

FREDERICK NEWS POST AUGUST 29, 2007

PG. 1

ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Staff photo by Graham Cullen

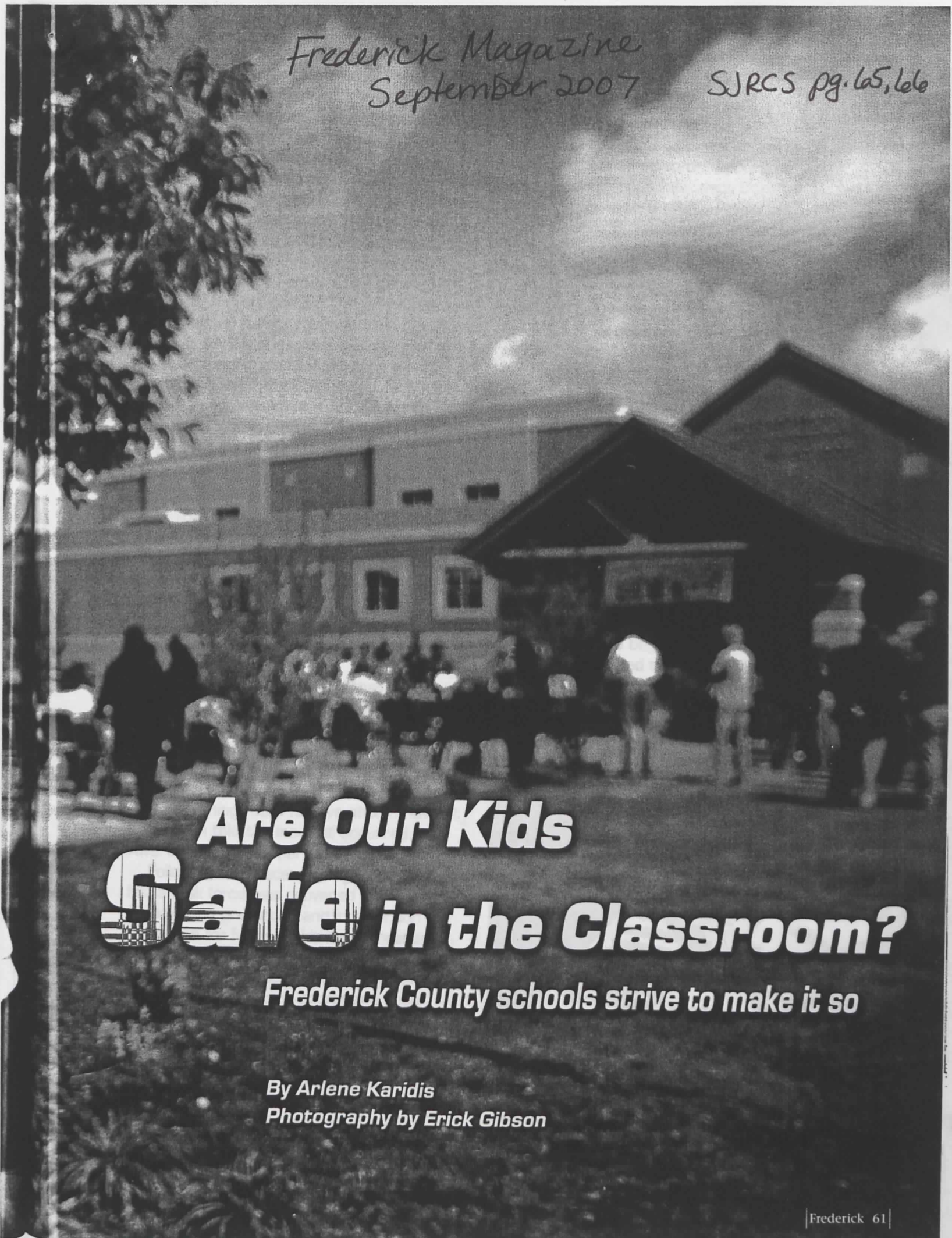
## The first day was a blur

St. John Regional Catholic School students file down a stairwell after being dismissed from classes on the first day of school Tuesday.



Frederick Magazine  
September 2007

SJRC5 pg. 65, 66



# **Are Our Kids Safe in the Classroom?**

*Frederick County schools strive to make it so*

*By Arlene Karidis  
Photography by Erick Gibson*



## Eighth-graders score well on standardized college exams

By SARAH BREITENBACH

News-Post Staff

sbreitenbach@fredericknewspost.com

High school seniors might be envious of Janine Bainger and Julia Zukus, both eighth-graders at St. John Regional Catholic School.

The pair hold scores on two standardized college admissions tests that, if they were old enough, would likely get them into a university.

Janine, 12, took the SAT last year when she was in seventh grade.

The SAT, perhaps the best known college admissions test, has three parts — critical

reading, writing and math — each worth 800 points.

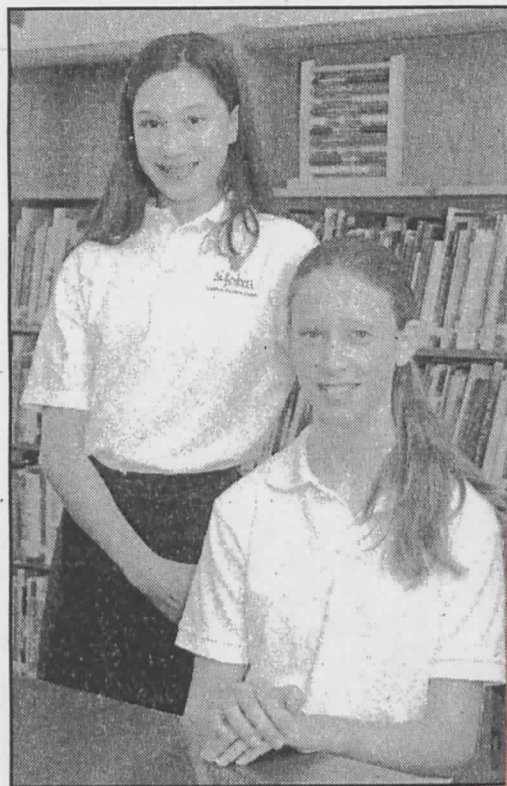
Janine scored 520 points on the critical reading and 560 on the math portion of the test. Those scores are above the national averages of 502 and 515.

Jean Wright, director of development and admissions for St. John, said Janine's math score was particularly impressive because the math portion of the SAT is based in part on geometry, a course Janine had yet to take when she attempted the test.

Her score however, won't count when it's time to apply to colleges; Janine will have to take the SAT again in high school.

"I think it will be a little easier for me than

(See SLICE A-6)



Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

**St. John Regional Catholic School eighth-graders Janine Bainger, left, and Julia Zukus have scored high on college admissions tests. Janine took the SAT and Julia took the ACT.**

### Slice

(Continued from A-5)

some high schoolers," Janine said. "I'm not looking forward to taking it again."

Julia, who is also 12, chose to take the ACT, a lesser known test that measures student performance in four subjects — English, math, reading and science.

Her composite score was 22 of a possible 36 points, a score high enough to qualify for the Center for Talented Youth, a program run by Johns Hopkins University.

Both girls are part of CTY which is designed to foster aca-

demic achievement. Students have to take, and score well on, either the SAT or ACT to participate.

Alison Rodbourn, school counselor at St. John, said each year several students from the school qualify to participate in CTY.

"As far as I understand it, from talking to parents, that's why some parents want their kids to (take) the SAT or the ACT," she said. "... Just so they know how (it feels) to take an SAT."

## 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 Francovich 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

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."

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

**— Mara Francovich**

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,"



## St. John Regional set to learn about art

The National Endowment for the Humanities has selected **St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick**, as a grant recipient in the Picturing America program. As one of 19 Maryland schools to obtain the non-monetary grant, St. John's will receive 40 large-scale poster reproductions of American art. The laminated images, such as "Washington Crossing the Delaware" and "Last of the Mohicans," will be on display throughout the school and will be incorporated into art and history classes during the year. St. John will be required to submit a project report in the spring. Picturing America, a project of We the People, is conducted in association with the American Library Association.

*Catholic Review*  
9/6/07

A10

NEWS

The Catholic Review • September 27, 2007

# Mount partners with Frederick Catholic school

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

Aspiring teachers from Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg are getting first-hand experience teaching in the Catholic school system thanks to a new partnership between their college and St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick.

Working with teacher men-

tors at St. John, education students from the Mount teach a variety of subjects at the inter-parish school. They also complete classroom observations as part of their preparation to become certified teachers.

The program began last year and was formalized when Dr. Thomas H. Powell, Mount St. Mary's president, signed an Aug. 30 memo of understanding with Dr. Ronald J. Valen-

ti, superintendent of Catholic schools, and other area education leaders.

St. John joins a previously existing professional development school network in Frederick County consisting of public elementary, middle and high schools.

"Since its inception in 1996 when four schools were involved, the network has grown to a point where now

all teacher candidates complete an extensive internship in a professional development school," said Dr. Powell, noting that area schools host more than 200 Mount students each year.

Paul Fer, St. John's assistant principal and site coordinator for the St. John-Mount partnership, said the program benefits teacher candidates, current teachers and students. Teach-

er candidates learn from the experience of longtime professionals, and teaching veterans are exposed to new approaches to education from the aspiring teachers, he said.

"It's a great experience for both of them," he said.

Bridget Karwacki, a 21-year-old Mount St. Mary's senior from Allentown, Pa., said her teaching mentor has given great advice — help-

ing her develop her lesson plans to meet the needs of the students.

"Every day I'm in the classroom, I know this is the place for me," said Ms. Karwacki, who also taught in public schools in partnership with the Mount.

"It doesn't take two pots of coffee to get me motivated," she said. "The kids are just great. I feed off their energy."



## St. John's Regional dedicates statue

The St. John Regional Catholic School community gathered Oct. 12, for a formal dedication of the newly installed statue of St. John the Evangelist.

The life-size bronzed statue, donated by the family of the late James McSherry, Esq., is the work of award-winning sculptor Jay Hall Carpenter. Carpenter has created sculptures for the Washington National Cathedral, the Smithsonian, West Point Military Academy and many churches throughout the country.

The statue stands in the center of the memorial brick garden

next to the school. For more information about the statue, call St. John Regional Catholic School, 301-695-9358.

10/18/07  
The Catholic Review



CR Staff/Owen Sweeney III

Father Keith W. Boisvert, pastor of St. Katharine Drexel in Frederick, blesses a statue of St. John the Evangelist located at St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, Oct. 12. The statue was donated by the McSherry family in memory of James McSherry.

FREDERICK NEWS POST 10/13/07



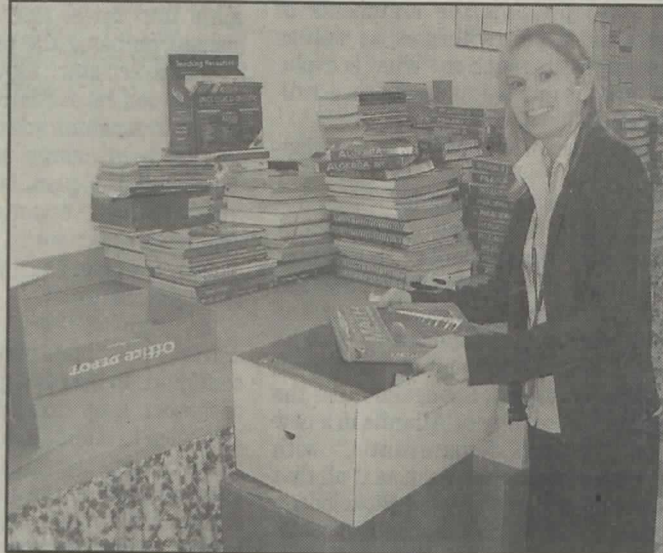
Staff photo by Doug Koontz

## Blessed art thine art

The Rev. Keith Boisvert blesses the statue of St. John the Evangelist at St. John Regional Catholic School on Friday morning.



FNP 11/11/07



Courtesy photo

### Books for New Orleans schools

Students at Catholic elementary schools in New Orleans will soon receive textbooks donated by St. John Regional Catholic School. According to Lisa Goldstein, shown, St. John religion teacher and project organizer, more than 20 boxes of used math and social studies textbooks will be sent to Senior Eileen Sullivan, principal of Xavier Prep School in New Orleans. The books will then be distributed to a number of schools, including St. Leo the Great and St. Mary's Academy, which are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Fred. News Post 12/2/07



Courtesy photo

### Club presentation

Third-grade students from St. John Regional Catholic School recently received dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Frederick. The effort is part of a statewide commitment to furnish all Maryland third graders with their very own dictionary to use at school and home. St. John third graders Bernard Simms and Catherine Hyde, along with Karen Smith, principal, accept dictionaries from Frederick Rotary representative Raymond Raedy, who visited the school to distribute the books.

Frederick News Post Nov. 15, 2007



### Receives donation

Sharon Riser, director/sales leader for The Temple, a Paul Mitchell Partner School, presents a check for \$678 to Paul Fer, assistant principal, St. John Regional Catholic School. The Temple recently held a fundraiser at the salon, donating all profits from hair services and product sales to the school.

Courtesy photo



Frederick News Post 12/11/07

## SMART BUSINESS:

### Connecting through the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce



JEAN  
WRIGHT

"The Chamber provides opportunities to meet with other business leaders in the community in different ways," says Jean Wright, Director, Development/Admissions at St. John Regional Catholic School. "We meet and learn about what other businesses have to offer and to make those all-important networking connections."



GINNY  
MACCOLL

St. John Regional Catholic School hosted a Chamber business card exchange soon after opening, which is when Jean met Ginny MacColl, Senior Account Executive at Key 103 and 106.9 The Eagle. Months later, when Jean was ready to start promoting the school with radio advertising, Ginny helped them develop a creative solution that put St. John's students in the spotlight.

"Through the Chamber, I've been able to meet new businesses and get to know more about existing businesses," says Ginny. "The Chamber provides opportunities for face-to-face interactions with decision-makers. These in-person connections are essential when creating effective marketing campaigns for local organizations."

#### LEARN MORE:

Visit [www.frederickchamber.org](http://www.frederickchamber.org) or call 301.662.4164.

*From monthly Business Card Exchanges to Business Outlook Seminars, Lunch Exchanges and more, businesses large and small find plenty of occasions to make new business connections and strengthen current ones.*

CHAMBER  
FREDERICK

Catholic  
Review

12/20/07

Thurmont child with a debilitating disease. After sponsorships and pledges were collected for a month, the money was sent to the family of Karson Brewster, who suffers from a rare genetic condition (18q Syndrome) that requires costly growth hormone therapy.

Mr. Paul Fer, assistant principal, said the school is also sponsoring a raffle to benefit the Brewsters; the school is soliciting sponsors for "big ticket" items. Interested donors can contact Mr. Fer at 301-662-6722.

### St. John students bowl for bucks

Eighth-grade students at St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, recently raised \$9,000 in a bowl-a-thon to help cover medical costs and treatments for a 2-year old

FRED. NEWS POST 12/2/07



### Students donate to shelter

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School collected household items for Sarah's House, which provides emergency and transition shelter for families in Fort Meade. As part of its World Mission project for the poor, students in grades Pre-K through 8th donated items for the shelter throughout the month of October. Students from the Light of Hope Service Group, as well as 5th and 6th graders, helped collect and load the items on the van for its trip to Anne Arundel County. Pictured, from left, are Program Coordinator Bruce Clopein of Sarah's House; Lisa Goldstein, teacher; and Erin Besch, Brennan Wight, Vinny D'Amore, Joey Chell, Tyson Seeley, Ryan Filyo and Mike Rempe.

Courtesy photo



FNP 12/21/07

ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



*Staff photo by Bill Green*

First-grader Shaun Clem works to keep his hat on as he looks into the audience before the group begins to sing "O Come Little Children," a Christmas song popular in Scandinavia. Students at St. John Regional Catholic School presented "It's Christmas Everywhere" on Thursday night, featuring Christmas music from around the world sung by first- through eighth-grade students. With Shaun in the front row are Halle Houck, left, and Rose Ruziska.



# THE CATHOLIC REVIEW

January 31, 2008

SERVING THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

[www.catholicreview.org](http://www.catholicreview.org)



## 'A spiritual man'

Monsignor James V. Hobbs celebrates retirement Mass. Page 10.

this week INSIDE

Volume 72 No. 41

- Season of penance:** Ash Wednesday is Feb. 6 ..... 2
- Moving on:** Transfiguration unites under one roof ..... 3
- Get your tickets:** Request tickets for papal visit ..... 4
- New shepherd:** Military archdiocese gains leader ..... 28

## Celebrating our schools



Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien greets students at St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, after a Mass celebrating the start of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28.

Catholic Schools Week runs Jan. 27-Feb. 2. Page 3.





Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien greets students at St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, after a Mass celebrating the start of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28. Catholic Schools Week runs Jan. 27-Feb. 2. (CR Staff/Owen Sweeney III)

## The Catholic Review

# Archbishop O'Brien kicks off Catholic Schools Week

Since his Oct. 1 installation, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien kicked off Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28 by celebrating Mass at St. John Regional Catholic School for more than 750 students, parents, teachers and guests.

Pointing out that there are more than 2.4 million students enrolled in 7,800 Catholic schools around the country, Archbishop O'Brien said he was proud of the sacrifice parents make to give their children a Catholic education. He praised teachers and pastors for their hard work supporting Catholic schools.

In his homily, Archbishop O'Brien drew on the theme of Catholic Schools Week, "Light the Way," to encourage youngsters to follow the light of Christ. He recounted how during the Battle of the Philippine Sea in 1944, 200 American pilots returning from battle with the Japanese fleet couldn't find their own ships. The ship lights had been turned off to prevent the Japanese from discovering the Americans. A U.S. admiral had two choices: allow the returning Americans to run out of fuel and crash into the Pacific Ocean, or turn on the lights and risk enemy attack. He chose to send up flares, Archbishop O'Brien said, allowing all the planes to land safely.

"Jesus told us he is the light of the world," said Archbishop O'Brien, noting that Christ calls everyone to "shine out your light for others."

"He has come to show you the path," Archbishop O'Brien said. "The Lord is your light and salvation, and never do you have to be afraid."

The archbishop encouraged students to thank their parents for giving them a Catholic education. He also asked them to pray for religious vocations.

Erin Jones, a 10-year-old fifth-grader, joined her brother, Kevin, a 13-year-old eighth-grader, in playing Bach preludes and religious music on their violins as students entered the gymnasium for Mass. Wearing his mitre and holding his crosier, Archbishop O'Brien paused to enjoy their musicianship before processing into the liturgy.

"It's pretty cool to have him here," said Erin, calling it an honor that the archbishop chose to visit her school.

Noah Ismael, a 10-year-old fourth-grader, said he was impressed by the archbishop's message about appreciating others.

"I learned that it's pretty good to be thankful for what you have," he said.

A special collection was taken up during the Mass, with the proceeds to be used for purchasing pocket Bibles for members of the U.S. military services.



## FROM PAGE ONE

# Archbishop visits St. John prep, highlighting Catholic Schools Week

By RON CASSIE

News-Post Staff  
rcassie@newspost.com

On his first visit to Frederick, the Most Rev. Edwin Frederick O'Brien on Monday told St. John Regional Catholic School pupils to be grateful for their religious education.

"When you go home to tonight be sure to thank all your parents for the sacrifices they make to send you to a Catholic school," O'Brien said.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed O'Brien as the 15th Archbishop of Baltimore in July, replacing Cardinal William H. Keeler.

O'Brien came to the pre-K-to-eighth-grade school to highlight the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, which started Sunday and runs through Saturday.

"Frederick is a few counties away from Baltimore, and there are a lot of Catholic schools surrounding the city, so we feel really proud that the Archbishop decid-

ed to come to the Western Vicariate," said Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement at St. John Catholic Prep.

O'Brien celebrated morning Mass at the school on Opossumtown Pike to help kick off a week of activities at local Catholic schools.

The Archbishop, relaxed and smiling, entered the school's overflowing gymnasium-turned-church to "Amazing Grace." Brother and sister Kevin and Erin

Jones played the hymn on the violin. They're eighth- and fifth-graders, respectively, at St. John Regional.

O'Brien focused on themes of gratitude, giving back and "living in the light" in his homily.

"Learning to live in the light and to gain knowledge of Christ is why you are here," O'Brien told pupils, faculty members and families.

"The challenge is to become that light to others."

Catholic Schools Week started Saturday with a band and choral group performance at Francis Scott Key Mall.

As part of Catholic Schools Week, both St. John Regional and St. John's Catholic Prep high school organized community service days along with traditional teacher, parent and student appreciation days. The theme of the week is "Catholic Schools Light the Way".

Upon arriving at St. John

## ON THE WEB

■ SLIDE SHOW — Images from the Archbishop's visit

[fredericknewspost.com](http://fredericknewspost.com)

Regional, O'Brien met with more than a dozen St. John's Prep high school students serving as classroom volunteers for the day.

Sophomore Sam Denney, for example, read the Cat in the Hat tale, "Oh, Say Can You Say Dinosaurs?" to Robin Walker's attentive pre-K class.

St. John's designated Monday "Social Justice Outreach to the Community" with every student and faculty member spending the morning involved at Frederick organizations in a community service project.

As a high school graduation requirement, students must complete 80 hours of community service at St. John's, but principal Chris Cosentino said he was inspired to add the Social Justice Outreach day after last year's Catholic Schools Week.

"I just think that social justice is one of the important historical components of the Catholic Church and what better than this day — during Catholic School Week — to highlight that component to people in the community," Cosentino said.

The St. John's prep students were scheduled to participate in service projects at the St. Thomas More Academy, the Northampton Manor nursing center, The Salvation Army and the Sunrise Retirement Home, just to name a few.

"The student's experience will be varied and eclectic, everything from outside landscaping to indoor cleaning projects," said Angie Gallena coordinator of the high school's outreach efforts.

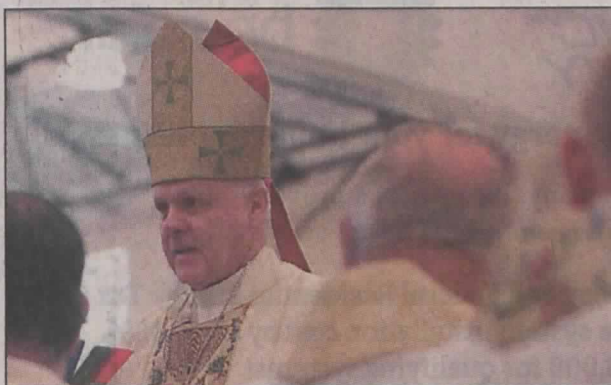
"It's the idea of demonstrating gratitude and fostering a feeling of wanting to give back in our students."

At St. John Regional, the younger students' projects, scheduled for Thursday, included pre-k students making greeting cards for retired School Sisters of Notre Dame, first-graders gathering baby supplies for the CareNet Pregnancy Center in Frederick and third-graders making Christian place mats for Kairos Prison Ministry in Hagerstown.

All of these projects, Wright said, are based on various saints and their missions.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

## Archbishop visits St. John prep



Staff photo by Graham Cullen

Most Rev. Edwin Frederick O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, presides over Mass at St. John Regional Catholic School on Monday morning. It was his first visit to Frederick.

SEE PAGE A-11



# No ice cream, soda or chocolate

## Lent is a time for sacrifice, 'giving up' and change

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

For many years, James Ulmer has given something up for Lent. Whether it was candy, soda, alcohol or chocolate, the 56-year-old parishioner of St. Katharine Drexel in Frederick always made it through the traditional 40-day penitential season without reneging on his sacrificial pledges – although he admitted that going without chocolate “almost killed” him.

This year, Mr. Ulmer is trying something different. He plans to contact six people he's hurt in some way and ask their forgiveness.

“It's going to be very challenging,” said Mr. Ulmer. “I'm excited about it. I think it's going to be healing for all of us. This is much more rewarding for me and the people I'm going to spend time with.”

Mr. Ulmer is one of many Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore who have committed themselves to extra prayer, almsgiving, works of mercy or Christian service this Lent. Many others have maintained the tradition of giving up something special as a way to focus on the real meaning of Lent and deepen their spirituality.

“Fasting is not just about giving things up or not eating as much,” said Father Michael W. Carrion, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Baynesville. “It's having an awareness that not everything is about us.

**‘When you think about what Christ did for us by dying on the cross, it's the least I can do.’**

– Mike Guidara

Our fasting is one way to give thanks to God for the many things we do have.”

Lent reminds Christians of their obligation to reach out to others, Father Carrion said. It's also a time to seek forgiveness.

“It's about looking at ourselves and making changes,” he said. “What do we need to change to grow closer to the Lord?”

Matthew Colket, a 12-year-old seventh-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, is saying extra prayers this Lent. Every day, he is praying a novena to St.

Therese de Lisieux – his mother's favorite saint. He's also pledged to give up junk food and limit himself to just three meals a day with no snacking.

“I think it's important to remind yourself of Jesus' journey through the desert and how he fasted,” said Matthew, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in Frederick. “Jesus was tempted, but he turned away from the temptation.”

Emily Kinley, a 13-year-old eighth-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, has given up spending a lot of time on the computer. She's planning to use the computer just 15 minutes a day.

“I like to talk to friends and play games online,” said the parishioner of St. John the Evangelist, Frederick. “I'm going to spend that time with my family and pray.”

Emily is planning to pray the rosary throughout Lent.

“It's important so I can be closer to God,” she said.

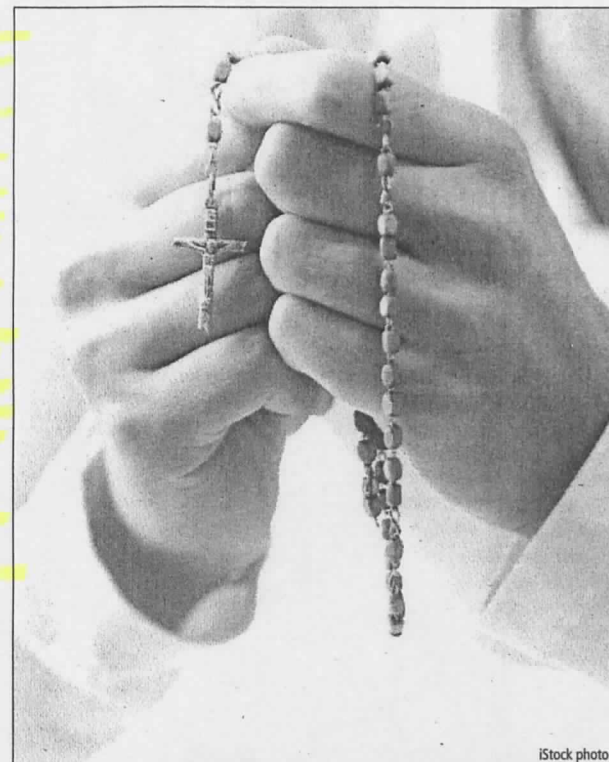
Contemplating Christ's suffering and death is an important component of Lent, she said.

“Without the Resurrection, we wouldn't be saved from our sins,” she said.

Lent wouldn't be meaningful without a sense of sacrifice, according to Mike Guidara, a 56-year-old parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ellicott City. In addition to abstaining from meat on Fridays, Mr. Guidara is planning to abstain from meat on the Saturdays and Sundays of Lent. He also plans to pray the Stations of the Cross at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes in Emmitsburg and watch Mel Gibson's “The Passion of the Christ.”

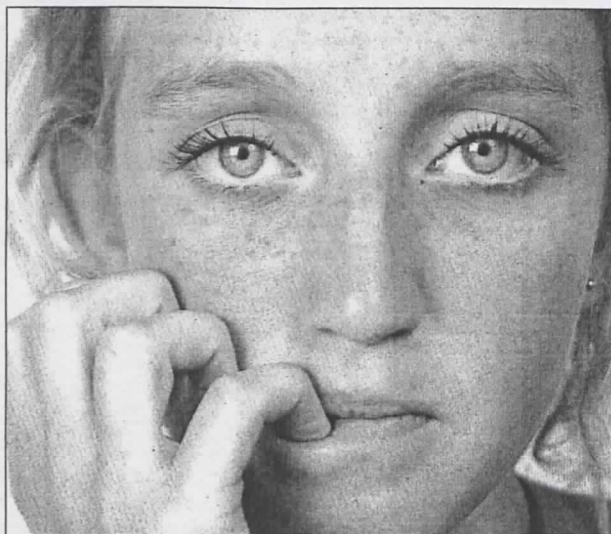
“When you think about what Christ did for us by dying on the cross, it's the least I can do,” said Mr. Guidara. “We can't just be all talk and no action.”

Bridget Bindel, a 16-year-old parishioner of St. Ursula in Parkville and a junior at the Institute of Notre Dame in Baltimore, is giving up soda this Lent. She is also planning



istock photo

Many people take the opportunity to focus on their faith journey during Lent. Emily Kinley, a 13-year-old eighth-grader at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick, plans to pray the rosary.



lot and we can give some things up,” said Bridget, noting that many of her friends have also given up soda or ice cream.

Sixty-two seventh-graders at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson are donating ice cream money or forgoing treats like cookies to collect money to purchase items to fill 60 baskets for the children with developmental disabilities at Villa Maria, Timonium.

Children at Monsignor Slade Catholic School in Glen Burnie are doing a similar Lenten project, raising money for Alzheimer's disease, AIDS and breast cancer research, according to Lydia Ramsey, a 14-year-old eighth-grader and student council president. During Lent, Lydia said she's making the personal

“I don't do it because everyone else is doing it,” she said. “I do it because I want to change something.”





## FROM PAGE ONE

### Private

(Continued from A-1)

par with public schools. The measures are endorsed by the Maryland Nonpublic Schools Legislative Coalition, the group that organized the students' visit.

One would extend a tax credit to private school teachers paying for course work to maintain certification; another would give a tax credit to businesses who donate to schools; the third would continue the program to fund nonreligious textbooks.

In fiscal 2009, Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, has proposed \$3.6 million to fund textbooks for private schools. Under his proposal, the state will pay \$90 for each pupil in schools with high levels of poverty and \$25 per pupil in other schools.

Frederick County has 11 private schools. About 630 students attend St. John in Frederick city.

State Sen. Alex Mooney, a Republican who represents Frederick and Washington counties, said he would like the state to go even farther.

"I'm for school choice, I'm for school vouchers," Mooney said. "I think parents, not government should decide what school they go to. Since we all pay taxes equally, we should be allowed to choose."

He described the three initiatives as a compromise, pointing out that all residents pay taxes, whether or not their children go to public school.

Mooney attended St. John for eight years and said he appreciated the discipline there because he was an active child.

Paul Fer, the assistant principal who took Crowley and another student leader, Mara Francisovich, to Annapolis, said creat-

ing a tax credit for businesses donating to the school could help motivate such giving.

Under that proposal, corporations and small businesses could claim a 75 percent tax credit for donations to organizations that support schools charging tuition equal to or less than the state's average per-pupil cost. Unlike a deduction, a credit directly reduces the amount of taxes owed to the state.

A deduction reduces the taxable income that determines the amount of taxes owed.

The program will be capped at \$5 million, with \$3 million for private schools and \$2 million for public schools. It is being sponsored by Sen. James DeGrange Sr., an Anne Arundel Democrat, and Delegate James Proctor Jr., a Democrat representing Calvert and Prince George's counties, and is based on a Pennsylvania program that started in 2001.

Similar bills were introduced during the General Assembly's last two sessions. Last year, the proposal received an unfavorable report from the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Jean Wright, development and admissions director at St. John, said if the program passes, she expects more parents and businesses would donate to the school.

Some businesses now donate to the school but she doesn't track their donations specifically, she said.

"If there was an incentive for them to give, I'm sure we would be more aggressive in asking for their support."

FNP 3/10/08  
2008 MARYLAND  
General Assembly

# PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS WANT STATE SUPPORT

## THREE INITIATIVES

**ONE:** A tax credit to private school teachers paying for course work to maintain certification;

**TWO:** A tax credit to businesses who donate to schools;

**THREE:** Continue the program to fund non-religious textbooks.

the state will continue funding a program that gives private schools money to purchase nonreligious textbooks.

Crowley is an 8th grader and president of the student government association at St. John. Along with another student leader and an assistant principal, she visited state lawmakers last week and told them about three initiatives aimed at helping private schools.

She likes going to a Catholic school because she can take religious classes, she said.

"I feel like I get more out of it than I would at a public school."

The three initiatives she favors all relate to giving private schools and teachers funding to make them more on

By MEG BERNHARDT

News-Post Staff  
mbernhardt@fredericknews-post.com

When Kelly Crowley opens her textbooks at St. John Regional Catholic School, she studies many of the same subjects as public school students.

In history, it's the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. In math, it's algebra.

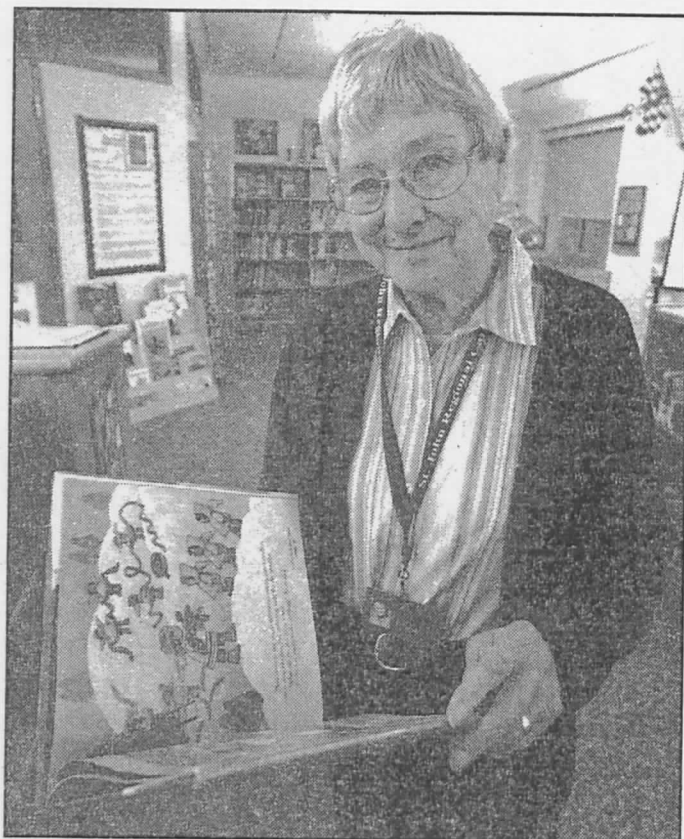
She believes private schools should have help buying those books, so she hopes

(See PRIVATE A-15)



# Library volunteer puts in 34 years at St. John

#NP  
2/27/08



Staff photo by Sam Yu

Kate Johnson has been a library volunteer at St. John Regional Catholic School for 34 years.

## Slice of Life

By SARAH BREITENBACH

News-Post Staff  
sbreitenbach@fredericknewspost.com

Kate Johnson is book happy.

That's why Johnson, who has a degree in biology and significant graduate work in microbiology, devoted the last 34 years of her life to the library at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Her favorite book from childhood, "Understood Betsy" by Dorothy Canfield Fisher, about a fearful girl who goes to live on a farm, is on the St. John shelves.

Johnson shares her love of that book and reading in general with pupils about four days a week.

She began volunteering at the Catholic grade school in 1974, when the campus was on East Second Street and her sons Andy and Paul were St. John's pupils.

In 2005 the campus moved

(See SLICE A-6)

## Slice

(Continued from A-5)

to Opossumtown Pike.

Johnson said the move didn't change the school's personality, but it allowed pupils to spread their wings.

"We had no out-of-door area at all, the school yard was paved for parking," she said.

Not only has the school's location changed, but technology has drastically changed the work Johnson does as a library volunteer.

"Of course we were not automated in any sense of the word, we just used a card system," she said.

Now, rather than use a card catalog to locate books, pupils look them up on a computer

database, she said.

It has made library operations more efficient, but technology can't replace the value of books, Johnson said.

"At least they're acquainted with something other than automated," she said. "To me there's so much more to a book than a flickering image on the screen."

Johnson said she likes to spend her time reading to children, but her duties also include helping check out books and keeping the library tidy.

"The omnipresent thing that happens in a library is reading the shelves — putting them in order, which is a thankless task because it only lasts 10 minutes or so."

## Students secure wins in essay contest

Several Frederick County students were recently recognized for their entries in an annual essay contest sponsored by the Frederick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This year's topic was, "I Spy — Espionage during the American Revolution."

According to a press release from the DAR, students told espionage stories via diary entries, letters and journals. Some stories mentioned local communities and local historic figures.

Students revealed that as spies they used invisible ink techniques, and listened in taverns and shops to ferret out and transfer information for the "other" side.

In the eighth-grade category,

Ian Maliszewskyj, a student at Middletown Middle School, took first place; Kathleen Cook and Maria Matan, both students at Visitation Academy, took second and third places, respectively.

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School swept the competition in the fifth- and sixth-grade categories. Fifth-graders Eleanor M. Brown, Nicholas Soares and Scot R. Lanthier won first, second, and third places, respectively. Sixth-graders Jozef Kulis, Michael Grus and Timothy P. Morrill took first, second and third places in their age category.

Brown was also named the Maryland State Daughters of the American Revolution winner. The group will award her at its state conference and send her essay to be judged on the national level.

NTS

FNP May 21, 2008



Courtesy photo

## Essay winners receive awards

The "Antietam" Branch 142 presented its Americanism Essay Award for first place to Mara Franciscovich, an eighth grade student at St. John Regional Catholic School and Aislinn Sweeney, a 12th grade student at Middletown High School, for their essays on the topic "Why I Am Proud To Be an American." The ceremony was held April 23 at AMVETS Post 9 in Middletown. Each received a \$200 U.S. savings bond, a framed certificate and a U.S. flag. The flags were obtained from the office of Representative Roscoe Bartlett, Sixth Congressional District of Maryland. A certificate stating that they were flown over the U.S. Capital accompanied them. The winning essays were also judged by the FRA Regional Contest Committee with Franciscovich receiving a U.S. savings bond as a second place prize. A total of 72 students submitted essays and all received a "Certificate of Appreciation." Pictured, from left, are Henry Cranford, Ted Tubergen, Aislinn Sweeney, Mara Franciscovich, Tom DeByl and Jerry Isminger.



# Report CARD

Here is our take on various issues locally and around the state, nation and world.



Courtesy photo

## Eleanor Brown wins

Eleanor Brown, fifth grade student at St. John Regional Catholic School, accepts second place award for her essay "How the Bill of Rights Relates to Citizenship" from John George, representative, Sons of the American Revolution, Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter. The contest was open to fifth grade students from public and private schools in Frederick. Eleanor was also recently named the state winner in the daughters of the American Revolution American History Contest.



St. John fifth-grader Eleanor Brown's essay places first in county and state in contest sponsored by Daughters of the American Revolution.

News Post Sun. 4/6/08

Frederick News Post May 10, 2008



Staff photo by Sam Yu

## Grandparents' Day

St. John Regional Catholic School celebrated its annual Grandparents' Day at the school Friday. Here, Sydney Schermerhorn, 8, talks with her grandmothers, Joan Bell, center, of Galesville, and Helen Sellan, of Derry, N.H. School officials estimated 400 grandparents were in attendance.



# STUDENT WINS STATE ESSAY CONTEST

By GINA GALLUCCI

News-Post Staff  
ggallucci@fredericknewspost.com

What was it like to be a spy during the American Revolution?

Hundreds of area fifth- and sixth-graders recently composed essays on late-18th century espionage for the Frederick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution American History Contest.

St. John Regional Catholic School fifth-grader Eleanor Brown won at the county

level. She wrote about a 13-year-old girl who reads the mail of a loyalist.

## Slice of Life

"I was a bit amazed," Eleanor said. "I had heard my other classmates' essays. I was a bit amazed that I was chosen."

Five other St. John fifth- and sixth-graders placed in the local contest. They are Nicholas Soares, Scot Lanthier, Josef Kulis, Michael Grus and Timothy Morrill.

Eleanor's essay moved on to the state

level and won there as well. This is the second time the school has had a state winner.

"I was excited, a bit nervous as well," she said.

Her essay will go on to the national contest. The winners will be announced during DAR's annual convention in the second week in July.

Eleanor, who lives in Adamstown, came to the United States about two years ago from Shrivenham, England, which is about an hour from Oxford. Her father's job in

(See SLICE A-6)



Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

**St. John Regional Catholic School fifth-grader Eleanor Brown has won the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest.**

## Slice

(Continued from A-5)

engineering and motors brought the family to the states.

Because she did not grow up studying American history, she had to do a little bit more research than her fellow students.

young and has seen dramatic changes over a short time.

The 11-year-old counts Eleanor Roosevelt as one of her role models.

"She helped others," she said. "She did things that first ladies before her never did. She had a lot of courage."

the DAR contest, Eleanor recently won her division in the county Catholic Daughters of Americas Education Contest.

Students could choose to compete in seven categories — art, essay, poetry, poster, computer art, music and photography. They

"People who light up my world."

Eleanor entered the essay contest and chose three places where she could see the light of Jesus — a lighthouse, a candle and a rainbow.

That essay, too, will be judged on the state level.

While Eleanor has won awards for writing, her favorite subjects are social studies and religion.

## FNP 5/29/08 EVENTS

# St. John Regional celebrates Space Day

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS POST

On May 2, students at St. John Regional Catholic School joined more than 500 other schools around the world by signing Student Signatures in Space posters to celebrate "Space Day 2008!"

Student Signatures in Space (S3) provides elementary and middle school students the opportunity to send their digitized signatures into space and feel a personal involvement with the crew and the mission. Jointly sponsored by NASA and Lockheed Martin, S3 is one program of the award-winning Space Day educational initiative.

"Our goal with Student Signatures in Space is to spark kids' interest in technical studies by giving them a personal connection to the space program," said Barbara Reinike, Space Day program manager for Lockheed Martin. "Classes usually follow their signatures mission together from launch to landing, so it really piques the students' interest in the whole process. Counterpart lesson plans that incorporate math and science activities help teachers take the learning experience to the next level."

To this end, Lockheed Martin provides several space-themed

lesson plans as well as classroom and school-wide activity ideas, which are featured on the Space Day website at [www.spaceday.org](http://www.spaceday.org).

"St. John's is one of 300 schools selected in the U.S. to participate in the Student Signatures in Space program" said Lisa Cutchin, the school's art teacher. "In celebration of Space Day, our students will become more aware of the space program and careers in space." She plans to provide examples of art that is used in the space program in the design of mission patches and pins. Students in her classes, from grades one through eight, signed the space poster throughout the week.

The Space Shuttle mission designated to carry this year's signatures has tentatively been identified as STS-126, a flight to the International Space Station that is scheduled for next fall.

After the signatures return from space, the poster will be returned for permanent display to St. John Regional Catholic School along with a flight certificate and picture of the crew that carried the signatures into space.

Since the program began in 1997, nearly 4.5 million students have participated in Student Signatures in Space. There is no



Courtesy Photo

**St. John student John Ballantyne adds his name to the space poster.**

cost to schools to participate. However, because of space constraints on each mission, participation is limited to approximately 500 schools each year.

Lockheed Martin is the founding sponsor of Space Day, which takes place on the first Friday of each May. Over the years, the program has evolved into a massive grassroots effort dedicated to the extraordinary achievements, benefits, and

opportunities in the exploration and use of space. The ultimate goal is to promote math, science, technology and engineering education by nurturing young peoples' enthusiasm for the wonders of the universe and inspiring them to continue the stellar work of today's space explorers.

More information about Space Day is available online at [www.spaceday.org](http://www.spaceday.org).

## Student wins one year tuition-free at St. John's

St. John's Regional Catholic School parents Philip and Amber Brengel recently received a check for one year of free tuition at the school. The money came from Tom West, vice president of

Greentree Homes.

The Brengels were the highest bidders at a recent St. John Regional Catholic School Gala Auction.

Greentree Homes is the developer and builder of Tuscarora Creek, a planned development located near the school.

This is the second year that the school has received a donation for one full year of tuition from Greentree Homes for the annual auction.

FNP 4/1/08

Colleen Crowley, a fifth-grade pupil at St. John Regional Catholic School, is among 10 Maryland winners in the Zaner-Bloser Annual Handwriting Contest.

Colleen and the other winners will move forward to the national competition, from which a grand national champion will be chosen.

The contest, which is open to all schools that use Zaner-Bloser curriculum, also awards the champion's teacher a trip for two to Washington.



## EVENTS

# Education contest winners

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

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. Students in grades 4 and 5 compete in division 1, while students in grades 6, 7 and 8 compete in division 2. The themes this year were: "Jesus the Light of the World" and "People Who Light Up My World." First place winning entries then compete in the state contest.



Courtesy photo

St. John Regional Catholic School winners, from left, front row, Victoria Glover, second place, division 2 art; Alex Martinazzi, first place, division 1 art; Marcos Pierce, first place, division 1, computer art; Grace Cillo, second place, division 1 art; Colleen Crowley, third place, division 1 essay; Jamie Stitz, third place, division 1 art; Dominic Lagana, second place, division 1 essay; Chaze Davenport, third place, division 1 computer art; Noah Ismael, second place, division 1 computer art; back row, Andrew Desadeleer, third place, division 2 photography; Ryan Sonn, first place, division 2 art; Stephanie Gamble, first place, division 2 poster; Hailey Gawinske, third place, division 2 poster; Eleanor Brown, first place, division 1 essay; Cearrah Sherman, second place, division 2 poster; Christine Hagan, second place, division 2 essay; Bobby Ordonio, third place, division 2 art; Mara Franciscovich, first place, division 2 essay; Brooke Wilson, second place, division 2 photography; and Julia Zukus, first place, division 2 photography.



Courtesy photo

Award-winners of the Harry L. Decker Historical Essay contest, include, from left, front row, Caroline Grace Pritt, Tyler McGraw and Katherine Luzi; back row, Chase Planter, Kathryn Plamondon, Chris Marcotte, Hannah Grove, Devin Clark and Matthew Bowman.

## Decker Essay contest awards presented

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Awards in the 2008 Harry L. Decker Historical Essay Contest were presented at a program at the Museum of Frederick County History on May 15. The contest offers fourth-grade students in Frederick County the opportunity to conduct research and write original essays on topics about Frederick County history. This year, students were asked to write an essay about the history of an institution or organization from Frederick County.

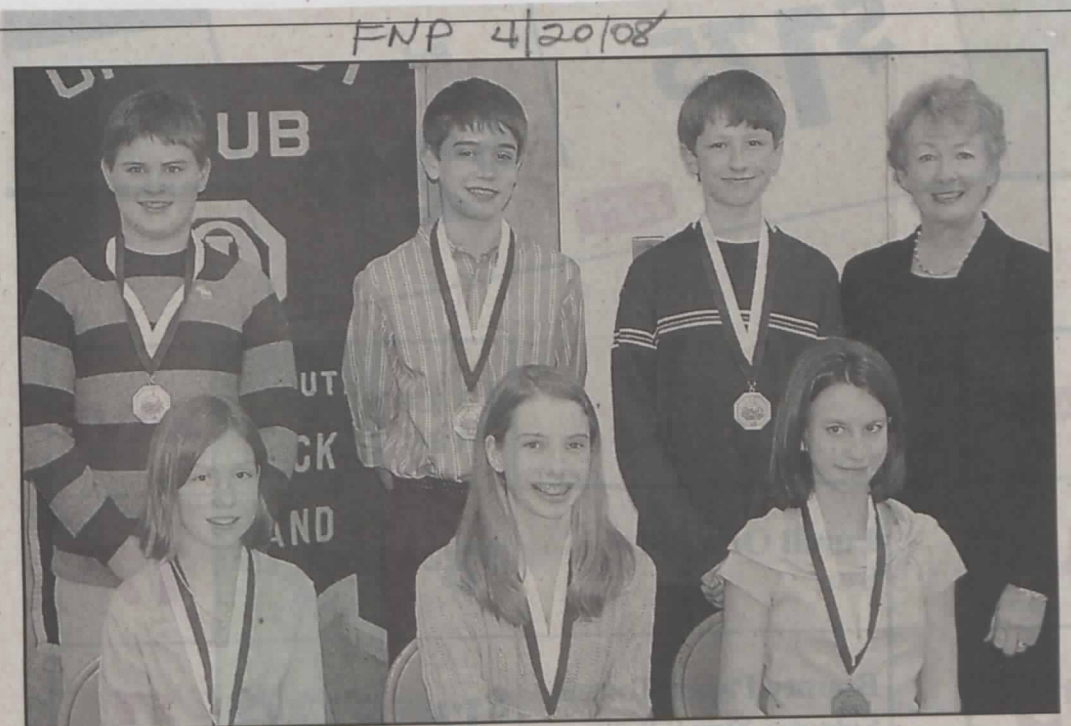
Six top awards of \$100 each were presented to the following students: Matthew Bowman, essay, "Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution," Mrs. D'Loughy's class at St. John Regional Catholic School; Devin Clark, essay, "Independent Hose Company," Ms. Haller's class at Waverly Elementary School; Hannah Grove, essay, "City of Frederick Historic Preservation Commission," Mrs. Fry's class at Carroll Manor Elementary School; Chris Marcotte, essay, "The Great Frederick Fair," Mrs. Stone's class at Carroll Manor Elementary School; Kathryn Plamondon, essay, "The Frederick

Woman's Civic Club," Mrs. D'Loughy's class at St. John Regional Catholic School; and Chase Planter, essay, "Mount Olivet Cemetery," Mrs. D'Loughy's class at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Honorable mention awards were given to: Katherine Luzi, essay, "The History of Fort Detrick," Mrs. Nestianu's class at St. Thomas More Academy; Tyler McGraw, essay, "History of Fort Detrick," Mrs. Nestianu's class at St. Thomas More Academy; and Caroline Grace Pritt, essay, "The History of the Guardian Hose Company," home-schooled.

Judges for the contest were John Ashbury, Marie Anne Erickson and Maury Hassett. Funds for the top six awards were provided by Mary and Maury Hassett and the Historical Society of Frederick County. This is the ninth year for the contest that honors the contributions of local historian Harry L. Decker. It is sponsored each year by the Historical Society of Frederick County.

For more information about Historical Society programs and events call 301-663-1188 or visit [www.hsfcinfo.org](http://www.hsfcinfo.org).



Courtesy photo

## Contest held

The Frederick Optimist Club recently held an oratorical contest with local students presenting speeches on the topic, "Why Me? Why Not?" The first-place boy and girl were awarded a medallion, a \$100 Savings Bond and the opportunity to compete in the Zone 2 competition in Rockville on April 19. Second- and third-place winners were awarded a medallion and a \$50 Savings Bond. Zone 2 winners will receive an expense paid trip to Ocean City to compete in the district competition with the prize of a \$1,500 scholarship. Pictured from left; back row, are Daniel Russo; Chris Hopkins; Garrett Martin, first place winner; and Mary Ellen Hoffman, program chairwoman; back row, from left, are Maddie Lawton, Emily Hicken and Veronica Clements, first-place winner.



## EVENTS

# St. John Regional uses Earth Day theme to recycle electronics

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

St. John Regional Catholic School and e-EndUSA will host Frederick's first electronic recycling event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at St. John Regional Catholic School, 8414 Opossumtown Pike. To most people, the word recycling brings about images of aluminum cans, glass bottles, paper and cardboard.

But there is a lot more material that needs proper recycling. Most homes have old and obsolete electronics items sitting around waiting to be used again. The items take up space in closets, basements or worse, get thrown in landfills. Everyone has old PCs, laptops, printers, monitors, cell phones, stereos and other hardware to dispose of which, because lead, barium, phosphorus, mercury and other dangerous toxins

must be kept out of our landfills.

Last Friday, Steve Chafitz, e-EndUSA president, gave more than 500 St. John students a hands-on demonstration in electronic recycling. Currently, St. John's is one of the few schools in the county that recycles paper, plastic and glass on a daily basis. During a recent school assembly, pre-school to seventh grade students learned about the benefits of responsible e-cycling and the dangers of improper disposal of electronics. The recycling concepts learned at the assembly will be put into action, in the Frederick community during St. John and e-EndUSA's county-wide electronic recycling event.

"Electronic recycling is essential and we need to keep this toxic material out of our landfills," said Arleen Chafitz, owner of e-EndUSA. "Our May 3 event with St. John School will be a first for

the Frederick area. We are excited to be able to help everyone safely recycle their old electronics." e-EndUSA is a Frederick-based electronics recycling and electronic data destruction firm which recycles electronic material in conformance with federal, state and local regulations. The community is assured electronic materials are being responsibly recycled due to e-EndUSA's Zero-Landfill Policy.

The benefits of safely recycling electronics are significant since electronics are the fastest growing segment in the waste industry. At the St. John's event, there will be a nominal fee charged for each carload of unusable electronic equipment. The collection will not only benefit the environment, a portion of the event's fees will go to help St. John's computer and technology needs.



Courtesy photo

Pictured from left, Steve Chafitz of e-EndUSA explains electronic recycling to students Eli Fyer, Sean English, Maddie Trainor, Nicole Delente, Zach Mehelich, Caesar Reeves and the staff of St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick. The school will host the first ever county-wide electronic recycling event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

## COMMUNITY COMPUTER ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, May 3rd 9am - 2pm

St. John Regional Catholic School  
8414 Opossumtown Pike

**\$15 per Carload of Electronic Equipment**  
(NO CREDIT CARDS)

### Items Accepted

Desktops • Laptops • Keyboards • Mice • Monitors\* • Printers  
Scanners • Copiers • Faxes • Cell Phones • PDAs • VCR/DVD Players  
UPS • Stereos & Speakers • Private Data Destruction Available

\*Limit one monitor per carload. Additional monitors are \$8.00

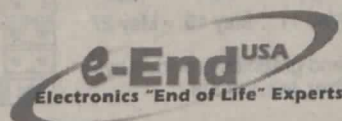
A portion of all recycling fees benefit St. John Regional Catholic School.

Fees may be tax-deductible. Please check with your tax advisor regarding tax effects of your donation.

*Recycling electronics keeps hazardous waste out of the landfills.*



In conjunction with



510 Highland Street - Unit E, Frederick MD 21701  
www.eendusa.com • 240-529-1010

149933

disposed of, thus saving the state's landfills from dangerous toxins.

Previously, a hands-on demonstration in electronic recycling was presented to 500 St. John students by a company called e-EndUSA, which sponsored the event with the school. A portion of the proceeds will help the school's computer and technology needs.

## Electronics collected at Post-Earth Day event

There's more to recycling than collecting cans, glass, plastic and paper. Many homes hoard obsolete electronic items that ultimately get tossed in landfills. Electronics are the fastest growing segment in the waste industry.

St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, will host a May 3 electronic recycling event from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Computers, laptops, printers, monitors, cell phones, stereos and other hardware can be



# St. John's hosts electronics recycling drive, lesson on disposal

St. John Regional Catholic School and e-EndUSA hosted Frederick's first electronic recycling event on May 3 at the school.

## School Notes

WILLIAM WIDMAIER

"[The event was] very successful," said Steve Chafitz, e-EndUSA president, noting that a couple hundred cars came to haul away the estimated 10 tons of electronics recovered.

"[The cars were] filled to the gills," Chafitz said.

Chafitz gave more than 500 St. John's students, ranging from preschool to seventh grade, a hands-on demonstration in electronic recycling before the event at a school assembly.

## Disposal

(Continued from A-5)

Recycling has become increasingly important to the student body there, and the student government association started a dedicated recycling committee last year based on student interest.

St. John also held an assembly for students to learn more about electronic recycling Saturday.

Cars pulled up steadily throughout the day, with people getting rid of computers, monitors, cell phones, DVD players and power cords.

"We're always looking for new ways to bring awareness to recycling, and not only for our school but our community," said Jean Wright, director of development and admissions at St. John.

Kelly Crowley, an eighth-grade student and president of the student government association, volunteered at the drop-off.

She said one student asked for recycling and now the school recycles paper, glass, metal and plastic. In Crowley's science class, they talk about global warming and environmental issues.

"When we talk about it, we just kind of realize we should recycle and it's important," she said.

St. John worked with E-End USA, an electronic disposal company based in Frederick, to provide the drop-off.

They charged \$15 a car to dispose of the electronics and charged an additional \$10 for data destruction.

E-End has offered community drop-offs a few times as a community service and does

not profit from them, said president Steve Chafitz.

Most of E-End's business is disposing and destroying data for businesses or the government using powerful magnets and shredding.

Once electronics are gathered, E-End separates them into parts and sends them to companies that process commodities, such as aluminum or wiring, so they can be made into new products.

They also sell some of the working products at low prices to low-income individuals.

The company has a no-landfill policy. "Nothing goes in the landfill," Chafitz said. "A lot of these people, if we didn't give them a chance to recycle it, they'd 'black bag' it. They'd put it in a black bag and onto the sidewalk and into the trash."

# The Frederick News-Post LOCAL

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2008

fredericknewspost.com

## SPECIAL DISPOSAL

Old computers, electronics, get recycled at Catholic school drop-off center

By MEG BERNHARDT

News-Post Staff

mbernhardt@fredericknewspost.com

David Hood pulled up Saturday morning to a drop-off point in front of St. John Regional Catholic School with his family.

They came to "e-cycle" a computer that had been sitting in the master bedroom of their Lake Linganore house for two years.

The computer belonged to Hood's wife, and they were both happy to finally be rid of it.

How much longer would it have stayed in the bedroom if St. John didn't hold the recycling drop off?

"Probably forever," Hood said with a grin.

Hood, who works in waste disposal, is also a volunteer parent who helped organize the recycling efforts at St. John.

**We're always looking for new ways to bring awareness to recycling, and not only for our school but our community.**

Jean Wright

Director of development and admissions at St. John



## EVENTS

# Cornerstone Award presented

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

A reception to honor St. John Regional Catholic School's Faith in the Future Capital Campaign's leading contributors was held at the school on April 19. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 1829 Cornerstone Award which was presented to Peter H. Sr. and Lorrie Plamondon. The award was created by the campaign's executive committee with the purpose of recognizing a family or individual within the Frederick community that has a history of generosity and a record of civic and charitable responsibility.

In addition to being an ardent

supporter of Catholic education, Peter Plamondon was executive vice president of restaurant operations with the Marriott Corporation until 1980, when he developed Plamondon Enterprises Inc., which currently owns and operates 15 Roy Rogers Restaurants in Western Maryland and Northern Virginia.

He has been a past recipient of the President's Medal from Mount St. Mary's University, a Frederick Distinguished Citizen awarded by the Boy Scouts of America, elected businessman of the year in 1987 by the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, has served as past board member of Marymount University, George-

town Prep and Frederick Memorial Hospital. He is also a member of the Knights of Malta and most recently established the fund for Catholic Education with the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

The Plamondon's financial support for St. John Regional Catholic School's Faith in the Future Capital Campaign has served to help the school continue the tradition of Catholic education in Frederick County at their new location on Opossumtown Pike.

Also recognized at the event for his service to the school was Plamondon's son, Jim Plamondon, who served as the Faith in the Future Campaign's co-chairman.



*Courtesy photo*

Shown at the recent St. John Regional Catholic School reception are, from left, Jim Plamondon, campaign co-chairman; Karen Smith, principal; Pete Plamondon Sr.; Lorrie Plamondon; and Pete Plamondon Jr.

# Distinguished Graduate Award presented to Mark L. Hoke

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Each year the National Catholic Educational Association provides St. John Regional Catholic School the opportunity to honor one of its distinguished graduates. This year, Mark L. Hoke has been selected as the 2008 Distinguished Graduate.

An eighth-grade graduate of the school in 1949, Hoke went on to attend Frederick High School, Washington College, Central Michigan University and enlisted in the U.S. Army where he held the title of colonel. After 28 years in the military, in 1983, Colonel Hoke was selected to become the 27th Commander of Fort Detrick where he served until 1986. He was then elected as county commissioner and served a four-year term as vice president of the board. He left public office in 1990 but returned again to serve another term as commissioner and board president until 1998.

Since then, he has served as

President of the Central Maryland Catholic Charities Advisory Board and serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Catholic Education. He is a parishioner of St. Katharine Drexel parish. He also has served as a board member for other organizations, including the United Way and Frederick County Chamber of Commerce. Among his many military decorations, he was awarded the Order of Military Medical Merit and inducted into the United States Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Just recently, he was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor, their highest award.

The Distinguished Graduate award provides recognition to Catholic elementary school alumni who have demonstrated personal and professional achievements in their adult lives. Past recipients include Judge Theresa Adams, State Sen. Alex Mooney and James McSherry.



*Courtesy photo*

The 2008 St. John Regional Catholic School Distinguished Graduate, Col. Mark L. Hoke, is shown with wife Janet.





# St. John

## REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Admissions](#) | [Programs](#) | [Home & School Assn.](#) | [Development & Alumni](#) | [School Board](#)

### St. John Students Commemorate Veterans Day

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School commemorated Veterans Day with guest speakers representing veterans of all the armed forces.



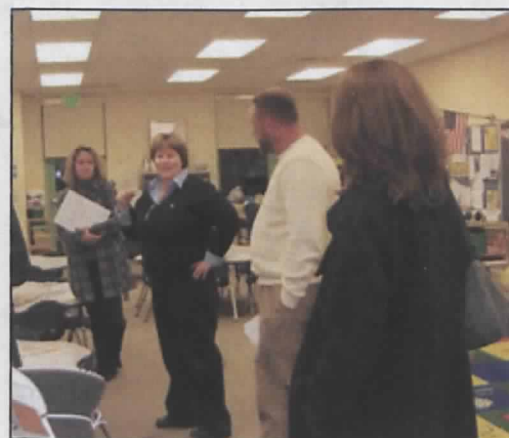
St. John students l to r: Cheyanne Neuenschwander as Abraham Lincoln, Sarah Heiland as Uncle Sam, and Luis Zelaya as an Army soldier prepare in the Quest room for their roles on Veterans Day.



Pictured here are Ft. Detrick U.S. Army Garrison Commander, Colonel Mary R. Deutsch and her husband Lieutenant Colonel Berthony Ladouceur with 8th grade students Shannon Curtin as the Statue of Liberty and Erica Leggit as George Washington. Colonel Deutsch and Lieutenant Ladouceur are parents of Lauren Ladouceur, a 5th grader at St. Johns

### St. John Holds Open House

St. John's recent Open House on November 7th, attracted a large crowd of prospective parents to the school. Those in attendance were welcomed by Principal Karen Smith and were provided tours of the school by student ambassadors. Prospective parents also had the opportunity to meet with the teachers from Pre-K through eighth grade. New student applications for the 2008-09 school year were also being accepted during the event and will continue to be accepted through February 2008. The next Open House will be held during Catholic Schools Week, on January 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Private tours of the school may be arranged by calling the Admissions Office at 301-695-9358.



Mrs. Ellen Santucci, Kindergarten teacher, answers questions from prospective parents





### St. John Regional Students Donate to Shelter

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School collected household items for Sarah's House, which provides emergency and transition shelter for families in Ft. Meade MD. As part of its World Mission project for the poor, students in grades Pre-K through 8 donated items for the shelter throughout the month of October. Students from the Light of Hope Service Group as well as 5th and 6th graders helped collect and load the items on the van for its trip to Anne Arundel County.

*Program Coordinator Bruce Clopein of Sarah's House appears with the students and Mrs. Lisa Goldstein, 5th and 6th grade religion teacher.*

### Rotary Club Presentation



Third graders from St. John Regional Catholic School recently received dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Frederick. The effort is part of a statewide commitment to furnish all Maryland third graders with their very own dictionary to use at school and home. St. John third graders Bernard Simms and Catherine Hyde along with Principal Karen Smith, accept dictionaries from Frederick Rotary representative Mr. Raymond Raedy who visited the school to distribute the books.

*Learning and Growing in*

St. John Regional Catholic School  
8414 Opossumtown Pike  
Frederick, Maryland 21702  
(301) 662-6722

Cc





# St. John

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Admissions](#) | [Programs](#) | [Home & School Assn.](#) | [Development & Alumni](#) | [School Board](#)



## **St. John the Evangelist Statue Glass Ornaments**

**By Local Artist: Yemi**

**\$18 each**

May be purchased from the school Development Office

Please contact Jean Wright at 301-695-9358 or  
[jwright@sjrcs.org](mailto:jwright@sjrcs.org)

## **Families from SJRCS donated Christmas gifts to families in need from St. Gregory the Great parish in Baltimore**



Mrs. Sybil Krauss, SJRCS teacher aide, gives present to St. Katharine Drexel member, Jan Scudiero who is helping to pack the items for shipment to Baltimore



SKD parishioners along with Mrs. Peg O'Hara, SJRCS, finish packing the truck with gifts

## **St. John Students Bowl for a Cause**

Eighth grade students recently raised \$9,000 to help cover medical costs for a 2-year old Thurmont child with a debilitating disease. After a month of collecting sponsorships and pledges, the eighth graders held a bowl-a-thon to help raise the money





*Eighth graders shown with Calvin Brewster, Karson's dad.*

the family needs to pay for their daughter's treatments. Karson Brewster, suffers from a rare genetic condition - 18q Syndrome, that requires costly growth hormone therapy. Mr. Paul Fer, Assistant Principal, says a raffle to benefit the family is also planned. Sponsors are needed for "big ticket" items. Interested donors should contact him at 301-662-6722, ext. 2204.

### **Students Prepare Thanksgiving Care Packages**

St. John Student Council members and Principal Mrs. Smith prepared boxes of Thanksgiving food for needy families from the regional parishes. St. John parents and children donated canned goods and non-perishable items during the November food drive.



### **Rotary Club Presentation**



Third graders from St. John Regional Catholic School recently received dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Frederick. The effort is part of a statewide commitment to furnish all Maryland third graders with their very own dictionary to use at school and home. St. John third graders Bernard Simms and Catherine Hyde along with Principal Karen Smith, accept dictionaries from Frederick Rotary representative Mr. Raymond Raedy who visited the school to distribute the books.

*Learning and Growing in*





Courtesy photo

## St. John Regional Catholic School graduates 66 students

Sixty-six eighth grade students graduated from St. John's on June 6. The baccalaureate mass was celebrated by the Rev. Keith Boisvert, pastor, St. Katharine Drexel, assisted by the Rev. Dick Murphy, pastor, St. John the Evangelist and the Rev. Lawrence Frazier, pastor, St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor. Valedictorian was Mara Franciscovich and Katie Usiak was salutatorian. Karen Smith, principal, presented awards and certificates to the students and was assisted by Paul Fer, assistant principal, Sue Mallak, and Ethel Brauer, both eighth grade teachers. The principal's Spirit Award was presented to Kelly Crowley and the Catholic Girl Award was presented to Hailey Gawinske by Eileen Borowski of the Catholic Daughters of America. The 2008 Distinguished Graduate award was presented to Mark L. Hoke, class of '49, by Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement.

# St. John Regional Catholic School

## HONOR ROLL

### THIRD PERIOD

The following students are listed on the honor roll for the third marking period of the 2007-2008 school year at St. John Regional Catholic School:

**Fifth grade, principal's list:** Lauren Andrews, Colleen Crowley, Katerina D'Addato, Greta Dylus, Meredith Gamble, Sarah Heiland, Erin Jones, Dominic Lagana, Jackie McNulty, Luke Molnar, Bailey Rogers, Nicholas Soares, Molly Updegraff, Julia Usiak; **first honors:** Michael Bealmear, Kyle Brodt, Eleanor Brown, Taylor Bushey, Vincent D'Amore, Elie Haddad, Katherine Hick-en, Bryce Iapicca, Coralie Jean-Philippe, Timothy Johnson, Lauren Ladouceur, Scott Lanthier, Lucas Lopez, Joseph Mehelich, Brent McCollough, Mark Moehrie, Madeline Parilla, Barbara Ruziska, James Russo, Kylie

Stitz, Taylor Thomas, Emilee Shore Watson, Brennan Wight, Emily Yun; **second honors:** Ryan Filyo, Cheyanne Neuenschwander.

**Sixth grade, principal's list:** Kelsey Bealmear, Michael Grus, Domenica Iocco, Jonathon Mahalchick, Matthew McNeill, Madison Payne, McKenna Pittinger, Nicholas Pollak, Kathryn Tighe, Mary-Charlotte Wasserbach, Grier Wilson; **first honors:** Michael Amedeo, John Ballantyne, Nathaniel Bowman, Nicole Cederdahl, Hee Yeon Chang, Gillian Craig, Joseph Falco, Caroline Fearnow, Eliza Funk, Stephanie Gamble, Erin Gillespie, Amanda Hanley, Karen Leahy, Laura Lucas, Timothy Morrill, Timothy Motherway, Thomas Murphy, Nick Ondrich, Kristen Ordono, Maria Rector, Summer Seeley, Ashley Tolino; **second honors:** Nicholas Kraimer, Andrew Riley, Matthew Wohl-farth.

**Seventh grade, principal's list:** Matthew Colket, Victoria Glover, Nicholas Leggit, Chris Pliszak, Daniel Russo; **first honors:** Nicole Bruno, Bri-

anna Celestina, Thomas Colket, Matthew Erculiani, Marissa Maduschke, Garrett Martin, Megan Messett, Mairead Paxton, Stephanie Pennington, Jessica Rempe, Julie Rivera, Zachary Roskowinski, Min Ji Sim, Jacob Spessard, Bradley Upde-graff, Matthew Walchuck, Matthew Wright; **second honors:** Emily Hick-en, Brian Hickman, Christopher Hopkins, Madeline Lawton.

**Eighth grade, principal's list:** Janine Bainger, Grace Buckley, Elisabeth Cutchin, Mara Franciscovich, Tara Giangrande, Kevin Jones, Abigail Tighe, Katie Usiak, Diana Zelaya; **first honors:** Kelly Crowley, Hannah Currens, Nicole Harshman, Mary Hessler, Sarah Johnson, Madeleine Lawson, Maggie Motherway, Zachary Sneed, Krista Thiede, Emily Tolino, Brooke Wilson, Julia Zukas; **second honors:** Clara DelGripio, Frederick Fleitz, Elodie Jean-Philippe, Emily Kinley, Erica Leggit, Caitlyn O'Neel, Shelby Payne, Marial Pierce, Brian Plamondon, Alexis Truxillo, Ingrid Will.