

HeadNotes

Margaret Delk Moore, Interim Head of School



When I was growing up, I learned from my parents that “it’s not what you say; it’s how you say it” that really matters. How true that continues to be. Sometimes, as we all know, our words do not actually portray what we really feel or the excitement that may lie behind our message. This is true with education and teaching as well.

In our education systems today, particularly in the public sector, there has been an increasing emphasis on teaching and preparing students for standardized tests and the resulting test scores. It’s about numbers and achievement measured by test scores, leaving very little space for teachers to teach with flexibility and creativity. Information in. Information out. And we wonder why children are not engaged in school!

Schools focused on 21st-century learning, however, are discussing how to increase student engagement with learning through the encouragement and development of creativity, collaborative skills, problem solving abilities, and critical thinking. So how do we do this? It goes back to “it’s how you say it.” It’s about drawing students in to be active participants in their education by raising the level of interest, discourse, and performance in the classroom. It’s about guiding students to connect to their world through purposeful work, using interesting, relevant problems which they can solve.

As I observe the educational activity at St. Martin’s, I am impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement our teachers bring to the classroom. Our teachers are passionate about what they teach and they are creative in the way they present information. They have the flexibility to change course as necessary, bringing laughter and love into their day to add the necessary spice along the way.

As an independent school, we have more freedom for our teachers to explore new knowledge with students, presenting information in a variety of ways. Of course there will always be days when a student may not be on the same page with us. Most often, however, I see St. Martin’s teachers willing to do any number of things in the classroom in order to engage their students. Our small class sizes enable teachers to know each child, to mentor them, and to adjust to meet his or her needs where possible. We care about each child, and our village here at St. Martin’s is committed to doing all that we can to help our students meet with success.

We choose carefully—what we say and how we say it in the classroom in order to make the learning environment the best it can be for 21st-century learners. This is true in our preschool, elementary, and middle school divisions. One leads to the other. From our youngest three-year-old to our “senior” eighth graders, we strive to be our best for each age level. Our program prepares students well, and they shine not only at St. Martin’s but far beyond their time here. Our learners become leaders and remain friends beyond our campus because of the environment created by our faculty and staff. It’s our mission, and we are shaping children and adolescents each day in mind, body and spirit.

Phone a Friend

Parents, do you have friends who are looking for a different educational experience for their child? Do you know families whose children would thrive at St. Martin’s-in-the-Field? Do you have new neighbors? Do you know a family who wants a school rooted in the Episcopal tradition? Tell them about our Open House dates and invite them to come get a sense of our school. Your good words are our best advertising. Phone a friend today and share why you love St. Martin’s.

Open House

January 11 (snow date January 18) and March 21

9:00 to noon and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Wednesdays

9:00 to noon

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD STUDENTS QUIZ

OUR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

Before school closed for the Christmas holidays, students at St. Martin's-in-the-Field wrote down some questions for our newly appointed Head of School, the Rev. Dr. Frank Sawyer, who will take up his post on July 1, 2012. Over the break, he read our students' questions and took time to answer them. Here is the Q&A.

What do we call you? --Merric, PreK Full Day

You can call me Dr. Sawyer, not because I am going to prescribe you medicine when you are sick, but because I have a Doctor of Ministry degree. Father Sawyer and Mr. Sawyer are fine, too.

Where are you coming from? --Michael, Kindergarten

I am coming from Augusta, Georgia. I have also worked in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto, and Prague.

Do you have any pets? --Savannah, Kindergarten

We have a dog and her name is Piranha. She is a Bichon Frise and not as scary as she sounds.

What is your favorite color? --Sarah, Kindergarten

It was blue when I was little and has been ever since.



Will your children come to our school? --Ellie, Kindergarten/Megan and Olivia, Grade 2/Bella, Grade 3/Isabelle, Grade 6

Yes, our older daughter Maggie will be going into grade two and our younger daughter Pippa will be in preschool soon, too.

What do you do for fun? --Chris, Grade 2

I enjoy doing things with my family, such as taking the girls to Disney World and other fun trips. Over the Christmas holidays my daughter Maggie and I played a lot of Wii Sports, and we watched lots of movies because it was raining out so much. Otherwise we like to do lots of different things outdoors.

Will we still go on field trips? What was your favorite field trip as a boy? Where did you grow up? Do you like dogs, especially Bernese Mountain dogs? --Sarah, Grade 3

Yes, field trips are an important part of learning at St. Martin's. I grew up in Brantford, Ontario, west of Toronto, up in Canada. It snowed a lot in the winter there, and I remember enjoying a field trip to a nature center near my town where we learned about what animals did to survive the winter, and we played some fun games in the snow too. I do like dogs. I think that the Bernese Mountain Dog is a beautiful breed. Our dogs used to play with one at the park when we lived in San Francisco.

Can you speak French? --Clement, Grade 3

I studied French in school, and I still speak some French but it is very rusty. I hope Father Buisson will help me practice.

What sports do you like? --Matthew, Grade 3/Mary Mac and Kelly, Grade 7

I like watching most sports, and I always enjoy seeing my students play. I got really into running ten years ago. I have run three marathons and also coached the cross-country team at my current school. When I go to Canada in the summer I enjoy swimming, canoeing, and sailing. I grew up in Canada skiing every winter, so I love this sport, too, and I hope to teach my daughters to ski soon.

If you had to save the world, what would you do? And what is your favorite cookie flavor? --Libby, Grade 3

Wow, the first is a tough question. I would like to be able to do something exciting like blast an asteroid out of the sky before it struck the earth, but I don't think I am qualified to do this. More realistically, I always hope that I can make a difference together with other people to save our world from environmental destruction. I remember learning about ways humans are damaging our environment back in fifth grade. I have always wanted and tried to do something about it. The question about cookie flavor is easier – definitely chocolate chip.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL, THE REVEREND DOCTOR FRANK SAWYER

Continued from page 2

Will you build a gym? A cafeteria? A library? --Grant, Grade 5/Meghan, Garrett, and Pauline, Grade 7

I would love to build them all. I would like to hear where you think we should start.

We are told there can be no blood or dying or fighting in school, but then we watch movies with that stuff in it? Why? --Joey, Grade 3

St. Martin's-in-the-Field tries to teach students the difference between right and wrong, like Jesus's teaching that violence and revenge are not the right way to solve problems. However, while some movies teach good lessons, Hollywood really makes movies to make money, and sadly many people want to see movies with violence in them. I want St. Martin's to be a school where the students grow up strong in their faith and character and able to stand up for themselves and others in respectful and loving ways, the way I believe God wants us to be.

What is your experience with children? How many years have you been teaching, and what was your last job? ---Sophia, Grade 3 and Meghan, Grade 7

I have taught for almost thirteen years in Episcopal schools and before that I was the youth minister at a church in Toronto. I spent six of these years in an all-boys school. I also took a year abroad during college and taught English in Prague. In the classroom, I have taught every grade from Kindergarten through college. My current job is as the chaplain at Episcopal Day School in Augusta, Georgia. I really enjoy school ministry, which is why I am so excited to continue working in education as the Head of School at St. Martin's-in-the-Field. I also have the joy of being a father to two girls.

How will you keep St. Martin's-in-the-Field safe? --Marley, Grade 5

Ensuring that the school is physically safe and that we have excellent safety procedures in place is a top priority for me. I want all students to feel safe at school – physically, socially, and emotionally. My work as a chaplain has taught me that students sometimes do not feel safe or happy at school and that a school needs to address these issues both in creating a safe environment at school and, specifically, in helping students who feel uncomfortable at school. For example, at my current school we initiated a program to address the issues of bullying, cruelty, exclusion, and other hurtful things that sometimes happen at school. I promise that I will work with the faculty, students, and parents to ensure that St. Martin's is a safe and happy school for all of its students.

How will you change the school? Do you have any changes intended for our school? Will you update our buildings? Will you add extracurricular activities? I really want a Science Club. --Kelly/Cameron/Mackenzie/Abbey, Grade 7 and Katie/Emily, Grade 5

The changes I hope to bring are to make a great school greater. I was really impressed when I visited St. Martin's-in-the-Field and found engaged students, excellent teachers, and a solid curriculum. My dreams for your school include a new school building that will make the student experience even better, more technology in the classroom, and more options for sports and clubs.

Why do you feel fit to have this position? --Lucas, Grade 7

Good question, and it is one that I have asked myself. I have loved being a school chaplain for many years now but I have long felt that God was calling me to a ministry as a headmaster of an Episcopal school. It is a tradition in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition for priests to serve as heads of schools. About ten years ago I started increasing my experience as a school administrator in preparation to become a school head by taking on additional responsibilities at each of the schools where I served. The headmasters at these schools were very supportive and taught me a lot about being a head. I also went back to college and took a doctoral degree at the theology school in Berkeley, California, to learn more. I think I am ready and that St. Martin's in-the-Field is the place for me to be a headmaster.

What changes will you make in the school day? Are you nervous about starting in a new school? --Pauline, Grade 7

I don't know what changes need to be made in the school day but I will definitely look at the school day together with the teachers so we can all work together to make sure we have a school day that best meets your learning needs. Scheduling the school day is always a challenge and will never be perfect for everybody but we will do the best we can. While I am excited about coming to St. Martin's, I am a little nervous because being a head of school is a big job with a lot of responsibility. I do feel good about coming to St. Martin's-in-the-Field, however, because when I visited the school I discovered what a welcoming and friendly place it is.

LETTER FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear St. Martin's-in-the-Field Parents,

I am VERY excited to announce that we have been working very hard on our annual spring fundraiser. We hope you are as excited as we are to attend this year's Bull and Oyster Roast. We will be looking for volunteers and ideas. No amount of time you can give is too small! Thank you, Donna Curtis, for making our largest fundraising event of the year possible!

What a great start to the 2011-2012 school year! I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this year's fundraisers. With your support we have already been able to do some great things. We have purchased Office Depot gift cards for all of the teachers. This allowed our wonderful teachers to purchase extra classroom supplies to enhance our children's learning. The PA also contributed money toward the music recorders for our sister school in Haiti. I am very pleased to announce that with your generosity we are able to help support the wonderful education that our children receive from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything you do to make all of these wonderful things possible for our students.

I would like to extend a special thank you to several of our parents who have chaired the events that got us off to this great start. Thank you, Melissa Dwyer and Tracy Payer, for the long hours you put into our Book Fair. We will miss you both next year, but wish you and your children the very best in high school. I also would like to thank Melissa Dwyer for taking on two big fundraisers at the same time. Thank you so much for introducing St. Martin's to Innisbrook. I hope everyone enjoys the great items they offered. Thank you to Sandy Brodbeck for coordinating the Kids Stuff coupon books for the third year. Thank you, Tina Cobb, for coordinating Square One Art. I personally love the Christmas tree ornaments that I have been collecting over the years.

For those of you who didn't see the Parish Hall on Halloween, I can't say enough about it! THANK YOU Gavin Craig, Christina Matta, Anne-Marie Poulton, Nancy Fitzgerald, Lisa Body and all of the moms who helped transform the Parish Hall into the perfect Halloween setting for our middle school dance. The kids had a wonderful time!

Thank you to everyone who cut and saved their Box Tops and a huge thanks to Lisa Callahan for the hours of cutting, counting and assembling them. Registering our families with Giant and Safeway is a large part of the money we raise each year, so thank you, Jennifer Triplett, for continuing this program.

Thank you, Donna Curtis, for coordinating our room moms, answering tons of questions, and meeting with the teachers to ensure all of our classroom parties and activities are wonderful. Not least, thank you to all of the wonderful parents who have stood out in the rain, wind, and cold to help our preschool children out of the cars. It means so much to have you out there so the teachers can remain in their classroom to greet our children.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and I look forward to working with you in the 2012!

Sincerely, Marcia Kokoski

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

Bull and Oyster Roast

in the Field

Friday, April 27, 2012

6 p.m. Parish Hall

Let the fun and bidding begin!

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

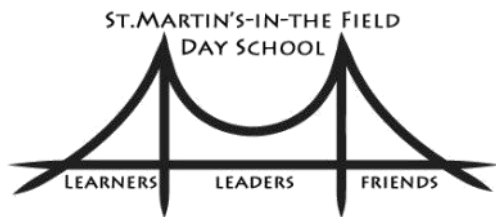
To volunteer to be a part of the Auction Team,
please contact Donna Curtis at 443-454-4446 or dietdel@yahoo.com



THANK YOU!**Business Friends of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School**

As a long-established school in the community, we thank you for your generous support of education in the lives of our students and families.

Adam's Ribs North	Crush Winehouse	Lauer's Supermarket	Severna Park Golf Center
Annapolis Bowl	Cypress Creek Therapy Associates	Ledo Pizza	Severna Park Gymnastics
Annapolis Carriage	Damons	Lilac Bijoux	Severna Park Lanes
Annapolis Marriott Waterfront	David's Natural Market	Little Treasury Jewelers	Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness
Annapolis Plastic Surgery	Dawsons Liquors	Littman Jewelers	Sherrie Black, RN, MAC. East-West Healing Arts
Annapolis Summer Garden Theater	Dick's Sporting Goods	Local Food Beat	Side Street Framers
Annapolis Symphony Orchestra	Discovery Annapolis Tours	Main Ingredient Cafe	Skate Zone
Annebeth's	Dominos Pizza	Maritime Autowash	Smyth Jewelers
Applebee's	Donut Shack	Maryland Paint and Decorating	SportsClips Haircuts
Armadillo's	Double T Diner	Maryland Performing Arts Center	Swartz and Sons Distributing
Arnold Professional Pharmacy	Dr. Brian D. Valle, PA	Medieval Times	Szechuan Inn
Arthur's School Uniforms	Dr. Jennifer Gamber	Modell's Sporting Goods	Tara's Gift and Parties of Distinction
Artworks Studio	Dr. W. Kendall Miller - Orthodontics	Moulin de Paris	The Big Bean
As Kindred Spirits	Eastern Mountain Sports	Murnane And O'Neill	The Clay Bakers
Ballet Theatre of Maryland	Edible Arrangements	Music and Arts of Severna Park	The Cottage
Bangkok Oriental	Elements Therapeutic Massage	Music Together Chesapeake	The Fresh Market
Barnes and Noble	Ellen Allen Annapolis	Naval Academy Athletic Association	The Great American Car Wash
Bay Hills Golf Club	Emilio Vincenzo Escape	Old Tyme Barber Shop	The Grill at Quarterfield Station
Beauregards Limited	Equilibrium Horse Center	Olive Grove	The Melting Pot
Bella Italia Restaurant	Festival Wine and Spirits	Origins	The Olive Tree Ristorante Italiano
Bellas Liquors	Four Seasons Grille	Panera Bread	The Paper Source
Big Vanilla Athletic Club	Fieldstone Animal Inn	Paper in the Park	The Pink Crab
Bike Doctor	Frames Galore	Paper Trousseau	Thirty One, Abbie McNamee
Bill Bateman's Bistro	Franklin's Toys	Pat's Hallmark	Tull and Behling Pediatric Dentistry
Bin 201 Winesellers	Freedom Bakery	Peter O'Neill Gallery	UA Marley Station 8
Bob Evans	Garry's Grill & Catering	Pigtails and Crewcuts	Ultimate Playzone
Bowie Baysox	Griffins	Piney Orchard Ice Arena	Valentine Bauer DDS PA
Brian Boru	Gvozden Pediatrics	Pirate Adventures of the Chesapeake	Watermark Cruises
Brio Tuscan Grille	Hair Trends	Plaza Garibaldi	Waugh Chapel Village Wine & Spirits
Broadleaf Tobacco	House of Tropicals	Port Tack Ltd Wine and Spirit	Westfield Annapolis
Buddy's Crabs and Ribs	Image Creators Salon & Spa	Punk's Backyard Grill	Westin Annapolis
Buxton Photography	Jalapeno's	Quayle & Company	Whimsicality
CAbi -Renee Farnham	Jason's Music	Rams Head Tavern	Whole Foods Market Culinary Center
Cadillac Ranch	Jeno's Steaks	Renditions Golf Course	Whole Health Designs LLC
Carini's Pizza	Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi	Reynolds Tavern	Woodfire Restaurant
Carrabba's	Jumper's Grille	Rivera's Mexican Cafe	Xpress It! Studio
Carroll's Creek	Kali Salon & Spa	Rolly Pollies	Zachary's Jewelers
Charm City Run	Kate McCulloch - Vera Bradley	Rommel's Ace Hardware	
Cheeburger Cheeburger	Katherine Stewart Designs	Sage Health Center	
Cheeseburger in Paradise	Kennard Chiropractic and Physical Therapy	Sam's Club	
Cheesecake Factory	Kids First Swim Schools	Scott Finlay D.D.S	
Chesapeake Acupuncture Center	Killarney House Restaurant	Severna Flowers and Gifts	
Clement Hardware		Severna Park Automotive	
Crofton Country Club			



WHY CHOOSE A PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE SCHOOL?

by Cynthia Barry

Christmas caroling has brought communities together since early Celtic days. As I write this, the elementary grades are visiting the preschool classrooms to sing Christmas carols. By the time you read this, elementary and middle school students will have presented their Christmas Program to parents, grandparents, and family friends. Preschool children will have raised their voices in song. Prior to Christmas, our school was full of music. Now, in January, our minds are replete with memories. When you choose a school for your child, you choose a community.

When families make the choice of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School, they have the opportunity to make a long-term educational decision for their child at our 3-year-old through 8th-grade school. St. Martin's is not just a nursery school. We are here for the most important years of a child's life. Here we not only teach the mind, we nurture the spiritual core of each child. Prayer and worship are an integral part of the fabric of our life together.

Here at St. Martin's, your child can have a formative, challenging, and tailored educational experience through the middle school years. Studies show that children who attend a PS-8 (preschool through 8th-grade) school enjoy many advantages throughout their educational careers. (Rand Study 2006, National Middle School Association Study, Program on Education Policy and Governance Working Paper Series at Harvard University.)

The continuity of educational philosophy, teachers, peers, curriculum, and expectations seems to enhance academic, social, and emotional development. This "trustworthy environment" leads to improved academic performance and bolsters self-confidence and esteem.

Parents who choose St. Martin's-in-the-Field for their child's Early Education know that enriched learning at early stages of brain development is fundamental to later success. Having started children on the right path, it becomes even more advantageous to continue on that path right through middle school. Why?

Because studies show that changing schools at the 5th or 6th grade levels (middle school) can hinder a student's progress well into the high school years. An independent school, such as St. Martin's, circumvents the tiered approach of a public school system.

"I don't see eliminating the transition at the high school level as important or beneficial as eliminating the transition at the middle school level," said Martin R. West, an assistant education professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and co-author of the study that found students who move in the middle years show a "sharp drop" in math and language arts achievement in the transition year that plagues them as far out as 10th grade.

Seeing children through from toddlerhood to pre-adolescence on one campus in one school is like watching a film rather than taking a snapshot. From preschool, into elementary, and on to 8th grade, your child becomes better as a learner and a person.

Academic strength, learning styles, interests, and gifts become more clearly defined against a consistent background. At a PS-8 school, and especially in the culture of St. Martin's-in-the-Field which encourages the individual's self-discovery, a child has many leadership opportunities. "Buddy programs," which we talked about in the last newsletter, have positive effects on both younger and older children.

At St. Martin's-in-the-Field, children don't grow up too fast. Each child grows at the pace that feels right for him or her. By the time your four- or five-year-old is ready for high school (and it happens sooner than you think!), he or she has a secure identity. That core strength of character helps adolescents make good decisions. The St. Martin's-in-the-Field preschool through 8th grade experience lasts a lifetime.

from the *Library Corner*



What was the most looked-up word of 2011, according to the makers of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary? If you think the answer to such a question ought to be a matter of fact and practicality, as opposed to idealistic or artistic, then you're being—pragmatic. And you guessed right! Computer searches of the word *pragmatic* spiked during the 2011 Congressional budget debates.

AIMS UPDATE

The Association of Independent Maryland Schools encompasses about 120 independent schools in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Its rigorous accreditation process holds member schools accountable to standards and supports ongoing efforts to strengthen curriculum and pedagogy. The three-year process involves: a written self-study that is comprehensive of school life and inclusive of various constituencies; a three-day visit by a team of outside educators; and a school Action Plan that responds to recommendations.

Our written self-study is nearing completion, thanks to the contributions of administrators, board members, parents, teachers, faculty, and staff. We're compiling documentation on every school aspect, ranging from governance, safety, and mission to academic administration, health and counseling, and finance and advancement. The beneficiaries of the accreditation process are our students.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL STUDENTS ON
A JOB WELL DONE
AT OUR FIRST EVER
TURKEY TROT!**



2nam	25%
3nam	41%
3npm	63%
PKam2	38%
PKpm2	42%
PKam3	83%
<u>FDPK</u>	<u>72%</u>
Total	52%
49/95 families	

Turkey Trot Results

K	69%	5 th	88%
1 st	100%	6 th	78%
2 nd	79%	7 th	55%
3 rd	92%	8 th	17%
4 th	78%	Total	56%
Total	83%	36/64 families	
48/58 families			

**Total School Participation: 61 %
Total Funds Raised: \$7,528.00**

- Most Funds Raised, Preschool (\$25 gift card Franklin's Toys): Warrick Simm**
- Most Funds Raised, Elementary (\$25 gift card Franklin's Toys): Bella Ingrao**
- Most Funds Raised, Middle School (\$25 gift card Franklin's Toys): Emily Ingrao**
- 100% Participation Award (Ice Cream Social): 1st Grade!!!!**

THE WINNERS OF THE FALL "BOX TOPS" COLLECTION



The **7th** Grade class has won a "dress down"



The **1st** Grade class has won an ice cream social!



Pre-K Full Day and PK 3 have won ice cream socials!

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Day School is very proud of all our students, and the Parents' Association appreciates their hard work. We would also like to thank all of our parents for assisting with collecting.

In the New Year, don't forget to look for those Box Tops and clip and save!

Follow St Martin's-in-the-Field Day School progress on the website www.boxtops4education.com

Questions? Contact Lisa Callahan at callahansp@comcast.net



WE WANT YOU...



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

Thank you, The Yearbook Staff

CARPE DIEM—PRESCHOOLERS GREET THE DAY TOGETHER

By Stacey Lyons, Pre-Kindergarten 3 Teacher

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America...." St. Martin's-in-the-Field preschoolers solemnly recite the Pledge of Allegiance when all students meet in the PK Full-Day classroom to celebrate the day's opening together. It is the preschool's way of building bridges and friendships among our students from Age 3 to Kindergarten. Besides saluting the flag, we sing songs and tell stories that reflect the traditions of the school year.



In October, we all sang a few Halloween songs to get us into that spooky spirit. Thanksgiving time was song-and-feasting time. We sang a song in French and one in English. We ate our Thanksgiving Feast together as a preschool. Also in November, we read stories and spoke of how we are grateful we are for our families and good lives. As we approached Christmas, Santa came for a visit to the preschool. We also had classroom parties and Closing Chapel services.

Entering the New Year, we in preschool will continue to grow and change. The children enjoy doing something different every morning and seem to love, as we teachers do, seeing the whole preschool together at one time. From time to time, we have guest readers and grown-up friends to lead us in beginning the day together. If any parents would like to plan a daily opening or greeting, please speak to your child's teacher. Our spirit is welcoming!

LEAF READING: OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CBF

by Donna Manuel, 3rd Grade Teacher

Third grade once again welcomed Melissa and Phillip from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The class enjoyed learning how to classify trees according to the physical properties of their leaves. We began by using the third grade class as an example of how a thing, or in our case, a person can be identified by using their physical properties. We divided the class into two divisions: boys and girls.

Next we classified each of these groups according to hair color. We kept breaking each group down until we had a giant graphic web and we could identify each individual student. We took this process outside where we collected leaves. We then began to look for the distinctive characteristics of each leaf.

We looked at various properties of the leaf, such as whether or not it was a broad leaf or a needle leaf. Next we looked at whether or not it was toothed or lobed. We kept going until we were able to tell which tree the leaf came from just by looking at its physical properties. It was fun, and we learned a lot—not only how to distinguish leaves but also how to classify distinguishing characteristics. This is an important skill in scientific thinking.



MIXING IT UP AND PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER: SECOND GRADERS RIFF ON ERIC CARLE'S *THE MIXED-UP CHAMELEON*

by Cynthia Barry

Stories are how humans—adults and children—make sense of the world. So what do you do with a story that mixes everything up? Ellen Stanton's second-grade class read *The Mixed-Up Chameleon*. The story is a playful amalgam of confusion, identity, and the wonderful diversity of life, illustrated with the wildly riotous collages of Eric Carle. If you've walked by the walls near the second-grade classroom, you've seen the equally wildly riotous collages of our students.

"Children learn through making connections between what they know and what they don't know, and putting new stories together that reflect who they are as individuals," said Ellen. "My students and I read *The Mixed-Up Chameleon*. We use the story as a jumping-off place for the imagination, but the assignment actually combines language, art, and science."

Ellen collects wallpaper samples, textured paper, and colored tissue paper. Her students pull from the collection and assemble an animal that has characteristics they would like to have, imitating the chameleon in the story. Imagination has free rein, with one caveat: their animal has to have physical features that support the function. So, if your animal wants to fly, it has to have wings. If it wants to stomp around, it has to have big feet. The activity appeals to a range of learning styles—linguistic, auditory (they read the story aloud), visual-artistic, tactile, and kinesthetic. The activity is just plain fun, both in creation and result. The second graders' stories and illustrations will be up on the wall into January.

Here are some extracts from our second-graders' mixed-up animal stories:

Megan: *The Mixed-Up Butterfly*. I wish I could gallop like a horse, purr like a cat, move like a starfish, glow like a firefly...I wish I could be myself.

Christopher: *The Mixed-Up Turkey*. I wish I could fly like an eagle, swim like a dolphin, hang upside-down like a monkey.



Preston: *The Mixed-Up Gorilla*. I wish I were spotted like a ladybug, could float on top of the water like a duck, swim fast like a fish, see underwater like a seahorse.

Emma Grace: *The Mixed-Up Bearcat*. I wish I could run fast like a horse, puff like a pufferfish, have legs like a starfish, swim like an eel.

Owen: *The Mixed-up Dog*. I wish I could breathe underwater like a fish, hide like a snake, fly like a bee.

Emma: *The Mixed-Up Panda*. I wish I were as cute as a puppy, had long legs like a flamingo, stripes like a zebra, and be able to jump really far in the air like a dolphin.

Wes: *The Mixed-Up Lion*. I wish I could fight like a billy goat, camouflage like a chameleon, and fly like an eagle.



Scott: *The Mixed-Up Panda*. I wish I were huge like a blue whale, could catch flies like a chameleon, and climb like a spider.

Jack: *The Mixed-Up Owl*. I wish I could camouflage in snow like a bobcat, be black and white like a penguin, hunt like a cat.



Dominic: *The Mixed-Up Turkey*. I wish I could hang from trees like a monkey, run fast like a road runner, smell like a shark, and be funny like a seal.

Zachary: *The Mixed-Up Cat*. I wish I could fly like a bird, run fast like a cheetah, sniff like a dog, look in two different directions like a chameleon.



Mary Grace: *The Mixed-Up Kitten*. I wish I could climb like a panda, have sharp teeth like a tiger and wings like a butterfly.

Olivia: *The Mixed-Up Turkey*. I wish I were soft and cuddly like a sheep, handsome like a chicken, and be a horse so people could ride on me.

POETRY AND PARENTS: YOU'RE INVITED TO A POETRY SLAM AS POET-IN-RESIDENCE REVISITS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school parents are invited to a **Poetry Slam in the Parish Hall, Wednesday, January 18, 2:30-3:20**. Students in grades 5th, 6th, and 7th will be working with poet-in-residence, Natalie Lobe, composing their own poems under her guidance. She has been visiting St. Martin's-in-the-Field middle school for several years now, and we take no poetic license when we say that the students love her. Ms. Lobe unlocks the mystery of writing poetry for her students, showing them ways to interpret and shape their experiences in crafted words.

Her poems are collected in *Island Time*, based on her summers on Block Island. Her poems have appeared in a variety of publications, and she is a poet-in-residence with the Maryland State Arts Council.



Natalie Lobe and the 2010 5th grade class.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY—NOT A “PROBLEM”

By Ginny Ready, Middle School Math and Science



On Fridays, my 6th grade math class plays math games to reinforce learning. Recently, the kids practiced their multiplication facts on a website called: freerice.com. On this site there are review games in several subjects that reward students with grains of rice. Grains of rice, you say? Yes! The rice is distributed to hungry people all over the world through the United Nations World Food Program. In one class period, nine 6th graders sent 150 BOWLS of rice to hungry people!

THOUGHTS FROM FACULTY AND STAFF

Harriet Petrocelli, elementary desk administrator, writes...

In kicking off our annual fund, Interim Head Margaret Moore wrote, “Having a Turkey Trot is in keeping with the holiday season—a light-hearted, physically active way to show what is, in fact, our deep **gratitude** for our school.” I found the quote compelling.

My kids’ Sunday school lesson recently was titled “Gratitude Adjustment.” The core lesson was to get kids to think differently about their life’s frustrations and to appreciate those things that appear at first to be automatic. For example, a particular day at school might be hard, but God’s grace provides most of us in this area with nearly unlimited access to learning and education. So the prayer might be:

“Lord, thank you for challenging me today and teaching me how to persevere no matter how tough the material. And thank you for the blessing of school and the opportunity to grow and learn freely.”

A simple change in perspective can change the way we pray and open our eyes to the countless blessings God provides. The “Gratitude Adjustment” lesson stems from I Thessalonians 5: 16-18: “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I love the play on the popular term, “attitude adjustment,” which we often use when disciplining our kids. I suggest a “gratitude adjustment” when we think of annual giving, volunteerism, and appreciation of others—an intentional encouragement of the culture of giving, volunteering, and “bucket filling” at St. Martin’s-in-the-Field.

Editor’s Note: In January, Harriet Petrocelli will no longer be staffing the elementary desk at St. Martin’s-in-the-Field. She will be assisting her husband as they grow their business. Harriet will continue to help us on special projects. Tiffany Mathews will be coming on full time. See you around, Harriet, and good morning, Tiffany!

MUSTANGS SOCCER 2011: SEASON IN REVIEW

By Ed Warfield, French Teacher and Soccer Coach

I am truly proud of this year's Mustang Soccer Team. The year began in uncertainty as to whether or not we would have the necessary numbers to field a team, and, ultimately, we mustered up the bare minimum of players needed to field an interscholastic team. I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that since soccer is a fall sport your child should keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet in the spring for the 2012 soccer team.

Fortunately, we had excellent eighth grade leadership this year in Raphael Buisson, Joonas Tyler, and Daniel Warfield. Each of these three players exemplified sportsmanship and a practice work ethic necessary for athletic improvement in any sport. Reliability, commitment, and dedication to the team can describe them all. Raphael provided steady goal tending until he broke his finger before the last game. His punting improved significantly through hard work and determination, and his fearless style of play always inspired our team.

Joonas' individual ball skills improved dramatically through consistent work over the years. This year his maturity helped Joonas become a complete team player and take a leadership role on the field. Joonas always brought offensive intensity to every game. Daniel trained hard to prepare for the season, and he brought strength, size, and stamina to the center half-back position. His "throw-ins" were an attacking threat and helped our team significantly with possession. It has truly been a pleasure working with each of these eighth graders on the soccer field over the years, and they will be missed. Thanks, especially, to Joonas' dad, Blake, for his many, many hours of volunteer assistance.

Our seventh grade returned several seasoned players in Jack Bullen, Ben Kopas, Artem Romanchak, and Hunter Sheely. Jack battled through a painful toe condition, practicing and playing in pain for most of the season. Ben displayed consistent determination, competitiveness and drive in every game. Artem practiced hard to improve, and is a physically strong athlete who, with continued focus, will improve his soccer skills significantly.

Hunter has worked extremely hard to improve his individual athleticism and soccer skills over the last several years. Hunter anchored our defense in the middle, as we played a 4-3-3, and he was flanked by three inexperienced players, two of whom never played soccer previously. One of these was Chris Summers, who brought a good attitude and positive team spirit. Chris gained valuable soccer experience upon which to build. Garrett Odell's return provided welcomed toughness at the fullback position. First year player Berj Mardirossian gave us a solid presence on offense, and was a welcomed addition to our team. He displayed the desire to want to become a more complete, better player through hard work, and his strong left foot could bring a lot to next year's team.

Lastly, but not least, our fifth grade players provide a lot of hope for the coming years. Thomas Bullen provided steady defense at the fullback position and gained significant experience in his first season. Garrett Nilsen and Steven Shin both displayed the "eye of the tiger" on offense. Garrett's hard-nosed athletic style while pursuing the ball, and Steven's skilled ball control capability could serve to provide a much needed one-two offensive punch for years to come. Christian Perez was a welcomed addition to our team, and displayed a lot of hustle and determination while gaining important experience on the soccer field.

Our annual soccer game with Les Petits Chanteurs was a season highlight, as our team donated used soccer cleats and uniforms for our guests to use and take home with them to Haiti. I am proud of our student-athletes. They showed passion for soccer, competitive drive, hard work in their preparation, support for their teammates, leadership with new teammates, pride in their school, sportsmanship toward opponents, courage through adversity, and compassion for our fellow man. This has truly been a special season. We have celebrated with a trip to the University of Maryland to see the nationally ranked Terrapins play Wake Forest.

To the parents of athletes, who do so much, and to all the supporters of our program, thank you for all of your kind encouragement and support throughout the years. We feel it, we appreciate it, and you make our athletic program stronger. GO MUSTANGS!



HEALTH AND FITNESS IN-THE-FIELD

by Betz Wild

PE News

Preschool through 3rd grade played at indoor stations. Stations include gymnastics, basketball, scooters, yarn balls, lollipop paddles, bowling and other fun. The students rotate through the stations in small groups, working on playing together and sharing.

The 3rd through 6th graders finished their Minute to Win It games. In each class, four or more challenges were set up, and the students rotated through them. Class challenges included Pencil Flip, Blind Ball, Defying Gravity, Marble Roll, Nodding Around, Office Tennis, Tic Tac Tennis, and the M&M Hunt. Directions for challenges can be found on the website for the TV show. *Do try these at home!*

The 7th and 8th graders wrapped up their team-building unit with several new challenges from a great Team Building kit purchased by the Parents' Association. The skills needed to work together, communicate, and complete the challenges are great for the students to learn. I hope these skills will stay with our St. Martin's-in-the-Field students as they continue through high school. Along with the new activities, we also played a few old favorites like Toxic River and the rope pull.

In January, the younger students will be flying high with the parachute and also playing paddle games, while the middle school students will be doing gym workouts. The gym workouts allow students to work independently through the workout stations—bicep curls, sit ups, squats, jump rope, agility ladder, bench press, bosu ball, weighted ball squats, and others.

Thanks for reminding your child which days are PE days and making sure the right uniform is on. Preschool students especially need to remember sneakers on Tuesday (PK Half-Days) or Thursday (K and PK Full-Day).

Sports in-the-Field

Our basketball season is under way and is never lacking in excitement! The boys have had home team advantage for the last few Mondays and have been moving the ball well, running and shooting a lot. The boys are divided into a 5th/6th grade team and a 7th/8th grade team. The younger boys are coached by high school student Cole Duncan, son of our own Nursery teacher, Kim Duncan. The older boys are coached by St. Martin's-in-the-Field parent, Kevin Fitzgerald, and my own son, Griffin Wild, who are both volunteering their time to the team.

We have one girls' team, and they opened their season with a game at St. Paul's. It was a 3-point nail-biter, and so exciting because every player on the team took at least one shot in the game. I couldn't believe all the noise and excitement from our fans, and I might have been a little loud and crazy myself. Our girls are coached by high school student Clare Hofstedt, who is assisted by Camille King.

Thanks goes out to 4th grader Grayson Phillips and 7th grader Mary-MacIntyre Poulton who have been working the scorers table for home games. I'm so happy with our coaches and the excitement and energy they bring to practices and games. They are very proud of our kids and doing a great job of showing it.

***Come cheer on the Mustangs
at the Severna Park Community
Center for our home games
on Mondays at 4:00 and 5:00.
GO MUSTANGS!***



All of the remaining basketball games are listed in the schedule to the right.

Date	Day	Team	Time	Location / Opponent
Jan. 9	Mon.	Girls	4:00	Home vs. Calverton
Jan. 9	Mon.	Boys B	5:00	Home vs Key School
Jan. 17	Tues.	Girls	4:00	at St. Martin's Lutheran
Jan. 19	Thur.	Boys A	5:00	at Summit School
Jan. 23	Mon.	Girls	4:00	Home vs. Rockbridge
Jan. 23	Mon.	Boys A	5:00	Home vs Rockbridge
Jan. 30	Mon.	Boys B	4:00	Home vs St. Martin's Lutheran
Jan. 30	Mon.	Boys A	5:00	Home vs St. Martin's Lutheran
Feb. 2	Thur.	Boys A	4:00	at St. Martin's Lutheran
Feb. 2	Thur.	Boys B	5:00	At St. Martin's Lutheran
Feb. 6	Mon.	Boys A	4:00	Home vs. St. Anne's
Feb. 6	Mon.	Girls	5:00	Home vs. St. Anne's

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR PAUL SALOPEK, WINNER OF TWO PULITZER PRIZES, SPEAKS TO 4TH THROUGH 8TH GRADERS

by Cynthia Barry



Paul Salopek began with a question: “How many miles do you think you walk in an average year? When you come to school, when you’re playing?” Grant in 5th grade raised his hand. “About a couple of hundred miles a year?” he responded. “You are so close,” said Paul. “We generally walk about 200-250 miles a year.”

With that easy given-and-take (and impressive guessing), the conversation between St. Martin’s-in-the-Field 4th through 8th grade students and *National Geographic* magazine writer Paul Salopek got under way.

“You are the first group of students I’ve spoken to,” said Paul. “I’ve talked to magazine editors, radio station owners, scientists, thinkers, fellow writers. I hope you’ll give me some good ideas about how to improve this project.” Paul will be meeting with educators at Harvard this summer, working out the educational component of his project.

Paul’s project is a planned walk around the world, a distance of 26,000 kilometers, following in the footsteps of our ancestors out of the Rift Valley in Africa about 65,000 years ago, through the Middle East and into Europe and Asia before finally reading land’s end in the Americas, as early humans did about 15,000 years ago. He is following a map based on the fossil record and on newly emerging information embedded in our genetic code, “the library we all carry inside of us.”

Here were some of the questions our students asked:

Will you go to Australia? “If I did that, I would probably be 70 years old.” The route through Africa, the Middle East, southeastern Europe, Asia, and into the Americas will take about 6 or 7 years.”

Will we be able to communicate with you as you walk? “Yes. If you email me or Skype and say there’s a really cool archeological site over there, will you take a look for me?—I will.”

Will you bring your own boats? “I’ll probably just use other people’s boats. I can’t take anything I can’t carry.” At this point, Paul lifted up his knapsack and said, “I probably can’t take anything bigger than this. About 35 pounds.” His bag was about the size of our students’ book packs. “I’ll take a very light laptop, a satellite phone, a GPS, a couple of changes of clothes. When I get to boats, I’ll just hop in.”

What is it like traveling? “Boy, you’re asking...” Paul thought for a moment. “It is like dreaming when you’re awake....It has some downsides. You don’t have a home.... It’s more difficult than being in one place in that you don’t have comfortable things. Having comfortable things frees up the brain to think about other things. I live in discomfort. Travel is like moving around the world without skin on. It’s like being completely permeable to experience. Different cultures. Different food....Even the color of lakes is different under different skies. The color of the sky changes as you get closer to the Equator...It’s what makes me very happy.”

How are you going to take pictures of your feet? (This was a question about how to shoot the walking videos.) “In that case, I was talking to a woman who was making the local version of Dunkin’ Donuts and I said, would you mind just taking my camera and taking pictures of me walking along? What’s nice is that it’s collaborative....The most important part of that video is not my feet. It’s the people around me. The crazy dog. It’s the music. All the sound around me was natural. By asking people to collaborate with me, I share the project.”

How are you going to travel in Siberia? “I may have to travel by dogsled because it is so wild and I will need survival gear. In wild areas I will be under a tent. I hope to be under roofs most of the time....I will pay the families for the trouble of putting me up. Most of the people in the world are poor. Most people live on under \$2.00 a day....People who have the least, not always, but often, share the most.”

How do you communicate with people if you don’t know the language? “It’s a big handicap. I’ve got enough Arabic to get through a roadblock and not get shot....I’m going to have to travel with somebody who is bilingual. That’s the beauty of journalism. It’s one of the most fun parts of being a foreign correspondent. You develop bonds with people who through their window you see their world. In Iraq, my first translator was a teacher who was a Kurd. If I had not met that man, I would have missed all the riches of Kurdish culture... You become a buddy.”

(DISTINGUISHED VISITOR PAUL SALOPAK... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)



What's it like being in jail? "It's difficult....At least, for me, it requires prodigious memory—a well-stocked memory—to fall back on....Because I travel so much, I'm a connoisseur—you know that word? an expert—at places. I have favorite landscapes that I love. Like you have favorite places of your neighborhood, even favorite places in the school, I have those around the world. I was able in my head to revisit those places and inhabit pleasant places. You can do the same with people you love, but my advice is to keep the people you love in deep reserve for emergencies because that is the ultimate refuge."

What kind of delays do you think you'll experience? "You have to be comfortable with uncertainty....I wait, and I write."

What will you do with your life after your walk? "There is a character in fiction called Candide. Like him, I will probably settle down and grow tomatoes."

When we travel, we eat the local produce. How do you build up a tolerance for that? "I have a cast-iron stomach....Other people collect pottery, I collect diseases."

Where you scared when you first decided to make the journey? On one hand, it's very exciting. I think it's going to be fun. There are times when I wake up and I'm scared. I'm scared about causing problems for other people."

Will you be walking in Maryland? "Ancient people waited in Alaska for 4,000 years for the glaciers to melt. One route early people took was down the eastern side of the Rockies, and they spread to the East Coast. On the West Coast, native Americans moved down from Alaska to the tip of South America in less than a thousand years. They did it fast."

Do you go back to where you were born? "You carry home in here." Paul points to his heart.

Are you going to be near Mount Everest? "I'll be close. My intention is to go along the southern foothills of Mount Everest. I'll take a picture."

How do you train? "I run about 4 miles a day. I eat healthy food."

Do you anticipate going back and seeing some of the people you've met and seeing what happened to them? "I have friends all over the world....but there's also something to be said about departures."

Soon after that, Paul departed. But he left behind a great excitement about his long walk and a desire on our students' part to follow him as he goes. Students at St. Martin's-in-the-Field said they wanted to stay in touch with Paul and connect with other students around the world through his project, "Out of Eden."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Reenrollment period is coming up! Dates will be announced, and letters will be sent home.

Spaghetti Dinner



February 3

Katie Fritz

Gospel Concert



February 25

Benefits Day School

Scholarship Fund

Spring Break



March 5-9

School resumes March 12



Easter Break

April 5, 6, and 9