



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School

Trailblazers

Spring 2011

Academic Honors

Sixteen out of the thirty-three (48%) St. Catherine's seventh grade students qualified for the Duke TIP (Talent Identification Program) Talent Search this year. Eligibility for participation in the Duke TIP is based on the students' achievement on standardized tests such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. These students are:

Alex Blinkhorn, Lauren Bohling, Troy Bresch, Siobhan Crawford, Anne Dempsey, Celine Esmeir, Danny Gibson, Drew Green, Madison Karg, Logan Mikell, Abigail Seeley, Lauren Sill, Julia Strother, Mark Sturn, Emma Taylor, and Noah Zimmer

Four out of the sixteen qualifying students took the SAT and their high achievement on the SAT qualified them for State Recognition: Troy Bresch, Drew Green, Julia Strother, and Emma Taylor.

Congratulations to these students for their excellent academic achievements!

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Second Grade Celebrates First Holy Communion



St. Catherine of Siena's second grade students in Sister Marie Therese and Mrs. Barton's classes have enthusiastically prepared for their First Holy Communion, which was celebrated on Sunday, May 8, 2011, at 3

p.m. According to Sister, the students "will spend most of their time studying the Mass" in order to learn and understand how they are participating in the worship of Heaven. Each child received hands-on experience

to compliment their study by creating their own Missal so that they will be able to pray the Mass. In addition to studying Scripture as it relates to the Eucharist and the Last Supper, students have been discussing how to prepare their hearts to receive the Lord, culminating in a special retreat held on Friday, May 6, 2011, at the school. Sister Marie Therese adds, "It is such a special time in the life of a child to be preparing to receive Our Lord for the first time."

by Stephanie Lukens

Science Olympiad:

Creating a Passion for Science at SCS

Quick! To what order does *Cardinalis cardinalis* belong? What are mesoscale convective complexes? What are the radiosity, solubility, density, and mass of the unknown powder before you? The clock is running; you have only a few minutes to construct a bridge with common household objects demonstrating maximum strength to length ratio. Go!

These are only a sprinkling of the types of formidable questions and challenges that faced the fifteen members of the St. Catherine of Siena

team at the Regional Science Olympiad (SO) competition at Alpharetta High school this February. While this was only the second *continued*





From Principal Sister Mary Jacinta, O.P.

Dear Families and Friends,
As we near to the end of our 2010-2011 academic year, I would like to draw your attention to another "milestone" for St. Catherine's: our Class of 2011 will be the first graduating class to have begun and completed their K-8th grade journey with us here at St. Catherine's. The following are the students who stepped into St. Catherine's nine years ago (while our school was housed

within the Our Lady of Grace parish building) as Kindergarten students and are now preparing to go on to high school:

Garrett Blinkhorn, Kathryn Bona, Nicholas Casaburri, Joseph Congemi, Philip Gibson, Allie Guelfo, Erin Hagebusch, Megan Hill, Samantha Lockamy, Analise Niverson, Madeline Reese, , Joseph Schretzmann, Adele Strother, Arynne Tanner, and Michael Witting.

Congratulations to the above students and the entire Class of 2011. We are confident that this group of young people will carry with them all that they have learned during their time at St. Catherine's and so set the world ablaze with the love of Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Mary Jacinta, O.P.

Sister Mary Jacinta, O.P.
Principal

Save the date!

10th Anniversary Gala Auction March 10, 2012 at the Cobb Galleria

Gala Planning Committee - Please join us!

*Meet lots of wonderful parents and have fun planning an exciting and beautiful celebration of our tenth year!
For more information please call or email Kim Graff 770-419-8601 extension 1403 or kgraff@scsiena.org*

*The 2011 Gala Committee wishes to thank
Premiere Sponsors*

Bill & Nicole Benedict and ServITRepair.com

... our Gala Sponsor!

The Guelfo Group/Northside Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine

... and our MANY, MANY table sponsors!!

Science Olympiad *continued*

year St. Catherine has competed in Science Olympiad, the Blazer team succeeded in placing in 7 events! Members received three 2nd place awards for Disease Detectives, Junkyard Challenge, and Meteorology; three 3rd place awards for Ornithology, Storm the Castle, and Compute This; and one 4th place award for Dynamic Planet. St. Catherine's hopes to

have two teams of middle school students participating in the 2011-2012 Science Olympiad, so if you love science and are willing to devote some of your boundless energy and brain power to one of the premier events of its kind, consider joining this winning group! " Parents, if you have a background or enthusiasm for science too, please consider

mentoring a student in a topic area that interests you. You will love it!

For more information on the Science Olympiad program visit www.soinc.org."

By Marjorie Strother

A spotlight shines on the many gifted artists, singers, musicians, and actors at SCS. The Archdiocesan Art Show, held on March 26th, included more than 70 pieces of student art from SCS. A selection of these projects and a representative piece of art from every student was also displayed during Fine Arts Day at St. Catherine of Siena on May 12th. The 7th Grade performed a special dramatic presentation on the life of St. Catherine of

Siena. The students wrote, produced, acted, and created the set scenery, which was featured on Siena Day, April 29th. The Blazer Band and Chorus Spring Concert was also held on May 12th. Their concert highlighted a collection of pieces developed during the 3rd and 4th quarters, as well as a musical theater performance by the SCS Middle School Improv group. The Fine Arts finale, held on May 15th featured a recital by the Music Department's

private lesson students and the newly formed St. Catherine of Siena Drama Club, under the direction of Lori McGarigle and Molly Gareau, presented *Crimes & Rhymes* at Kennesaw Mountain High School Theater. SCS will again be offering a Summer Band Studio for rising 5th - 8th grade band students, visit the school website and Edline for more details.

By Lisa D'Arienzo



Archdiocesan Art Show, held March 26, included over 70 pieces of art from SCS students. Pictured - Ms. Erin Taylor, Art Teacher with second grader Sarah Agresta.



Pictured above - Mr. Owen Griffith, 4th Grade Teacher and Guitar Instructor, plays a duet with fourth grader Zachary Steele.



Pictured left - Band Director Mr. Michael Ishmael leads the SCS Band during the December 16 Winter Concert.

Gala Auction a Wonderful Success

St. Catherine of Siena held its 9th Gala Auction at Marietta Country Club on Saturday, March 12, 2011. The evening was visually enchanting with its splendid silent auction baskets, beautiful one-of-a-kind class projects, and exciting live auction bidding taking place amidst the blue and silver décor. Bidders were treated to a delicious dinner that featured a beef brisket entrée and then a nonstop parade of desirable items such as a trip for two to the U.S. Open in New York, an airplane trip for four anywhere in the United States, and a weekend cabin

rental on a Georgia lake. Perhaps one of the most entertaining aspects of the evening was the use of BidPal, bringing smart phone technology for real time bidding on silent auction items, where attendees found themselves in bidding wars over wine tastings, Celestial dinners and other such prizes, not always realizing the competition was coming from people seated at their own table. The auction, which exists to help fund the school's operational expenses, succeeding in raising a net of \$73,650 of which \$13,687 has been dedicated to our "Field Improvement" project. Organizer Kim

Graff, summed up the event quite well in stating, "God has blessed St. Catherine's school with a very special family spirit that was evidenced by the joy and excitement of the guests at the Gala again this year. I am especially grateful for the generosity of the many volunteers, donors, sponsors and guests who have made this year's Gala a beautiful success."

By Stephanie Lukens



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Alumni Spotlight

SCS Alumni Share your news with us! Send your contribution to kgraff@scsiena.org

The local American Legion has selected **Vinnie Paglioni, Class of 2008**, to attend the Georgia Boys State held June 12-18, 2011 in Statesboro, Georgia. Boys State is a weeklong opportunity for young men to learn leadership skills and the political process. The Legion has been sponsoring this activity since 1935 in every state except Hawaii. Nearly 500 High School Juniors will attend representing Georgia high schools. Two representatives from each state are chosen to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. Vinnie also earned his Eagle Scout award in Boy Scouts.

Molly Wiley, Class of 2008, recently earned a Superior rating at the Georgia Thespians Conference in Columbus, Georgia. Molly is the sole recipient in the state of Georgia to receive a full scholarship to a weeklong summer study program in New York City! Congratulations Molly!

During Holy Week in April, **Olivia Graff, Class of 2008**, participated in a Holy Week Mission at St. Michael's Church in Gainesville, Georgia. As part of a mission group of High School and College age girls, Olivia served the Mission community by painting the kitchen

in the Emmanuel House, working with the middle school children and



helping with preparations for the Easter Day celebrations. The girls participated in the parish Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, as well as spiritual talks, Stations of the Cross and door to door missions.

Trailblazers is published by St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School
For more information, to volunteer, or make a donation
please call (770) 419-8601 or visit www.scsiena.org