



# DeTours

The Newsletter for Friends of St. Martin of Tours School

Fall 2017

[www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)

## Middle School Solves the Great Cookie Caper

The middle school spent an exciting day this fall solving the Great Cookie Caper! One afternoon Principal Sahadi gathered the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades together and announced that his cookies were "stolen" from the cafeteria, and the accusations began flying. The five suspects were Mrs. Morelli, Mrs. Redmond, Mrs. Cain, Ms. Pereira, and Ms. Jones. Each

one had an "alibi," but there was much evidence to uncover. The students formed teams and rotated through investigative stations and labs.

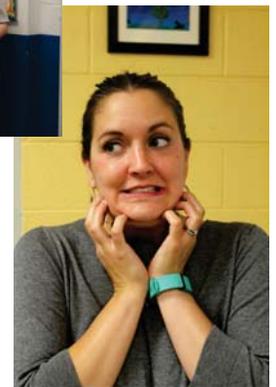
The middle school students had to translate a ransom note, analyze fingerprints, use chromatography to match ink type, examine soil types, test chemical reactions of powder evidence, and code DNA samples. Once they discovered evidence and discussed the findings, they accused their suspect. "Lab reports" arrived and the "culprit" was announced: Mrs. Katie Cain! She said she had her "reasons."

This year's cross-curricular theme in middle school is "Where's the Evidence?" The teachers want to encourage our students to show evidence in reading through the text, in math through their work/calculations, in science through experimentation, and in many other ways. In addition to applying this to individual classes, there will be an activity planned for the sixth through eighth graders in each quarter of the year that has the classes working together to learn the importance of evidence.

There was an added excitement and energy through the school that day. It was a fun way to apply 21st century learning skills to a "real life" situation. There is art and science to lighting the fire of learning. Our teachers spark that fire so each student can shine with success. There is something compelling, inspiring, and imaginative in every classroom at St. Martin's.



### Where's the Evidence?





Dear Friends of St. Martin of Tours Catholic School,

St. Martin's Catholic School is a model American Catholic School. We are an example because of our alumni, friends, teachers, students, and parents. Our people, community, and characteristics are a shining example for our country and Archdiocese.

Recent events have shown the need for all of God's people to work together for the common good. The desire for the common good and seeing God in all people and situations is a consistent focus here at our school.

Every morning, our students and staff pray together. We pray to follow Jesus spiritually, academically, athletically, and socially so we become our best selves. Every day, we all get a little better to become our best selves.

Our best selves are being shown and practiced in many diverse ways. We are so blessed for this.

During this season of giving and giving thanks, there is much to be thankful for here at St. Martin's.

- Thank you for helping us renovate our science lab with new equipment and resources
- Thank you for helping us with our emphasis on learning skills that answer the question – “Where is the evidence?”
- Thank you for helping us with a successful Family Literary Night
- Thank you for helping us achieve – for the first time – funding student aid from the investment return of our Endowment Fund
- Thank you for helping us increase enrollment and retention
- Thank you for helping us with an increased energy and enthusiasm for our school and community

These are examples of our commitment to our excellent academic program and supportive environment which engages families and the community in the growth of its students and graduates. We are so thankful to you our alumni and friends for the consistent loyalty and generosity you show. Because of you, we can begin, fund, and share these examples and activities with our students and parents.

Great things continue to happen at St. Martin's.

I pray all of you will have a blessed and restful Christmas and New Year.

Respectfully,

*Anthony G. Sahadi*

Anthony G. Sahadi  
Principal

## Julie Stinger Named Teacher of the Week



Congratulations to our 6th grade homeroom teacher, Ms. Julie Stinger, for being named Archdiocese of Washington Teacher of the Week! Ms. Stinger wears many hats at St. Martin's. In addition to being the sixth grade homeroom teacher, she is also our librarian and teaches art

and religion. She coordinates our book fairs and organizes a book swap so students can always have new books to read over the summer.

Ms. Stinger incorporates her Catholic faith into her interactions with students based on her example. She leads a club called "Knitting for a Cause" where she teaches students how to knit hats for the needy. For our school's ninetieth anniversary, Ms. Stinger led the school in a service project to put bags together containing toiletries and comfort items for foster children. This cause is very near and dear to her because she was a foster parent and adopted five children.

Ms. Stinger spent a large portion of her summer vacation coming into school rejuvenating our library with a fellow teacher. She ordered hundreds of new books, and worked tirelessly to give our library an atmosphere conducive to fostering a love of reading in our students. From the new mushroom chairs that help the little ones look for books, the brightly colored rugs and boxes, and an intuitive layout to best help students find their next favorite book, our library is like new. We had our Open House this week, and parents and students greatly expressed their excitement over the new space.

Ms. Stinger loves our school, and she works so hard to help our students develop a love of reading. We are so fortunate to have her on our staff.

## Mrs. Zimmerman Celebrates 30 Years



Annamaria J. Zimmerman has touched the lives of thousands of children, parents, and staff in countless ways over the past thirty years at St. Martin's. The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office honored her 30th anniversary at this year's Opening of Schools Mass, at the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. We congratulate and thank Mrs. Zimmerman for these many years of faith, dedication, and hard work.

Mrs. Zimmerman is a warm and caring educator who goes beyond her responsibilities in assisting staff and caring for children in all grades. During these years, she has welcomed our youngest students as first the Kindergarten aide and later the first grade aide. Her smile and patience encourages her students as she works with small groups in reading and math. "When I am with my students, I give them my all," she says. Her duties through the years have included managing the lunchroom volunteers and the children in the Aftercare Program. Mrs. Zimmerman has been a parishioner since 1977 and has volunteered in the parish and school offices. In all she does, her Catholic faith and gentle spirit provide an example for our St. Martin's community.

Mrs. Zimmerman is one of the first educators to arrive at school each day and is soon busy preparing her room and the school. She is always

quick to volunteer to help fill in for a teacher, to set up for special events, and to help with special projects. Mrs. Zimmerman leads a library club and diligently heads our SMS's safety committee to ensure our school is prepared for any emergency. She is a nurturing and caring person who loves teaching children. We are grateful and blessed for the love Mrs. Zimmerman had lavished on innumerable children and adults in our school community these past thirty years.

## New Faces This Year at SMS



This fall we welcome new members to our faculty and existing faculty to new roles. We are grateful for their talent, teaching experiences, and commitment to our school.

Mrs. Ana Andrade is our new Kindergarten teacher and has an exciting year planned. As a student teacher at St. Martin's this past year, Mrs. Andrade taught in Kindergarten and third grade. Prior to this, she managed her own childcare program for ten years.

Her interaction with young children during those years sparked an interest in pursuing a teaching career in early childhood education. Mrs. Andrade holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education from Western Governors University. "To more fully engage the learning capabilities of young children," Mrs. Andrade said, "I will provide a caring and nurturing learning environment where children can feel comfortable to explore and fulfill their intellectual curiosity."

Our church's high school youth minister, Mr. Josh Moldiz, expands his role at St. Martin's Church and School considerably this year. The church is launching a new Religious Education program under the new office of Faith Formation. Heading up the program is director, Josh Moldiz, a returning parishioner to St. Martin's. In addition to those responsibilities, Mr. Moldiz is teaching 5th grade religion class. He previously taught middle school religion at St. Andrew the Apostle in Silver Spring. Mr. Moldiz helps to provide the students with the tools they need to live out the Catholic faith in today's society. In addition, we look forward to Mr. Moldiz helping to strengthen the relationship between our school and church.

Over the past two years, Andrea Skinner has been working in our Aftercare Program. Her primary area of responsibility is in the Pre-Kindergarten room. There she plans crafts and games with the aim of expanding what is taught during the school day. This year, in addition to working in the Aftercare Program, Ms. Skinner is our Lunchroom Supervisor and Pre-Kindergarten Aide. As Lunchroom Supervisor, she manages the flow of classes in the cafeteria. As the Pre-Kindergarten Aide, she assists Mrs. Mohrbacher as needed during the school day. We are fortunate Ms. Skinner is applying her considerable teaching experience in expanded roles at St. Martin's.

Veteran teacher Cathy Coyne serves as our new teaching assistant for second and third grades this year. In addition to assisting in the Kindergarten classroom, Bridgette Bell teaches physical education to our Kindergarten through second grade.

## SMS Coach Inducted into Hall of Fame



Robert McMillin was inducted into the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County, Youth Coaches Hall of Fame this October during their 18th annual event. He joins a commendable group of coaches who have made an extraordinary contribution to CYO and other

athletic programs over the years.

Coach McMillin has been a parent at St. Martin's for the last 20 years and coaching for the last 6 years. Robert has been involved with the school in various fashions, including Dinner-Night-Out Coordinator, HSA Vice-president, Bingo Team leader and CYO coach.

Robert's coaching career started back in 2010 when his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, wanted to play basketball with her friends. He had never coached before but as they had over 18 girls for the rookie team, he volunteered anyway. His players will always remember him as a coach that not only wanted them to get better at basketball, but do well in school. He was always supportive and offered a shoulder to lean on if the girls were having a bad day. Coach ran a Girls basketball clinic for two years to help promote CYO basketball to all the girls in the school and parish. He coached a core of seven girls from 3rd grade until they graduated this past June.

Robert is a father of three graduates from St. Martin's and is married to Gretchen, who herself is a graduate from the school. We congratulate and thank Coach McMillin for his remarkable contribution to our program, and for fostering sportsmanship, respect for others, and Catholic values for these many years.

## Remembering an Extraordinary Parishioner



St. Martin's parishioners gathered at church on September 14 to mourn the loss of Michael T. Strubel, a parishioner, a friend and a generous supporter of the church and school in Gaithersburg for over three decades. He died at the age of 73. He was an extraordinary man who chose to serve the Lord by serving others with a joyful spirit. Archdiocese of Baltimore Bishop Mark E. Brennan was pastor of St. Martin's for many years while Mike was a parishioner. He noted, "He was truly a Christian gentleman, strong in his faith in Christ and his love for the Church and willing to pitch in where help was needed."

In his years at St. Martin's, he shared his wealth but did it quietly. Mike helped to pay off parish debt, renovate the parish office and build the Adoration Chapel. He made significant contributions to the school along with supporting our auction by donating valuable family heirlooms. Every time he gave, he asked that his donation remain anonymous. Mike combined his financial generosity with humble service. Every week he would stop by the parish office, coffee in hand, to see what needed to be done. "He would tell funny stories about his Navy days or what happened at Mass that day," recounted Sheila Griffith, parish Data Manager. He would pitch in to stuff bulletins, inventory candles, update missals, and deliver wine to the sacristy. He cared for those in the parish who were sick and handicapped. Mike was here for all in so many ways, from the grand to the small. He enjoyed the comradery of other parishioners who regularly attended the 6:30 am Mass. They often went out for coffee following Mass. Mike was a role model and admired by those who knew him. As parishioner Marion Strishock added, "He was the epitome of the humble in spirit. He turned to Christ in humility and faith and he will be blessed."

St. Mary of the Mills pastor, Michael Mellone, attended the vigil. Monsignor Mellone was also pastor of St. Martin's during Mike's years as a parishioner. He said, "He was an unsung hero. He gave financially but equally important, he gave his presence to the Lord, to the church, and to those that needed him." His many friends at the vigil were happy to share stories about what made Mike a remarkable man. Teddy Brennan, a parishioner who regularly attends the 6:30 am Mass added, "He had a wry sense of humor, gave generously in a simple and unstated way, and helped in any way he could." Longtime friend Linda Joy said that after Mike survived colon cancer ten years ago, "He reassessed his purpose of life and decided he was here to look after those who needed looking after."

It would be difficult to count the number of people whose lives are far better today and will continue to be, because Mike Strubel took action to help others. That number would be a fraction of the work he did. All this happened because he was a man who lived his faith by caring for others. He put their needs above his own. That example is an inspiration for us all.

## St. Martin's Happenings



Time for a change. New school uniforms after 30 years!



Our 2nd annual Trunk or Treat was a boo-rrific hit!

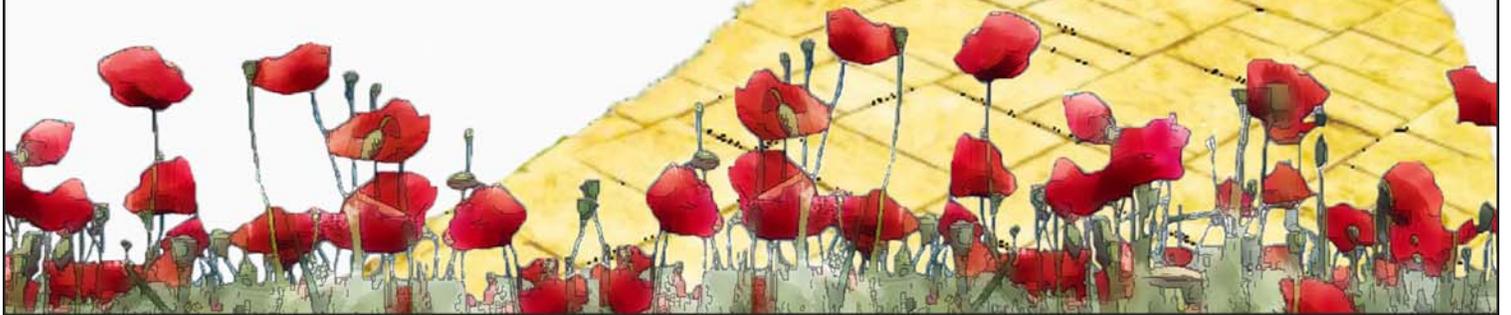


At Family Literary Night Dr. Seuss' *Horton Hears a Who!* played center stage.

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## Ways to Support St. Martin's

If your workplace participates in the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign and you would like your tax-deductible contribution to be directed to SMS, **please designate us by entering our number on your donor form. United Way (Member #8362) and Combined Federal Campaign (Member 85449)**



Other ways to support St. Martin's are through Amazon Smile, Good Search, Giant A+ Bonus Bucks, Office Depot, or Donate a Car. To find out more information, go to [www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org) and click on "Support SMS."



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## Endowment Fund Donors

### Make an Impact with the Gift of a Catholic Education! Give Now for End-of-Year Tax-Deduction

We thank our alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends for your generous support. Last year, we invested our financial aid endowment fund responsibly, in line with our faith. The goal is to preserve the principal and use the investment return to give the gift of Catholic education to those families with financial need. This year for the first time, income raised by our investments are funding tuition for families in need. For the 2017-18 school year, we are able to help ten families with partial tuition.

Help us so more families can send their children to St. Martin's. Please make a tax-deductible gift to our St. Martin's School Endowment Fund. For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed in this newsletter. For more information concerning donations, please contact Anne Gemunder, Director of Development at 301-990-2441 x225 or email at [agemunder@smsmd.org](mailto:agemunder@smsmd.org).

The Roster of Donors will be listed in our Summer DeTours, which will include gifts received from June 15, 2017 - June 15, 2018. If you prefer your name not to be listed, please check the box on the donation envelope.

## Alumni Class Notes

**We would love to stay in touch!** Share with us your news and we will keep you up-to-date on happenings at St. Martin's School. Go to [www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org) and click on SMS Alumni or email Anne Gemunder, Director of Development at [agemunder@smsmd.org](mailto:agemunder@smsmd.org).

## In Memoriam

### Nettie Mancini



We remember Nettie Mancini as a much loved teacher who taught at St. Martin's for decades. She served as an educator until age 79 at Catholic schools in the Washington, D.C. area. She passed away this past September. She loved teaching and the children loved her. She called them her little angels. We were blessed by the many gifts that she shared with our school community.



Troop 927's Eagle Scout, Patrick McMillin Class of 2014 stands with his Beneficiary Glenn Wallace of the Monocacy Cemetery Board. Patrick's project involved cleaning and replacing fallen headstones (52 total) at the historic cemetery in Beallsville, MD.



As a cadet at Fort Union Military Academy, recent graduate Suljjaal D'sa Class of 2017 is gaining valuable leadership skills along with academics.



Alexa Orosco Class of 2013 helped coach our Sports Club. She played volleyball four years at Gaithersburg High School and plans to continue playing while attending Florida Atlantic in the spring.

## Class of 2007 Classmates Giving Back to Catholic Education

The best evidence of the value of a Catholic education is when students want to come back and teach at Catholic schools. This is a story of two friends from the same class at St. Martin's - each named Will - one an Antonetti and the other a Redmond. They were together from first through eighth grade and graduated in 2007. They benefitted from having some of the best teachers St. Martin's has to offer, then and still now, including Mrs. Joseph, Mrs. Morelli, Mrs. Redmond, Ms. Stinger, Mr. Logan, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. Fowler, and Mrs. Garfield. Will Antonetti said he appreciated how well he was taught. He added that Mrs. Joseph "knew me better than I knew myself." Will Redmond said, "More than anything else, teachers emphasized that academic success should never be achieved at the expense of others. That we should consider the care and respect for others in all things."

Both boys continued their education at Catholic high schools. Antonetti went to Gonzaga College High School in D.C. and then went on to the University of Maryland, first studying economics, and then switching to English and Secondary Education. Redmond went to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Olney, Maryland and then graduated from Georgetown University, having majored in Government and History. Antonetti always wanted to teach. For Redmond, with three family members having taught at SMS, teaching was always a consideration.

Following their undergraduate studies, they each made a major commitment to teach at Catholic schools. Redmond was accepted to the Alliance for Catholic Education at Notre Dame. He studied for his Master's in Education in the summers and taught during the school years at a Catholic high school in St. Petersburg, Florida. Antonetti was accepted to the LaLanne Program at the University of Dayton.

While also studying for his Master's in Education in the summers, he taught during the school years at a Catholic high school in Cleveland, Ohio. Both of these are service programs that offer to low income families, usually in urban or rural areas, the gift of an excellent Catholic education. These teachers make a two-year commitment to teach at an under-resourced Catholic school and live together in a faith-based community as they pursue their professional development.

When asked why they chose to teach at Catholic schools, both Antonetti and Redmond mentioned how Catholic schools provide an important space to serve the Catholic community. "We get to engage and connect to students' lives in a very powerful way. We can integrate our faith in every aspect of their learning," says Redmond. Antonetti added, "I want to share how important a role faith plays in all parts of our lives."

Since graduating, both men have returned home and are teaching in local Catholic schools. Will Redmond is a sophomore History teacher at his alma mater, Our Lady of Good Counsel high school. Will Antonetti is teaching Literature for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade at Mary of Nazareth in Darnestown, Maryland. They both are heartened to give back to Catholic education. The story of these two friends from St. Martin's is a testament to the value of Catholic schools.



From left, John Borg, Will Antonetti, Will Redmond, Matthew Murphy

## Class of 2009 Calli Feudale Turns Challenges into Triumph



From left, Calli Feudale, with Kirsten Mahoney, Director of Summer Programs at Glenelg Country School

Calli Feudale, class of 2009, has turned personal challenges into remarkable success. Ironically, her career path has been one of helping others turn their difficult situations into triumph. She recently received an Outstanding Internship award for her work at Glenelg Country School in Frederick, Maryland, and a scholarship awarded to a Frostburg State University recreation and parks major who studies therapeutic recreation. This is remarkable alone, but what got her to this point was an extraordinary path of perseverance, hard work, and dedication to helping individuals with disabilities and special needs.

Calli attended St. Martin's from kindergarten through eighth grade. She was grateful to the community atmosphere,

which was always welcoming. Calli said, "Mrs. Redmond was crucial to my success. She prepared us well for what to expect in high school." While in high school at St. John's Catholic Prep, Calli discovered her passion for working with people with disabilities. She served as a nanny for a family with a child who had a sensory processing disorder, which means that common sounds or other sensory stimuli caused the child to feel overwhelmed or in pain. "I didn't have too much experience with people with special needs," she said. "I saw how he took on the world and took on his challenges and how he learned through various methods."

From there Calli attended Frederick Community College. While going to school, she worked with an occupational therapist in Frederick, leading group recreational therapy sessions for boys on the autism

spectrum, facilitating social outings, apple picking, fitness activities, and more. After receiving her associate's degree, she transferred to Frostburg State University majoring in recreation and parks with a concentration in therapeutic recreation. Continuing school was made financially possible by receiving several awards including the Robert A. Knorr Scholarship. Calli managed the 2016 I Swim for Bob Event, which involves a day of fun gymnasium and pool games and served as the scholarship's chief fundraiser. She lists that experience as a signature moment of being prepared for her post-graduation career.

Calli put her FSU experience into practice at Glenelg Country School where she has worked since 2016. She started out as a summer camp teacher programming art, music, games and cooking activities for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. "The volunteer placements and the Bob Norr event really laid the groundwork for the skills that I further developed at Glenelg's summer day camp program," Calli said.

Currently, Calli holds a paid internship in program services with Disabled Sports USA in Rockville. The nonprofit works with all age populations, providing adaptive sports programs, and manages and helps companies support sports programs for the disabled.

Calli truly is an advocate for people with disabilities and for using recreation as a way to empower. "I love working with people who have disabilities," she said. "They have such a positive outlook despite many of their challenges. It's very cool to see how they adapt to the world and how they take it on in their own way."

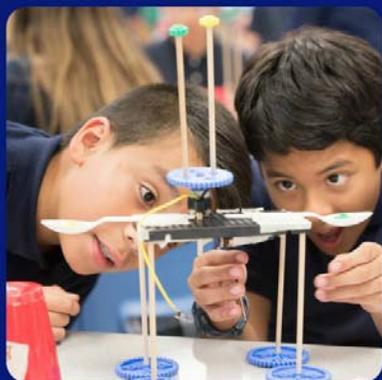
In January, Calli will take on new responsibilities as the Associate Director of the Summer Program at Glenelg. They offer programs for pre-kindergarten through age 17. Calli hopes to start an adaptive sports program. Stories such as Calli's are exciting to highlight and confirm again that bright futures begin at St. Martin's.



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