

# Welcome Back to School!

St. Mary School, Williamstown, NJ

## Opening Day

Welcome back to our new school year! School will begin on Wednesday, September 8th at 8:15 and dismissal for the first week will be at 12:30. Bus students will be greeted by Ms. McBride and the officers of the Ministry of Student Leadership and directed into the school building. Those who arrive in cars will meet Mrs. Whittaker along with student safeties.

New students, kindergarten and first grader children will be directed to Assumption Hall where their teachers will assemble the classes and lead them to their classrooms.

Students in grades 2 to 8 are asked to go to their classrooms, where they will be welcomed and invited into their classrooms. New parents and parents of children in grades K to 3 are

asked to place a badge on your child/children for at least the first week of school. *(Sample badge see right)* It is helpful to include the bus number or "Car Line" to avoid confusion at dismissal. For buses, you will receive a card from your school district listing the location and time of pick up and drop off. **You can expect that the bus will NOT be on time the first weeks of the school year. It is a transition time.**



St. Mary School

Student Name

Homeroom #  
Bus Number/Town or  
Car Line

## Staff Changes

St. Mary Pre School teacher, Mrs. Lee Ann Maginnis has decided to focus her time on family needs at this time. We are grateful to "Miss Lee Ann" for giving our preschool program a strong foundation. We welcome Mrs. Elaine Contrevo to the 3 year old class. "Miss Elaine" is a graduate of Rowan University and has 15 year of teaching experience and has been a substitute at SMS many times. We will miss Mrs. Mau-

reen McIlvaine's presence in K1 as the class aide and Mrs. Kathy Gilkin will move to K1. We welcome Mrs. Linda Black as an aide in 1B. Mrs. Black has three daughters in SMS.

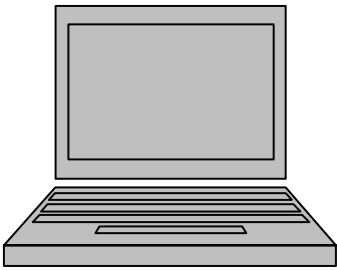
Miss Neiderkorn is moving to Kindergarten while Mrs Bryson has been promoted to grade 4 (4B). We also welcome Mrs. Raimondo to 5A. Mrs. Luz Carmona is new to SMS as our K to 8 Spanish teacher.

Mrs. Carmona received her first degree in Colombia and attended Rowan University for her certification classes.

We are happy to say that all our other teachers and staff will return to SMS to insure the same quality of education, that attracted you to St. Mary's initially.



## Teachers Attend Technology Conference

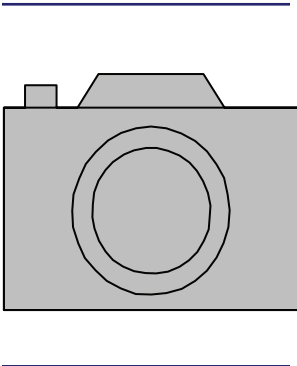


This past July, Mrs. Wendler, Mrs Casale, Mrs. Mann and Ms. McBride attended the BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (BLC10) Conference in Boston. The program was planned by Alan November , a leader in educational technology, and in-

cluded educators from all over the world. The goal of the conference was to build global partnerships and share creative ideas for empowering teaching and learning.. The workshops offered and shared with our faculty, will greatly influence the use of **technology** in the learning

and teaching process at SMS. We have so many new ideas that we are looking forward to including in our daily experience, foremost among them— connecting with children from other countries. We will join our students on line with children in other countries of similar interests.

## What's New This Year



You will notice new carpets in areas/classrooms that needed them. With the walk -a- thon income, we were able to purchase new tables and chairs for our two Kindergarten classes.

cameras throughout the school, lighting around the school, and landscapers are trimming the shrubs around the school. A buzzer with camera is being installed to enter the Pre-school as well as the elementary school.

Parents are welcome to enter the school on the Carroll Avenue and ring the buzzer to be admitted into the school. Pre-school parents will be able to ring a bell and after the aide sees who is at the door will admit them into the pre-school area

Security purchases include

Parents are welcome to enter

## Healthy Children at SMS



At the beginning of each school year, we need from parents updates on required medical shots. Please contact your doctor to make sure you have the shots required for your child's grade level.

A reminder: We ask all families to be conscious of the needs of children with allergies to specific foods. At present we have a number of children in SMS with severe peanut allergies. If you are contributing to a class party, please

do so with a sensitivity to children with this and all allergies. We have a special table in the cafeteria for children with food allergies. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

## Middle States Association

St. Mary School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. We have rotated into the 10 year renewal phase, so we will be visited by a team representing this association in November of this year to look at the progress we have achieved as a school in relationship to the 12 standards established by the association.

Because our school is well established, we were approved to develop a project to present to a visiting team of professional peers. Our project was instituted last year as we introduced the house system. Our project proposal is entitled Strengthening Our Academic Community Through a School Wide House System. With this project we are looking for ways to help our students develop positive attitudes and behaviors and gain a sense of pride in their accomplishments. Each grade chose a Saint or person of religious significance to emulate. They needed to learn about this person and develop a motto, song, and started to design a flag for their house. Each house earns points in social, behavioral, and academic areas. We will add new goals each year as we continue to develop this project to enhance our students' educational environment. We will continue to develop this project throughout the next five years.



## Class Lists

Your child/children's class assignments will be available in Churchwerks on Wednesday, August 18th. The following will help you retrieve your information: Enter your user name & password and click the "go" button. Here you can

view your home, contact information and child/children's class assignment. If your password has expired, select "click here to renew your password", a new screen will appear and you will enter "User name", current pass-

word, new password, and confirm password. (If you don't remember your current password, please email Ann Marie [mainoffice2@smarys.org](mailto:mainoffice2@smarys.org) and she will get back to you.

Our teachers have spent

a great deal of time assessing the classes, personalities and learning styles of our students in order to create a classroom environment that will, we hope, lead to a wonderful learning experience for your child. We ask that you respect the quality of time and interest that has gone into each child's class assignment

## Churchwerks

Churchwerks is a tremendous program that enables, you as parents, to be aware of your child/children's academic performance, behavior, incomplete assignments, homework to be completed and personal notes from teachers. We also use Churchwerks to tabulate the report cards and make them available to you at home. **It is really important for parents (not students) to review these reports at least once a week.**

**Thank You!**

## SMS, a Paperless School

At St. Mary's, we have the opportunity to view all school communications via our school website. Many school families take the opportunity to view these communications weekly (preferably on Tuesday). This school year, 2010—2011 SMS will be a paperless school. The only papers that will come home will be test papers.

Please take the time, this summer, to review the Student/Parent Handbook. We made some changes that will be important for you to be aware of before school opens.

There are a number of papers that need your immediate attention at the beginning of school.

# SMS School Board News

*The first year of our new School Board was very productive. Some of the goals of the Board include:*

- ⇒ *Formulating a strategic plan for our school, including facilities, reviewing academics, and finances.*
- ⇒ *Taking a leadership role in supporting the Annual Fund*
- ⇒ *Supporting efforts to promulgate our Mission Statement.*

*We would like to thank Mr. Bill Gilson and Mr. Jon Agresta for their service to the Board. We welcome Mrs. Anna Broomell and Mr. Jack Luby to the Board as new members. Serving the Board as Chair this year is Mr. Elmer Ildefonso; Vice Chair is Mr. Rick Bruce and Mrs. Stephanie Whitstock as Board Secretary.*

*Please check the website to be in touch with the progress of the Board this year.*

**We're on the web:  
[www.smarys.org](http://www.smarys.org)**



## Random Reminders

Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook on this website, in particular to the school uniform section. You will notice some changes that we would like to see in place the first day of school. **Please check the section for haircuts and notice also the school socks information.** Lack of compliance will lead to after school detention.

If you are sending in money for school supplies, please make sure that you put it in an envelope with your child's name and room number on it. You will need a separate envelop for lunch prepayments.

School bags are required for all students (except for pre-school children). Students may use backpacks with wheels, since some of their textbooks are heavy. We ask that they be backpacks and not luggage as space is always a concern.

You will be receiving information about updating the Churchwerks information for your family. Of particular importance are the following: Adresse, phone numbers, email addresses. We will use this function to communicate important notices to all school families.

With the new camera and buzzer at the entrance of the school on Carroll Avenue, by the main office, children will no longer be able to enter the building in the morning at this location. We ask parents to enter by the church entrance and leave your children off behind the parish center and the children will walk down to the Assumption Hall entrance in the morning and assemble in the gym with their classmates. Thank you!

Enjoy the last days before the school year begins. Our next school year promises to be exciting and successful for your children and our school.