



MOTHER SETON ACADEMY

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

FALL / WINTER 2007

New Beginnings at Mother Seton Academy

With the start of the new year and in remembrance of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Brother Jesse O'Neil prepared a special prayer service for the staff and students of Mother Seton Academy. Our new President, Sr. Charmaine was officially welcomed and introduced to the students at this ceremony.

As with each prayer service at Mother Seton, Brother Jesse works with one or two classes to develop a spiritual and meaningful presentation. He helps students to express messages using symbolism, dance, prayer, poetry, acting, and song. Students truly enjoy the opportunity to present in this manner to faculty and peers, and they are always well received.



The 7th grade girls join hands in prayer.

At this service the 7th grade girls danced gracefully into the room dressed in white robes, symbolic of how each is clothed in the love of Jesus. "There are many things to celebrate today. We begin a new year, we welcome a new president and today, we celebrate the feast of Elizabeth Ann Seton," said Catherine Uribe, who narrated the service. She spoke of Jesus' dreams for each of us, that we would live in peace and without pain or suffering.

Mother Seton Academy is named after Elizabeth Ann Seton,

the first person born in the United States to become a canonized saint. St. Elizabeth founded a religious order in Emmitsburg, Maryland called the American Sisters of Charity. The primary mission of the order, formerly known as the Daughters of Charity, was to build parochial schools for orphans.



Students promise new beginnings.

As the service came to an end, students and staff were asked to think about their lives and then to recite a promise. It was a promise of new beginnings and recommitting themselves to a life of caring and dedication. One at a time, each member of the MSA family was called to stand and recite:

"I commit myself in 2007 to be the best person God wants me to be.

I will show respect for myself, my family, my school, and all people of the world."



The grains of sand in this candle represent the prayers of each student.

MSA Welcomes New President, Sr. Charmaine



Sr. Charmaine Krohe, a School Sister of Notre Dame, was the Founder and Director of the Baltimore-based St. Ambrose Outreach Center, a neighborhood

multi-purpose center. During her leadership, Sr. Charmaine managed and oversaw a variety of programs which included: a food pantry, soup kitchen, emergency assistance, holiday assistance, adult literacy, after-school, pre-school, and summer camp programs. When the center became a program in 1996 of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, she continued as Director and helped raise money for a building and expansion project for a new facility. She also helped to raise money for a transitional housing program for homeless families. She served as the Pastoral Associate of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Baltimore from 1972 through 1999. The Baltimore resident has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies, Urban Ministry from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA.

Index

Principal's Message	Page 2
Sponsor A Student	Page 2
MSA's Students	Page 3
Graduate Support	Page 5
Ways to Donate	Page 6
Wish List	Page 6

**A Message From:
Sister Eileen Clinton, IHM
Principal**



New beginnings excite us, energize us and give us the impetus to continue our mission here at Mother Seton Academy. We had an exciting

beginning to our school year. After welcoming 24 new sixth graders and their families we began the year with a beautiful prayer service, pledging our unity to each other and to you, our friends and benefactors. Together we bring new beginnings to each day as it unfolds.

Our year has been blessed with a fine faculty, staff and three members of the Notre Dame AmeriCorps. In January we welcomed our new President, Sister Charmaine Krohe and extended our blessings to her as she began her ministry with us. Working together we strive to bring our mission statement to life by providing a holistic education to the middle school students of inner-city Baltimore.

Our friends and benefactors have also contributed time, talent and finances to be able to extend our academic experiences outside our walls. We visited educational sites such as Gettysburg, the Meyerhoff for a performance by the Baltimore Symphony and Genesee Valley where the students were challenged to outdoor team building exercises. There are many other opportunities in the near future. When we speak of educating the whole child, we know that we, along with your support, continue the work of bringing Good News to the poor and helping them to strive for great heights.

Let us pray for each other and know that you are welcome to visit us at any time.

Thank You Benefactors

Mother Seton Academy is successful because of the support of our sponsoring Religious Congregations: School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Xaverian Brothers, Daughters of Charity, Marianist Society, and Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton). We thank them for their support.

Many other benefactors support our work and we are grateful to the following foundations for their recent contributions:

- The Renee and Stephen Bisciotti Foundation for MSA scholarships and a major grant for capital improvements.
- The France-Merrick Foundation as a gift to the Capital Campaign and for several MSA student scholarships.
- A grant from the Solid Rock Foundation as a gift to MSA's Capital Campaign. The grant will support the renovation of the new school building.
- A matching grant from the Lockhart Vaughan Foundation to provide tuition assistance to our graduates in high school.



Norbert Paszkiewicz presents a gift for student scholarships to Sr. Charmaine.

Sponsor a Student

As Mother Seton Academy is a tuition-free program, some donors choose to sponsor all or part of the cost of educating a student each

year. A student is matched with a donor and corresponds with the donor during the school year. All gifts, regardless of size, are an important investment in the future of Mother Seton Academy and its students. Without the support of many benefactors and sponsors, the school could not provide this much-needed educational outreach for Baltimore children and families.

Supermarket Support Programs

Please remember to complete your annual designation for Mother Seton Academy with the Giant / A+ at www.giantfood.com/aplus and Safeway / E-scrip at escrip.com.

Corporate Board of Directors

- Sr. Angela DeFontes, OSF
- Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM
- Bro. Lawrence Harvey, CFX, Chair
- Sr. Joan Keating, DC
- Sr. Barbara Bowers, SSND

Board of Directors

- James G. Owens, President
- Stephen Bisciotti
- David Borinsky
- F. Joseph Bradley
- Sr. Colleen Collins, OSF
- Jonathan Dubin, M.D.
- Sr. Mary Gilbert, DC
- Ray Giudice
- Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM
- Rev. Brendan Hurley, SJ
- James Joyce
- Mary Ellen Kaplan
- Bro. James Kelly, CFX
- Rev. Robert F. Leavitt, SS
- Joseph Molyneaux
- Michael Naccarato, Treasurer
- Bro. Frank O'Donnell, SM, JD
- Suzanne Price
- Dennis Satyshur
- Sr. Josephann Wagoner, SSND

Mother Seton Academy Students participate in many experiential learning activities



Jose climbed to the top at the Genesee Valley ropes course (top picture) while Montae and Aaliyah learned to belay with the help of Genesee Valley staff (bottom picture). MSA was invited by the Cathedral School to join their students for a day of outdoor learning. Students from both schools were split into small teams and spent a full day improving communication and teamwork skills, healthy risk-taking, positive self-esteem, leadership, and problem solving.

MSA students participated in many activities and classes at the Health, Wellness, and Fitness Expo in the Baltimore Convention Center. After having his blood pressure checked, Edwin learned what to listen for and why it is important to monitor it (top picture). After the Exhibit hall students attended a lesson on nutrition. Gary helped to measure out the quantities of sugar, lard, and salt that are in common snacks and soft drinks (bottom picture). The students learned a great deal about making healthy choices.





Students at Mother Seton enjoy the opportunity to help the community and participate in volunteer service. Shakiarah and Keshawn, with Sr. Karen in the background, are helping to bake bread that will be given to donors as a Christmas gift. Students also helped to prepare Christmas cards that featured our youth in a nativity scene.



Alexis, along with both 6th grade classes, went on a tour of a dairy farm. Students were able to feed some calves and to see how the cows are now milked by machines. This trip, arranged by Sr. Marianne, showed just how much it took to work on a farm.

Addictions

By: Shaniqua Latiara Jones
8th Grade Student

There once was a girl who got high on Meth,
everyone thought this would be the cause of her
death.

She got high everyday,
she never came out to play.

As she kept getting high,
her time was steady passing by.

One month later,
she told me, "See you later."

Later that night,
I saw a terrible sight.

I saw her laying there,
motionless with a blank stare.

I called 9-1-1
which isn't really fun,
when you see your friend on the floor,
stiff as a door.

We all thought she was dead,
but the test read:
she was in a coma.

Three months later she awakened.
She went to church,
to clear all her dirt.

She read the Bible everyday.
She even began to come out and play.

Three years later, I asked her this question,
"What made you change your direction?"

She only said one thing.

"WWJD!"

Adding that simple question saved not just one life
but two.....Me!

Graduate Support Program Defines Students' Futures

The Graduate Support Program is a critical component in a student's experience at Mother Seton Academy.

The Graduate Support Program offers the following:

- high school preparation for Mother Seton Academy eighth grade students;
- subject area tutoring and help filling out financial aid and college application forms to MSA graduates;
- visits to local high school and college fairs; and,
- a summer camp for seniors.

MSA Class of 2003 college preparation activities included sessions on writing college essays and



Nicole Yefrich, Graduate Support Program Coordinator, talks with a group of 8th graders on their choices for high school and college.

resumes, filling out financial aid applications, state scholarships, and visits to several colleges.

Graduate Support also coordinated high school preparation for 8th graders consisting of a high school night for guardians and 8th graders; transportation to several Catholic High School fairs; meetings with 8th grade guardians discussing high school selection; a weekly high school seminar class to 8th graders focusing on the high school application process and success strategies for high school, career exploration, and early college awareness. Additional Graduate Support Services offered included two 10-week free SAT preparation classes for graduates; monthly check-in meetings with MSA graduates receiv-

ing high school financial aid from MSA; daily homework assistance at MSA for several MSA graduates and a MSA reunion for graduates.

The Graduate Support Program boasts of many successes. Our studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between the Graduate Support activities and the success rate of MSA graduates.

In the Class of 2002, 100 percent of the students graduated from high school and 87 percent of these graduates now attend a two- or four-year college or university.

In the Class of 2006, 100 percent are enrolled in high school, 94 percent attend a private and selective magnet public high school, 77 percent of the girls attend private Catholic High Schools, and 100 percent of the boys attend private Catholic High Schools.

Alumna Sherece Askew

When she was told that she could achieve anything she put her mind to at Mother Seton Academy, that was a turning point for alumna Sherece Askew, 21.

"My 7th grade teacher, Sr. Bernadette, said to always strive for excellence. That is when I decided I wanted to be a lawyer," said Askew, a graduate from the Class of 2000.

Now a junior at St. Peters College in New Jersey, Askew recently spoke to the eighth graders about adjusting to college life and reflected on her days at Mother Seton.

"I would leave home for school in the dark in the morning and go home in the dark," she remembers. "It was a lot." Mother Seton students experience a long school day and attend school from 7:45 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., which includes time for homework and mentoring from volunteers.

"My favorite teacher was Brother Charles Johnson, who taught Science and History. He was very energetic and made learning fun," she said.

Askew came to Mother Seton from Cecil Elementary School.

She found out about MSA from her Northeast Baltimore recreation center. She said her brother and a friend applied and seemed to like the school, so her parents decided to have her apply. Her brother, Terrell, also is a graduate of Mother



Sherece Askew shares her college experiences.

Seton Academy.

From Mother Seton, Askew attended Seton Keough with the help and support from MSA's Graduate Support Program. At St. Peters College she is majoring in English Literature with a minor in Theology. She is very active and participates in the Students of Caribbean Ancestry Club, Black Action Committee, and Multicultural and English clubs.

She said going to college was talked about so often through programs like Graduate Support that deciding whether she was going to attend was not even an option.

She plans to return to Maryland and attend the University of Baltimore Law School. She wants to practice Corporate Law.

"Mother Seton prepared me academically and socially," she said.

Mother Seton is accepting girls and boys entering 6th grade who: possess potential for leadership, are motivated in school, live in Baltimore, interested in attending a challenging high school and college, and qualify for the federal lunch program (free and reduced). For information, call 410.563.2833, or visit us online at www.mothersetonacademy.org



Mother Seton Academy
724 South Ann Street
Baltimore MD 21231

www.mothersetonacademy.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT NO. 4315



Students and staff show their Baltimore pride for Ravens Day 2007.

Ways to Donate

Tapestry Fund – Annual Giving Program
Sponsor A Student
Cash Gifts
Pledges
Gifts of Securities
Matching Gifts
Workplace Giving
Real Estate
Deferred or Planned Giving
Online donations

Make checks payable to:
Mother Seton Academy
724 S. Ann Street
Baltimore , MD 21231-3401
410.563.2833
www.mothersetonacademy.org

Mother Seton Academy's Wish List

Copier paper • Cleaning Supplies • School Supplies
Art Supplies (Acrylic Paint, Student Canvasses, etc.)
Portable CD Stereo • DVD Players
Department Store & Electronic Store Gift Cards
Bookstore & Office Supply Gift Cards
Modern 27-32" flat panel TVs (3)

Upcoming Events

Cardinal Cup Race - April 28, 2007
Cathedral School

Wine Tasting - May 12, 2007
Loyola College