

# Newsletter

## November 2011



*Expanding Knowledge, Building Character, Making a Difference*

### **NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

Making lists with goals for each day works for me. In my youth, I was dependent on my memory to allow time for me to accomplish what needed to be done. Experience has taught me the flaws in that strategy.

The sheer volume of the activities and the choices many of us face daily can be overwhelming. This is as true for many children as it is for us adults. St. Michael's extracurricular activities this fall include Lego League, soccer, field hockey, cross-country, flag football, band and service opportunities. Winter swimming, drama, basketball and lacrosse are just around the corner. Many of our students are also involved in scouting, youth groups and a significant number of sports teams away from St. Michael's.

When homework and test preparation are added to the mix, the time to get everything done is limited. Sleep deprivation and diminished performance at school may be the result.

There are helpful strategies to consider initiating in your household. First, teach your child to prioritize a list of what needs to be accomplished each day. Please make family time and school work remain near the top of everyone's lists. Children need guidance. They need to understand what their parents value and why. Lessons learned in one's youth can last a lifetime.

### **COMING NEXT YEAR: A LONGER KINDERGARTEN DAY OPTION**

Beginning with the 2012 fall semester, St. Michael's will offer an extended day enrichment program for our kindergarten students. Participating students will have their school day conclude at the same time as students in grades one through five. Families also have the choice of selecting the traditional one o'clock dismissal for their kindergarteners. The longer day option for our kindergarten students provides St. Michael's the opportunity to offer a program compatible with most schools in our area. Please spread the news by making your friends and neighbors aware of this exciting new change at St. Michael's. Additional information will soon follow.

### **REPORT CARDS FOR GRADES 3-8**

There are significant changes in the way enrichment subject progress is reported in this year's report cards. The assessment observations provide parents and students with a clearer understanding of specific areas of strengths and weaknesses in these classes. The design of the assessments is also compatible with the expectations for grading student progress in the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program. Our faculty is optimistic these changes will benefit all of our students.

**ST. MICHAEL'S DIRECTORIES ARE HEADED YOUR WAY THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.**

## **GUESS WHAT?**

The latest issue of Style Weekly includes a readers' poll which named St. Michael's as the Best Private School in Richmond. This positive recognition reflects well on our students, parents and teachers. Thanks to all of you and the readers of Style Weekly.



### **2011 Food Factor Challenge**

Can FIRST LEGO League teams improve the quality of our food by finding ways to prevent contamination? St. Michael's students are exploring the topic of food safety by examining the possible points of contamination our food encounters: exposure to insects and creatures, unsterile processing and transportation and unsanitary preparation and storage. Their challenge is to create a solution to an identified problem in the food product selected. The teams are building and programming a LEGO robot to accomplish *Food Factor* missions. St. Michael's is sponsoring three teams that will compete in the regional tournament on Saturday, November 19, at Maggie Walker Governor's School. The tournament is free and open to the public.

#### **Mac and the Cheeses**

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

Coach:  
Woody Coates

#### **Super Fries**

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

Coaches: Amy Marshall  
and Tracey Van De Putte

#### **The Blue Dragons**

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

Coaches: Leslie Eckmann  
and Michael Jones

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH FIELD DAY**

Sam Bacon, Caroline Daniel, Max Donnelly and Callie Nesbitt attended the Middle School Math Field Day at the University of Richmond on October 11. The students participated in cooperative and competitive mathematics activities with students from approximately 40 middle schools in the Richmond area. They also participated in small group sessions where they played Battleship using their knowledge of the Cartesian plane, built a moon buggy and used Google Sketchup to explore geometric shapes. Of particular interest was the keynote speaker who spoke about the advanced mathematics used to design and produce video games. Congratulations to Sam Bacon for earning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the team mathematics competition.

### **EIGHTH GRADE CAMPING TRIP**

The eighth grade class spent September 13-14 in New Castle, Virginia, at Wilderness Adventure located in Jefferson National Park. Upon arrival, students participated in activities geared toward communication and team building skills. These activities were followed by rock climbing, rappelling and riding a 900 foot zip line down the mountainside. The students also enjoyed various free time activities including canoeing, volleyball, fishing, horseshoes, soccer and field games. The students and their chaperones, Mrs. Broga, Mr. Wojcikewych and Mrs. Sullivan, stayed in a rustic lodge and enjoyed home-cooked meals. The outdoor experiences will be drawn upon during the eighth graders' study of motion and forces during the school year.

### **SIXTH GRADE WORLD HISTORY**

On October 26, Dr. Johanna Minich, mother of Lily and Audrey Price, gave a presentation on Ancient Egypt to the sixth grade world history classes. She spoke about temples and tombs, art, hieroglyphics and the Egyptian gods and goddesses. The students enjoyed beautiful photographs of many buildings and examples of tomb art.

Dr. Minich is a professor of art history who teaches in several area colleges and universities and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

### **SMBA PLAYER DRAFT**

SMBA player draft is November 7, 2011. For more information, visit St. Michael's website, <http://stmschool.net/newsroom/>

### **ST. MIKES SWIMMING**

St. Michael's Middle School's swimming season starts on Sunday, November 13. If interested, please come to the lobby of the Kenny Center of St. Catherine's School at 4 p.m. to learn more about the program, sign-up and order your suits. Plan to stay for the season's first practice from 4:30-5:30 p.m. All practices are on Sundays at St. Catherine's. The team competes in two meets in January and attends the D.C. Area Middle School Championships at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland, January 28.

The swim team welcomes all Middle School swimmers who qualify by completing a 50-yard freestyle swim. Traditionally, the team is composed of swimmers of all levels, from beginner to expert. Our focus continues to be on improving stroke technique in a fun team environment. Please call Coach Andy Ferguson (330-0130) or Coach George Moore (272-2464) if you have questions.

## **INTRAMURAL SOCCER**

This fall marked the first season of intramural fourth and fifth grades soccer. Three evenly matched teams of approximately seven players each played in games on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The players showed tireless enthusiasm and model sportsmanship at each and every match! Each team member played with intelligence and respect for the game and each other. Congratulations to the "Red" team for winning the championship in overtime. Overall, the season was a huge success. Please consider this wonderful opportunity for your children in the future.

**Michael Jones**

Earth Science/Technology/Physical Education/LEGO Robotics/Intramural Soccer

## **A NOTE FROM THE SMPA**

We've had a great start to the school year!

### **Community Connections**

#### **KROGER and MARTIN'S Cards**

A sheet with school codes and information for registering Kroger and Martin's cards was sent home with your children. If you have not registered your cards, it's not too late!

### **BOX TOPS**

Congratulations to the eighth grade for winning the first round of BOX TOP collecting!! Please continue to collect your BOX TOPS! If each child collects 10 BOX TOPS a month, St. Michael's quickly reaches its goal of \$2,500 for the year. We are off to a good start to meet the goal with the first race earning the school \$427.60. The second collection date is in March. Thank you again for participating in this fun and easy way to earn money for our school.

### **SCRIP**

SCRIP is off to a great start this school year! In just 5 weeks, the SMPA has earned over \$1,150 in profit on *your* everyday purchases. An enormous thank you goes to Tonya Mallory for thinking outside of the box and remembering our SCRIP program. She ordered over 600 gift cards for her company and the SMPA reaped the rewards! Please consider using SCRIP for all of your holiday purchases, parties, and travel plans. Visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) for a list of the many retailers.

### **Innisbrook and Entertainment Fund Raiser was a HUGE success!**

Many thanks go out to all our volunteers and enthusiastic sellers. The eighth grade class sold over 275 Entertainment Books! Each grade managed to sell more books than they did last year. Total profit from selling 430 Entertainment books was \$6,445.

On October 19, our team of volunteers was efficient and effective in sorting, verifying and distributing Innisbrook products. School wide, we had 137 students who participated in selling Innisbrook products. With a VERY condensed selling period, we netted an impressive \$4,500 in profit for the SMPA.

Mark your calendars now for an evening of fun at this year's Annual Auction, Saturday, November 19, Singleton Campus. Reservations are due Tuesday, November 8.

We had a super crowd at the annual **Fall Parents' Meeting** on October 6. Before the meeting, Lower School parents visited their children's classrooms while Middle School parents met with Middle School faculty in Dundas Hatcher. The Hospitality Committee did a great job organizing the reception. What a spread!! For those of you who were not able to attend, my speech incorporated the word SMILE throughout. My goal for this year is: S-See the opportunities, not the obstacles. M-Make the most of everyday. I-Invest in our children. L-Laugh a lot. E-Enjoy the ride!!!

Your continued support of the SMPA is very much appreciated and it does make a difference! Our hard working committee chairs and volunteers make our annual gift to the school possible. I'd love to talk to you about the SMPA. Call me at 530-1940 or drop me a line at [SusanHFerrell@msn.com](mailto:SusanHFerrell@msn.com)

S.M.I.L.E.,

Susan Ferrell  
President

**CALENDAR:**

**Friday, November 4**

**Monday, November 14**

**Saturday, November 19**

**Clerical Day – No classes**

**VAIS Conference – No classes**

**Auction – Singleton Campus**

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Wednesday, November 23**

**Kindergarten 11:30 a.m. Dismissal**

**Lower School Noon Dismissal**

**Middle School 11:45 a.m. Dismissal**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**