

St. Martin's Episcopal School Newsletter

September 2008

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This year's
campaign runs
from

July 1, 2008 to
June 30, 2009

Goal:
\$425,000

As of 9/19/08:
\$34,000

Still Need:
\$391,000

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Donate Now](#)

Lower School students are ready for fun and learning during Saints PLUS

A Message from the Headmaster

Although it's not as crisp and cool as a New England autumn day, there is coolness in the air as I write this. I'm pleased to say that we recently came through Hurricane Gustav with minimal damage, for which we are grateful. School re-opened smoothly, and we're all glad to be back at the business of learning.

Late Start Wednesdays began on Spt. 17. This new and

innovative program provides the opportunity for students in all divisions to take advantage of academic opportunities, collaborative group work and project-based learning experiences during the first hour of every Wednesday morning. In an effort to add value and be intentional in our efforts to develop leadership skills, we offer a unique Saints PLUS program on Late Start Wednesdays, and over 100 of our students took part in that on the first day. Our students benefit by the introduction of cutting-edge sport-based youth development programs and the timing of classroom academics to optimize learning, while our faculty will use the time to collaboratively research and discuss best practices in education. For photos of our first Late Start Wednesday, visit the media library on our website at www.stmsaints.com.

Fall at St. Martin's is a busy and exciting time of new classes, athletics, arts and too many events to name. I hope you will check the list of events in this newsletter and join us when you can. In particular, I hope you will join us on Friday Oct. 10 for our Homecoming Game at 7 p.m. against Ridgewood. Coach Cazeaux is doing a great job with our team and I think you'll be impressed.

Earlier on Homecoming Day, we will be inducting the newest members of our Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame-John Girault '55, Joann DeMartini '82, and the members of the 1969 State Championship Track Team. Our Upper School students will have the opportunity to witness the induction ceremony, which will be followed by a luncheon reception for the inductees and their guests. The Hall of Fame honors those players, coaches and administrators who excelled in athletics while at St. Martin's. Previous inductees include the 1951 Metro Championship Football team, Coach Tony Porter, Ben Tisdale '54, John Eastman '64 and Glenn Johnson Brady '65. Congratulations to our newest members for a well-deserved honor.

Project Adventure has been launched and we are using its activities to enhance physical skills, leadership and team-building qualities and character education during PE classes and in the Saints PLUS program on Late Start Wednesdays. Project Adventure, conceived at Harvard University as a school-based version of Outward Bound, employs rope-climbing walls and initiative games to teach the character principles common to my Sports PLUS program. Project Adventure is more than a series of challenge and climbing structures-it is an intentional approach to education that has long-lasting implications inherently tied to its methodology. It is a systematic way of analyzing a problem or project, creating an effective means of communication, working toward a common goal, and learning what strategies worked best in attaining that goal. This approach is based on research and is transferrable to the real world, whether it is

project-based work in the classroom, a corporation or job, and even logistical issues within a family setting. I have seen Project Adventure at other schools, and I can tell you that it will have a dramatic and long-lasting impact upon our students. Project Adventure at St. Martin's is in fact above and beyond what I've witnessed at other schools because of the way in which it will be integrated through our classroom curriculum. This is not just an athletic program-our students will leave St. Martin's as leaders who understand how to work collaboratively and as a team to solve problems, and they will be well prepared for the world they will enter.

We also continue in our strategic planning work. As you may know, during the past eight months, using a data driven approach and the expertise of a nationally renowned consultant, we have gained a clearer understanding of who we are as a school and where we currently stand as a learning organization. We have discovered our strengths as a school and areas where we need to improve and change. The process has involved many members of our community, bringing together key stakeholders and moving us toward a "systems thinking" organizational model. We are in the process of finalizing our core operating principles which will form the basis of everything we do for the next five years. I look forward to reporting to you in upcoming issues about the specifics of those operating principles and our strategic initiatives.

I thank you for being a part of the St. Martin's community, I invite you to call me or visit the campus at any time, and I ask for your continued support of all we do.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Pratt Beedy

St. Martin's Introduces AlertNow

The first month of the 2008-2009 school year has been an exciting one for many reasons! During our second week of school, New Orleans and its surrounding areas found themselves directly in Hurricane Gustav's path. A mandatory evacuation was called for the entire metro area, and people began leaving over the weekend. The school was spared any significant damage - but lost power. St. Martin's, along with the other ISAS schools in the area, could not reopen for a week. So back to school we went on Monday, September 8th, everyone happy to be back and to have been spared the wrath of Gustav.

Hurricane Ike was fast approaching, and New Orleans was again in the cone of probability. Fortunately for us, the storm stayed south and west of us, but the effects were still strongly felt here in south Louisiana. And again, due to the inclement weather, the school was closed on that Friday.

St. Martin's was prepared and ready to notify our families of all of these situations and closures by using our new ALERTNOW Notification System. The Administration decided to invest in this alert system last spring for just these types of situations. Instead of relying on phone trees to communicate messages, ALERTNOW sends a voice recorded message and/or email alert to our entire phone list and email list. All StM families, faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees are notified at once. In a matter of minutes, the entire St. Martin's community is made aware of a situation. We are very pleased with this new efficient and effective method of communication for the St. Martin's community.

The Gulf of Mexico is quiet for now, and St. Martin's campus is abuzz with all that it should be - classes, football games, music, project adventure, play practice, parents' nights and more. We are looking forward to a fabulous fall!

Anne Dunlap Honeywell '83
Director of Marketing & Communications

Annual Giving Campaign Kicks Off

Annual Giving funds critical parts of our operating budget and ensures that St. Martin's continues to excel at educating leaders for our community. We must continue to raise the bar on our expectations of the school and on ourselves, so that our students will continue to receive the finest educational experience possible. Thus, the school leadership has set the 2008-09 Annual Giving goal at \$425,000.

St. Martin's is in a most exciting and optimistic place in its history, and we thank you in advance for your support. Please note that if you pledge at or above the Founders' level (\$1200+) in the next week you will be invited to the annual Founders' Dinner on October 4th at the home of Beth and Keith DePass. Donations at or above the Founders' Level may be paid monthly (\$100) or quarterly (\$300) on your Visa or MasterCard. Pledges are payable through the end of the Annual Giving Campaign, which is June 30, 2009. You can also easily donate online at www.stmsaints.com/ag.

Annual Giving Donor Levels

Headmaster's Circle \$15,000+

Saint \$10,000-\$14,999

Scholar \$5,000-\$9,999

Fellow \$3,000-\$4,999 -

(with donations at or above Fellow's Circle you will receive a set of 4 etched STM double old fashioned glasses and this year's collectible, The Flick Family Ampitheater)

Founder \$1,200-\$2,999 - *(with donations at or above*

Founder's Circle you will receive this year's collectible, The Flick Family Amphitheater)

Supporter \$500-\$1,199

Benefactor \$100-\$499

Friend \$1-\$99

Alumni

Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame Announces 2008 Inductees

The St. Martin's Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame will induct new members at its third awards ceremony on Homecoming weekend. The Hall of Fame is proud to welcome the following new inductees:

John Girault '55

1969 Track Team-

State Track Champions

JoAnn DeMartini '82

This year's inductees will be initiated into the Hall of Fame in the Solomon Theater on Friday, Oct. 10 during Upper School assembly. A celebratory luncheon for award recipients and their invited guests will follow in the Little Gym!

Dates to Remember:

Friday, October 10th - Homecoming 2008 5:00 - Fall Fellowship Barbecue on the Lower School Back Playground
Saints vs. Ridgewood
7:00 p.m. kickoff
1958 Saints Football Captain **Bobby Yeargain** will have the honor of conducting the coin toss at the start of the game!

Wednesday, October 22nd - Alumni Brown Bag Lunch
Alumni and their StM students enjoy lunch together on the Van Slate Lawn

To find out more about the Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame or to get involved with the StM Alumni Department and all the fun that goes with it...

Contact Alumni Director **Julie Talbot** at
Julie.Talbot@stmsaints.com or
(504) 736-9912

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