



St. Mary's School Alumni News

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"Nurturing a lifelong love for Jesus, each other, and learning."

OUR PURPOSE

This marks the second issue of *St. Mary's School Alumni News*. This publication is for you—to keep you informed of the great things that have happened, are happening, and are going to happen at St. Mary's School. If you have a fond memory or news to share with former classmates, please let us know about it. You can contact Wendy Slay at 301-274-5266 or wmslay67@comcast.net. And for up-to-date info on school happenings (because space limits all the wonderful news we can include in the newsletter) visit www.bryantown.org.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE YOUR FUTURE ALUMNI NEWS VIA EMAIL! Contact Wendy at the above number or address and you'll help us save paper and postage fees. You may also email any comments or suggestions for future editions. We look forward to hearing from you!



St. Mary's Christmas Service Project

Over 800 new items were collected from St. Mary's families to fill the needs of 12 families at the Hughesville Shelter and the rest of the items went to Children's Aid.

MANY THANKS ... to our church and school families, alumni, and community supporters who celebrated the 32nd Annual Christmas Bazaar and Auction. The event was full of fun activities, fellowship, good food and great buys!

...to the St. Mary's Notre Dame Alumni Association for their donation that was given to purchase new chairs for the hall.

ARCHBISHOP WUERL ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl has called on all of us to support Catholic education, saying "Every Catholic is called to pass on our faith (cf. Matthew 28:19) and to be a witness to the message of Christ". Archbishop Wuerl published a September 2008 pastoral letter on education entitled, "Catholic Education: Looking to the Future with Confidence". Visit www.adw.org/education/default.asp to read the full letter. In it, he calls on all of us to look for new and better ways to sustain our Catholic schools and help them flourish. On Page 2 of this newsletter, we list four (4) ways to support Catholic Education.

UPCOMING EVENTS at ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

- Jan. 14:
Science/History Fair Reception
- Jan. 22:
Open Pre-K Registration
- Jan. 23:
8th Grade Spaghetti Dinner at 5 pm (tickets available or pay at door)
- Jan. 25-31:
Catholic Schools Week
- Jan. 27:
School Open House, 10 am-12 noon & 6-8 pm
- Feb. 6:
Let's Make a Deal (Sweetheart of a Deal) Game Show and Dinner
- Feb 24:
St. Mary's Colored School Alumni Association Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Feb. 28:
Basket Bingo 6 pm
- March 1:
Open Registration, 9 am-1pm
- Mar 7:
Drama Presentation, 7 pm
- Mar 8:
Drama Presentation, 3 pm
- April 25:
St. Mary's Notre Dame Alumni Association Potluck Dinner, 5-9 pm

We welcome all who wish to join us for gatherings or to help the church & school. Please contact the school office at 301-932-6883 or church office at 301-274-3187.

**MAJOR FUNDRAISER!!! BENEFITS CHURCH AND SCHOOL
LET'S MAKE A DEAL (Sweetheart of a Deal) GAME SHOW and DINNER
February 6th at Waldorf Jaycees Hall**



WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- Prayer:** Pray for guidance in how you can support Catholic education and pray also for those involved in Catholic education. Your prayers are vital in sustaining committed and energized priests, administrators, school staff and children. "...pray continually" 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Service:** From maintenance help to reading to children, administrative skills to lunchroom assistance, your time and talent can be of service and would be greatly appreciated. "This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12
- Financial:** The benefits of a Christ-centered education far outweigh the monetary costs, which are high and not usually recouped through tuition fees. Like other missions of the Church, we all contribute in the hope of a long-term investment. Therefore, we tithe appropriately and lend additional financial support by attending church and school functions and fundraisers. "...God loves a cheerful giver...." 2 Corinthians 8:8-15 and "...be generous on every occasion...resulting in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- Kind Words:** Tell others about your Catholic education and share your favorable experiences. Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to contact their nearest Catholic school for information and a tour. This simple act of evangelizing may lead someone to salvation. "Let the children come to me..." Matthew 19:14

Education in a Catholic school offers a refuge to children. They hear daily the Word of God and are fortified with spiritual truths that provide the foundation for living a Christian life. Please contact Principal Sharon Caniglia at 301-932-6883 if you would like information about current programs at St. Mary's and/or to offer your further support.

NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

St. Mary's Colored School Alumni Association held their annual New Year's Eve Dance on December 31, 2008. In spite of the bitter cold weather, everyone who attended had a GREAT time!

The next sponsored event will be the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 24th. Proceeds will be donated to St. Mary's Parish. Additional information will be included in the church and school bulletins.

St. Mary's Notre Dame Alumni Association held their fall potluck dinner on October 18, 2008. More than a hundred people attended and enjoyed the return performance of the "The Wannabe Nuns".

The next potluck will be held on April 25, 2009, 5-9 p.m. Information will be mailed to those on the Association's mailing list. If you would like to be added to this list or to get more information, call Valerie Simpson at 301-274-3992.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Join us as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 25 through January 31, 2009. Open House will be on Tuesday, January 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m. Visit classrooms, meet staff and tour the facilities. Information will be available about our curriculum and policies. Activities will be held all week. "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service" is the theme for the week. Go to www.bryantown.org or call 301-932-6883 or 301-843-3397 for more information.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

St. Mary's Little Angels Pre-K begins open enrollment on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Students must be 4 years old by September 1, 2009. Registration for grades K-8 will begin March 1, 2009. Contact the school to schedule a tour and to receive registration information.

TUITION REFERRAL

This program offers currently enrolled families a tuition rebate of \$250 for one child and \$500 rebate for two or more children if they refer a new family to St. Mary's. Both families must be registered and stay all year.

