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THE BUSY BEAK

THE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Francis de Sales School Welcomes Principal

When the doors of St. Francis de Sales School opened this year for the first day of school, each student entered the building with a “high five” from the new principal, Rob Costante.

Costante’s youthful enthusiasm is a perfect compliment to his lengthy resume.

Costante brings his energy and passion for education to St. Francis from The Webb School in Knoxville, Tenn., where he served as assistant head of the Upper School for 5 years.

“I was immediately drawn to St. Francis—its dedicated and creative teachers, the talented students and their energetic, involved families. Right away, I knew that this was a special school.”

Costante’s vision for the school’s future involves focusing on the needs of each student by providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum that prepares students for a lifetime of academic success. He is also committed to continuing the school’s tradition of educating its students in an environment of faith and Catholic values.

As a Baltimore native and graduate of Loyola Blakefield High School, Costante is excited to be back in his home state. He earned a B.A. in Communication Journalism at Shippensburg University and his master’s degree in Education from Loyola College. He now resides in Salisbury with his wife, Nicole, and their two children, who also attend the school.

INTERVIEW PRINCIPAL COSTANTE

Written By: Lani O’Neill and Elizabeth Bragdon
7th grade students



Mr. Rob Costante. Shall we say, a man of many words. Before our excited, new principal came to SFdS, he did many things. He was a service director at a Catholic school, guidance counselor, director of diversity, dean of students, psychologist, and assistant principal. Along with all of these great jobs, he also worked at a special education school. He realized he loved working with kids after coaching for 20 years and working at schools around the country. However, while living on the West coast, he and his family decided to get back to their roots and move to Maryland. During the interview we had with him, we asked him what his favorite part of SFdS was. He said that he liked the

unique sense of community here that he hadn’t felt in a while. He also said that he loved seeing the kids get excited about learning. “Seeing the excitement on their faces when they walk into the classrooms, that really makes me happy,” he said. Mr. Costante said that being here has returned him to what he loves about Catholic education. He said that it has resurfaced his love for God that was buried under unnecessary clutter.

During the interview, my colleague, Elizabeth Bragdon, and I got to ask him some personal questions. We asked him what his favorite sports and foods were. Now, keep in mind, this is a born and raised, good ol’ Baltimore boy. So these were kind of redundant. He answered us with the Ravens and the Orioles, and his favorite food is seafood; namely steamed shrimp and crabs. We also asked him where was his favorite place that he had lived. He told us that he really enjoyed living in California. He said that there was so much diversity and that it was a completely different experience.

Mr. Costante has set some pretty good goals for SFdS for this year (and hopefully many more to come). He said he wants to return a sense of unity and community to everyone. Faculty, staff, parishioners, and students alike. He also said that he wants everyone to stay until eighth grade, no leaving in second, fifth, sixth, seventh. He wants everyone to have the experience of walking across the campus and saying, “Ya, I’m a St. Francis de Sales graduate!”

Mr. Costante is a very seasoned, professional, and family-oriented man. I can tell he’s going to take SFdS to a new level of success.

State of the Art Science Lab

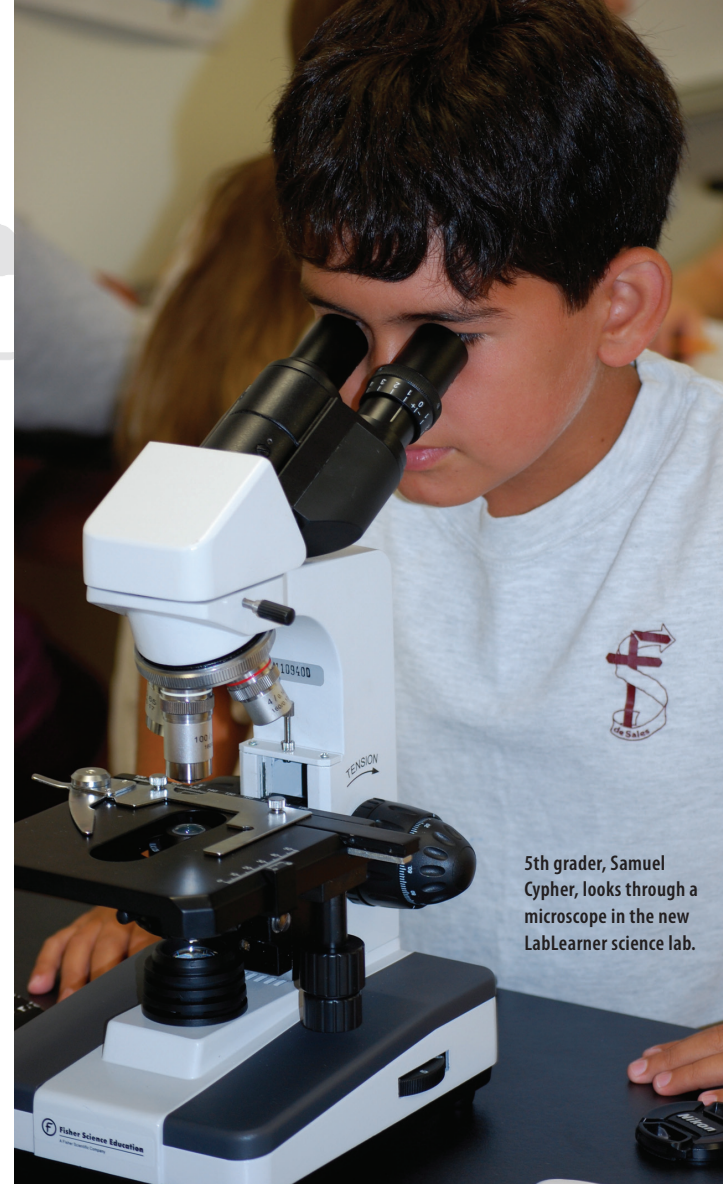
New to SFDs school this year is a state of the art science lab. This amazing resource allows Pre-K through 8th grade students to become involved in a completely hands-on system of science education that includes a fully equipped laboratory.

The curriculum has been specifically designed for elementary school students by LabLearner, which is based on state and national science standards. There are over sixty Core Experience Learning Labs (also called CELLS) for students to discover.

Some examples of CELLS for second graders include: weight and volume, the earth's surface, and health and hygiene. Fifth graders will be learning about work and simple machines, the earth's forces, and will begin using microscopes to learn about cells.



So far, the students think the new lab makes learning science more fun. Several students have been overheard discussing the "cool skeleton" that resides in the lab. Second grader Sara Alessandrini thinks that the "lab coats help make me learn science better."



5th grader, Samuel Cypher, looks through a microscope in the new LabLearner science lab.

Hallo-Giving Project

This year, Halloween came to St. Francis de Sales Catholic School with a fun service project for all students, staff and parents. The Hallo-Giving Project was a huge success and the weather could not have been more beautiful! Students met with their prayer partners in front of the Parish Center dressed in their Halloween costumes. Waiting for the students was a homemade pumpkin patch and tractors set up for hayrides. Inside the Parish Center, art teacher Mrs. Nascimbini dressed



Sarah Siegmund and Audrey Gianelle pick a pumpkin to take to Anchorage Nursing Home from St. Francis' very own Hallo-Giving pumpkin patch.



Angry Bird, art teacher Mrs. Nascimbini, helps students decorate cards.

as an Angry Bird, stood ready to help younger students and their prayer partners create Halloween cards and decorate their pumpkins. The pumpkins and cards would later be given to the residents of Anchorage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center right down the street.

After all classes finished the activities, the students gathered together to walk to Anchorage Nursing Home. All students marched proudly down the street showing off their Halloween costumes, carrying pumpkins and cards! Students took turns going into the greeting room of the nursing home to deliver their gifts to the appreciative residents. This event was a great service project for the students and they enjoyed bringing a little bit of Halloween cheer to the residents of Anchorage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

13th Annual Reading Carnival

As a reward for hours of summer reading, St. Francis students participated in the 13th annual Reading Carnival. This year's theme, Dr. Seuss, allowed the classes to get creative and dress in the theme of each class' chosen book.

Prizes were given for the most creative costumes. 2nd grade took 1st place for their "Horton Hears a Who" elephant ears and trunks. The class earned a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble to purchase books for the class library.

Parent Chairpersons, Michelle White and Angie McLaughlin, planned a fun-filled afternoon, complete with bounce house, face painting, games, snacks and prizes. Students also enjoyed a visit from the Salisbury Zoo's new educational outreach vehicle. Zoo docents brought the zoo to St. Francis, allowing the students to interact with a snake, owl and other small animals. The highlight of the fun-filled day was a visit by our very own Cat in the Hat, Mr. Costante.



7th graders ham it up with the Cat in the Hat.

FAITH IN ACTION

THERE ARE NO GALLEY SLAVES IN THE VESSEL OF DIVINE LOVE- EVERY MAN WORKS HIS OAR VOLUNTARILY.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

The students of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School have been working hard since the beginning of the school year to better serve others in the community. Many classes have decided what special projects they will be working on for the year. Mrs. Aswell's 4th grade class started to collect soda can tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington, Del. The money raised from the soda can tabs will allow families to stay closer to their children who are receiving cancer treatments in Wilmington. All students and families are invited to help this great cause! Miss Smith's 7th grade class began learning to knit at the end of October. Every year, the students knit scarves for the men who come to the community homeless shelter. St. Francis de Sales Parish participates in the local Community Emergency Relief Shelter during the winter. Local homeless men receive food and a warm place to spend the night for two weeks during the coldest months of the year. These scarves bring warmth and compassion to the men during the cold days and nights.

Capital Campaign 2012

The time has come for us to finish our new Parish Center and take another step into the future of St. Francis de Sales School. Plans are being finalized for a Capital Campaign for our parish families, friends, alumni and supporters to raise \$750,000 to complete the two floors that were part of our future plan when we originally built the Philip and Barbara Long Parish Center.

Plans call for three brand new classrooms for 6th, 7th and 8th grades, along with a new entrance to the school with offices for the principal, the school administrative assistant and volunteer receptionists. A second floor will house a

major parish conference room, offices for youth ministry, religious formation and adult formation, along with a nursery and teachers' lounge area. Previously, our 6th, 7th and 8th grades have been housed in three portable buildings located in the school parking lot.

Having all of our religious formation and educational ministry in one building will not only facilitate, but will witness, our commitment as a parish to be one in unity with the Lord.

Once again, we need the prayers and sacrifices of everyone in order to meet the needs of our growing parish and school.

POWER OF THE PENGUIN

FIELD HOCKEY

"You gotta want it to win it and we want it more!" was proclaimed before every game. The athletes had an intense urge to attack offensively and defend aggressively each game. Although the team did not end the season with a winning record, the girls were recognized repeatedly for their positive spirit and never-give-up attitude. With ten 5th graders and six 6th graders, the team was very young this year. The four 8th

graders, Jessie Willey, Emily LeCompte, Cally Grant and Danielle Johnson, led their teammates by example with support from our eight 7th graders. St. Francis is one of only a few middle school field hockey teams on the Eastern Shore. It has a reputation for feeding talent and knowledge into our high school systems each year. We are so proud of the growth and improvement this year and can't wait for another great hockey season in 2012!



Abby Roskovich (left) anticipates a pass from Shelby Cummings.

GOLF

The St. Francis de Sales Penguin Golf Team season began in September shortly after the start of the school year. Our team was comprised of seven players from the middle school. They are pictured below from left: Coach Greg Olinde, Richard Duncan (8), Jacob Richardson (7), Lani O'Neill-Tarvin (7), Samantha Miller (7). Front row from left: Mason Olinde (7), Carson Phillips (6), Arthur Carlton-Jones (8). SFdS played against the middle school teams at Most Blessed Sacrament, Sts. Peter & Paul, Worcester Preparatory School and The Salisbury School. The golf team was able to play matches against the other schools at some of the area's nicer courses. Our team was so fortunate to have Green Hill Yacht & Country Club as our home course. Special thanks is extended to Green Hill Head Pro Mike Callendar for being such a gracious host. The Penguins played against some formidable opponents in Worcester Prep and Most Blessed Sacrament. Both of those squads had more experienced players than SFdS. The team was more evenly matched against The Salisbury School and Sts. Peter & Paul. Everyone

in the SFdS family should be proud of this young team of beginning golfers as they conducted themselves as great sports no matter the outcome and played hard in every match. This season sets a solid foundation for next year. The golfers had fun each and every match or practice-- and in the end, that is what the game is all about. A special thanks goes out to Principal Costante, the SFdS staff and all of the parents and grandparents for making sure each of their players was fully equipped with clubs, golf balls, etc. and bringing them to the matches. Your support is appreciated!



SOCCER

The 2011 soccer season was successful and exciting. As the youngest team in the division, the players managed to pull off just as many wins as losses. More than half of this middle school soccer team was comprised of twelve 5th graders. In addition, the team had six 6th graders, two 7th graders, and two 8th graders. This group played throughout the season as a team, and left an impression with every game played. Coaches commented on their team work, sportsmanship, dedication and drive. The SFdS Soccer Team will miss 8th graders Matthew Seidel and William Cooledge. Having displayed great ability and skill all season, these captains exemplified attitudes and leadership skills worthy of being named Team Captains. Great thanks and congratulations to Coach Glenn Ains and the Saint Francis de Sales Soccer Team on a season well played. They have much to look forward to in the upcoming seasons!



8th graders and team captains Matthew Seidel and William Cooledge.

CALL FOR LEADERSHIP

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY EVENTS

Last year the National Junior Honor Society inducted seven 6th graders into the organization. Nicole Baumann, Elizabeth Bragdon, Hayden Eutsler, Morgan Hall, Shayla Houlihan, Lydia Marks, and Sydney O'Dell joined the organization on Wednesday, May 18th in a ceremony held after the 8:30 school mass.

Along with the two eighth graders, Jessica Willey and Matthew Seidel, these seventh graders will be doing various service projects over the course of the next few months. In November, the President of the NJHS, Jessica Willey, and Vice President, Sydney O'Dell along with the faculty advisor, Mrs. Wallace, attended the kickoff breakfast for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Each year, members of the National Junior Honor Society volunteer their time by ringing bells for the Salvation Army. In addition,

the students also organize the Milk Carton Campaign in which Salvation Army milk cartons are sent home to each family to collect loose change. When the milk cartons come back to school, the NJHS members collect them, count the money and take it to the Salvation Army. Last year, St. Francis collected \$434 which was used toward meeting the needs of local families. This year, our students will once again be ringing bells and collecting the milk cartons for this very important cause.

The NJHS is also planning a babysitting night for those parents who need to get some Christmas shopping done. Parents are invited to drop off their children and NJHS members will entertain them with games, crafts, movies and pizza for dinner. It is always an enjoyable evening for everyone.

STUDENT COUNCIL

On October 5, the 2011-2012 Student Council was inaugurated to begin their service. Each recited a pledge and answered affirmatively that they would abide by the code of the Student Council and be excellent role models in behavior and academics for the other students. Each student received a pin to signify their membership in the Student Council and a blessing from all the faculty and staff lead by Father Aigner. Our Student Council for the 2011-2012 school year includes: Luke Prunty - President, Matthew Seidel - Vice-President, William Cooledge - Secretary, Jessica Willey - Treasurer; 7th grade representatives, Elizabeth Bragdon and Mason Olinde; 6th grade representatives, Abby Roskovich and Nick von Kollmar, and 5th grade representatives, Grace Gardner and Owen Peters. This is a wonderful group with which to work!

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO ISN'T RECEIVING THE BEAK?
NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?
ARE YOU AN ALUMNI WITH SOME EXCITING NEWS OR UPDATES TO SHARE?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**EMAIL US AT
busybeak@sfdscs.org**

ALUMNI NEWS

Jamie Benedict Strong '90

Jamie graduated from SFdS in 1990. After graduating from James M. Bennett, she went on to earn her B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Richmond and a Ph.D. in Toxicology from the University of Maryland. Since 2002, she has worked at the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development. She recently served as Deputy Associate Director for Chemical Regulations in the Executive Office of President Obama's White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) on a nine month detail. Jamie currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland with her husband, David, and her daughter, Lillian, age 3.

Rob Benedict '95

Rob Benedict, Jamie's brother, also graduated from Bennett. He received his B.S. in Biology from Wake Forest University and M.S. in Engineering Management with a focus in Crisis, Emergency and Risk Management from George Washington University. He has worked at the United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) since 2010. He currently serves as a hazardous materials transportation regulations specialist for the Standards and Rulemaking Division of PHMSA--developing safety regulations for the transport of dangerous goods by highways, rail, water and air both domestically and internationally. Rob recently served as part of the United States Department of Transportation delegation at the United Nations' Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the International Civil Aviation Organization's dangerous goods panel. Rob resides in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife, Lauren.



WELCOME PENGUINS

Our new administrative assistant, Mrs. Laurel DiPirro.



We welcome our new administrative assistant, Mrs. Laurel DiPirro. Mrs. DiPirro is the mother of two St. Francis alumni, David and Brian, as well as current 6th grader, Alex. Thanks, Mrs. DiPirro, for keeping everyone organized and things running smoothly. She's a busy person!!!!

Our 2nd (Ever!) Pre-K Class.



Mrs. Kerry Burns, assistant Mrs. Kathleen Hall, teacher
Bottom row Left to Right:
 Chloe Cha, Kayleigh Simpson, Darcy Manes, Emma McIntosh, Rosie Freda, Callie Mull, Clara Callaghan
Top row Left to Right:
 Braidy Alexander, Colter Colletti, Peter Swierkosz, Brock Brushmiller, Kyle Goblinger, John Villano, Dylan Hart, Kellen Binstead

Welcome new students!



Top row:
 Brittany McMillan (6), Henry Elangwe (5), Jacob Jester (6)
3rd row:
 Lisa McMillan (2), Adriena Costante (2), Serena Khalifeh (2), Benjamin Pinto (2), Benjamin Cooledge (K), Robert Simpson (K)
2nd row:
 Breana Alcantara (1), Lucio Costante (K), Sheon Shaju (K), Casey McLaughlin (K), Larry Wilson (K), Bright Ogburn (1)
Bottom row:
 Sarah Tarr (1), Sarah Miller (K), Cassie Johnston (K), Rylie Kirby (K), Eden Emhoff (K), Riley Terrell (K), Julia Ortiz (K), Mason David (K)
Not pictured:
 Chloe (2), Colton (4) and Collin Provenza (8)

FRANNYFASTFACTS Did you know?

All in the Family...

There are 38 students enrolled at St. Francis whose parents also attended.

Now that's a lot of (homemade) chicken noodle soup...

Mrs. Villano, our cafeteria manager, serves approximately 400 hot lunches every week.

Smarty pants...

Two of last year's local high school's "1st in Class" or Keynote Speakers (they no longer say "Valedictorian") were St. Francis graduates... Congratulations Chad Loomis of Parkside High School and Skylar Schirtzinger of Delmar High School. We are proud of you.

NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Busy Beak is a mission of the Development Committee

The St. Francis de Sales School Development Committee is organized to promote, market, and solicit financial support for St. Francis de Sales School. The funds raised through the efforts of the Development Committee are used to subsidize the operating expenses associated with the school budget in some of the following areas: teacher salaries, improvement of school facilities and the procurement of property. The principal raised is an endowment. The committee, with the approval of the pastor, shall decide how to raise funds and how to spend investment income.

If you would like to help us in these efforts, please send your tax deductible donation to 500 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801. Checks may be made payable to St. Francis de Sales Catholic School with a reference to "Development Fund" included in the memo section.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Francis School Auction
 March 24, 2012
 Hope to see you there!

Catholic Schools Week
 January 29-
 February 3

Open House for Prospective Students
 February 1 & 2



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“We Are Able to Do So Much More” New Computers Arrive at SFdS

The start of the school year brought with it many new changes and opportunities for the students of Saint Francis de Sales Catholic School including the replacement and upgrading of 32 computers in the computer lab. The SFdS Development Committee, whose primary purpose is to promote and solicit financial support for the school, purchased the new computers for the computer lab as well as 20 laptops for use by the faculty and office staff. Each year, the Development Committee works with the principal to determine the school's needs and how to best use the funds the committee has available. One of the many things Mr. Costante noted was the need to replace and upgrade the 6 year-old computers in the computer lab. The upgrade would allow the school to meet the technological requirements necessary to advance its technology initiatives.

The new computers have more memory and include the latest software – Windows 7 and Microsoft Office Pro 2010. Lizanne Wallace, SFdS Computer Teacher said, “The old computers would freeze up and programs would

not load. Important instructional time was taken away from students as a result of time spent waiting for programs to load, trying to figure out why they were not loading at all and trying to unfreeze computers. Since the installation of the new computers with current software and sufficient memory, those problems have been eliminated and have enabled the students to concentrate on learning.” The new computers also allow the students to use Google Docs. With Google Docs, the students are able to share papers electronically with teachers and other students, which reduces paper usage.

The student response to the new computers has been “the computers are so fast,” “computer time is fun again” and “we are able to do so much more in computer class.” Thanks to the Development Committee, the students and faculty at SFdS will continue to benefit from the new technology for many years to come.

