

## MOTHER SETON ACADEMY EXPANDS AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

**M**other Seton Academy was the recipient of a generous grant from The Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation to help build our after-school program. We were excited to introduce six new programs for our students to choose from and enjoy throughout the year:

**Cooking and Nutrition:** Diana Sugiwich, RD/LDN, CNSD, ACS, HFS (website: [www.nourishfamily.com](http://www.nourishfamily.com)) taught our students ways to cook and eat healthy foods, without giving up taste and enjoyment. Some of the recipes they tried were panko-crusted salmon with cranberries and dim-sum turkey meatballs, all easy to make, affordable and good for you!



**Clayworks:** Brought to Mother Seton Academy by Baltimore Clayworks, and taught by Sarah McCann, the children learned how to hand build wonderful clay projects through pinch pot and coil forms, as well as slab construction. This allowed the

students to discover new ways of expressing their feelings and creativity through clay.

**Dance:** Taught by Traci Jiggetts, Baltimore Dancer, Choreographer and Musical Theatre Director, Mother Seton Academy students learned dance and performance skills, many for the first time. The students benefitted from the creativity, exercise and confidence acquired through dance. The program kicked-off with a wonderful public performance at the Murphy Fine Arts Hall at Morgan State University.

**Swimming at Loyola University:** The swim program was taught at Loyola University Maryland under the coordination of Rachael Finley, Asst. Director of Recreational Sports, Facilities and Special Events. Many students in this program experienced swimming for the first time, and learned to overcome their fear of water while having a fun time.

**Mentoring:** The Mentoring program, sponsored by the Center for Community Service and Justice at Loyola University and facilitated by student-leader Jenn Ruckel, brings Loyola University students to MSA to participate in non-academic



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## Mother Seton Academy Partners with Ford's Theatre



The Ford's Theatre Education Department in Washington, DC announced the launch of its year-long National Oratory Fellows Program in September. The program had originally been developed as an elective English course in a Prince

**MARIAH ARMSTEAD AND TREY THOMAS  
AT FORD'S THEATRE WITH TEACHING  
ARTIST JOJO RUF.**

George's County, Maryland high school, and was expanded this year to a full school-year program providing resources and support for oratory integration to participating middle and high school classrooms across the nation. The program uses the words and speeches of great American orators like Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass to strengthen students' speaking, writing and leadership skills. The 2011-2012 class of Oratory Fellows included only 6 teachers across the country, including our own Jim Rossi, 8th grade teacher at Mother Seton Academy.

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## AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

activities, ranging from games and athletics to crafts, in order to form friendships and learn about each other.

**Spoken Word/Poetry:** The Spoken Word is a program designed to encourage students to express themselves through the spoken word and poetry. This program was led by David Ross and Femi Lawai from The 5th L, a nationally recognized spoken word group, who have a passion for artistic expression and, with their words, intend to inspire the planet in a positive way. Students in the Spoken Word program learned to translate their pain and positives into poetry, such as the poem highlighted below: “My Dreams” by Shetia Ogle. The year ended with a performance by the students at a student assembly, and publication of a book of their poetry.

We were thrilled with the success of these programs and with the skills the students gained from these special activities. The excitement and enthusiasm on the days the students participated in these after-school programs proved what studies have shown – that the students have more energy, become more engaged in their studies and more connected to their peers in a positive way if they are occupied in a stimulating activity. We look forward to continuing these enriching after-school programs in the coming years.

### Ford’s Theatre - Continued

Throughout the school year, Rossi worked one-on-one with teaching artists from the Ford’s Theatre Society Education Department to integrate oratory and performance into English and History classrooms. Rossi participated in group discussions through the use of video conferencing in the classroom, connecting with teaching artists in Washington and with students from participating schools across the country.

In early May, each Oratory Fellow brought two students chosen to represent their class to Washington, DC, for a Lincoln Leadership Summit. Mother Seton Academy 8th grade students Trey Thomas and Mariah Armstead were chosen by Rossi in combination with recommendations from Ford’s Theatre Teaching Artists to represent their class in the weekend filled with student master classes and teacher professional development. The weekend culminated in a showcase performance of Thomas’ and Armstead’s speeches on the stage of Ford’s Theatre.

“It has been a rewarding experience for my students to learn how oratory contributed to the success of many movements in history,” said Oratory Fellow Jim Rossi. “The students and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, to explore the city’s rich history and perform on stage.”

### “ MY DREAMS ” BY SHETIA OGLE - GRADE 6

**My dreams are what I reach for  
my dreams make me want to change  
everyday I try to work harder to reach my dreams  
I wish on every star in the sky to achieve my dreams**

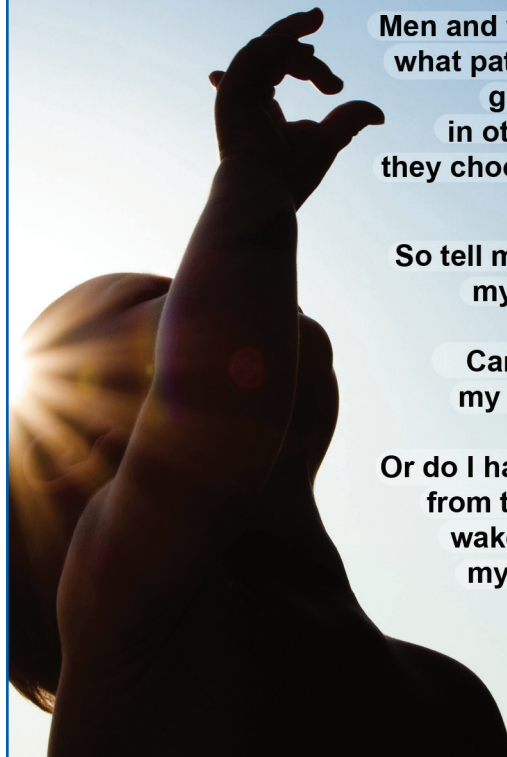
**Keeping my dreams alive is hard when everyone is  
telling me I can’t reach them so tell me why I can’t  
reach my goals, my dreams**

**Men and women choose  
what paths of life they  
go down  
in other words  
they choose their future**

**So tell me can I reach  
my goals?**

**Can I reach  
my dreams?**

**Or do I have to wake up  
from this fantasy  
wake up from  
my dreams**



## REFLECTIONS FROM A GRADUATE

**H**i — my name is Stephanie Geiser and I graduated from Mother Seton Academy in 2003. I am currently a senior at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland and am majoring in Cultural Studies.

As part of my senior project I am interning in the Office of Graduate Support at Mother Seton Academy. I plan to pursue a Masters of Social Work after graduation from college because helping others find a positive path in life — the path Mother Seton Academy created for me — is my personal and professional dream.



I remember so clearly the year before I was accepted at Mother Seton Academy. I was living with my mother and brother in a small apartment in Baltimore City, attending a school that was overcrowded and at times violent. I spent many days scared and hopeless.

One day I wrote down on a piece of paper that went inside my special box of dreams that I wanted to go to this school called “Mother Seton Academy” where I heard you could receive a good education – and you could feel safe. My dream came true that summer when I was accepted into Mother Seton Academy, and my life changed forever.

There are many memories and friends that I have taken away from my time spent at Mother Seton Academy. The teachers, staff and faculty at Mother Seton Academy made me feel like part of an extended family and I loved being at school. Some of my favorite memories of Mother Seton Academy were visiting places that were new to me, such as Sr. Marianne Roderick’s farm in the fall where we decorated pumpkins and fed animals, our class retreat to the beaches of Cape May, NJ and our trip to Gettysburg to reflect on the battle that took place there.

The education and values I learned at Mother Seton Academy will last a lifetime, and take me to places I never dreamed would be possible. I am so pleased with the young woman I have become today. Mother Seton Academy has and always will be home to me.

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous support of Mother Seton Academy. Your support made my dreams become are reality.

*Stephanie Geiser*

## ★ from the president



For over five years, I have had the honor and privilege to be the President of Mother Seton Academy. This school has truly become a second home to me. It is with very mixed emotions that I write to inform

you that I will be stepping down as President of Mother Seton Academy, effective June 30, 2012. On March 21, I was elected to serve on the leadership team for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, one of the six sponsoring communities for Mother Seton Academy.

Although this new position with the School Sisters of Notre Dame necessitates my not being the President of the school, it will offer me the possibility of staying connected to the school in a new and exciting way by becoming a part of the Member Board, which is a governing body of the school. In this position, I would be able to assist in overseeing the mission of the school and participate in special meetings, events and activities held throughout the year. It is both a sad and happy occasion for me and I ask for your prayers as the school goes through this transition.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your generosity and support of this school over the years. Being a tuition-free Catholic school in the city and in today's economy is a tremendous challenge yet so very vital when helping families break the cycle of poverty through education. Your generosity has enabled us to continue the important work of Mother Seton Academy-transforming lives through education.

God bless you,

Sr. Charmaine Krohe, SSND

## MOTHER SETON ACADEMY LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

**M**other Seton Academy is proud to announce the launch its new, updated website. The process of revisiting the website reminded MSA of the progress we have made since welcoming the first class to Mother Seton Academy in 1993. The new website will give you a chance to visit the school in a new and exciting, easy-to-navigate format. Please visit the new [MotherSetonAcademy.org](http://MotherSetonAcademy.org).





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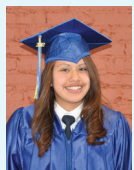
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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**MOTHER SETON WINE HARVEST & AUCTION**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2012**

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ISSUE 3 | SPRING 2012

### ★ Congratulations Class of 2012



**Diane  
Acosta**  
*Cristo Rey*



**Christopher  
Allen**  
*Cristo Rey*



**Mariah  
Armstead**  
*Institute of  
Notre Dame*



**Corey  
Backmon**  
*Mt. St. Joseph*



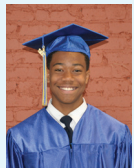
**Joseph  
Benson**  
*St. Paul's  
School*



**Andrew  
Britt**  
*Mt. St. Joseph*



**Allanah  
Cohen**  
*Seton Keough*



**Tyler  
Fisher**  
*Archbishop  
Curley*



**Jeremiah  
Garland**  
*St. Paul's  
School*



**Jomelia  
Johnson**  
*Institute of  
Notre Dame*



**Bryan  
Jones**  
*Cristo Rey*



**Karen  
Marin**  
*The Catholic  
High School*



**Jesus  
Martinez**  
*Cristo Rey*



**Jalah  
McCoy**  
*St. Frances  
Academy*



**Faith  
McNair**  
*Institute of  
Notre Dame*



**Shamara  
Ray**  
*Cristo Rey*



**Malinda  
Scott**  
*Seton Keough*



**Darryl  
Sheppard, Jr.**  
*Archbishop  
Curley*



**Trey  
Thomas**  
*Loyola  
Blakefield*



**Rebeca  
Vargas-Barba**  
*Mercy*



**Noe  
Villalobos**  
*Calvert Hall*



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