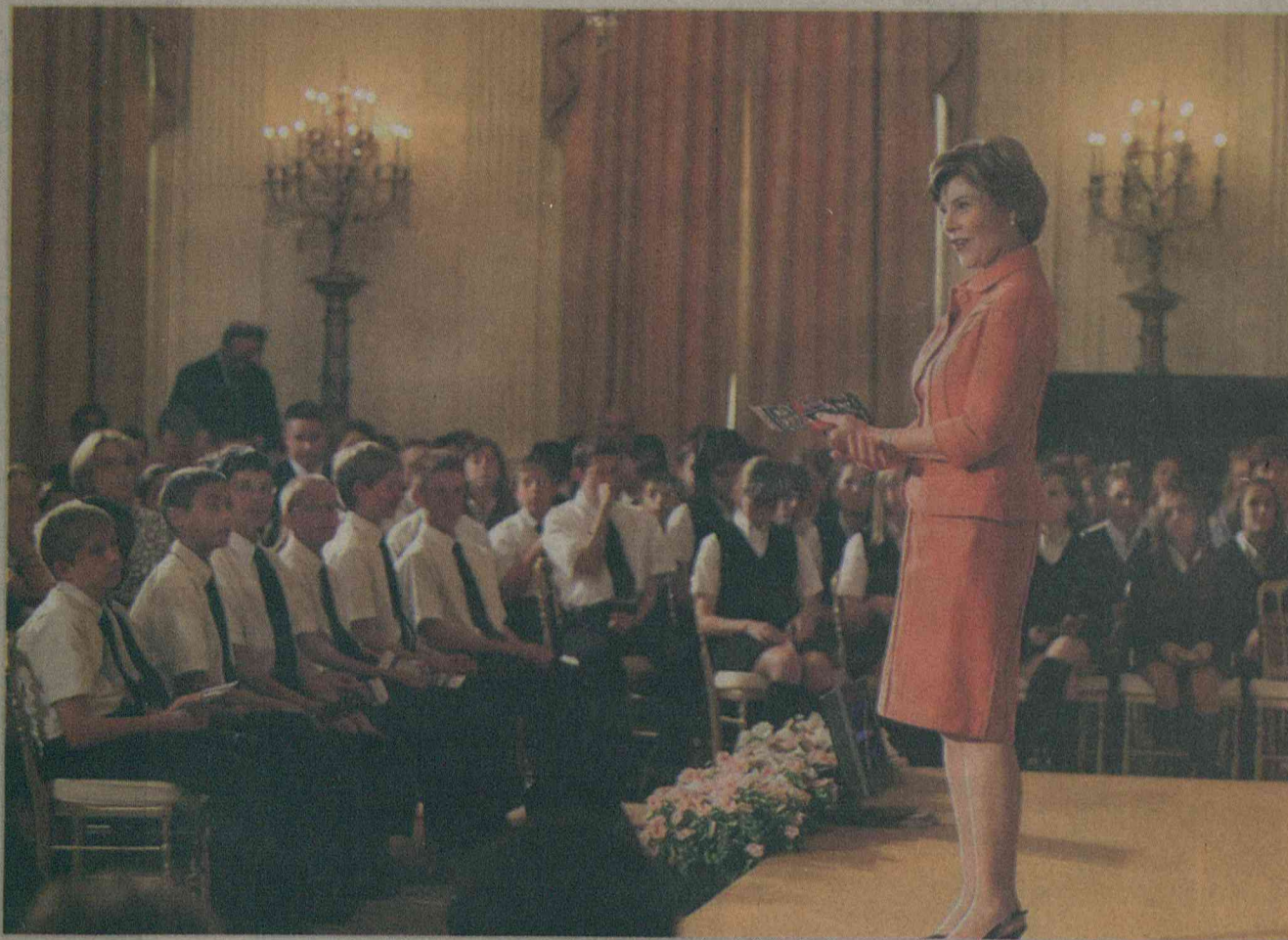


# 'A pleasant surprise'



## St. John's students visit Laura Bush at the White House

By SARAH FORTNEY

News-Post Staff  
sfortney@fredericknewspost.com

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presentation because it is one of 1,556 schools nationwide to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for a pilot program called "We the People Picturing America," she said.

The school received 40 large-scale reproductions of American art and a teachers resource book, containing suggestions on how to use the art in core curriculum classes.

St. John's teachers praised the program in an NEH survey, Wright said. She suspects that had to do with their invitation to the White House.

Before the presentation, White House chefs served the students and staff a breakfast of

(See SURPRISE A-7)

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Photo courtesy of the White House

## Surprise

(Continued from A-5)

pastries, melon balls and orange juice in the state dining room.

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The breakfast was a pleasant surprise, said Karen Smith, the school's principal, who accompanied the students, along with assistant principal Paul Fer and three teachers.

The group also did not expect a speech from Laura Bush, Smith said.

The first lady welcomed the students and other guests, including U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula of Ohio and National Park Service officials.

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### ON THE WEB

www.sjrccs.org



FREDERICK NEWS POST AUGUST 27, 2008

ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP



IT WAS THE FIRST DAY  
OF SCHOOL AT ST.  
JOHN REGIONAL  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL ON  
TUESDAY. FIGURING  
OUT THEIR NEW  
LOCKERS ARE  
EIGHTH-GRADERS  
SIESAR REEVES,  
LEFT, AND JORDAN  
TURNBAUGH.

Staff photos by Skip Lawrence



TUESDAY WAS THE  
FIRST DAY OF  
CLASSES AT SAINT  
JOHN'S CATHOLIC  
PREP. MAKING THEIR  
WAY BETWEEN  
CLASSES, FROM  
LEFT, ARE BOBBY  
ORDONIO, ALEC  
WHEELER, AND KAIRI  
WEAVER.

**INSIDE** LOCAL A-6

■ **SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**, and yellow school buses are on the road. According to Frederick County Public Schools, bus transportation is provided for more than 31,000 students every school day.

**ON THE WEB**

■ **SLIDE SHOW** — Check out photos from around the county as students make their way back to school.

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



# With fewer sisters, principals keep vocations in mind

>> PAGE 20

and parents," Mrs. Smith said. "Technology can be a great educational benefit, but we're adding ethical and legal concerns."

When Mrs. Smith was a schoolgirl, acting up might have meant a spitball flung to a chalkboard. Today, she has her antenna up for cyber-bullying and plagiarism, which is as easy as cut and paste.

"It's scary stuff, some of the

issues that need monitoring," she said. "Networking sites ask users to sign minimum age agreements, but it's much too easy for a sixth-grader to say that they're 17. That opens a whole new set of dynamics."

If information has become easier to access, so have educators, by helicopter parents.

"Parents send you an e-mail at 9 a.m., and they expect a response by 9:05," Mrs. Smith

said. "If you don't get back to them within two hours, they think you're ignoring them. It can add a dimension that you're basically on call all the time."

Karen Murphy, a friend and the principal of Resurrection-St. Paul School in Ellicott City, said education's biggest challenge is "what do we do with the cell phone."

"We have to teach where the children are, but you can't embrace technology without understanding the repercussions that come with it," Mrs. Murphy said. "After 9/11, I have to have the parents trust me that I know what I'm doing. We can't have students giving parents information in an emergency situation."

The two are forming a support group for principals.

"Priests have their own Emmaus groups," Mrs. Murphy said. "We need to take care of ourselves. This position isolates you because you're always answering to people. It can be lonely; there's not a lot of affirmation."

Like Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Smith was educated in a parish school, when tuition wasn't an issue because religious orders, like the School Sisters of Notre



CR Staff/Owen Sweeney III

**Karen Smith, principal of St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick, prepares for the 2008-09 school year.**

Dame, handled classroom instruction.

Mrs. Smith oversees a facility that opened in 2006. The curriculum includes a chemistry lab, and religion, daily from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Nonetheless, that's not as easy to integrate into the curriculum as it was in the 1960s.

"When I began teaching in Catholic schools, there was always a sister as the principal, at the least," Mrs. Smith said. "That's a concern, that our students don't see religion the way we did and aren't exposed to vocations. It's one of the things we're trying to solve."

Her summer reading

included "It's a Catholic School ... Let's Keep It Catholic," by Edward William Quinn.

"The things that made our Catholic education special are the things that parents want today," Mrs. Smith said. "One of our themes this year is back to the basics. ... We're going to emphasize penmanship."



Catholic Review Sept. 18, 2008

IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

Students in grades one to three at **St. John Regional Catholic School, Frederick**, in partnership with Homewood at Crumland Farms, will participate in the Sunshine Readers Program. On a regular basis, students will read to groups of elders at the senior citizen retirement and assisted living community. As part of the school's reading resource program, The Sunshine Readers team has been providing reading support services to students at some public schools in Frederick County. The results of their efforts have been evident in the improved reading scores at these schools.

**ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

St. John Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) has been serving the Frederick Catholic community for over 175 years. In addition to the children from seven Catholic parishes in Frederick County and the Catholic Community of Fort Detrick, some of the approximately 600 students (Pre K – Grade 8) come from parishes in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

St. John traces its roots to Father John McElroy, a Jesuit priest, who laid the cornerstone for the school in its original location on E. Second Street in the historic district of Frederick. The school now shares its new 27-acre Oposumtown Pike site with St. Katherine Drexel parish.

Principal Karen Smith, a Middletown resident who grew up in New Jersey, accepted a teaching position at St. John when she and her husband relocated to the Frederick area in 2002. She was appointed Assistant Principal in the summer of 2004, and Principal one year later. Prior to taking on an administrative role at St. John, Karen's experience included teaching at all levels Pre K – Grade 8.

Smith's Catholic upbringing made it easy for her to embrace the school's mission statement, which states: the St. John Regional Catholic School faith community is dedicated to the development of the whole person – spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally, and socially – all through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

St. John opens its doors to parents who are seeking the Catholic experience for their children. The

*Frederick Christian Monthly*

5% or less non-Catholics in the student body are expected to participate in all of the school's religious activities.

The new SJRCs facility allows for three classes at each grade level. In addition, there is a state-of-the-art media center, a science lab, computer lab, art room with kiln, a music room, and a modern gymnasium. Through religion classes, daily efforts are made to develop an attitude of prayer and to foster the knowledge and appreciation for the richness of the Catholic faith. Students, teachers, and staff all follow the Values Code, which serves as a reminder of how they should live their lives each day.

For one student in grades K-8, the 2008-09 school year tuition is \$5,990 for parishioners and \$7,260 for non-parishioners. Discounts are offered for multiple students from the same family, and financial aid assistance is available through the seven regional parishes (St. John the Evangelist, St. Peter, St.

Timothy, St. Ignatius, St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor, Holy Family, and St. Katherine Drexel), Friends of Catholic Education Scholarships, the James & Marian McSherry Endowed Scholarship, the Eliot Kelly Scholarship, and from the school.

St. John is also blessed with an active Home and School Association (HSA), whose role it is to organize and coordinate many community building activities and to provide fundraising income for the school.

Additional information about St. John Regional Catholic School can be obtained by calling (301) 662-6722 or by visiting their web site: [www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org).



**Karen Smith - Principal**



The Frederick News-Post  
**LOCAL**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 fredericknewspost.com

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### ON THE WEB

www.sjrccs.org



Thursday, September 25, 2008 f

The Gazette

## Students greeted by First Lady

Seventh-grade students at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick were welcomed to the White House by First Lady Laura Bush last week.

### School Notes

The occasion was the 221st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. The program, held in the East Room of the White House on Sept. 17, included a performance of "Freedom Rising" by visiting members of the National Constitution Center located in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Bush talked to students about the importance of Sept. 17, 1787, when the first draft of the Constitution was signed in Philadelphia. She said the founding document reaffirms our rights and responsibilities as Americans.

St. John Regional Catholic School was one of only two schools invited to the White House to celebrate last week, according to Jean Wright, director of development/admissions at the school.



Courtesy Joyce N. Boghosian

First Lady Laura Bush welcomes a group of children from St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick to the East Room of the White House on Sept. 17. The students attended an American history performance by the National Constitution Center to highlight the 221st anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution.

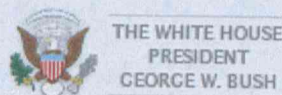
The Catholic Review Sept. 25, 2008



Courtesy Joyce N. Boghosian

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For Immediate Release  
Office of the First Lady  
September 17, 2008

## Mrs. Bush's Remarks on Constitution Day East Room

10:29 A.M. EDT

[Photos](#)

MRS. BUSH: Welcome to the White House on this historic occasion. Please be seated. Today is the 221st anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution.

I want to recognize Congressman Ralph Regula and his friends who have come here to visit with him. Thank you very much, Congressman, and thank you very much for all the great work you've done on education for your whole career. I appreciate it very much. (Applause.)

The Director of the National Park Service is here, Mary Bomar. Welcome, Mary. Dr. Allen Weinstein, who's the archivist of the United States, thank you so much for joining us. Joe Torsella, who's the President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, he'll be joining us for part of the program, and let you all know more about our Constitution. Cindy McLeod, the superintendent of Independence National Historical Park is here. Where's Cindy? There's Cindy. Thank you very much for joining us. And the students and faculty from Washington Christian Academy and St. John Regional Catholic School – and thank you all very much to the students who've joined us. The teachers, historians and others who are here today, I want to thank you especially for your work to promote the study and the appreciation of our founding documents.



Lynne Cheney couldn't be with us today, but she has left a gift for each of us. She's celebrating Constitution Day in Philadelphia. But she's written a new book about our Constitution, and so she's left one to make sure every student can have one.

On this date in 1787, the first draft of the United States Constitution was signed in Philadelphia. The document was not long – only about 4,500 words. But its seven articles set forth a radically new form of government, and it laid the foundation for our more than 200 years of freedom.

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention spent months debating the principles that this document enshrines. They sought a proper balance between authority and freedom; between federal power and state sovereignty; and between individual rights and national unity. You're no doubt familiar with many of these Founding Fathers' names.

George Washington, who would soon be elected America's first President, was unanimously elected President of the Constitutional Convention. James Madison, our fourth President, earned the name "Father of the Constitution" for his involvement. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin. He brought 81 years of experience to the State House in Philadelphia.

In more than two centuries, only 27 amendments have been added to these delegates' final product – a reflection of their great wisdom and foresight. Many of these additions were inspired by turning points in American history. The Thirteenth Amendment, for example, abolished the practice of slavery. And in 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote.



On Constitution Day, people across America celebrate this founding document — and we reaffirm our rights and responsibilities as American citizens. Today is also a chance to remember the men and women who have helped our imperfect people live up to the ideals of the Constitution's most perfect ideals — people like Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, who helped expand voting rights to all Americans.



In 2002, President Bush observed Constitution Day by announcing a new education initiative called "We the People." This program, administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is helping more Americans learn about our common history and values. It's funded over 1,600 projects across the country — including historic preservation efforts and local cultural exhibitions. It's delivered free sets of classic books to more than 9,000 schools and public libraries. And it's sponsored teacher workshops at famous historic sites like Ellis Island and Pearl Harbor for nearly 10,000 educators.

The students who are with us today have seen "We the People's" newest effort firsthand. Both of your schools received a Picturing America award in January. Today, you're learning about our history through a collection of 40 images capturing America's most significant moments — from Washington Crossing the Delaware to the Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights.

Another resource for students learning about American history is the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. I'm happy to tell you that in honor of Constitution Day, we have brought a little piece of this museum to the White House. Here to tell you more about it is Joe Torsella. (Applause.)

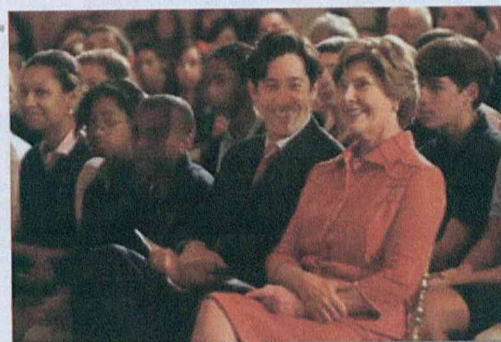
END 10:35 A.M. EDT

**Return to this article at:**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/09/20080917-1.html>



CLICK HERE TO PRINT







Staff photo by Skip Lawrence

Art teacher and storyteller Lisa Cutchin, left, leads a group of children and parents in a story about farm animals and a turtle during the Story-time Tots program at St. John Regional Catholic School on Monday morning.

# STORYTIME AT ST. JOHN

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff  
mneal@fredericknewspost.com

**T**he Great Frederick Fair is a time that many in the region look forward to year after year.

Knowing that, St. John Regional Catholic School officials tapped into the agricultural spirit when it kicked off its new Story-time Tots program, a reading and craft session for 3- and 4-year-olds.

On Sept. 15, 12 tots and their parents — and the occasional younger sibling — enjoyed socializing and storybook reading while St. John got to showcase its media center in a school building that's only four years old itself.

Art teacher Lisa Cutchin, who led the activity, said school officials, including director of development and admissions Jean Wright, wanted to reach out to the community beyond its students and their families and make good use of the new building at the same time.

One of the ideas that sprouted was storytime, which will be held the third Monday of each month throughout the school year (except for January and February, when it will meet the second Monday).

The theme of the first gathering was Farms and Fairs. All books and activities cho-

sen for the session centered on farms and animals.

Cutchin read four books to the children, including "Minerva Louise at the Fair," about a chicken who gets lost at the fair, and a quick read called "Spots, Feathers and Curly Tails," which allowed for rather creative audience participation when Cutchin asked the children to make the noise associated with a variety of animals.

Colette Lawler, 3, dressed for the occasion. She wore one of her favorite pink dresses, complete with embroidered pigs — another favorite — marching across the smocked bib.

Colette's mother, Meredith, said she appreciated the storytime because it gives her special time with her youngest child, while it also gives Colette special time at the big school.

Meredith and her husband are the parents of a St. John first- and third-grader.

"Colette cries every day when we drop them off," Meredith said. "She wants to go to school and this is her chance."

At the end of the first storytime, the children had decorated bags that were stuffed with a take-home activity sheet and the craft of the day — a cottonball-covered sheep made from a construction paper cutout of each child's hand — and were invited to stay for a snack.

The menu on Farm and Fairs day? Animal Crackers, of course.

“

Colette cries every day when we drop (her older siblings) off. She wants to go to school **AND THIS IS HER CHANCE.**

MEREDITH LAWLER  
Colette's mother

## IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Story-time Tots
- **WHEN:** Oct. 20, 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.
- **WHERE:** St. John Regional Catholic School, 8414 Opossumtown Pike
- **THEME:** Fall Colors
- **COST:** Free
- **PHONE:** 301-695-9358



FNP 12/9/08

St. John Regional Catholic School will remember the reason for the season from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. Dec. 15 when it hosts its fourth monthly Storytime Tots session with the theme, "Happy Birthday, Jesus."

The gathering for 3- and 4-year-olds includes a craft activity, story reading and a snack.

Register by calling the school, 301-695-9358.

Local students did quite well at local, state and national levels of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas' 2008 Education Contest, according to local sponsor Court St. Elizabeth Ann Seton of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Eight local first-place winners then won the same honor in the state contest, and two state winners claimed national prizes as well.

St. John Regional Catholic School student Mara Franciscovich's entry won first place in essay, Division II, in both the state and national contests. Christianna Kutz of Visitation Academy won first place in computer art, Division II, in the state and then won third-place honors in the national contest.

Other winners included St. John Regional Catholic School students Eleanor Brown, first place, state, essay, Division I; Marcos Pierce, first place, state, computer art, Division I; Alex Martinazzi, first place, state, art, Division I; and Stephanie Gamble, first place, state, poster, Division II. Also, Mother Seton School student David Dorsey won second place, state, poetry, Division II; and Court member Mary Jane Duggan won second place, state, poetry, Division IV.



Courtesy photo

## St. John knitters

Four teachers at St. John Regional Catholic School recently knitted infant hats for premature babies around the world. The hats were knitted and crocheted by, from left, Carol O'Neel, Joan D'Loughy, Lisa Giacco and Geri Gramil. The "Knit One, Save One" initiative is sponsored by Save the Children and Warm Up America Foundation which distributes the hats internationally to newborn health programs.

## Author visits SJRCS

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Local author John Frye was a recent guest of aspiring student writers at St. John Regional Catholic School.

Frye, author of "The Seventh Trumpet, A Civil War Novel," discussed his feelings about writing the book, which is based on the experiences of an Episcopal priest who served in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. A member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Frederick, Frye wrote about the priest, who served as rector of the church in the early 1850s.



Frye

When asked why he wrote the book, he said he was fascinated by the inherent conflict between the duties of an artillery officer and that of a clergyman, and not necessarily about the war itself. He told the students it took more than 10 years to write the book and to be a successful writer, they should keep a journal and write every day. He said descriptive writing is a skill that requires practice.

The St. John middle school students were part of an enrichment cluster - "My Pencil the Magic Wand," which focuses on creative writing.

Frederick News Post  
12/19/08



Courtesy photo

## State winners

Students at St. John Regional Catholic School were awarded prizes as first-place state winners in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2008 Education Contest. Pictured, from left, are Eleanor Brown, division 1, essay; Stephanie Gamble, division 2, poster; Alex Martinazzi, division 1, art; Karen Smith, principal; and Marcos Pierce, division 1, computer.

12/7/08



Courtesy photo

## Successful food drive held

St. John Regional Catholic School recently conducted a school-wide collection campaign for the Frederick Food Bank. Pictured at left is Megan Miller of the Frederick Community Action Agency, with students Vinny D'Amore, Danny Nachlas and Will Bureau, helping load up a van with the collected food.





Courtesy St. John Regional Catholic School

St. John Regional Catholic School teachers (from left) Carol O'Neel, Joan D'Loughy, Lisa Giacco and Geri Gramil recently knitted and crocheted infant hats for babies around the world. The "Knit One, Save One" initiative is sponsored by Save the Children and Warm Up America! Foundation.

## St. John Regional teachers knit hats for babies in need

By CAROLYN MONETTE  
cmonette@catholicreview.org

Avid knitter Joan D'Loughy has made hats, scarves, baby sweaters and other simple projects in the five years since she took up the hobby. However, when she discovered that she could use her knitting skills to help babies in need, she cast on once again — this time for charity.

This past October, the fourth-grade teacher e-mailed her co-workers at St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick to see if anyone else was interested in knitting hats for the "Knit One, Save One" campaign.

An initiative of Save the Children and the Warm Up America! Foundation, the campaign collects handmade baby hats, which are then distributed to newborn health programs across the world. The campaign is part of a humanitarian effort to help the 4 million newborns who die from treatable and preventable diseases in Third World countries each year, according to a Save the Children press release.

"I knew we had several teachers in the building who enjoyed knitting, and I knew they would like to do a charity project," Ms. D'Loughy said.

Second-grade teacher Carol O'Neel, fourth-grade teacher Geri Gramil, and computer teacher Lisa Giacco all responded, knitting hats for infants in need. The teachers received some extra help from Ms. O'Neel's daughters and Elizabeth Bracey, whose daughter is a fourth-grader at the school.

Collectively, they knit 21 hats and attached a gift tag to each before mailing them in December. They were among thousands of

people across the country who sent in hats.

According to a press release, the "Knit One, Save One" campaign had collected more than 30,000 handmade baby caps by Dec. 23, and knitters had until Dec. 31 to submit hats.

"It was very satisfying. I was very happy that our teachers were willing to donate their time," Ms. D'Loughy said, especially during such a busy time of year. "It was very kind, and it showed the kind of teachers we have here."

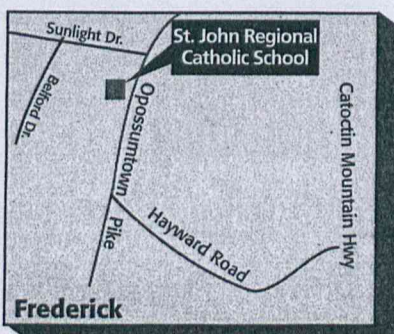
Jean Wright, director of development/admissions at St. John Regional, said that even though it wasn't an official school project, the teachers set a good example for their students.

"They did something for the world community," Ms. Wright said.

As part of the campaign to help infants, Ms. D'Loughy also sent a letter to President Barack Obama encouraging him to take action to help babies survive.

The teacher said she will consider doing the project again in the future.

"It gave us a lot of satisfaction," Ms. D'Loughy said, "knowing we were helping these children."



FNP

1/21/09

## INAUGURATION 2009

### YOUTH AND THE INAUGURATION

## ST. JOHN'S STUDENTS WITNESS HISTORY, APPLAUD NEW PRESIDENT

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff  
mneal@fredericknews.com

While three classes of St. John Regional Catholic School eighth-graders watched history unfold on the wall-mounted television in front of them, social studies teacher Ethel Brauer provided commentary that tied the inauguration of Barack Obama to recently completed classroom lessons.

As students filed into the room to witness the ceremony, she brought them up-to-date with the broadcast.

"The former presidents have been seated, the first ladies have been seated, just about everyone is in except the president and the president-elect," she said.

When "Hail to the Chief" was played for the final time for outgoing President George W. Bush, Brauer told the group that the song was played just for the sitting president, and after Obama was sworn in, the song would be played for the first time for him.

"It's ritual, it's music for the office, no matter who occupies it," Brauer said.

The students, aware of the historic significance of what they were watching, were at times attentive and at times giggly and talkative.

They burst into spontaneous applause on several occasions, and recited the Lord's Prayer with the Rev. Rick Warren when the California minister delivered the invocation.

Giggles erupted in response to Warren's dramatic pronunciations of Malia and Sasha Obama's first names.

After the pomp and circumstance was nearly complete — and lunch beckoned the eighth-graders — student Nicole Bruno said witnessing the event gave her "the best feeling in the world."

"Being black, it really means a lot to me to see a black man become president," she said. "I

think Obama gives people hope."

She believes the new chief executive sends the message that it doesn't matter what color a person is, just that they work hard to achieve their dreams.

Bruno said her parents never expected to see a black man elected president in their lifetimes and it's been a topic of great discussion at home.

"And my grandmother said it will be great to see those two little girls grow up in a house built by their ancestors," Nicole said.

Nick Leggit, 13, called the inauguration "a major moment in our history."

He believes that Obama is opening doors and championing change for the better.

"I think he's an inspiration to everyone," Leggit said. "He's talking to all of us, no matter what age we are, no matter what color we are — we can all work to make change, even those of us who aren't old enough to vote."

Garrett Martin, 13, said he was glad to witness such an important occasion.

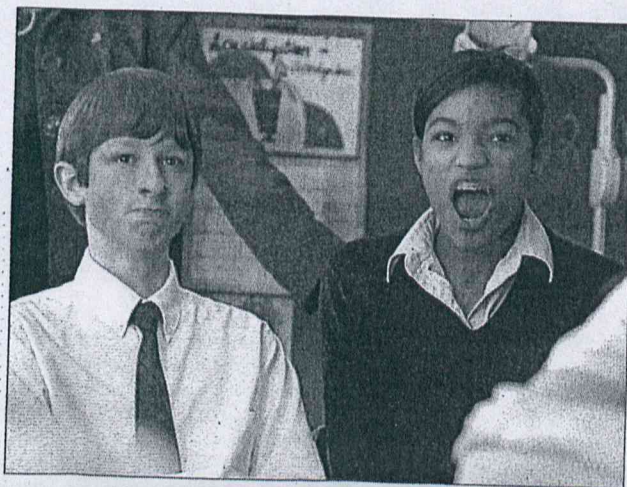
"There's no doubt it's history," he said. "It's interesting to see history in the making."

The televised inauguration served as the culmination of social studies units on civics, government and the presidency, Brauer said.

And she believes that ascension of a black man to the presidency doesn't hit her students' generation as much as it does her own.

"I think this generation is much more colorblind than mine," she said. "I think they expected to see this happen; we weren't sure we'd live to see it."

"These students see a new president who's young, charismatic, handsome, smart and talented, someone who will bring change, someone who will help an ailing nation," she said. "They don't see a black man."



The longest presidential election in history — or so it seems to me — is already a week in the history books.

But I wanted to give a shout-out to the students at St. John Regional Catholic School, who held a mock election of their own.

John McCain would be much happier with St. John's results than he was the final national tally. The local students chose the Republican over Democrat Barack Obama, 296-212.

Catholic Review

14 • March 19, 2009

## St. John Regional receives award

By CATHOLIC REVIEW STAFF

St. John Regional Catholic School in Frederick received a Summit Award March 12 from the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce.

The school was one of seven organizations receiving the award during the Chamber's annual meeting. It was recognized in the nonprofit category as a partner in business with Homewood at Crumland Farms, an assisted living facility for seniors.

St. John's student participation with the senior residents at Homewood in the Sunshine Readers program and the school's Light of Hope Service Group was also acknowledged.



## SIX HONORED AT CHAMBER'S SUMMIT AWARDS

By ED WATERS JR.

News-Post Staff  
ewaters@fredericknewspost.com

It may be challenging economic times, but five businesses and a nonprofit were honored Thursday for their achievements.

The Frederick County Chamber of Commerce presented its annual Summit Awards at a breakfast at Ceresville Mansion.

Honored were Jean Peterson Design, Sylvana Institute for Medical Aesthetics, Orases Consulting Corp., Canapes Inc., DynPort Vaccine Co. LLC and St. John Regional Catholic School.

The event also gave Chamber President Ric Adams a chance to reflect on the past year for the organization.

He said the Chamber held 80 events last year, including dinners, breakfasts, award presentations and business card exchanges.

The Chamber is now on Twitter, and a Social Media Conference is set for June 5 on "How to Tweet" for members.

(See AWARDS B-7)



Staff photo by Graham Cullen

The Frederick County Chamber of Commerce presented its annual Summit Awards on Thursday. From left are Thomas Kleinhanzl, vice chairman; Denise Brady Jacoby, chairwoman; Nick Damoulakis, Orases Consulting Corp.; Dr. Jeanne O'Connell, Sylvana Institute for Medical Aesthetics; Jean Peterson, Jean Peterson Design; Karen Smith, St. John Regional Catholic School; Nancy Karaszkievicz, DynPort Vaccine Co. LLC; M.L. Carroll, Canapes Inc; and Ric Adams, chamber president.

## Awards

(Continued from B-5)

### AT A GLANCE

Last year the organization also launched brown-bag lunches for 30 people at the chamber office to discuss specific topics. The Chamber also held programs for students with local business speakers including "dress for success" tips.

Additionally, the organization launched a Major Employer Group. The group provides businesses with 400 or more employees a forum to discuss issues. "Many of the people from those large companies had never met each other," Adams said.

The Chamber is offering a free drug prescription card for anyone who lives in Maryland. Adams urged members to take advantage of discounts offered member to member, including employees of member companies.

Adams said a new program on the horizon is "coffee and contacts," an early morning event to meet fellow members. The Chamber is also looking at events to attract the under-40 members. "This is the group that will be running the Chamber and on the board in the future," he said.

Jean Peterson Design won the At Your Service Award for generating customer loyalty and satisfaction and bringing positive recognition to Frederick County.

Sylvana Institute for Medical Aesthetics won the Entrepreneurial Award for increasing employment and doubling its workspace.

■ **WHAT:** Frederick County Chamber of Commerce

■ **WHERE:** Events, programs throughout the year, various locations

■ **CONTACT:** Jessica Hibbard, 301-662-0745, jhibbard@frederickchamber.org or [www.frederickchamber.org](http://www.frederickchamber.org)

Orases Consulting Corp. won the Technology Award for its innovative products that increased sales, product quality and profitability.

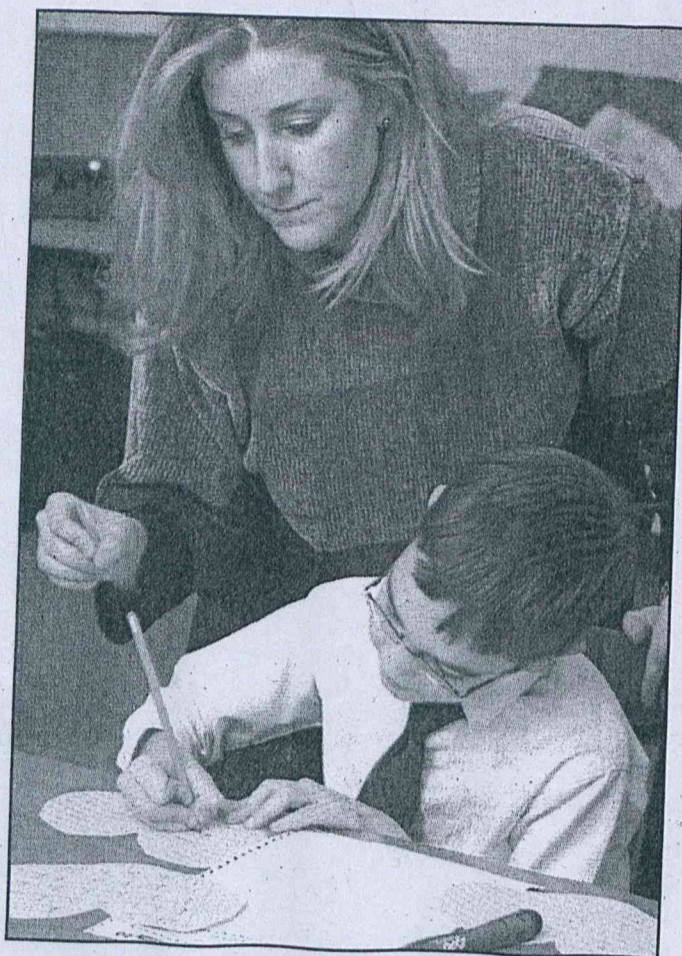
Canapes Inc. won the Made In Frederick Award. The catering company earned the award for demonstrated product quality, increased production and sales growth of a business that makes or assembles products in the county.

DynPort Vaccine Co. LLC won the Workforce Development Award for consistently offering its employees training and education. The company also invested money and resources in local programs that affect workforce development.

The nonprofit Partner in Business Award went to St. John Regional Catholic School for developing partnerships with the business community. Students from the school visit residents of Homewood at Crumland Farms retirement community. Older students, grades five through eight, provide entertainment, crafts and fellowship. Younger students are involved in the Sunshine Readers Program that fosters reading skills and bridges generations.



# CURSIVE CRAZE



Andrea Swanson reviews third grader Nicholas Staton's handwriting during a Cursive Club meeting Wednesday afternoon.

Staff photo by  
Graham Cullen

“

We're getting back to some of the things that **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE PARTICULARLY KNOWN FOR**, like good handwriting and math basics.

**ANDREA SWANSON**  
St. John's librarian,  
reading resource teacher

## Dotting the 'i's and crossing the 't's — perfectly

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff  
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Andrew Florenzo, modeling proper posture, filled a lined sheet of paper with cursive lowercase "f"s, then did the same with the letters "g" and "h."

Andrew, 8, was one of 31 St. John Regional Catholic School third-graders attending Cursive Club, an activity dedicated to what many believe is becoming

the lost art of handwriting.

School librarian and reading resource teacher Andrea Swanson has taken on leadership of the club. The recent Mount St. Mary's University graduate said the elementary education curriculum paid particular attention to teaching handwriting.

After club members enjoyed cupcakes with heart decorations, they sat down to

(See CURSIVE A-6)

## Cursive

(Continued from A-5)

heart-shaped sheets of lined paper and got to work.

While pupils traced the image of an "f," Swanson demonstrated the proper form and size on a whiteboard for all to see.

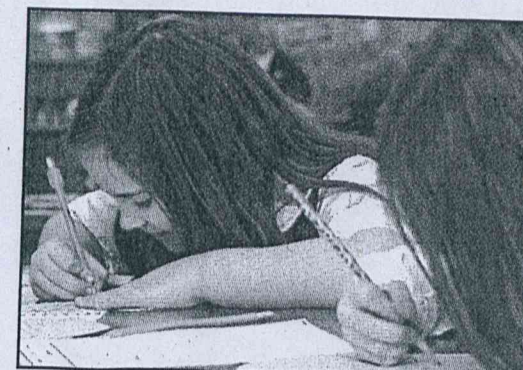
"The size, spacing and shape of the letters are very important," she told her pupils. "We are starting on the bottom line, going all the way to the top of the line and we're never lifting our pencil up."

They take their handwriting seriously at St. John, and have one sixth-grader — Colleen Crowley — who was the state handwriting champion in first, fourth and fifth grade.

"Cursive is to be mastered by the end of third grade, according to our curriculum," said Jean Wright, director of development and admissions.

Much of today's written communication is done using computer keyboards and cell phones. While children — and many adults — are adept at pounding out messages on tiny cell phone keyboards, their handwriting skills aren't developing in the first place or are deteriorating, many believe.

St. John's has dedicated the



Staff photo by Graham Cullen

Third grade students Jesse Lowe, left, and Meghan Wagner practice their handwriting during a Cursive Club meeting after school Wednesday at St. John Regional Catholic School.

month of February to the lost art, and Swanson said she'd be glad to continue the activity into March and beyond if there is sufficient interest. She is amazed that more than 30 children are voluntarily staying after school once a week to work on their penmanship.

The attention to handwriting ties into St. John's theme of "getting back to basics" this year, Wright said.

"We're getting back to some of the things that Catholic schools are particularly known for, like good handwriting and math basics," she said. "If they don't have the math facts by the time they get to algebra, they'll never go on. If they don't master handwriting now,

they never will."

At the handwriting club, pupils have the luxury of taking their time and not rushing through writing exercises, which allows them to pay attention to details such as slant, spacing and size, Swanson said.

"This is extra practice time, and I've heard from parents about how much better their child's writing is with that practice," she said.

Looking at his work, Andrew nodded in agreement.

"I needed help connecting letters and getting a good slant," he said. "I think this has really helped me and Miss Swanson is really good at helping."





**MARGE  
NEAL**

*School Notes*

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## Open houses, workshops and awards abound

The folks at St. John Regional Catholic School have reason — even more so than usual — to be proud of their school and students.

On Thursday, the school will receive a Summit Award from the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce. St. John will be one of seven local companies or organizations to receive the chamber's annual awards. The school will be recognized in the non-profit category as a partner in business with Homewood at

Crumland Farms. Two school programs, the Sunshine Readers and the SJRCS Light of Hope Service Group, will be honored.

This news comes on the heels of the announcement that SJRCS is one of 50 private schools nominated by the Council for American Private Education for the 2009 No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon School award. The honor, given annually by the U.S. Department of Education, celebrates public and private elementary, middle

and high schools that are either academically superior or have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement.

St. John Regional has met preliminary criteria as a school where students, regardless of background, have placed in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

In 2008, 320 U.S. schools received the recognition. The 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools will be announced in August and honored at an awards ceremony in October.

## NTS



*Courtesy photo*

### Global contribution

Students from St. John Regional Catholic School contributed gift boxes to be distributed to children around the world through the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project. As part of the recent Catholic Schools Week theme "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service," students and parents collected and packed 230 shoeboxes with treasures and personal notes for needy children in countries such as the Philippines, Malawi, Kazakhstan, Russia and Liberia. The boxes are being taken to Boone, N.C., where they will be shipped to children overseas. Pictured are parent volunteers and students, from left, Ann Brown, Colleen Bowman, Alexander Ismael, Marina Sepe, Beth Wright, Kaitlyn Steigner and Trevor Hickman.



FNP 3/21/09

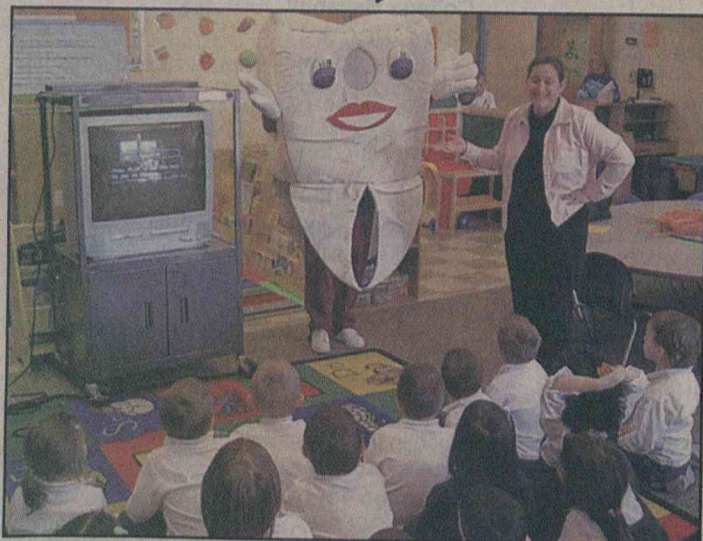


Courtesy photo

## Vocations fair held

Students in fourth through eighth grades at St. John Regional Catholic School recently participated in a vocations fair where they learned about various occupations in business, government and religion. Among those from the community making presentations to the students was Jan Gardner, left, Frederick County Commissioners president. Sixth-grade students participating in the roundtable included, continuing from left, Daniel Haines, Brent McCollough, Jimmy Russo, Ryan Filyo, Christopher Delente and Taylor Thomas. The program was presented by the school's QUEST enrichment program, which provides students with opportunities to extend learning in many varied directions.

FNP 4/3/09



## Dental health

St. John Regional Catholic School Pre-K students are shown learning about proper dental hygiene from Dr. Michelle Ware of Kershner and Trepper Dental Associates during a recent visit to the school. The presentation was part of National Pediatric Dental Health Month.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

The Frederick Chapter NSDAR presented awards at the Feb. 21 meeting. Pictured, from left, are DA Good Citizen Chairwoman Karen Watkins, DAR Good Citizen Recipient Torey Krugle, Visitation Academy teacher Elizabeth Castleman, American History Essay seventh-grade winner Sarah Meyers, America History Committee member Eleanor Peckham, Visitation Academy teacher Melissa Raymond, America History Essay fifth-grade winner Logan Kamer, DAR member Pati Redmond, American History Essay eighth-grade and state winner Maria Samantha Wherry, and Frederick Chapter Teacher of the Year Jeri Donald.

## Frederick Chapter NSDAR presents American History Awards

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

WALKERSVILLE — Fifty-seven members and guests of the Frederick Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) met Feb. 21 at Glade United Church of Christ. Regent Carol Larkin called the meeting to order and led the group through the Ritual, assisted by Beverly Cleaver, Vera Horine, Teresa Oyler, Doris Ifert and Laverne Burall. Larkin introduced the head table, including State Assistant Treasurer Teresa Oyler, First Vice Regent Inez Foley, Treasurer Kathryn Nicodemus and Secretary Betty Remsburg. Prospective members, award recipients, their families and teachers were also welcomed. Ifert gave the blessing and lunch was enjoyed by all. Larkin thanked Mary Catherine Poole and her committee for the preparation.

The American History program consisted of the reading of essays and recognition of awards. The topic of the students' essays was "What message did the Gettysburg Address communicate to our war-torn nation in 1863, and how are the ideals articulated in the speech still relevant for our country today?" Eleanor Peckham introduced the essay winners and presented the awards.

Essay winners were Logan Kamer, a fifth-grade student at St. John Regional Catholic School; Sarah Meyers, a seventh-grade student at Visitation Academy; and Maria Samantha Wherry, an eighth-grade student at Visitation Academy. Samantha is the NSDAR Maryland eighth-grade winner and will be recognized at the NSDAR State Conference. Her essay will be submitted for regional consideration. Elizabeth Castleman and Melissa Raymond, both Visitation

Teacher of the Year, Jerry Donald. Donald is department chairman at Middletown High School. He recognized two members in the audience as his former teachers — Doris Ifert, guidance counselor, and Carroll Horine, driving instructor.

Karen Watkins, chairwoman of the Good Citizen Committee, introduced Torey Krugle of Urbana High School as the recipient of the Frederick Chapter NSDAR Good Citizen Award. Krugle is an example of the four qualities of a good citizen: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. She also placed in the state competition and she will attend the State NSDAR Conference.

Larkin opened the business meeting. Inez Foley read the president general's message. Poole gave the National Defense Message, acknowledging the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth and citing his presidential decisions, which were not just to win the war, but to keep the country united. Secretary Betty Remsburg read the minutes of the January meeting and Kathryn Nicodemus presented the treasurer's report.

Ifert reported the death of Connie Chesley and Ida Lu Brown's sister, Elizabeth Rhodes. Member Patty Pastore is hospitalized. Virginia Thomas Horman will celebrate her 100th birthday April 7. Members will have a party for her April 19.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers for 2009-2012. The election will be held at the April meeting, at which time the floor will be opened for additional nominees. Installation of officers will be held at the May meeting.

Plans were discussed for the state DAR meeting at Turf Valley Resort March 26 to 29. February birthdays were recognized. Ifert gave the



## Lemonade lesson: Second-graders learn college business technique

Originally published March 21, 2009

By Ike Wilson

If life hands you lemons ... make some cash out of them.

That was the lesson for St. John's Regional School's second-graders who got to learn how to successfully operate three lemonade stands.

Mount St. Mary's University business students, business professor Sandra Sjoberg and economics professor John D. Larrivee used a PowerPoint presentation, video and group discussion to teach the children a basic lesson about products, production and sales. Then students actually sold their products on campus.

The St. John's pupils were taught the difference between a consumer and a producer, and later were divided into three "companies." A discussion ensued on a business name and prices for their lemonade and fruit punch.

"You have to consider that college students don't have a lot of money when you are deciding on a price," said Christian Toth, a business management major and one of 20 members of the Student in Free Enterprise organization.



View additional photos:  



Photo by Skip Lawrence

St. John Regional Catholic School second-graders got a lesson in economics by setting up lemonade stands at Mount St. Mary's University. Mount student Alexandria Armstrong, right, buys lemonade from excited St. John students, from left, Lucas Afable, Emma St. Croix, Marina Leech and Antonio Johnson.

Coming to the Mount was a highlight for Ariana and her peers.

"I've never been to the Mount before and never experienced college, so I just liked it. We actually got to sell lemonade," she said.

St. John's Regional School and the Mount formed a partnership last year. The college students taught two lessons, then suggested that the second-graders come to campus.

"Even in the second grade, these students are picking up certain aspects of what is going on with the economy, and we are happy to offer some guidance and teach them some basics on how a business runs and help them actually do it," Sjoberg said.

The lesson on the basics of buying, selling and producing coincides with St. John's social studies supply and demand curriculum, St. John's teacher Barbara Kyle said.

SIFE members enjoyed the two-hour exercise as much as the kids.

"It's great to get them exposed to economics at such a young age. No one is doing it right now," said Jessica Sauers, a business and marketing major.

"In the fall, we taught them how to make change and how to manage money. It's just great to be able to do," Toth said.

The kids were so excited about coming to campus that one boy laid out his clothes the night before, Kyle said.





*Courtesy photo*

### Contest held

The Frederick Optimist Club recently held its Oratorical Contest with Frederick County students presenting speeches on the topic "For Me, Optimist is ...". The first-place boy and girl were each awarded a medallion and a \$100 savings bond. Second- and third-place winners were awarded a medallion and a \$50 savings bond. A Zone 2 contest will be held by the Cumberland Valley Optimist Club on April 18. Representing the Frederick Optimist Club in this competition will be Michael Grus, Veronica Clements, Nicole Cederdahl and John Curtin. Winners in the Zone 2 competition will receive a trip to Ocean City to compete in the district competition with the prize of a \$1,500 scholarship. Pictured, from left, are Kim Ellsworth, program chairperson; John Curtin; Michael Grus, first place; Veronica Clements, first place; Nicole Cederdahl and Ashley Tollino.

### Arts celebration



Nine students from St. John Regional Catholic School were featured recently at the Archdiocese of Baltimore's "Celebration of the Arts — A Night at the Meyerhoff" in Baltimore. Students in grades 6 through 8, who participated included, from left, Matthew Erculiani, Bobby Brennan, Garrett Martin, Nick Pollak, Matthew Wright, Chris Hopkins, Nathaniel Bowman, Timothy Johnson, and Leslie Lewis. *Courtesy photo*



## EVENTS



Courtesy photo

Winners of the Harry L. Decker Historical Essay Contest, from left, are Kimberly Eade, Catherine Hyde, Makenzie Sichelstiel, Meredith Day, Cecilia Bracey and Michael Hepburn.

## Essay contest winners presented awards

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Winners of the Harry L. Decker Historical Essay Contest for fourth-graders were presented awards at a program at the Museum of Frederick County History on May 14.

The top six essayists were Cecilia Bracey, Michael Hepburn and Catherine Hyde from St. John Regional Catholic School, Meredith Day from The Visitation Academy, Kimberly Eade from St. Thomas More Academy and Makenzie Sichelstiel from Parkway Elementary. Each of the top award-winners received a certificate and a check for \$100.

Honorable mentions were presented to

Bethany Brubeck and Kara Roberts of St. Thomas More Academy and Charlotte Ann Brown of St. John Regional Catholic School. The winners were chosen from more than 60 county fourth-graders who participated in the contest this year.

The annual contest is sponsored by the Historical Society of Frederick County and provides students the opportunity to research an aspect of local history and compose an essay based on that research. The contest honors the contributions of local historian Harry Decker, whose research enhanced the understanding and appreciation of Frederick County's history. Decker died in 2000.

The 2010 contest guidelines will be available at [www.hsfcinfo.org](http://www.hsfcinfo.org) this fall.

## EVE

FNP 5/29/09.

## EVENTS

### ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC



Courtesy photo

### SJRCS Fair Week

Frederick Mayor Jeff Holtzinger recently issued a proclamation declaring May 25 to May 31 St. John Regional Catholic School Fair Week. St. John will hold its 19th annual Spring Fair on Saturday and Sunday at the school, 8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. The theme for this year's fair is "Your Passport to the World," celebrating cultural diversity. Planned activities include games, crafts, raffles, fireworks, silent and live auctions and a movie under the stars. For information, visit [www.sjrsc.org](http://www.sjrsc.org). Pictured, from left, are Carmen Kaarid; Cindy Kaarid, fair co-chairwoman; Kristina Kaarid; Holtzinger; David Hood, fair chairman; and Jarrett Hood.



Courtesy photo

### Tuition donated

Greentree Homes recently provided one full year of tuition to the St. John Regional Catholic School Gala Auction. Pictured, from left, are, David Hood, fair chairman; Cindy Kaarid, fair co-chairwoman; Kelly Esposito, St. John parent and winning bidder; Shawn Kelly, vice president for sales and marketing, Greentree Homes; Barbara Hood, fair chairwoman; and Willie Kaarid, fair co-chairman. This is the third year that Greentree Homes has provided a full tuition check to the St. John Gala Auction.



FNP 5/10/09

EVEN



## Donation to Heartly House

Courtesy photo

Eighth-grade National Junior Honor Society members from St. John Regional Catholic School recently presented items they collected for Heartly House. Pictured, from left, are Halona Young-Wolfe, Heartly House development director; Dorena Croswell, Heartly House transitions and housing specialist; and NJHS members Emily Hicken, Nick Leggit, Stephanie Pennington and Victoria Glover. The schoolwide drive, sponsored by the St. John NJHS, collected more than 1,400 household items for the families who use the services Heartly House provides.

# Contest winners presented awards

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Christian Academy.

Members of the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 142, recently presented awards for their Americanism/Patriotism Essay Contest on the topic "What the United States Flag Stands For." The ceremony was held at AMVETS Post 9 in Middletown. First-place awards went to Kathryn Tighe from Middletown, a seventh-grade student at St. John Regional Catholic School, and Heather Long from Martinsburg, W.Va., an 11th-grade student at Faith

Each winner received a \$200 U.S. savings bond, first-place certificates and a U.S. flag. The flags were obtained by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-6th. A certificate states that they were flown over the U.S. Capitol.

A total of 17 entries were received and all received a certificate of participation. The winning essays were also judged by the FRA East Coast Regional Essay Committee with Kathryn Tighe receiving a \$200 U.S. savings bond as a first place prize.



Courtesy photo

Shown at the recent Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 142, awards ceremony, from left, front row, are Kathryn Tighe and Heather Long, award winners; back row, are Ted Tubergen, Gordon Gamble, Ray Santee and Doug Baker.

FNP 5/19/09



## Essay winners announced

The winners of the FSK American Legion Auxiliary's essay contest were given awards at the meeting held April 21. The subject of the essay was "Soldiers Past and Present, America Honor Your Veterans." Pictured, from left, are Sue Mallak, teacher; Mary Charlotte Wasserback and Molly Kelly, third-place winners; Kelsy Bealmear, first place; Jamie Brake, Americanism chairwoman; and Bonnie Lamson, unit president. Not present is Christopher Hopkins, second-place winner. All students are from St. John Regional Catholic School.

Courtesy photo



# Extra-credit writing project pays off

By MARGE NEAL

News-Post Staff  
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Kathryn Tighe is happy she took her teacher up on an offer to write an essay for extra credit.

The four paragraphs she wrote about what the United States flag stands for have won the St. John Regional Catholic School rising eighth-grader

\$3,400 in prizes from the Fleet Reserve Association's annual Americanism essay contest.

Language arts teacher Sue Mallek encouraged her seventh-graders to participate in the contest by offering extra credit.

Mallek sent the essays her students wrote to the association's Antietam chapter last December, and Kathryn dug into her studies.

Kathryn's essay won first place in the local contest, and then won first place in the East Coast regional competition. She won \$200 savings bonds at each level.

At the national level, one \$10,000 grand prize is awarded. The top three essay writers in grades seven through 12 receive \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 savings bonds, respectively.

Kathryn took second

(See SLICE A-11)



Kathryn Tighe, 13, of Middletown, recently won second place in a national essay contest that was sponsored by the Fleet Reserve Association. Kathryn, a student at St. John Regional Catholic School, wrote about what the United States flag means to her. Among the items she won are a flag that has flown over the U.S. Capitol and a plaque.

Staff photo by Sam Yu

## Slice

(Continued from A-5)

place among all seventh-graders in the national contest, netting her the \$3,000 prize.

"I write extra-credit essays sometimes, but I don't write a lot," Kathryn said.

"The flag symbolizes freedom, not just in our country but in countries across the world," she wrote in her winning essay.

"Immigrants leave behind everything they have in their home country to come to ours. The flag is like a beacon of hope to them; the promise of new life."

Leslie Tighe, Kathryn's mother, described her daughter as a calm, low-key child.

"There's a not a lot of fanfare with Kathryn," Leslie Tighe said. "She takes things in stride — she just goes off and does things like this on her own."

She recalled her daughter saying she was going to write the essay, and that was the last she mentioned it.

"I didn't even read the essay until after she won the contest," Leslie Tighe said with a laugh.

St. John has an end-of-year Mass and awards presentation, Kathryn said. Members of the FRA attended that program to make the essay contest award presentation.

"She's almost embarrassed by all the attention," Leslie Tighe said of her daughter. "We're very proud of her and the way she handles things."

And does Kathryn plan to enter the contest next year?

"I think I might."

## St. John Regional Catholic School recycles 4.2 tons of electronics

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

For the second year in a row St. John Regional Catholic School and e-End, a Frederick-based electronics recycling and secure data destruction company, partnered for an electronics recycling fundraiser to benefit the school.

As part of the fundraiser, e-End awarded St. John student Juliana Llop a laptop computer for winning a competition to encourage the largest amount of recycling. The ceremony took place at the school to celebrate the participation from St. John families, students, local businesses and the surrounding community in this event.

Between May 4 and May 9 the school recycling event was able to keep 4.2 tons of electronics out of the landfill.

"This was a great opportunity for our school to educate not only the students about the importance of recycling, but to educate the parents as well," said Karen Smith, school principal. "Electronics cause damage to the environment if not properly disposed of and having the students participate in this event made electronic recycling real for them."

Before the event, the St. John Student Council Recycling Committee toured e-End's recycling facility on Monocacy Boulevard. The students were shown the process that e-End uses to break down, sort or shred electronics for recycling. They also had an opportunity to help e-End employees disassemble a computer tower that was being prepared for recycling.



Courtesy photo

Pictured, from left, are Jean Wright, director of development/admissions and event coordinator, St. John Regional Catholic School; Karen Smith, principal, St. John Regional Catholic School; Juliana Llop, recycling event winner; and Patrick Doyle, representative

B-10 | THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

## Catholic Daughters education contest winners are announced

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Awards were presented to winners in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas education contest. Sponsored locally by Court St. Elizabeth Ann Seton No. 278, this contest consists of seven categories: essay, poetry, poster art, computer art, photography and music. Students in grades four and five compete in division I, students in grades six, seven and eight compete in division II and high school students enter in division III. The themes this year were "God's Gifts in My Life" and "The Gifts I Give to Others." First place winning entries will compete in the state contest.



Winners from St. John Regional Catholic School from left, front row, are Abigail Spessard, second-place division I essay; Christoph Berkhausen, third-place division I essay; Victoria Glover, first-place division II art; and Kaley Rhone, third-place division II poetry. Back row, from left, are Dominic Lagana, first-place division II essay; Bobby Brennan, second-place division II photography; Marissa Maduschke, second-place division II art; Josh Rivera, first-place division II music; and Matthew Brown, first-place division I essay.





Courtesy photo

## St. John Regional Catholic School graduates Class of 2009

Fifty-eight eighth grade students recently graduated from St. John Regional Catholic School. A baccalaureate Mass was celebrated at the school by the Rev. Dan Goulet, associate pastor, St. John the Evangelist Church, assisted by the Rev. Dick Murphy, pastor, St. John the Evangelist; Monsignor John Dietzenbach, pastor, St. Peter the Apostle Church; and Father Michael Jendrek, pastor, St. Ignatius of Loyola Church. The Mass was followed by a graduation and awards ceremony. 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 valedictorian was Victoria Glover and the salutatorian was Nicholas Leggit. The principal's Spirit Award was presented to Daniel Moore, and the Catholic Girl Award was presented to Mary Reich by Eileen Borowski of the Catholic Daughters of America. The 2009 Distinguished Graduate award was presented to Michael Rempe, class of '79, by Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement.

### HONOR ROLL

#### FOURTH MARKING PERIOD

The following students are listed on the honor roll for the third marking period of the 2008-2009 school year at St. John Regional Catholic School:

**Fifth Grade — Principal's List:** Brianna Alico, Matthew Brown, Madeline Cederdahl, Grace Cillo, Kaitlyn Hevey, Bryce Johnson, Joseph McNulty, Kathryn Plamondon, Chase Platner, Christine You. **First Honors:** Jessica Afable, Matthew Bowman, Shelby Buyalos, Christian Corr, Nicole Crissman, Kate Dailey, Nicole Delente, Ryan English, Ashleigh Erculiani, Andrew Giacco, Ryan Hayes, Hanna Houck, Noah Ismael, Logan Kamer, Erin Kinsey, Anne Leatherman, Valeria Lopez, Zachary Mehelich, Colleen Nardi, Kyle Newman, Amanda Pliszak, Luke Reich, Gavin Rickert, Marie Sinnicki, Abigail Spessard, Rachel St. Croix, Jamie Stitz, Noah Thiede, Ryan Will.

**Sixth Grade — Principal's List:** Anne Breen, Grace Carlin, Joseph Cheli, Katerina D'Addato, Greta Dylus, Ryan Filyo, Coralie Jean-Philippe, Timothy Johnson, Leslie Lewis, Jacklyn McNulty, Nick Soares, Emilee Shore Watson, Natalie Wright. **First Honors:** Michael Bealmear, Erin Besch, Kyle Brodt, Eleanor Brown, Will Bureau, Taylor Bushey, Katelyn Celestina, Colleen Crowley, Vincent D'Amore, Jamie Farley, Meredith Gamble, Elie Haddad, Sarah Heiland, Katharine Hicken, Bryce Iapicca, Erin Jones, Kailyn

Keller, Nadia Maduschke, Brent McCollough, Mark Moerhle, Cheyanne Neuenschwander, Meaghan O'Neel, Madeline Parilla, John Park, Michael Rempe, Kaila Roberts, Bailey Rogers, James Russo, Arman Salmasi, Tyson Seeley, Kylie Stitz, Brennan Wight, Luis Zelaya.

**Seventh Grade — Principal's List:** Kelsey Bealmear, Domenica Iocco, Karen Leahy, Nick Pollak, Madison Payne, Kathryn Tighe. **First Honors:** Michael Amedeo, John Ballantyne, Nicole Cederdahl, Hee Yeon Chang, Caroline Fearnow, Caroline Florenzo, Eliza Funk, Stephanie Gamble, Erin Gillespie, Michael Grus, Jonathon Mahalchick, Matthew McNeill, Timothy Morrill, Thomas Murphy, Nick Ondrish, Beth Ann Pierce, Maria Rector, Summer Seeley, Cearrah Sherman, Mary-Charlotte Wasserbach, Grier Wilson, Jullian Young.

**Eighth Grade — Principal's List:** Matthew Colket, Thomas Colket, Victoria Glover, Nick Leggit, Juliana Llop, Stephanie Pennington, Christopher Pliszak, Jessica Rempe, Julie Rivera, Daniel Russo. **First Honors:** Mikaela Bordali, Megan Breen, Nicole Bruno, Brianna Celestina, Matthew Erculiani, Cody Fabiszak, Christine Hagan, Emily Hicken, Brian Hickman, Christopher Hopkins, Caroline Hyde, Benjamin Jacks, Rachel Keenan, Daniella Kim, Madeline Lawton, Jane Lebherz, Marissa Maduschke, Garrett Martin, Mairead Paxton, Mary Reich, Jacob Spessard, Matthew Wright.

For a complete list of honor roll students, please visit [www.fredericknews.com](http://www.fredericknews.com).

## EVENTS



Courtesy photo

Michael Rempe, with son, John, accept the Distinguished Graduate award from Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement for St. John Regional Catholic School.

## Receives Distinguished Graduate award

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 award provides recognition to Catholic elementary school alumni who have demonstrated personal and professional achievements in their adult lives.

This year's award was presented to Michael Rempe, class of 1979, at the school's recent graduation ceremonies. He is one of 11 children who attended St. John's from 1967 to 1982. Rempe is the president and owner of Clearwater Landscaping Services and a member of

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church in Ijamsville. He has three children who currently attend St. John's and one son, Andrew, who graduated in 2007. His daughter, Jessica, is one of 58 eighth-graders in the 2009 graduating class.

In 2001, Rempe contributed to a community revitalization effort, the East Third Street Park project. He has also volunteered his landscaping services at his church, St. Ignatius of Loyola, at St. John's School on Second Street and at the new school on Opossumtown Pike. He also serves as a Boy Scout leader and helps with Eagle Scout projects. He and his wife, Patty, and their children reside in Ijamsville.



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## **St. John grad grateful to be in position to give back**

Originally published July 09, 2009

**By Marge Neal**

Michael Rempe lives his life based on the values and ethics instilled by the Catholic education he received at St. John Regional Catholic School.

He gives freely of himself, his professional skills and his money. He is active in his children's recreational interests and he has helped guide many young men in pursuit of their Eagle Scout rank.

In recognition of Rempe's service to community, St. John Regional Catholic School last month honored him with its Distinguished Graduate Award.

Rempe comes from a long line of St. John students. He joked that there should be a wing named for his family.

"I have five brothers and five sisters," he said. "So that's 11 children who have attended St. John at one time or another."

Rempe and his wife, Patty, have four children, two of whom have graduated from the pre-K to eighth-grade school.

"And I have at least four nieces and nephews who have attended the school," he said.

Rempe said he is at a loss as to why he was singled out for the award. He acknowledged he donates time and money to the school and St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Ijamsville. He is involved in Boy Scout Troop 792 and often provides help to other troops and individual Scouts.

He said he is proud and honored to be in a position to contribute to the community and does not expect awards to come from such service.

Jean Wright, the school's director of admissions and a 12-year school parent, has firsthand knowledge of Rempe's service to both school and community.

Rempe owns Clearwater Landscape and Nursery. He has provided volunteer landscaping services to many organizations, including the school, the church and the East Third Street Park.

"Mike really knows how to beautify our world while giving back to the community," Wright wrote in an e-mail to The Frederick News-Post.

Wright said Rempe told her the success he enjoys in life began with the solid education he received at St. John.

The Ijamsville resident said he is proud to be able to give back, and is prouder yet to own a company that provides jobs for 60 in the community.

"It's nice to be in the position to give," he said. "It makes me proud and grateful."

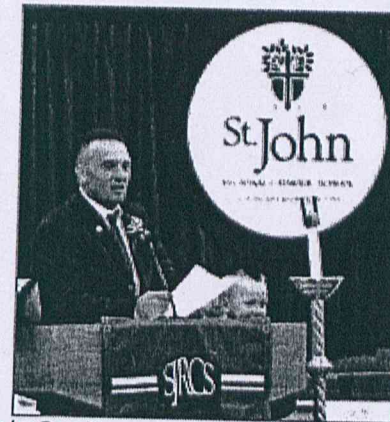


Photo by Sam Yu

Michael Rempe is a member of the Class of 1979 of St. John Regional Catholic School and was at the school's graduation and awards ceremony Friday afternoon to accept the Distinguished Graduate Award. With him at the lectern is one of his children, John.