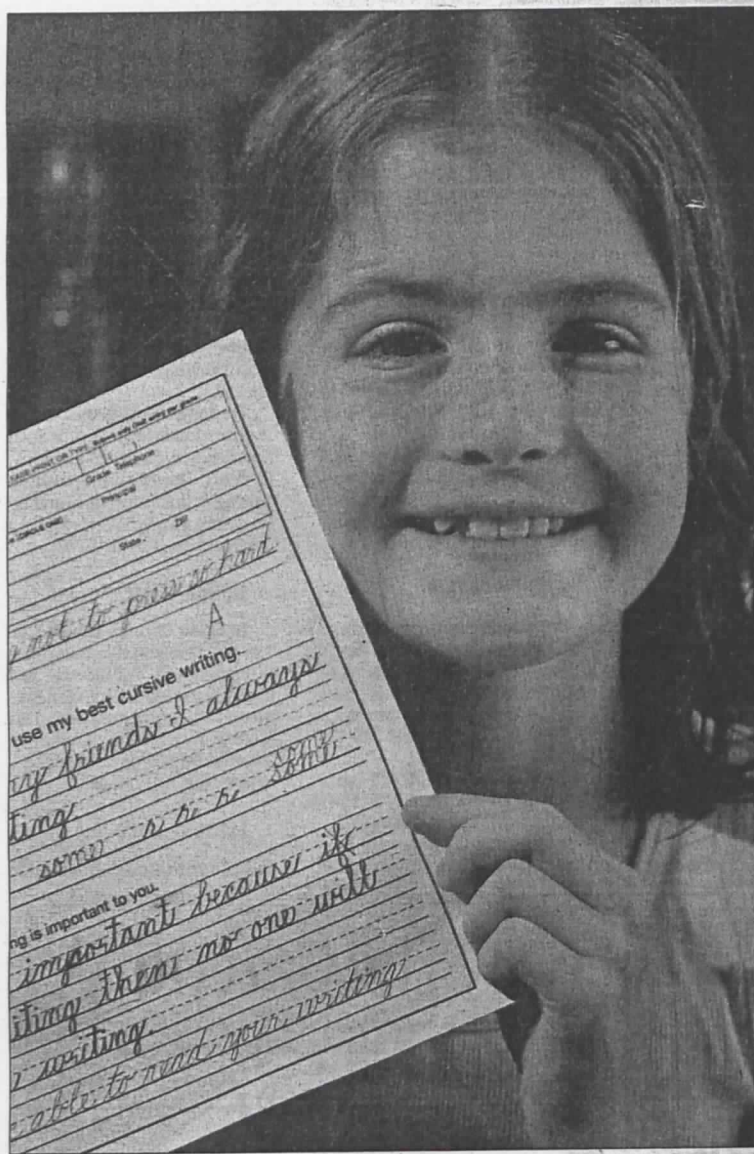
All of her classmates and other fourth-graders at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick competed against each other, Colleen said. Then the fourth-grade teachers decided which student they would enter into the contest.

Colleen's entry was deemed the best. "I was excited," she said.

She practiced to ensure that her writing was perfect for the contest. "I did a bunch of handwriting sheets and handwriting assignments," she said.

The National Handwriting Contest is sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a language arts and read-

See **PENMANSHIP**, Page A-15



BILL RYAN/THE GAZETTE

Colleen Crowley, 10, a fourth-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, shows off an award-winning handwriting sample that she entered into a contest. She also won an award for her penmanship three years ago as a first-grader.

The Catholic Review • April 26, 2007

Student awarded for penmanship

Colleen Crowley, a fourth-grader who attends St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, was named the 2007 state handwriting winner in Zaner-Bloser's National Handwriting Contest. Colleen will compete against other state winners for the national title selected for each first- through eighth-grade level. Colleen, her teachers and her principal received engraved wooden pens, certificates and \$50 gift cards for Zaner-Bloser learning materials.

Thursday, May 3, 2007 f

GAZETTE COMMUNITY NEWS

Page A-15

PENMANSHIP

■ Continued from Page A-1

ing company. Each year, schools that use Zaner-Bloser handwriting as their handwriting text may select one student from each grade level for the contest.

This year, students in grades one and two submitted manuscript samples, while older students submitted cursive samples. Entry forms on the Zaner-Bloser Web site asked students to first write their full name and then write down a designated sentence.

The final portion of the entry form asked students to write why neat handwriting is important.

TO LEARN MORE

For information, visit
www.zaner-bloser.com.

Colleen's response was simply, "so people can read it."

Entry forms were grouped into the categories of grades one and two, grades two through four, and five through eight. The Zaner-Bloser Web site provides a legibility key to help entrants use the correct size, slant, spacing and shape in their entries. Entries are judged according to these four principles.

According to Zaner-Bloser, this year there were 157,000 entries;

6,500 from Maryland.

Winners are grouped into two categories based on their school, public or private/Catholic. Judges choose one winner from each grade level in each category at the state level.

From these, national grade level winners will be chosen in each grade in both categories. The 16 national winners will then compete against each other to be named the Grand National Champion.

Colleen is still waiting to hear if she has been selected to move on to the national competition.

State and national level winners receive a plaque and prize

package. The schools that the winners attend will also receive awards. A plaque and prize package will be awarded to the grand national champion.

Colleen, who is left-handed, began her study of cursive in school as a third-grader. "We started learning last year," she said. "But we practiced more this year."

Even with all this practice, Colleen is still challenged by cursive. "Sometimes it's hard," she said. "I have trouble writing the letter 'Z'."

Colleen also enjoys writing creatively, and has done so since she was young. "When I was about 6 or 7 I started writing stories," she

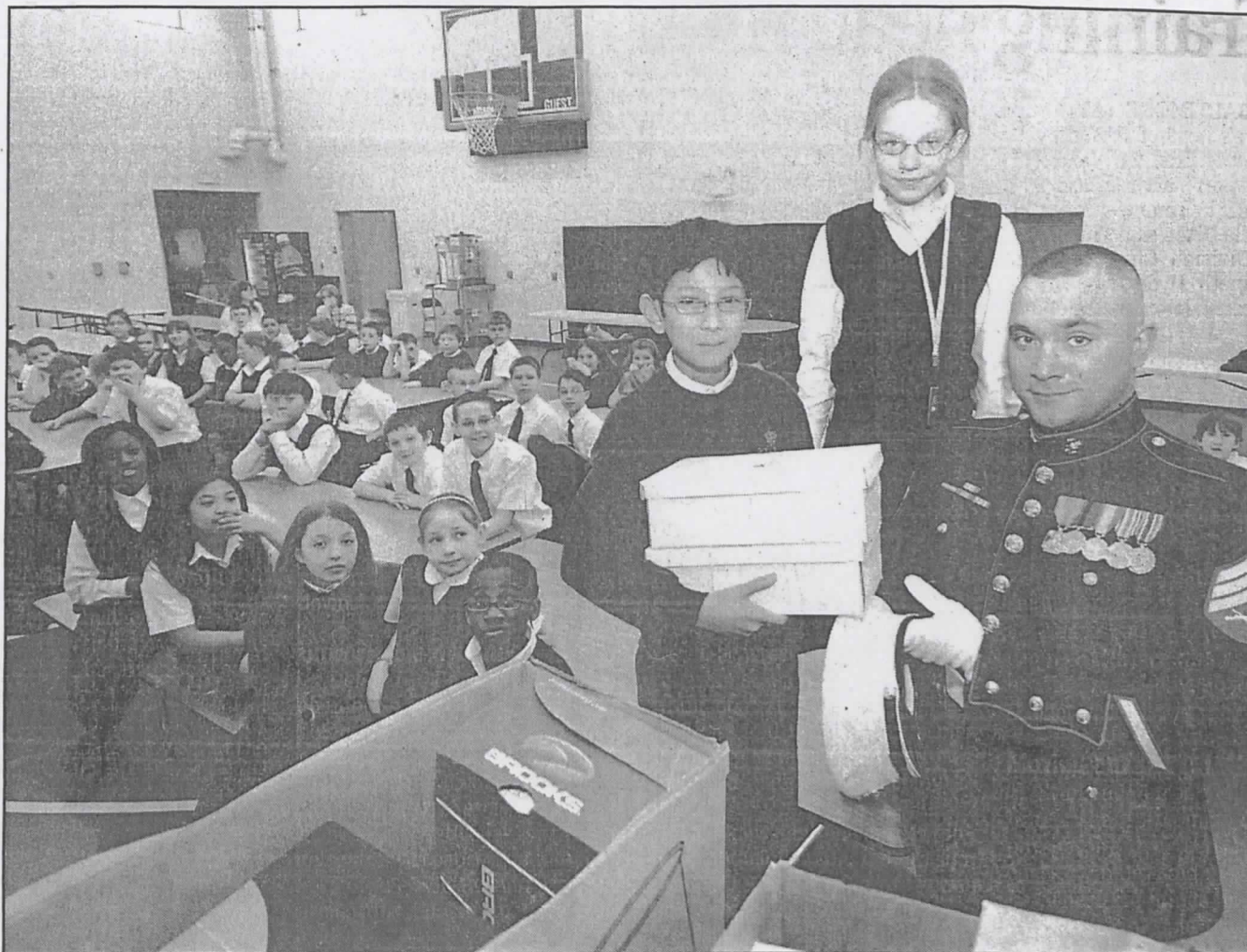
said.

"I write about all sorts of things," she said. "Fake things and real things."

Colleen's favorite class at school is no surprise — language arts. She loves to read, and has too many favorite books to choose just one.

Colleen hopes to pursue her love of learning and literature in the future. "I want to be a teacher when I grow up," she said. "I like being taught, and I think it would be fun."

For those who wish to improve the quality of their writing, Colleen has a simple tip. "Take your time," she said.



Staff photo by Bill Green

Lending some helping hands

The fifth grade students at St. John Regional Catholic School recently presented the local Marine Corps with boxes of supplies that will be sent to troops serving overseas. The collection was a community service project for the school's observance of National Catholic Schools Week. Shown presenting some of the boxes to Sgt. Charles Dane of the Bravo company, 4th LAR stationed at Fort Detrick, are, Nick Ondrish and Sierra Steigner.



A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

by Lisa Jackson, RN

The holiday decorations for the emergency department have always been a task taken on by the staff in the department, as with all other areas in the hospital. But this December, we got a little help from our friends in the community. It was to our pleasure and delight that the **Art Club at St. John's Elementary School** provided the Pediatric ED with a host of beautiful holiday pictures. The Art Club included children from the 2nd thru the 8th grades. They were kind enough to make the art and put it up in the hallways. What a wonderful gift to us and all the children who pass through the pediatric ED during the Christmas season. Other participants that added to the holiday cheer in the hallways of the ED were a senior from **Thomas Johnson High School** and a senior from **Tuscarora High School**. As part of their community projects, they assisted with the theme of "Christmas in the Country" by making various art pieces and signs. With all this help and the staff contributing to the hallway decorations, the ED had a special feeling this season. We certainly appreciate all the hard work that went into making "the season bright".

Frederick Memorial Healthcare System

GAZETTE COMMUNITY NEWS

Thursday, February 8, 2007 f

St. John students connect with community through projects

On Jan. 29, students at **St. John Regional Catholic School** participated in a day of com-

munity service as part of Catholic Schools Week. All of the student projects will be donated to Homewood at Crumland Farms, Hope Alive, the American Red Cross, Frederick Memorial Hospital,

Hagerstown Correctional Facility, Gale House, Olson House, Frederick Rescue Mission or Beacon House. Jean Wright, the director of the Office of Institutional Management at the school, said that the students were very happy to help the community.

"It went great...[the kids] were very excited," she said.

Parents and students have been making deliveries to the various organizations all week. Wright explained that families at the school provided all of

the materials used in the service projects.

"Everything used was donated by kids in those grades," she said.

Want to let everyone know what's happening at your school? Is there a special student that received an award? Send items to School Notes, 2A N. Market St., Fourth Floor, Frederick, MD 21701, e-mail frederick@gazette.net, call 301-846-2117 or fax 301-846-2124.

School Notes

EVIE HAYMAN

munity service as part of Catholic Schools Week.

All of the student projects will be donated to Homewood at Crumland Farms, Hope Alive, the American Red Cross, Frederick Memorial Hospital,

News Story from NBC25 March 28, 2007

FREDERICK COUNTY, MD - Aspiring journalists from one local school are getting a jump start on their careers.

Students K through 8th grade at Saint John's Catholic School in Frederick broadcast a radio show every week. They tell jokes, sing songs, and even interview business men and women from the community.

They begin every Wednesday. They broadcast at 10:30 a.m.

"Well, I tell what's coming up next and what we are going to show or who's on the radio show, and it's a really cool experience doing it," says host Nicole Cederdahl.

The idea came after a guest speaker visited the students from Area Radio, an on-line resource to post audio content.

"He said, 'I have a better idea. How about I come in and your students actually perform on the radio and run the show for an hour?'," said teacher Joeline Pitts.

The Control Center consists of a computer and sound board. All of the equipment, and the microphones cost them about \$1,000, which was donated to the school. The program teaches the students about accountability because they are expected to run the show on their own.

The kids come up with theme for each show and Pitts writes the scripts. They said that they learn to ad-lib and deal with technical issues all the time.

"If something changes, like say someone can't be there, it happened to me a couple of shows ago. If you have to stall it teaches us what to do," said student Katie D'Addato.

The show first aired last October. The radio-show hosts said that if you make a mistake, it's okay.

"You talk and you mess up, but it's ok. People who are actually on the radio everyday mess-up a lot and it's ok," said Noah Ismael.

The talent said that it's all part of a days job. The school hopes to eventually broadcast shows out in the field.

Scouts help with cookie drive

Frederick residents and businesses recently pitched in to help send 144 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to wounded soldiers in Iraq.

St. John's Regional Catholic School Brownie Troop No. 81085 spent last month seeking donations to send boxes of cookies with personal notes to U.S. soldiers.



City Beat
KEITH L. MARTIN

The "Something Sweet from Home" fundraiser generated \$500, enough to ship 144 boxes of cookies and personalized letters overseas. The event helped the 15 members of the troop in their "Gift of Caring" project.

Help came from the owners of the Frederick Coffee Company to connect the group with a medical unit overseas. Dennis Swope, the general manager of the Wal-Mart on Guilford Drive in Frederick paid the \$130 shipping cost, "no questions asked," said Fran Haller, the troop's cookie manager.

"The girls did such a fantastic job and their hearts were really in it," she said. "They really brought in the people and the Frederick community was great to support them."

Haller said the cookies shipped on March 23 and almost a week later, letters and e-mails of thanks started to come in.

Capt. Bruce Frohman of the 399th Combat Support Hospital Unit sent the troop an e-mail telling them that "little things really do mean a lot."

"Receiving cookies, cards and such from people such as yourselves remind us that we are not forgotten as we perform our duties here in Iraq," the Army Reservist wrote from Al Asad, Iraq.

Haller called the notes "heartwarming" and said she and the girls were happy that those wounded overseas had a taste of home during a difficult time.

"We wanted to get [the cookies] to those wounded in the medical unit," she said. "To have the cookies waiting for them when wounded, hopefully made the medicine go down smoother ... The girls are very happy and already planning for next year."

Frederick News Post April 26, 2007

Troop to troops

Like West's, the strenuous work of a local Brownie troop also paid off.

The girls raised more than \$500 and shipped more than 140 boxes of Girl Scout cookies — double the number of boxes they sent last year — to staff members and wounded troops in Iraq medical units.

The 7- and 8-year-olds in St. John's Regional Catholic School Brownie Troop 81085 launched their campaign in March, collecting donations to send boxes of cookies. The Brownies invited donors to write a letter to the recipient.

The Brownies began receiving e-mails March 31 from

(See WALKER-BAIRD A-6)

Walker-Baird

(Continued from A-5)

some of the medical units, that "the cookies arrived and many, many thanks for the 'Something Sweet From Home,'" wrote troop

leader Sharon Eade in an e-mail to *The News-Post*. "I'm very proud of the troop and their values of what it means to be a Girl Scout."

Last year the Brownies shipped 75 Girl Scout cookie

boxes to troops in Pakistan and Afghanistan through Fort Detrick, as well as holiday cards in December. Several service members sent letters, e-mails and photos back in thanks.

St. John's sixth graders read more than 500 books

Sixth grade students at St. John Regional Catholic School were named regional winners in the Washington Capitals "Reading is Cool" program. Students were challenged to

School Notes

EVIE HAYMAN

read at least five books during January and February.

Sixth grade students read more than 500 books during this period.

Students in third through sixth grade at the school participated in the program, reading a total of 1,800 books.

According to a press release, the Capitals mascot, Slapshot, will visit the school in celebration their win.

The program was sponsored by Chevy Chase Bank.

News Story Page - John Adams Elementary Named Washington Capitals' Reading Is Cool... Page 1 of 1

John Adams Elementary Named Washington Capitals' Reading Is Cool Winning School

March 29, 2007

Capitals defenseman Brian Pothier and Slapshot to visit winning third graders

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 29, 2007 – Washington Capitals defenseman Brian Pothier and mascot Slapshot will visit Lemoire Amir's third-grade class at John Adams Elementary School in Alexandria, Va., in mid-May to celebrate the class' victory in the Capitals' Reading Is Cool contest for the 2006-07 school year. The group of 18 third graders read more than 4,000 books during January and February.

Amir's class also received box seats to the Capitals game on March 16 vs. Toronto, where they were recognized on the video board and visited by Capitals forwards Matt Pettinger and Eric Fehr.

The Washington Capitals created the Reading Is Cool program to encourage students to develop essential reading habits while also demonstrating the importance of working as a team towards a common goal. This year more than 200 classes comprising 5,010 third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students participated in the Reading Is Cool program from Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland.

Amir's third grade class was the contest's overall winner, while other regional winners included Travis Long's fourth grade class at Avalon Elementary (Maryland region) and Katina Bryant's third grade class at Amidon Elementary (D.C. region).

The top-three classes from each region who read the most books for their respective grades will also receive a visit from team mascot, Slapshot. Winning classes include: Gwendolyn Lewis Foster's fourth-grade class at Key Elementary School, Christopher Horton's fifth-grade class at the British School of Washington and Susan Bandler's sixth-grade class at Bancroft Elementary School for the D.C. area. Maryland winners include: Catherine Thorson's third-grade class at Marley Elementary School, Brett Imirie's fifth-grade class at Stoneleigh Elementary School and Mrs. Johnson's sixth-grade class at St. John Regional Catholic School. Robin Dodd's fourth-grade class at Colvin Run Elementary School, Randall Miller's fifth-grade class at Kings Glen Elementary School and Roger Kingsbury's sixth-grade class at Fairhill Elementary School were the winners for the Virginia area.



Contest winners announced

State winners in the 2007 Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education contest were announced at the Maryland State Convention held in Baltimore. Sponsored locally by Court Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, this annual contest consists of seven categories: Essay, poetry, art, computer art, poster, photography and music. The themes this year were: "The Beauty of God's Creation," and "taking Time for Others." Court member Mary Jane Duggan won first place in the state adult division for poetry. Shown above are, St. John's Regional Catholic School state winners from left, are, Marguerite Haddad, second place, division 1 art; Nicholas Frank, first place, division 2 photography; Mara Franciscovich, second place, division 2, essay; and Marial Pierce, first place, division 2 poster.

The Catholic Review • April 12, 2007

Children win for reading

By reading more than 500 books in two months, sixth-grade students of St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, have been named regional winners in the Washington Capitals Reading is Cool program in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The school was one of three named from Maryland in this program sponsored by Chevy Chase Bank that challenged each student to read a minimum of five books during January and February. The students will receive a visit from Slapshot, the Washington Capitals mascot.



Collects for food bank

St. John Regional Catholic School's National Junior Honor Society members recently collected 1,612 cans of food for the Frederick Food Bank. Donations were made by school families for the group's annual community service project. NJHS members are shown, from left, Nina Price, Lauren O'Boyle, Jake Sabatano, Johanna Rigby, Andrew Rempe, Alec Roskowski, Kathryn Johanson, MaryKate O'Donoghue, Julianna Walker and Hannah Geerings. Not shown is Chloe Hebrank.

Students celebrate Pi Day

Math classes at St. Michael the Archangel School, Overlea, and St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, celebrated Pi Day this month. Students in Bridget Gallant's sixth-grade math class at St. Michael learned how to calculate pi, sang Pi Day songs, colored symbols of pi, discussed pi and ate pieces of blueberry, apple, peach and pumpkin pie. St. John's math teach-

er Theresa Tiskos said her middle school classes celebrate every year with projects such as memorizing pi digits (204 is the school's record), hula hoop contests, pi art and slide shows. Students share approximately 200 pies of different varieties. As students gathered in the gymnasium, they sang happy birthday to pi and watched the giant pi drop on the Internet.

Catholic Review March 29, 2007

4/20/07
Fr. Post



Scouts and leaders from Pack 274 receive the Gold Medallion Award from the Archdiocese at the Baltimore Basilica.

Pack 274 wins national award

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Cub Scout Pack 274 from St. John the Evangelist Church has been chosen as a national winner of the Gold Medallion Award.

Packs awarded the honor epitomize those units that excel at providing youth with quality programs including religious activities, religious emblems participation, outdoor activities and special events that encompass the religious, vocational and educational aspects of Scouting under Catholic auspices.

Pack 274 was selected for the

honor from all of the Catholic packs in the Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware region as well as the archdiocese of the military.

"The boys, parents and leaders of Pack 274 should be very proud of this award. This pack is an excellent example of a well rounded and committed Scouting program," said Amy Spessard, National Catholic Committee on Scouting Catocin Mountain District Representative.

Pack 274 was also awarded the Golden Bow Award, and the Pope Pius IV Award from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Fleet Reserve announces essay contest winners

Katie Johanson, an eighth-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School, received first place for her grade level in an essay contest sponsored by the

Service Notes

Fleet Reserve Association.

Katie was asked to write a response to the prompt, "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me".

She was honored with a \$200 savings bond and an American flag that flew over the Capitol.

Sixteen students from St. John received honors in the Catholic Daughters of America 2007 Education Contest.

According to a press release, students entered in the categories of essay, art, poster, poetry, photography and computer art.

The students were Maggie Ballantyne, Tracey Breen, Nicole Cederdahl, Eddie Dalkiewicz,

Mara Franciscovich, Nicholas Frank, Mary Helen Galleno, Marguerite Haddad, Molly Kelly, Daniel Kosciusko, Daniel Moore, Quortney Moulton, Sarah Peters, Marial Pierce, Nick Pollak and Natalie Wright.

— EVIE HAYMAN

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007 | THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST | B-13

JTS



Catholic Daughters contest winners

Awards were recently presented to winners in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education contest. Sponsored locally by Court St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 278, this annual contest consists of seven categories: Essay, poetry, poster, art, computer art, photography and music. The themes this year were: "The Beauty of God's Creation" and "Taking Time for Others." St. John's Regional Catholic School winners were, from left, front row, Sarah Peters, third place, division 1 art; Natalie Wright, second place, division 1 poetry; Marguerite Haddad, first place, division 1 art; Tracey Breen, second place, division 1 art; Mary Helen Galleno, first place, division 1 essay; Nicole Cederdahl, second place, division 1 essay; Nick Pollak, third place, division 1 essay. Back row, Marial Pierce, first place, division 2 poster; Mara Franciscovich, first place, division 2 essay; Maggie Ballantyne, third place, division 2 photography; Eddie Dalkiewicz, third place, division 2 essay; Daniel Kosciusko, first place, division 2 computer art; Daniel Moore, second place, division 2 photography; Molly Kelly, second place, division 2 poster; Quortney Moulton, third place, division 2 poster; Nicholas Frank, first place, division 2 photography.

FNP 5/8/07

History Day Winner!

■ ■ ■
A St. John Regional Catholic School seventh-grader recently took top honors at the statewide History Day competition.

Mara Franciscovich won the contest at the University of Maryland Baltimore County for her PowerPoint presentation "Titanic — a fascinating paradox."

She will compete in the National History Day contest in June at the University of Maryland, College Park.

St. John sixth-graders take top spots in MLK essay contest

By SARAH BREITENBACH

News-Post Staff
sbreitenbach@fredericknewspost.com

FREDERICK — St. John Regional Catholic School sixth-graders Vincent Lopez and Thomas Colket associate the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with friendship and respect.

Slice OF Life

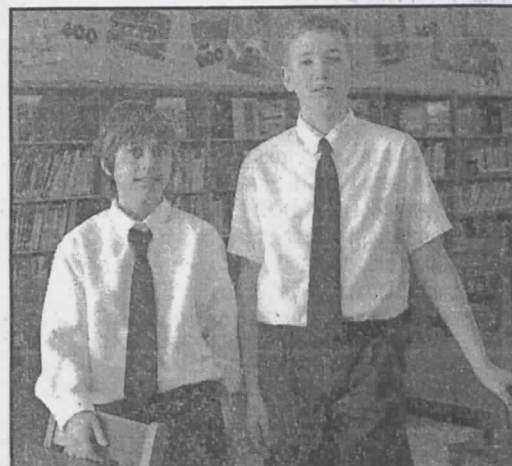
The pair recently took first and second place, respectively, in an essay contest to honor the late civil rights leader.

The contest, sponsored by Mount St. Mary's University, asked students to address how King's message influences their lives.

"I just thought about all my friends in school who are black and how they affect me and I wrote that down," Thomas, 11, said.

Both Thomas and Vincent completed the essay as an extra credit assignment and were awarded

(See SLICE A-6)



Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

St. John Regional Catholic School sixth-graders Vincent Lopez, left, and Thomas Colket won an essay contest sponsored by Mount St. Mary's University on the subject of Martin Luther King Jr.

Slice

(Continued from A-5)

certificates for their achievement. They were honored in a ceremony at the university earlier this month.

Vincent, 12, said he believes

King's message is carried on in the friendships he develops with his peers.

"I think it's pretty easy," Vincent said. "Because I don't judge people by their skin, I just judge people by the way they act and

the way they behave."

Thomas said the key to carrying on the King legacy is respect.

"(King) taught about how to respect everybody and how to be fair to everybody," Vincent said.

The contest was held in honor

of Black History Month, which has its origins in 1926 when a black scholar named Carter G. Woodson launched a week-long campaign to focus national attention on the contributions of black people on American society.

*American Girl
Magazine
May 2007*



Photo: Drake Sorey

Paper Pursuit



● Use a cloth lunch bag instead of paper lunch bags, and carry food in reusable plastic containers, not bags.

● Use both sides of the paper when writing, and use the flip sides of printed paper that otherwise would be recycled.

Most girls don't like to think about garbage. But trash was all that Julia U. had on her mind after her science class had spent time learning about natural resources.

"I realized that our school didn't have recycling bins," says the 9-year-old Maryland girl. "If we don't recycle, more trees will get chopped down, and that means more animals need to find new shelter."

Julia knew just where to turn for help in getting recycling bins at school. Her older sisters were on the student council. Julia gave a speech to the council about how the bins could help the earth.

The student council formed a recycling committee and got to work, with Julia's help. "I did online research about what companies offer bins," she remembers. Finally, Julia heard that the bins had been ordered.

But months went by, and no bins arrived. By summer vacation, Julia worried that the school had forgotten about her recycling mission. But when Julia walked down the hall on the first day of school the next year, she could not believe her eyes. Recycling bins sat outside all of the school's classrooms. "I thought to myself, 'I did that! I did that!'" Julia exclaims.

Now she is happy to report that her school recycles more than 250 pounds of paper each week. "It makes me feel proud!" ★

Student spurs recycling program at school

By SARAH BREITENBACH

News-Post Staff
sbreitenbach@fredericknews.com

Julia Usiak, 9, approached the student council at St. John Regional Catholic School last school year and asked that students start a recycling program.

However, Julia, a fourth-grader at the Frederick school, didn't see the idea come to fruition until she returned in the fall.

With the help of Pinnacle Waste Inc. a waste management company owned by David Hood, a St. John parent, facilities staff and student council members were able to distribute recycling bins throughout the school.

Every day students take paper trash from their classrooms to hall-

Slice OF Life

ways bins that are then carted off to a central storage location before being taken away so the paper can be recycled.

Students also recycle plastic bottles from their lunches, aluminum from the school's kitchen and cardboard boxes used to ship supplies.

Hood and school facility manager Jim Ulmer estimate that more than 1,000 pounds of trash is hauled away from St. John and St. Katharine Drexel, a parish on campus, each month.

The school also has been able to reduce its weekly trash pick-up days from three to two. The third day is used to haul recyclables off campus.

Hood and student council adviser

Ethel Brauer said students have taken the project's message home to their parents.

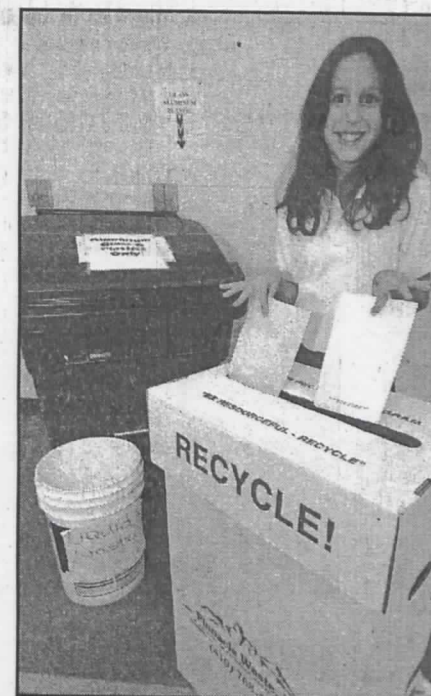
"The greatest result of this whole thing (is parents) walk to me and say, 'I can't throw one thing away at home without Johnny, Bobby or Sue saying no,'" Hood said.

Julia's effort to make her classmates more earth conscious also was noted outside her school building.

The fourth-grader appeared in the June 2007 issue of American Girl magazine as one of the publication's "green girls," a feature about girls who are friends of the environment.

When the magazine hit newsstands, Julia autographed her friends' copies.

"Oh my gosh, they were even more excited than me," she said.



Julia Usiak, a fourth-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School, has initiated a recycling program there.

Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

Frederick News Post May 2, 2007

FREDERICK NEWS POST 5/6/07



Catholic education topic

The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek recently had several educators from the Catholic school system speak to the club. The club heard about the history of Catholic education in Frederick County and the commitment to provide a quality, professional education to area students. Shown, from left, is Mike McGowan, member of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek; Carolina Pugh, Friends of Catholic Education; Karen Smith, St. John Regional Catholic School; John Capoccia, vice president, Rotary Club of Carroll Creek; Dr. Robert Pastoor, president, St. John Catholic Prep; and Shannon McIntyre Skousgaard, who also spoke to the club about the Character Counts program.

C-12 | THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST | THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007

EVI



Educators honored

St. John Regional Catholic School teachers and teacher aides were recently honored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore for 10 or more years of service to Catholic education. Pictured, from left, are Barbara Kyle, second grade teacher; Denise Price, aide; Liz O'Donoghue, seventh grade teacher; Ethel Brauer, Cardinal's Award recipient, seventh and eighth grade teacher; Lily Spelman, aide and Sybil Krauss, aide.



Tuition donated

Local developer Greentree Homes at Tuscarora Creek recently donated one full student tuition to St. John Regional Catholic School. The tuition was auctioned at the school's annual gala auction event held May 11. Pictured, from left, are, Paul and Patty Hebrank, fair chairpersons; Christina Lovell, high bidder; Shawn Kelly, representing Greentree Homes; and Colleen and Ray Bowman, fair co-chairpersons. Lovell's daughter has been enrolled in kindergarten for the 2007-2008 school year. The auction is one of many events associated with St. John's 17th annual Spring Fair that takes place June 2 and 3.

Frederick News Post

B15

Gazette May 10, 07

June events abound at St. John's

St. John Regional Catholic School will host a basket bingo from 6-10 p.m., June 1 at the school.

There will be 20 games, door prizes and Longaberger basket raffles. Tickets are 15 in advance

or \$20 at the door.

- On May 17, Frederick Mayor William Holtzinger will proclaim the week of May 27 to June 3 St. John Regional Catholic School Fair Week in honor of the fair.

- St. John will also have a Spring Fair at the school from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., June 2 and 12:30-6 p.m., June 3. There will be games, food, entertainment, silent and live auctions, basket raffles, a \$10,000 raffle, fireworks and more.

For more information about any of these events, call 301-662-6722 or visit www.sjrccs.org.

The Gazette May 17, 2007

St. John's hosts basket bingo

St. John Regional Catholic School will host a basket bingo from 6-10 p.m., June 1 at the

school.

There will be 20 games, three specials, King Tut Peelers, door prizes and Longaberger basket raffles. Tickets are 15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

St. John is located at 8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. For more information about any of these events, call 301-662-6722 or visit www.sjrccs.org.

Cub Scouts earn national award

Cub Scout Pack 274 from St. John the Evangelist Church was recently chosen as a national winner of the Golden Medallion Award.

The pack, made up of students in grades one through five, are sponsored by the church on East Second Street in Frederick.

The pack's nearly 70 scouts were honored for excelling at numerous programs and activities that encompass Catholic scouting by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The scouts were chosen for the honor from all the Catholic packs in the Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware region.

Jennifer Gerlock of Frederick, a Tiger Den leader, said all members of the pack put in a great deal of effort to earn their medals and perform service projects in the community.

"This is a very prestigious award and everyone worked hard to provide the kids with activities," she said. "We are all very excited."

St. John student wins Maryland title in contest

By SUZANNE MOLINO SINGLETON
ssingleton@catholicreview.org

Standing in front of a panel of judges to present her PowerPoint entry on the Titanic for a National History Day contest, Mara Franciscovich held her composure. Although judges tried to stump her with questions about the 46,000-ton ocean liner, the 13-year-old returned steady responses.

"It was the fourth time she had presented it," said her mother, Cheryl Linscott, of the seventh-grader from St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick. "The judges bombarded these kids with questions on their topics."

One judge even asked Mara what Italy and Germany thought of the Titanic and why she had not looked into their newspapers for information.

Mara self-assuredly

answered, "I read the ones in English."

"Titanic – A Fascinating Historical Paradox," in which Mara depicted how the ship was both a tragedy and a triumph, won her first place in Frederick County. She won the finals at the state level and

'I'm going next year and I'm going to win this.'

– Mara Franciscovich

was named the Junior Individual Documentary winner from Maryland.

That title qualified her for the June four-day national competition, which was held this year at the University of Maryland, College Park, and involved students from across the country and overseas.

"It's an enormous thing,"

said Ms. Linscott. "Some (projects) were breathtaking ... the talent of these kids! Some of the historical performances were unbelievable."

The contest's requirements were very strict and students had to accomplish the work solo, then defend their topics to the judges.

"We went into this completely blind," said the proud mom. "Mara just did hers as a school social studies project. It was amazing hers went as far as it did."

Although Mara didn't make the national finals, she had a "tremendous experience," said Ms. Linscott, and learned what it would take to make it next year.

The young girl diligently attended the remainder of the competition with pen and notebook in hand, and commented, "I'm going next year and I'm going to win this."



Courtesy photo

Distinguished graduate

Patsy Shepley Reifsnider was named St. John Regional Catholic School's 2007 Distinguished Graduate at the school's recent eighth grade graduation ceremonies. Each year the school honors a past graduate who has made a contribution to American life and/or the Catholic Church. Reifsnider was a member of the eighth grade class of 1957 and a 1961 graduate of St. John's Catholic Prep (formerly St. John's at Prospect Hall). She served for many years as a parent volunteer and is currently a second grade teacher's aide at St. John Regional. She has been a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church and is a current member of St. Katharine Drexel parish. In recent years, she was instrumental in establishing area nursing home masses as well as serving as a parish Eucharistic minister. Pictured with Reifsnider is her husband Nelson Reifsnider.

she was instrumental in establishing area nursing home masses as well as serving as a parish Eucharistic minister.

Distinguished graduate honored

Patsy Shepley Reifsnider was named St. John Regional Catholic School's 2007 Distinguished Graduate at the school's recent eighth grade graduation ceremonies.

Each year the school honors a past graduate who has made a contribution to American life and the Catholic Church.

Reifsnider was a member of the eighth grade class of 1957 and is a 1961 graduate of St. John's Catholic Prep (formerly St. John's at Prospect Hall).

She served for many years as a parent volunteer and is currently a second grade teacher's aide at St. John Regional. In recent years,

St. John's trumps goal for Annual Fund

The Board of Directors at St. John's Catholic Prep supported the school's Annual Fund Campaign by recently contributing a cash donation of \$11,620.

The 2006-2007 Annual Fund income totaled \$68,752, surpassing its goal of \$50,000.

In addition to cash donations, in-kind donations were made totaling \$25,410, of which \$20,360 was contributed by board members.

School Notes will publish sporadically throughout the summer. Send items to School Notes, 2A N. Market St., Fourth Floor, Frederick, MD 21701, e-mail fredrick@gazette.net, call 301-846-2117 or fax 301-846-2124.


Gazette 6/28/07

Design An Ad NIE 2007



Winners

Share A Commute
And
Don't Pollute!



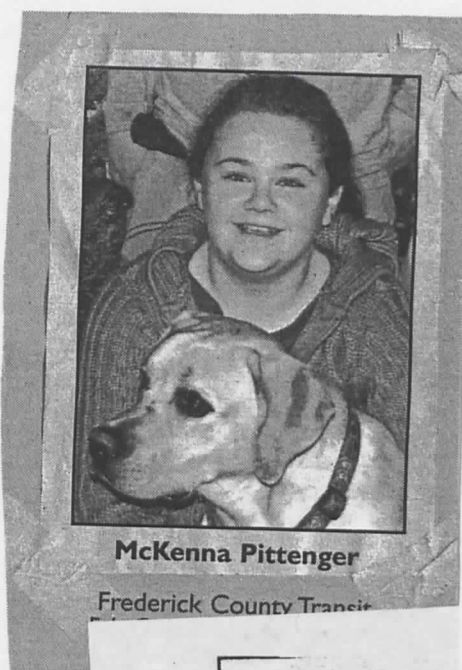
Connecting People
And Places

Public Transportation * Commuter
Assistance * Save Gas + Money
Too! Ride **TRANSIT**

For more info call:
301-694-2065

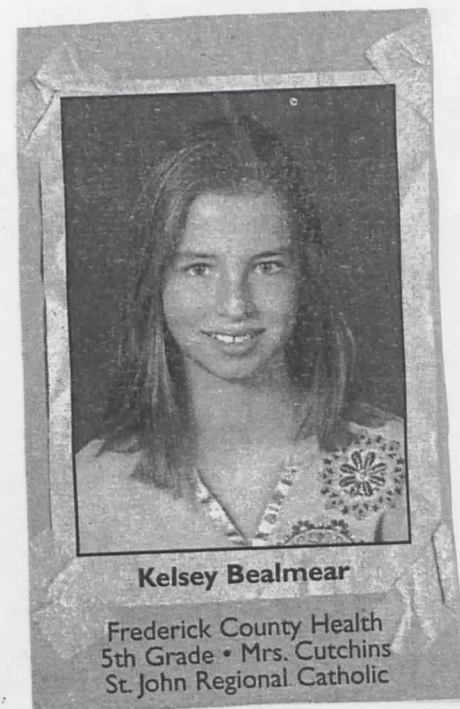
115521

Reducing Air Pollution is Easy!



McKenna Pittenger

Frederick County Transit



Kelsey Bealmear

Frederick County Health
5th Grade • Mrs. Cutchins
St. John Regional Catholic

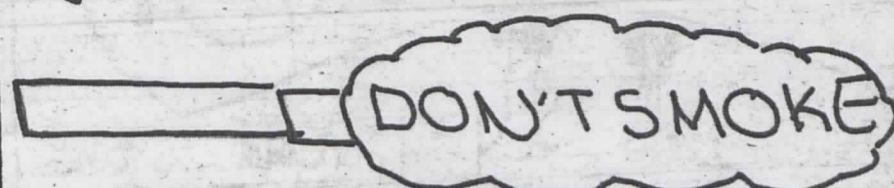
The Way For Me is to
be Smoke Free

Did you know there are 4,000
chemicals in a single
cigarette???



DON'T use tobacco
products!

Stay Fit and healthy DO
NOT smoke!



Frederick County Health Department
350 Montevue Lane • Frederick, MD 21702
301-631-3289 • TTY Maryland Relay • 1-800-735-2258
www.frederickhealth.org/substanceabuse/

115511