



Mother Seton Academy

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION

Fall 2002

"A Spark, A Flame"

MSA Celebrates its 10th anniversary



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Sr. Mary Bader, DC

Dear Friends,

Not too long ago, America reflected on the African proverb that "It takes a whole village to raise a child." Having been privileged to serve at Mother Seton Academy for 9 years, I have observed that it takes a heavenly host of people and a good and generous God to nurture the mission of Mother Seton Academy.

Such a thought is not new to me. However, at MSA's 10th Anniversary celebration, as I stood before and visited with nearly 300 of the people who have supported and sustained our school, I was reminded again (con't. on pg 2)

On a beautiful, sunny Sunday, September the 22nd, The Mother Seton Academy community gathered to celebrate the beginning of the tenth year of our school and the wonderful educational opportunities provided to 170 graduates and 70 currently enrolled students. Our

"MSA...has ignited a spark in her students, where it now produces an intensifying flame of passion, determination and strength"

Ricardo Johnson,
class of 1999,
PG.3

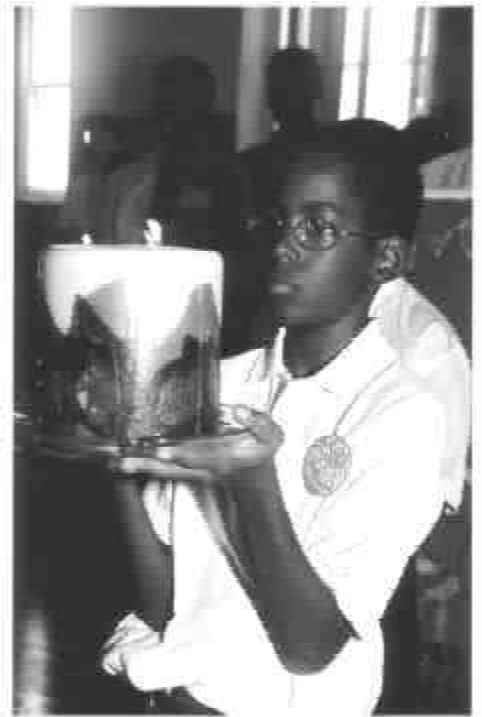
celebration kicked off in the St. Stanislas Church Hall at 2:00 p.m. with an address by Sr. Mary Bader, our principal, song by our current students directed by Mrs. Betty Roy, and very moving testimonies from graduates Ricardo Johnson,'99, and Ayrea Oneal, '97. Sr. Ann Claire and the 8th grade girls, along with MSA volunteer and local artist Mary Lin Yoshimura, made beautiful banners that exemplified our 10th anniversary theme: "A spark, a flame."

Over 300 guests, including current and former students, families, friends, volunteers, benefactors, board members, members from each of the six

sponsoring congregations, the Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Schools, Dr. Ronald Valenti, along with Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Barbara Spears, SNJM, joined the MSA staff in celebrating the difference that our school continues to make in the lives of Baltimore children.

Tours of the school were directed by students. They showed our guests a beautiful display of MSA's history set up in the library and mounted by our Volunteer and Tutoring Coordinator, Laura Peterson. In the third floor multi-purpose room, our guests could watch the 10th anniversary slide show, narrated by Academy students.

In our courtyard and cafeteria drinks, snacks, ice cream and cake were enjoyed by all as families gathered with children, classmates caught up with classmates, and teachers, volunteers and benefactors heard



Marc Franklin, '04, candlebearer

the latest from our students. A spirit of joy and gratefulness suffused the event as we at Mother Seton Academy celebrated the past 10 years of education and looked forward to the future of our school.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our friends who attended and all those who could not, but continue to support our school and its mission through their many and faithful efforts, and ongoing prayers.

Graduates Support College Night

By Nicole Yeflich

Mother Seton Academy graduates from all levels of high school packed into the cafeteria on a muggy Tuesday evening, October 8th, to attend the workshop **“Life After High School - Where Do I Start?”** sponsored by the Office of Graduate Support.

Over thirty alumni and their families took part in this event dedicated to raising awareness about post-high school options and how these options can be afforded. The goals of this hour and a half presentation were to

- demonstrate the importance of continuing education after high school
- describe a variety of post-secondary options
- provide specific information about the college application process
- explain what financial aid is and how it can be obtained

• identify resources that can assist graduates in their search for post-high school opportunities, highlighting specifically what MSA can offer

The Office of Graduate Support, made possible through funding from the Baltimore Direct Services Grants Program of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation, kicked off its outreach to Mother Seton Academy alumni with this event.

Evaluations collected at the workshop were unanimous. Not only did the attendants appreciate this workshop, but they indicated strong interest in future presentations focused on the financial aid application process and preparations for standardized testing.

In addition, graduates are already making appointments for tutoring and individual future planning sessions provided through the new Graduate Support Program.

The purpose of this new program is to offer resources and support to Mother Seton Academy students, graduates, and their families. In addition to assisting eighth graders with the high school selection process, the Graduate Support Program will reach out to all of our graduates to help them with issues they face in high school, higher education, future planning, and entry into the workforce.

With monthly support meetings including topical guest speakers, social events, and community services, as well as our new bi-monthly alumni newsletter, we will also create opportunities for graduates to connect with each other and Mother Seton Academy.

Through this new program we hope to facilitate connections which will enable us to meet the needs of our graduates while at the same time fostering a sense of community and investment in Mother Seton Academy.

6th GRADERS ENJOY FARM TRIP

By Priscilla Chapman, '05

On Wednesday, October 2nd, the 6th grade class of Mother Seton Academy went to the Roderick family farm. This is Sr. Marianne’s family’s farm. We went on this trip to experience farm life. While on the farm, the sixth graders went on a tour. We learned how to run a farm.

We saw some calves. Three were born that day; twins before we came, and one before we left. One of the twins died. Also, we learned how to milk a cow and we even got a chance to milk one.

We did other fun things. Everybody rode two horses, Coco and Autumn. We were picked up in a tractor’s scoop to pick apples. The class picked apples so we could make homemade applesauce.

Next the group jumped on a hay-covered wagon. The fun hayride carried us over hills, turns, and bumps. While on the hayride, we sang silly songs and waved at everyone we saw.

The 6th graders loved riding horses the most, followed by milking cows, swinging, and picking apples.

From the Principal's Desk

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of how blessed our school is. Students, graduates, families, staff members, volunteers, members of religious congregations, benefactors, board members, and other friends gathered to celebrate the goodness of God as has been manifested in the day to day living of MSA’s mission.

What began as a spark, a collaborative effort of five Catholic religious congregations, has enkindled a fire which includes a diverse group of individuals who believe in the value of education and who are committed to providing a quality Catholic education to children with little opportunity for such a privilege. With the generosity of all those who make up the MSA family, our school is fulfilling its mission. Our program is growing. Our students are learning. Our children are recognizing and reaching their potential!

I thank each of you, members of the MSA family and nurturers of the flame, for collaborating with us in bettering the lives of some of Baltimore’s children. May the goodness of God, which has been shared with our students, be shared with you.

10th Anniversary Graduate Speech

"This is a school that teaches will power as well as algebra, integrity as well as ENGLISH, and inspires passion as well as assigning homework. Mother Seton Academy gave me and my classmates the framework for how to be thankful and gracious.

The theme of the 10th anniversary is "A spark, a flame." When I saw that I thought that there couldn't be a better theme. This is because, just as MSA as an institution has evolved from a tiny spark into a continuous, growing, and inextinguishable flame, so has it ignited a spark in her students. This Spark now produces an intensifying flame of p a s s i o n , determination, and strength. The flame of this school will never be extinguished because of the people in its community"

ricardo johnson '99

New Staff Welcomed to MSA

Sr. Ann Claire Rhoads, DC
Sr. Ann Clarie, a native Baltimorean, comes from a large family. She is the 2nd of 9 children. Sr. Ann Claire attended both The Catholic University of America and the University of Dayton. She has been teaching for 25 years with experience in K-8. She taught at MSA its first 5 years and is grateful to be back as the school begins its second decade. Sr. Ann Claire is teaching 8th grade math, 7th grade math, and 8th grade religion.

Mr. Matthew Hill
Matt, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, comes to MSA from Loyola College, Baltimore, where he was a history major with a minor in Catholic Studies. He is new to teaching and MSA. Matt visited MSA last spring and taught a practice lesson where he noticed how respectful the students were and how "genuinely concerned about each and every individual student" the staff was. Mr. Hill teaches 8th grade social studies, 8th grade science and 7th grade religion.

Ms. Lisette Fernandez
Lisette grew up in Long Beach, California and attended college at The Catholic University where

she graduated last year with a major in Spanish Literature. She is serving as a volunteer for Boys' and Girls' Hope in Baltimore and teaching Spanish to all grades at MSA two days a week. Lisette says, "MSA exemplifies all I believe, and the need to educate is so strong, I knew that I could not pass up the opportunity."

Ms. Annalisa Snair
A Notre Dame Americorps volunteer in her first year of service, Annalisa is a native of Pennsylvania and a recent graduate of Seton Hill College. Her degree is in psychology, but she has certification in elementary, early childhood and special education. Annalisa reports, "After shaking hands with all the students at MSA upon my first visit, the deal was sealed. I am so honored to be a part of the MSA community." Ms. Snair teaches art, tutors, and supervises homework and recess.

Ms. Laura Peterson
Laura serves as the new Coordinator of After-School Programs, runs the Rainbows group, and teaches small classes. She was born and raised in Lancaster, PA, the middle child of 3 daughters. Before coming to MSA, Laura volunteered with Mercy Corps for one year, and was a teacher and director of campus ministry

at St. Frances Academy for five years where she met several MSA graduates.

Ms. Regina Puleo
Regina, a recent Loyola College graduate, has a major in English Literature. Her first contact with MSA came when she tutored here as a Loyola volunteer. Regina says, "After meeting the students and teaching a class last May, I knew this was where I wanted to be. The students and staff fill the school with an energy and kindness that is truly inspiring." Regina teaches 8th grade literature and language arts and 7th grade science.

Brian MacAvoy
Brian is a Notre Dame AmeriCorps volunteer who is helping tutor current MSA students in all subjects. He is also using his expertise as a Princeton Review trainer to work with MSA graduates on SAT preparation under the aegis of the Graduate Support Program. Brian is a graduate of Boston College where he majored in history. He hails from Port Jefferson, NY, where both his parents are public school teachers. Fortunately for MSA, the love of teaching runs in the family.

Special Thanks

**Mary Lin Yoshimura
Bert Paszkiewicz
Dana Aumann
Mary Fran Buckley
Bob Seurkamp
Mary Ellen Kaplan**

**Michael & Maria Salvatore
Julie Somis
Bruce Hamilton
Jack Handy
and
Luke Hester**

For all their work helping to make our 10th anniversary celebration so special, we would particularly like to thank the following volunteers:

You are the spark that kindles the flame!

"The faculty of MSA know that there is a clear difference between active and passive learning. They challenge the students to take the initiative and to draw their own conclusions. ...The advantage of active learning is that it cultivates curiosity."

Ayrea Oneal, '97

Sponsoring Congregations

Daughters of Charity
Marianist Society
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton)
Xaverian Brothers

Msa Wish List

cleaning supplies
bookstore gift certificates
new library books
Office Depot gift certificates
Home Depot gift certificates
white or colored copier paper
packaged snacks and juices
postage stamps
printing and copying services
arts and crafts kits

Upcoming events

Nov. 23 Santa's Workshop
Dec. 17 Christmas Program
6:00 P.M.

The MSA Newsletter is published and edited by Angie Patterson-Handy



Dontia Parham and JhanelI Cofield, '05, ride horses at the Roderick farm

Please remember Mother Seton Academy in your will. Tax I.D. number 52-181102

Celebrating 10 Years of Educating Baltimore's Children



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