

Adages from Augsburg

Augsburg Academy

Volume 1, Issue 3

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 five classes of students in from age 4 through 4th grade this year

Scholarship Drawing Generates Much Interest

While the entry deadline is still almost two months away, the number of entrants in our first Scholarship Drawing has attracted a great deal of attention so far.

A count of entries from the web site and the entry box at The Gardens Ice House show more than 60 entries so far, with many of the entries identifying two or more potential students. When added to the list of names gathered from our booth at Beltsville Day, phone calls, emails, and referrals, we have nearly 100 prospective students with



It's simple for one family to win a FULL TUITION scholarship for 2008-2009. Simply enter online, by mail, at The Gardens Ice House or other locations to be announced.

whom we have been in contact.

As the summer progresses,

we will continue our efforts to publicize the contest as well as closing the loop on new student recruitment and registration. We are on par with last year as far as enrollment progress for 2008-09, and are confident that the coming school year will be our strongest recruitment year ever.

We appreciate all of your help and assistance as we continue our growth. Augsburg Academy is here to stay, and we look forward to our next phase of growth and expansion.

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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@augzburgacademy.net or call (240) 786-0283.

The Best Way to Build the Academy...

Pastor Art Hebbeler, STS
Head of Schools

We are a young school. While we are beginning to get some attention, we need a lot more in order to really move over the top in our growth. These days, traditional advertising modes simply don't work—at least not with the amount of resources we have to spend on them. Oh sure, we do a limited amount of print advertising in local newspapers, mostly to augment our awareness in the community, and we have done some targeted direct mail this year, but there is no way we could afford the investment necessary to reach the community enough times via print, radio, and television to create the awareness necessary for Augsburg to "sell itself"

without a great deal of human contact and hard work.

According to several research studies, the best way to recruit new families for a private or parochial school—or to sell any product these days—is by **word of mouth**. One happy person tells his or her friends, who then tell other friends, who then tell still more friends. Word gets out that Augsburg is "the" up and coming school, and the personal connection with the school between recommender and friend helps to cement a relationship. It's human nature to take the recommendation of a friend long before responding to some form of advertising.

My friends, I need your help. I

talk to a lot of people every day. But the truth is, I can't talk to enough people all by myself to reach nearly enough families. Your help is important to the growth of Augsburg. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to another person who hasn't heard about us. Or, call me (410-804-6020) or email me (pastor@augzburgacademy.net) and provide a name and address and I'll be more than happy to send a copy for you.

We are so close to moving Augsburg to the next level. The teaching staff is excited about the potential for next year. The incoming parents are excited, and yes, I'm excited. Please share the excitement with us and come grow with us.

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Janese Lewis-Blanc to Join Staff for 2008-2009

The board of directors of Augsburg Academy is pleased to announce that Ms Janese Lewis-Blanc has accepted an offer to become a part of the Academy teaching staff starting August 1, 2008. She will be the classroom teacher for our kindergarten class, as well as teaching physical education to all grades during the first and fourth academic quarters.

Ms. Lewis-Blanc has been involved in parochial school education for nearly sixteen years as a member of the St Francis de Sales School in Washington, DC. She has served in a variety of capacities at de Sales, from directing the before and after-care programs to kindergarten class aide to kindergarten classroom teacher.

She holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Maryland College Park, and has a deep interest in physical fitness and health issues.

We look forward to Janese joining our staff this fall, and encourage you to come and meet her when the new school year begins.



Story time for a small group of Augsburg students helps in building listening skills.

News Alert — Update on Recruitment

Enrollment for 2008-2009 is strong. We have students enrolled or re-enrolled in all grades (K4 through 7th grade), and are working with more than 80 families representing approximately 100 students. Additionally, there are some other promising signs that our enrollment for 2008-09 will be better than expected.

Our work is not finished, of course, and we are still working hard to increase the number of interested families as well as register new students for the coming year. If you have friends, neighbors, or family members with school-aged children, please do not hesitate to refer them to Augsburg and let Pastor Hebbeler know as well.

"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..."

Stanford Achievement, Otis-Lennon Assessment Test Success Again

The results are in, and for the **third year in a row**, Augsburg students have excelled on the Stanford Achievement Tests and the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test.

For example: Our **kindergarten** class median was a grade equivalent of 1st grade-6 month of school for total reading. In mathematics, the entire class was above grade level as well. In fact, the class scored above grade level overall for the complete test battery! That is the **third time** in the three years we have had a kindergarten that our results have been this strong!

Our **first grade** class was even more impressive, with every student at or above grade level for the complete battery, and two students showing a grade equivalence of mid-year **third graders!** In fact, we even had one student show a grade level equivalent of **eighth grade** for reading comprehension and another at nearly **sixth grade**. In mathematics, the scores were equally impressive, with all students above grade level and two showing proficiency at nearly **third grade** level.

Our **second graders**, which include two students who have been with us for our entire history, also showed remarkable results. Every student was at or above grade level for the complete battery, with one scoring at the **fourth grade** and one at the **third grade** equivalence level. Reading scores were as much as **four grade levels higher**. Mathematics scores were strong as well, with one student reporting a record-high of **mid-year sixth grade** performance and another at the **fifth grade** level. They are even excellent spellers, with one student scoring at the **eighth grade level** and another at the sixth grade level.

Not to be left out, our one **fourth grader** scored well above grade level in nearly every area tested. Since he was a class of one, we won't release details, of course. We share this information with you to help you get a better picture of Augsburg Academy and what we do to bring out the best in our students. No, we don't have a fancy building (yet!), but we would rather put our resources into building a quality faculty and providing a quality educational experience first, and then invest in the "brick and mortar" of a facility. We firmly believe that our results show that we have a solid approach to academic success.

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"Who, me?" Second-grader Brianna, one of the charter students at Augsburg, has been a leading student from the start.

Class of 2013 to be First High School Graduates

The Augsburg Academy, an independent Christian school in the Lutheran tradition, will expand to include high school students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The announcement was made as part of the festivities at the 2008 Beltsville Day, held May 18th at the Beltsville Community Center.

In making the announcement, the Rev. Arthur Hebbeler, the Academy's head of schools, also announced an opportunity for parents to save thousands of dollars by choosing to enroll their children in Augsburg's first freshman class in August 2009.

"We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors of Augsburg Academy will allow parents of the inaugural freshman class to lock in tuition at just

\$11,200 per year for all four years. This will save parents thousands of dollars, especially when one realizes that private and parochial school tuitions typically increase eight to ten percent per year," said Pastor Hebbeler. "This four-year tuition guarantee is available to students in the Class of 2013—those entering ninth grade in August 2009."

To be eligible for the four-year locked-in rate, families must apply no later than August 1, 2008. Parents have the option of enrolling their children in this year's eighth grade class, or deferring admission to the 2009-2010 school year. Complete details are available by contacting the Academy at (240) 786-0283 or logging into the Academy web site, www.AugsburgAcademy.net.

"We do want parents to know that we have a limited number of openings for the 2008-2009 school year for kindergarten through eighth grade that have not been filled. Financial aid is available as well," said Hebbeler.

The Augsburg Academy was founded in 2005. It is co-located with The Gardens Ice House, 13800 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel, Maryland.

Editor's Note: This was officially announced as part of the 2008 Beltsville Day activities. In making the decision to open the high school program in 2009-2010, we have also made it possible for parents to make the move to Augsburg now, or with a deposit, reserve their place in the freshman class in order to take advantage of the tuition freeze.



Brianna and Emily, two of our inaugural year kindergarteners who are now second graders, share the lunch table. Brianna is seeing what Emily has in her lunch.

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



Carli is a graduate of Valparaiso University and a "cradle Lutheran." She taught in other Lutheran schools before joining Augsburg this school year. She teaches religion and music classes in addition to her classroom duties

In Her Own Words — Carli Rossow, Upper School Teacher

Augsburg Academy is a young and growing Christian school that strives for academic excellence among its students. It was this vision, this opportunity to be a part of something new, this chance to help

create a foundation for the future that drew me to teach here. The staff and students work together to create a compassionate and considerate atmosphere with Christ at its center. With a cry of

"ZAMBONI" or a shout out to one of The Garden's staffers as frequent cries in our halls, one is hard pressed not to keep a smile on his or her face. We laugh, we cry, we hurt, and we rejoice together.

Augsburg Academy



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We're on the web!

AugsburgAcademy.net

Theological Reflection on Education



In the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978), one of the prayers said after receiving the offering begins, "Almighty Father, we give to you that which you have first given us—our time, our talents, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love...." At Augsburg, we are constantly reminded that we, too, are stewards of what God has given us, and seek to use those gifts as efficiently as possible for the glory of God.

Each morning at Augsburg begins the same way. At 8:00, or very close to it, everyone gathers in our center classroom (where we also have chapel on Tuesday mornings). The opening leader—usually Pastor Hebbeler, but sometimes one of the teachers—greet everyone with "The Lord be with you," to which there is a cheerful and usually loud "And also with you!" echoed back. A prayer is said, and then after the "Amen." we say the Pledge of Allegiance. Students and teachers are then sent off to their classrooms to begin the day. This happens more than 180 times a year.

In our morning prayer, we give thanks to God for all He has given to us. At least once a week, we give thanks to God for the school and all of the people who work behind the

scenes to make it possible for us to be together. Since February, we have specifically given thanks for "Mr. Clai" (Carr) and "Mr. Tom" (Hendrix) for their generous invitation to bring the school to The Gardens Ice House.

We consistently teach the children that every single thing we have comes to us as a gift from God, and we are but caretakers and stewards of these things, and in time we will pass them on to another generation. So everything we have that makes Augsburg possible is God's and we simply use what God has given us to the best of our abilities.

Some people look at Augsburg and say, "You don't have a building of your own. You must be struggling." The truth is, we are far from struggling. We are actually practic-

ing what we preach, teach, and confess. We use our resources to provide for a top-notch faculty, paid fairly, and the best possible resources for our students. We will have our own building—sooner than later. But until we are ready to undertake that piece of stewardship, we are doing what we are called to do first—educate children to reach their God-given best. Fancy buildings are necessary for that to happen. Yes, they are helpful, but they are not necessary.

Augsburg Academy has been built on a solid foundation, with a strong curriculum, high moral and ethical standards, and a commitment to excellence in education. These are the important parts of our school. The bricks and mortar will come along shortly.