

# Adages from Augsburg

Augsburg Academy

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Special points of interest:

- Augsburg Academy was founded in 2005
- The Academy is named after the city of Augsburg, Germany, where Martin Luther faced the Imperial Diet (parliament) and declared "Here I stand" when asked to repudiate his writings.
- The Academy has grown from one class of 3 students to serving students from age 4 through 4th grade this year

## Full-Tuition Scholarship To One Student In Contest

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, the Academy will award one full-tuition scholarship to a student from the state of Maryland simply by registering online, by mail, or at one of the local businesses agreeing to display an entry box. It is not necessary for the winner to apply to the Academy before entering.

Every family who registers or re-enrolls for the coming year is automatically entered in the drawing. Only one entry is allowed per family, and for this school year, the winner must come from the state of Maryland.

One of the reasons for this contest is to help us in marketing the Academy. Many families who might not otherwise hear about us or even consider us have already registered for the drawing (to be held the last



**Preparing for a class, Augsburg teachers use many available resources.**

Sunday in July).

Another reason for the contest is to draw media attention to the Acad-

emy. Typically, private schools will raffle off a full or partial scholarship as a fundraiser within the school. On the other hand, we at Augsburg are taking the opportunity to offer the Augsburg Experience to a student who might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so.

The cost of this scholarship has been included in our 2008-2009 budget, so it won't have a direct impact on our annual operations. However, if you would like to make a contribution to Augsburg's Annual Fund in order to assist other worthy students in receiving financial aid in the coming year, we are happy to accept your contributions of any amount.

If you have any questions, or know a business willing to be an entry point, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Hebbeler

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### Help us help others!

Your student referrals are very important to our continued growth and success. Please tell others about Augsburg, and when you do, send a note to [REF@augsbουργacademy.net](mailto:REF@augsbουργacademy.net) or call (240) 786-0283.

Pastor Art Hebbeler, STS  
Head of Schools

One of my duties as Head of Schools is to meet with families during the admissions process. It's a great opportunity to learn about the families, and an even better opportunity to share the story and vision of Augsburg Academy. As people come to know more about Augsburg and the work in which we are engaging, they quickly come to appreciate what we are doing and how we plan to grow the Academy and more importantly, how we serve the students entrusted into our care.

As with any school, Augsburg may or may not be the right school for any given student.

There are things which we do well—teaching children to read, building mathematic skills, supporting students who are competing in sports at the national or international level, for example. There are also areas in which Augsburg is not a specialist—for example, working with students having severe learning disabilities, or students who are hearing- or visually-impaired. But just because we may not be the perfect match for a student, we are not willing, or able, for that matter, to simply close the door on a prospective family.

Instead, we want to work with families to help them find the right school for their children, even if that school isn't Augsburg Academy. To many people, this is

an odd position to take, because it means we are willing to "recruit" for other schools. The truth is, our desire as an educational institution serving God's people is to help our brothers and sisters in Christ be in a place that will draw out their best abilities as God has provided to them.

In this way, we are not just a school, but educational specialists, dedicated to serving God and God's people through the ministry of education. Sure, I would love for every student whose parents investigate Augsburg Academy to enroll. However, if Augsburg is not the right school for the student's needs, then we are not serving the student, or God, properly or justly.

# Adages from Augsburg

## “Pastor, We Have a Problem...”



Students and faculty share lunch time together. This allows both groups to interact in a social environment, and students learn valuable conversational skills, too.

On April 10th, the last day of the third quarter, our Lead Teacher, Karen Scott, was standing at the copy machine when she turned to me and said those five words I dread to hear, “Pastor, we have a problem....” If I have learned anything in three years as a school administrator, those are more feared in school than in church.

“OK, Karen, what’s the issue?” I asked, with some reluctance.

“Oh, nothing really bad...we just finished the second grade math today. Any ideas what we should do next quarter?”

Every principal should have that kind of problem. The second graders had finished the **third grade math** book. That is a

“good’ problem, and indicative of the level of work our students are performing on a daily level.

We’ll spend the fourth quarter on enrichment and skill building, including having them learn their multiplication tables, just like we all did “back in the day.” Maybe we can be “calculator free” for another grade...

## News Alert — Update on Building Plans

While we are still trying to encourage the Park and Planning Commission to reconsider our initial proposal for a stand-alone school complex, we have not been sitting idly by in planning. A “Plan B” concept has been developed, where the Academy will build onto the existing Ice House building within the confines of the existing Ice House lease lines. This would provide additional space to The Gardens for locker rooms, meetings, as well as expanded seating in the Patrick Rink, as well as space for our existing grades, a commons/food service area, and administrative offices. Phased construction would allow us to enter the first section as early as the fall of 2009, and then build out the additional space necessary in the following year. These are exciting times, and we appreciate your support.

*“We are called by the Holy Spirit to be the best teachers we can be...and students are called to be the best students they can be...”*

## Students Developing Poetry-Writing Skills

As many of you know, we have two main classroom divisions this school year. One class is comprised our four- and five-year-old kindergarten students, and the other class is for our elementary students (grades 1, 2 and sometimes 4). Our grade 1 and 2 students have been working on poetry this past quarter, and here are some of their poems based on an acrostic of the word “School.”

Students go outside  
 Children eat in the café  
 How do you do that? Help me, please  
 Oh yeah, I love my friends  
 Over and over again, we do work  
 Look, I know how to read!  
 —Brianna F (2nd Grade)

School is exciting  
 Children have fun  
 Having homework at night  
 On the playground, it is great  
 Outside, swing high!  
 Lunch at school  
 — Chelsea (1st Grade)  
 Students outside  
 Cool children waking the hallway  
 Homework check in the morning  
 Ok, I will do my homework, Miss Scott  
 Oh, math is easy in school  
 Line Leader, that’s me.  
 — Uche (2nd Grade)  
 Students at art time  
 Children at lunchtime  
 Having homework

Ow, I hurt myself at recess  
 Oh, OK, I’ll do my work again  
 Listening to my teachers  
 — Emily (2nd Grade)  
 School is fun!  
 Children are cool!  
 Homework is fun at home  
 Oh, recess is so good!  
 O, we can swing, we can play tag  
 Lunch is delicious! Yum, yum, yum!  
 —Martha (1st Grade)  
 Students here and there  
 Coming all around me  
 How I wish it was recess!  
 Oh, now is lunchtime  
 Off I go to wash my hands  
 Line up, my teacher says.  
 —Brianna R (1st Grade)



Augsburg faculty and students are led by the Holy Spirit in their vocations—God-given callings as children of God.

## A Quick History of Augsburg Academy—Part 2

*Many of you reading this newsletter are just becoming familiar with Augsburg Academy. So, in an effort to help you understand the road we have followed to get where we are today, we offer this second installment in the History of Augsburg.*

—Editor

### Order from Chaos

In November 2005, the staffing of the Academy solidified. Karen Scott, our happy Canadian, joined us as kindergarten teacher, and Laney Hubbard came on board as our teacher's aide, and Pastor Hebbeler was able to resume his multiple roles of music teacher, religious education teacher, and principal, as well as serving as pastor of the church.

We welcomed a fourth student to the class at the start of the second semester, and late in the spring were joined by a fifth student—a young lady from Malaysia who was in the US for about 5 weeks and needed to keep up on her studies.

Highlighting the success of the first year were the results of our standardized testing program. Every student scored above grade level in all areas, with one student scoring at the third grade level in mathematics and two scoring at the second grade level in reading.

Our second year started off very well. We added the K-4 program (3 students), and the 1st

grade (4 students) to our successful K-5 class (3 students). In addition to Karen Scott, Helen Kim joined the teaching staff after spending the summer in admissions, and Lauren Faulk served as her teaching assistant.

For personal reasons, Lauren left us midyear, but we were fortunate to replace her with Pam Morrison, another Canadian! Pam was also a reading specialist, as well as a fully qualified teacher. This came in handy, because Karen gave birth to a bouncing baby girl during the spring semester, and Pam stepped right into the classroom as the full-time teacher.

Our Kindergarten class seemed to be jinxed, as Helen Kim left the Academy on very short notice for a non-teaching opportunity. She was replaced by Angela Breaker, who came to us after teaching in Washington DC and Baltimore City schools.

Frank Akers, cantor of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, served as the music teacher, and the students had as much fun learning from him as he did learning from them.

Spring 2006 included our second year of testing, and the results continued to astonish even the most optimistic of the staff. One student in first grade scored at the eighth grade level in reading, and another at the sixth grade level in spelling. Our kindergarteners were all at or above grade level as well (the K-

4 class is not tested). Late in the spring term, we welcomed an additional young man into our K-4 program, and he is currently a part of the K-4 class this year.

In response to the request of several parents, we hosted a five-week summer program, directed by Deirdre Harris with the assistance of three high school students. For the summer, 14 children from ages 4-12 enjoyed a new Vacation Bible School experience every week, as well as time to brush up on reading and math.

The 2007-2008 school year began with 15 students in grades K-4 through 4th grade. In the mix of students we had three brother-sister pairs and one sister-sister pair. Indeed, Augsburg Academy is a "family" in more the one way. Our teaching staff includes Karen Scott (1-2-4), Jill Lee (K-4, K-5), and Carli Rossow (K-4, K-5 reading and math, 4 reading, math, social studies, religious education and music). Cantor Frank Akers retired from the school music director position in December 2007.

In an effort to streamline the staff, Pastor Hebbeler carries the portfolio of the head of schools/principal and admissions director.

Our move to The Gatdens Ice House was included in the last issue, so now you know the history of Augsburg Academy!



**The original Augsburg Academy logo. The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is "Lord Theodore, Archbishop of Catonsville" and is one of Pastor Hebbeler's four Corgis. The caption on the logo will soon change to read "Laurel" instead of "Beltsville" to reflect our new home**

*"Augsburg Academy started as a way to fill a perceived community need. It grows as the need grows."*

## In Her Own Words — Karen Scott, Lead Teacher

*Editor's Note: We have asked our teachers to share their thoughts on why they are part of the Augsburg family. This month, we highlight the comments offered by Karen Scott, our Lead Teacher and classroom teacher for Grades 1 and 2.*

*Karen joined our staff in November 2005, and hails from Canada. She has taught both the kindergarten-5 and Grade 1-2 classes.*

*Before coming to Augsburg, Karen taught in South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Canada.*

Teaching at the Augsburg Academy has been a great experience for me. I've been here almost from the start, and I enjoy the small class sizes and the ability to teach one-on-one when necessary.

Finding a Christian-based school in which to teach was important to me as well. The parents and the children are wonderful, and we all have excellent relationships.

I would definitely recommend Augsburg Academy to any parents who want their child to be in a caring, sincere, and stimulating environment.



**Karen is known for her dedication to each student, and her willingness to go the extra mile with each one, according to the student's needs. This is a photo from the 2005-06 school year.**



### Augsburg Academy

13800 Old Gunpowder Rd  
Laurel MD 20707

#### MAIL:

P.O. Box 140  
Beltsville MD 20704-0140

Phone: 240-783-0283

Fax: 240-783-0283

E-mail: [info@augzburgacademy.net](mailto:info@augzburgacademy.net)

**We're on the web!**

**[AugsburgAcademy.net](http://AugsburgAcademy.net)**

## Theological Reflection on Education

In the synoptic Gospels, we find the story of Jesus welcoming children. Each account in Matthew, Mark, and Luke differs slightly, but the message is clear.

Jesus not only enjoyed being around children, he welcomed them and encouraged them to come close to him. Perhaps this welcoming was a symbolic lesson to the adults gathered around, designed to teach them that they are no less children of their Heavenly Father than the little ones gathered around Jesus were children of their earthly fathers. It's easy for theologians to get wrapped up in the symbolism of what Jesus did in his time of public ministry. For

once, maybe we don't need to think so hard.

Children are like sponges. They soak up everything that is around them. Who has not learned that lesson when a toddler picks up a "Mommy and Daddy" word that should be uttered by Mom or Dad, let alone the toddler? This is, of course, an example of the "bad" learning, but there is a lot more "bad" learning our children can pick up from adults.

Just as we might choose to be careful in what we say or do around Jesus, should we meet him on the street one day, we should be just as careful in what we say and do around our children.

They learn from us, even when we don't think they are paying attention.

How sad, then, that so many parents bring their newborns to the church to be baptized, then never come back until the child is "older," if at all. Then we wonder why young people aren't in church, let alone don't know about Jesus. Is it the fault of the schools? Of the media? Of the government? I think not.

Jesus welcomes children to come to him and be in his presence. As parents and teachers, we are called to teach our children to learn where to find Jesus.



**The lamp, a traditional symbol of education, also reminds of us the parable of the 10 maidens, and especially of the wise maidens who kept their wicks trimmed awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom. Teaching our students about the works of God as told in the Holy Bible is part of our core curriculum.**