



*St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School*

# Trailblazers

Winter 2011

## IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS DATES TO REMEMBER:

**November 14, 2011**

Open registration begins  
and tuition assistance  
applications begin

**February 3, 2012**

End of open registration

**February 17, 2012**

Tuition assistance  
application deadline

**February 9 & 10, 2012**

1st-8th grade entrance  
test

**February 11, 2012**

Kindergarten screening

## Are You Interested in Joining the SCS Family?

November has been a busy month for St. Catherine of Siena Admissions Director Michelle Huval!

The school held its annual Open House for the 2012-2013 school year on November 12, 2011. We are now in the midst of the open enrollment period, when prospective families submit their applications for admission to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School.

Applications are available on the school website,

[www.scsiena.org](http://www.scsiena.org) and are due by February 3, 2012. Mrs. Huval will then contact prospective families to set up an admissions screening, which takes place on Saturday February 11, 2012, for incoming kindergarteners, and on Thursday, February 9, 2012, for students entering 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

In addition, there will be a **Meet the Principal** reception on January 10, 2012, for all interested families. “The admissions time is

an exciting time of year!” says Mrs. Huval. “I love meeting the prospective families and telling them about the wonderful things about St. Catherine’s.”

If you are interested in applying to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School or if you would like more information to pass along to someone who might be interested, please contact Michelle Huval at [huval@scsiena.org](mailto:huval@scsiena.org).

*Joanne Taylor*

## Veni, Sancte Spiritu *Come, Holy Spirit....*

*“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.”* Students in the

2011-2012 St.

Catherine of Siena School eighth grade class truly opened their hearts to the Holy Spirit this October at the Life Teen Covecrest, Retreat Center set against the dazzling backdrop of fall

foliage and magnificent waterfalls in the Northeast Georgia Mountains. The annual eighth grade overnight retreat, which is designed to help students grow closer to their peers and to renew their relationships with God, has become a much anticipated and loved part of the middle-school faith formation at SCS for both students and teachers alike.

On the first day of the

retreat, students challenged themselves on the ropes courses, worked on team building activities, discussed strategies to remain chaste as they go into high school, and talked about how the Holy Spirit is with them always, guiding their actions. Nighttime brought a candle-light prayer service by the campfire where students reflected on the school theme, “I am the fire, you are the sparks.” *continued*



*From Principal Sister Mary Patrick, O.P.*



Dear Families and Friends, Over the course of the semester, as summer merged into fall, one of my great delights has been to watch the children outside playing on our newly refurbished Javier Mejia Memorial Field. I recall watching a fourth grade boy at recess one day fling himself down on the soft grass, laugh with delight, and then roll across the field. What a marvelous gift it has been to observe the children's carefree joy as they play on their new field at recess time!

With the success of the field project as a catalyst, the parish has now begun to

raise funds for the renovation of Herbert Hall, where your children and grandchildren have PE classes, perform in choir and band, and gather for school assemblies. If you are a member of St. Catherine Church, you have probably come to Herbert Hall many times for parish functions such as adult education, fish fry dinners, or the simple fellowship of coffee and doughnuts after Sunday Mass. Through the generosity of families from the school and the church, we have raised enough money to secure the architectural drawings for the project. We are continuing to raise

funds for the renovation, which will only begin when there is enough money in the bank to see it through. Over the course of two months, we have raised a little over \$156,000 of the \$750,000 needed for the project. We are grateful for your support.

Thank you for the many ways you support the school. As we begin the Advent season, please know of my prayers for the families and friends of St. Catherine of Siena School.

In Our Lady,

*Sister Mary Patrick, O.P.*

Principal

*Pledges for the Herbert Hall Renovation may be made in any amount and sent to the school at any time.*

*Your donation is eligible for corporate matching - check with your HR department.*

*Present*

*Conceptual Design*



**Veni, Sancte Spiritu Come, Holy Spirit.... continued**

Each student read a quote about fire from the scriptures, and prayers were offered for the intentions of the whole SCS community. The second day of the retreat was deeply spiritual and students prayed with the missionaries who live and work at the camp, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and adored

the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the 100-year old St. Stephen's Chapel. It was so appropriate that banners emblazoned with the eighth-grade's classroom prayer, "Veni, Sancte Spiritu," or "Come Holy Spirit," could be found all over the camp during the retreat. Sister Maria Clemens said, "From the

moment we got there and our bus got stuck...to the downpour of rain that moved the ropes course to Friday...to the sun coming out so the kids could just play together...to our return, the retreat was planned, but nothing went according to plan. It was truly led by the Holy Spirit, not us."

*Marjorie Strother*

# You Can Never be too SMART

A good teacher never stops learning, and the teachers at SCS are the best! Earlier this school year twenty SCS teachers attended a training course on integrating the cutting-edge technology known as the SMART Board into their classroom activities. The two-part course provided instruction-



al and hands-on presentations on the features and usage of the boards that increase engagement in the learning process, infuse technology throughout the curriculum, and help teachers create presentations for the students. "Students love to interact with these boards, whether it be writing on them, watching the teacher use them, interacting with them by moving objects or clicking on interactive links, etc. This raises the interest level," said 5th Grade teacher Mrs. Stacy. The course also introduced instructors to the

SMART website that offers teacher-made presentations ready for use. "SMART Technologies has a wealth of pre-designed lessons online, searchable by grade, standard, lesson-type making it very easy to quickly download a lesson in an instant and either use it, or modify it to meet my specific needs," explained Mrs. Stacy, who has been using SMART boards for seven years. All homerooms at SCS now have these new SMART boards and teachers prepared to use them both effectively and creatively!

*Marjorie Strother*

# Alumni

**SCS Alumni—  
we want to hear  
from you!**

**Send us an email  
and share**

**with us your  
accomplishments  
and photos! Tell  
us about new  
and exciting  
experiences—  
missions, travels,  
volunteer work,  
performances.  
Contact Mrs.  
Graff**

**kgraff@scsiena.  
org**

## SCS Volleyball Ends Another Great Season

What a tremendous end to the SCS volleyball season this fall! Team 8B (Guelfo & Marzen) ended the

regular season in first place in the league. Team 8A (Coach Jim & Kathy) ended the regular season in

second place. Both teams won their bracket games as well as their semi-final games. They ended up facing each other in the league final for an exciting game.

Team 8A was victorious. Look out for continued success with our volleyball program. Coach Vaughn & Edwards' 6B team won both of their bracket games & ended up in the semi-finals as well. In all, SCS teams came home with five trophies. Way to go, Blazers!

Thanks to all the players for their dedication and hard work. Thanks to the parents for all of their support.

*Lisa Pacheco*



**Blazers**  
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA  
VOLLEYBALL

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School  
1618 Ben King Road  
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144



Grab your dancing shoes, we're puttin' on the Ritz at the **Tenth Annual**

**Gala Auction Black & White Ball.** The 2012 Black & White Ball will be held at the Cobb Galleria Centre on **Saturday, March 10, 2012.**

Guests will enjoy a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing for the Fred Astaire in all of us. BidPal electronic bidding returns, adding another level of excitement as guests try to outbid each other on trips, beautiful themed baskets,

dinners, and more... This event is the largest fundraiser for St. Catherine's. Last year's event raised over \$70,000 for the field renovation. Proceeds from this year's auction will go towards the Herbert Hall renovation project to benefit the whole parish.

Sponsorships are now available starting at \$1,000. Please contact Julie Merendino at 404-427-

7113 for information about opportunities to sponsor the Gala

Auction. Individual tickets for the 2012 Black & White Ball are \$65. **Beginning January 9, 2012 tickets can be purchased by clicking the Gala Auction link on the school website.**

*Visit [www.scsiena.org/WaystoGive/GalaAuction](http://www.scsiena.org/WaystoGive/GalaAuction) for more information on donating, advertising and sponsoring the Gala Auction, or contact Kim Graff 770-419-8601 x 1403 [kgraff@scsiena.org](mailto:kgraff@scsiena.org)*