

8TH GRADE SPEECHES ENLIGHTEN AND INSPIRE

Each year at this time our 8th grade students present their original speeches which are the culminating activity for their public speaking class. Bro. Jesse O’Neill, SM, Director of Campus Ministry, works with the entire class most of the school year to prepare the students to present their speeches in front of a full audience of family, friends and guests. This tradition started in 2004 as a way of helping the students “find their voice,” says Bro. Jesse. “I am truly amazed at how hard the students work on this project each year. It takes many hours of writing, memorizing, and practicing on stage to get the speeches exactly right. I am inspired by their hard work and dedication to mastering their presentations, and finding their voice.”

With each new class of 8th graders, there is a new theme for the speeches. This year’s theme is “The Time is Now.” To illustrate the theme, the 7th grade students under the direction of art teacher Ms. Kelsey Walsh, created a beautiful mural as a backdrop for this year’s presentations. Past themes have been “AHA; Wake up the World; Life Teaches, Love Reveals; and I Think the Best Therefore I am the Best.”



Photo Courtesy of Kelsey Walsh

The theme for the year is always a well-kept secret until speeches week. For weeks leading up to the speeches in early May, students can be seen and heard rehearsing in the hallways, the stairways and in their classrooms. They spend hours after school, on weekends, or with their friends rehearsing, and rehearsing. All of their efforts pay off, when they are able to stand up in front of their peers and deliver their original speeches.

Official volunteer and student judges rate each performance

on a number of factors, including articulation, pace, eye contact and passion for the subject matter. After all of the presentations are completed, winners are chosen. Trophies were presented to the top five presenters. This year’s top 3 winners are: 1st place- Kaylin Lemon, 2nd place- Auryseell Robles and 3rd place- Jason Lennon. All other students received a medallion of academic excellence.

We commend all of our 8th grade students on the successful completion of their speeches. The hard work and effort will certainly be of great benefit as they transition to high school.

Mother Seton Academy Graduate Becomes Global Citizen

Last summer Jeremiah Garland (Class of 2012) spent three weeks in India with fourteen other students from across the United States. These students were selected to launch a pioneer program, the 360+ Leadership Collective (referred to as 360+).

360+ is sponsored by individuals who strongly believe in the “positive transformational power of travel and the necessity of integrating school-learning with global exposure.” They chose students who they believe would gain the most from the travel adventure, who are self-starters, and who have showed a broad level of interests and achievements both in the academic and non-academic fields.

Over the three weeks, the group of fifteen high school students visited the metropolitan areas of Delhi and Bangalore, the home state of Mahatma Gandhi, as well as the calm interior of rural India, and the serene beauty of the Taj Mahal. The goal of each day was to broaden the students’ cultural horizons as they experienced different foods, language, customs, transportation and technology—a total immersion into a totally different culture. The trip required of the students that they welcome new ideas and change, and make every experience a learning opportunity.

(Continued on page 2)

TYLER LEAVY RECEIVES SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD

We are happy to announce that the recipient of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for the class of 2016 is Tyler Leavy. Each year an award is presented to a student who manifests the virtues and values of our school patron, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. This student best exemplifies the charisms of the six founding congregations of Mother Seton Academy: the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the Xaverian Brothers, the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia, the Daughters of Charity, the Marianists and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is the highest award given at Mother Seton Academy. The recipient is a person who lives gospel values, shows love and compassion to others, and demonstrates a steadfast commitment to service to the poor and to learning and education. Congratulations to Tyler for earning this award.

★ volunteer spotlight



Teresa Morse is a volunteer in the Development Department. She started her volunteer service in November 2012. She assists with filing and organizing the files, and also helps with mailings. She began volunteering at the school after Sr. Peggy Juskelis, SSND, President of Mother Seton Academy visited her parish, Saint Joseph Catholic Community in Sykesville. She was very impressed by the mission of this Catholic middle school in the heart of Baltimore City that served underprivileged 6th, 7th and 8th graders and how it was instrumental in changing their lives for the better. She had volunteered at her children's elementary schools for 11 years and thought that perhaps she could help out in some small way at Mother Seton Academy. When she is not helping out at our school Teresa enjoys spending time with friends, dining out, going to movies, reading, gardening, watching football and other TV shows and traveling. Thank you, Teresa, for your loyal service! We are very grateful for all you do for us!

MSA GRADUATE BECOMES GLOBAL CITIZEN

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Jeremiah, who goes by Andre, reflected in an essay about his experience. "We were like plants, uprooted from the US soil and forced to grow outside our comfort zones; however, we grew with each other and so our roots became intertwined and brought us closer." For Andre, this learning experience was profoundly life-changing. He says that he was challenged to reflect on his own open-mindedness, his fears and even his fear of being afraid. He connected with his experience of growing up in East Baltimore and learning very early the golden rule: "Don't let the streets know you're afraid." He also reflected that, "this trip has helped me overcome my fear of being vulnerable, because where I'm from vulnerability is weakness." Learning that his companions had similar feelings and sharing those with each other created deeper bonds of trust as a 360+ family.

Looking back at his middle school years at Mother Seton Academy, Jeremiah said: "Those years definitely taught me tolerance. For example, even though I am a Baptist, I experienced life more broadly and was enriched by the Catholic environment of Mother Seton Academy." Without realizing it at the time, he was tasting the experience of cultural diversity in his daily education.

This spring Jeremiah will graduate fifth in a class of 80 from Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School in D. C. He was admitted into the National Society of High School Scholars in 2013 and is presently also dually enrolled and taking a psychology class at the University of the District of Columbia.

Through his high school years, he has written a book of poems, "Life of a Social Reject," which will be published this year. His personal dream is to major in psychology and to continue to explore the "patterns of human behavior."



Jeremiah Garland experiences Indian culture firsthand with his friend Francisco.

Photo Courtesy of 360+

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of Mother Seton Academy,

There is much good news to share with you. During the past two years, Mother Seton Academy has been working with the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS) to achieve full accreditation. The process included a year of self-study, a visit by a team of experienced educators and an action plan developed in response to the report from the visiting team. All this material was reviewed by AIMS. We have received notification that we are fully accredited for the next ten years.

During this past year, we searched for a new principal who will guide us in realizing the goals of our action plan. Mr. Tom Malone, currently Principal of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, will join our staff this summer. Because of the close relationship of the two schools, Mr. Malone knows our graduates and our families. In our mission statement, we make the following commitment: Promoting dignity and respect for each person, Mother Seton Academy challenges its students to realize their God-given talents and become leaders who serve their families, communities and society. Mr. Malone and our dedicated staff are committed to work daily to make this vision a reality.

We are grateful for the ways that you have helped support the mission of Mother Seton Academy. Your support helps provide the resources needed for our girls and boys to grow academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually into the people God has made them to be. Together we provide a beacon of hope for them in the midst of all the social and economic challenges in our broader community. Together we make this happen.

During these summer months, please continue to pray for our students and their families that they enjoy peace, health and safety. May God bless you and your loved ones with peace and hope throughout the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Sr. Peggy Juskelis, SSND

Support MSA through a Bequest

A bequest is one of the simplest ways to support Mother Seton Academy. This thoughtful gift will make it possible for us to continue giving our children a chance at a fulfilling future.

For more information about how you can include Mother Seton Academy in your estate plans, please call Joan Drebing at 410-563-2833 or email jdrebing@mothersetonacademy.org.

★ event spotlight



Photos Courtesy of Joan Drebing

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 22nd Annual Cardinal Cup 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run at the School of the Cathedral on April 30th. The rain held off, and more than 800 runners and walkers participated in this fun event. Special thanks to event co-chairs Amy Matteini and Kathleen Lineberger and the entire Race Committee and event volunteers for their hard work. We are very grateful for the support of the following event sponsors:

The Stromberg Family, The Matteini Family, The Muldowney Family, The Gilmore Family, The Dingle Family, The Brittingham Family, The Pyne Family, Steve and Linda Matteini, The School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mr. Martin Hauf, RCM&D, Ellin & Tucker, and The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.

We also appreciate the generous support of the following in-kind donors:

Charm City Run, Children's Book Store, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Embody Pilates and Wellness, Falls Road Running Store, Fresh Market, Giant Food #0108, Graul's Market, Inc., Greg's Bagels, Gundy's Gifts, Ivy Bookshop, Joe's Bike Shop, Lily Pad of Towson, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mahoney, Schneider Paint & Hardware, Shanigans Toy Shop, Starbucks Coffee, Trader Joe's, Tuxedo Pharmacy, Vend Lease Company, and Wegmans

Be sure to check our website for photos from the event and information about next year's race!



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