



MOTHER SETON ACADEMY

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

A NATIVITYMIGUEL SCHOOL
A PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE SCHOOL

SPRING / SUMMER 2007

Mother Seton Academy students thank sponsors and benefactors

The students of Mother Seton Academy thanked the countless number of supporters and benefactors who have contributed to the school over the years during three special Thanksgiving Prayer Services in May.



Dr. Patricia Kirby enjoys getting to know 8th graders Kenshard Burley and Shaniqua Jones.

For the first time, the parents of the students were invited to the Thanksgiving Prayer Services. "I was so moved and touched by the gratefulness of the students," said Board Member Mary Ellen Kaplan. "It was so nice to meet the students and their families."

A separate service was held for each grade level. During the services, the students created the Mother Seton Academy Thanksgiving table. On the table, the students placed a tablecloth, a vase of flowers, napkins, plates, silverware, glasses, and candles. Their teacher lit the candles. Each item on the table related to the significance of Mother Seton's supporters.

"Today is a day to tell each of you in this room how much we appreciate your love and support. Some of us have



Liaira Brown thanked her Grandmother, Shirley for her support at the Thanksgiving Prayer Service.

only met in person for the first time today, but we have been connected for much longer. Your willingness to share your love, time and resources has significantly helped in leading us successfully to this point in our lives," said the student narrator.

The last items placed on the table were a salt and pepper shaker. "We hardly ever come to a meal thinking, great, today I'm going to have some salt and pepper. But if the spices are missing from the table we usually notice. It's so much a part of the table setting that we take it for granted. And that is why we are having this prayer service today. We do not want to take for granted all those who have contributed to our education here at Mother Seton Academy," the student continued. The students presented a



Students Anthony Williams and Yolanda Vargas stand with sponsors Drs. Michael and Mary Lynch.

little container of salt to every parent and guardian, benefactor, sponsor and board member, old and new friend and faculty and staff member. "This is to let you know that we appreciate you and thank you," the narrator said.

Following the service, the guests enjoyed punch and cookies and had the opportunity to interact and get to know one another.

"It feels good to know that I am having an impact on a child's life," said Mary Ellen. "Supporting a student with a scholarship is the least that I can do."

A Message From: Sr. Charmaine Krohe, SSND President



My five months as the new President of Mother Seton Academy have been both challenging and rewarding. In this short time, I have learned the names and seen the potential of our Mother Seton

Academy students. I have learned of the success of many of our graduates. I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and commitment of our founding Congregations, board, faculty and staff. I have met many of our parents and have been inspired by the generosity of our benefactors and sponsors. I am grateful for the warm welcome and support that I have received from the Mother Seton Academy Family.

As we move forward to the next school year, I would invite all our various stakeholders to take some time to consider ways that you can continue to support our mission. In doing so, you will be joining hands with us in making a difference in the life of a child.

Next year Mother Seton Academy will be entering its 15th year in existence. As we look back over these years, we realize that we have come this far by standing on the shoulders of the hard work and generosity of so many who have gone before us... principals, teachers and staff, board members, benefactors and students. We are grateful for the foundation they have laid for this school. It is my hope and my dream that God will soon make a way for the building of a new school which will become the future home for our Mother Seton Academy students. We have come this far by faith and we will continue to be blessed.

A Message From: Sr. Eileen Clinton, IHM Principal



As another school year ends, I look back and wonder how did it all go by so fast? Another group of eighth graders proudly graduated and will now take the next step toward a successful future. Twenty four new sixth graders are ready to take their place as they begin their journey with us in August. We keep the vision of our founding Congregations before us as we strive to bring an excellent education to our children of Baltimore City.

We also owe a debt of gratitude, not only to our sponsoring Congregations but also to our many benefactors and sponsors. We would not exist without your support and prayers.

As dreams flow into the next school year, we will add some new faces to our staff. Sister Ellen Smith, IHM, Sister Ann Claire Rhoads, DC, and Ms. Nicole Yeftich will pass the torch of wisdom to their replacements. They have all served many years with us and they will be missed. Their gifts were and will continue to be a blessing.

Next year we look forward to our continuing partnership with Loyola College and add a new partnership with the College of Notre Dame. Mother Seton Academy will be honored to have education interns work in our program. We also look forward to receiving professional development from the college staff. God has blessed us with many gifts which we pass on to all the children and families we serve.

Thank You benefactors

Thank you to our most recent supporters for MSA student scholarships: Allegis Group, Proctor & Gamble Foundation, Alex. Brown Foundation, and Our Lady of Angels Catholic Community. Samuel W. Chairs, Jr. pledged support through an Endowment Fund with The Catholic Family Foundation. The Foundation will match his gift. In addition, Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier in Hunt Valley made a pledge to Mother Seton Academy's Capital Campaign.

Music box repairs benefit Mother Seton

When Art and Betty Powell visited Mother Seton Academy 13 years ago, they were moved by the educational model. "We were so impressed with the students and the work that was being done by the staff," said Betty Powell.

The Powells, residents of the Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, were introduced to Mother Seton by Board Member Rev. Robert Leavitt, SS, president of St. Mary's Seminary and University. After the visit, the Powells began supporting the school.



Mr. and Mrs. Art Powell, long-time MSA benefactors, use their talents and gifts to support students.

"When I moved to Charlestown, I was worried about what I was going to do to keep busy," said Art Powell, 87. "There was a shop here that was vastly

expanded. Since repairing music boxes was a big interest of mine, I put a notice in the bulletin about repairing them. I started getting phone calls. Many of the residents wanted to give the music boxes to their grandchildren. Some of the boxes were gorgeous and expensive antiques. Fortunately, I was able to complete most of them and return them to their owners in better working condition," he said. In return for his repairs, the residents pay a fee. After he deducts his charge for labor, he sends the rest of the money to Mother Seton. The money is used as a scholarship for a student.

A mechanical engineer by trade, Art worked for AAI Corporation in Cockeysville for 23 years and retired as a vice president in 1982.

Several years ago, the sixth grade class spent the day with the Powells at Charlestown. "It was so nice to see the students again. They were a delight and were so well behaved," she said.

"We are so grateful and thankful for supporters like the Powells. This is certainly a creative way to give back to the community," said Sr. Charmaine Krohe, SSND, MSA president.

Cardinal Cup Race a great success

A special thanks goes to those individuals and businesses that supported the 13th Annual Cardinal Cup Race, held in April. First of all, thank you to Cathedral School of Mary Our Queen, Principal Sr. Josephann Wagoner, SSND and the Parent Association for their ongoing financial assistance to Mother Seton. Thanks to the Cardinal Cup Committee, under the leadership and direction of Lisa Stromberg, for organizing the Cardinal Cup Race to benefit Mother Seton each year. The race was a success because of the contributions and support from the following companies and individuals: The Cathedral Ball Committee, WBAL Radio, The Strombergs, Holy Trinity Outreach - SVDP, Samuel W. Chairs, Jr., Martin C. Hauf, Jerry's Heating and Air Conditioning, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Julie Cain, Mahan Rykiel Associates, M&T Bank, St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation, Carol

Gould, Mudd, Harrison & Burch, St. Joseph Church, The Brennan Family, Adrienne Suggs Coleman, Harkins Builders, Radcliffe Jewelers, Residential Title & Escrow Co., and Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander, LLC. The race raised about \$22,000 and the proceeds will be used for student scholarships. Thanks to Nicole Yeftich and her father, Tom, for donating the t-shirts the students used to train for the race. Nicole and teacher Deborah Kriepel vigorously trained the students to participate in the race. Thanks Nicole and Deborah. Also, Caitlin Connolly, AmeriCorps volunteer, coordinated an art contest with all MSA students. Two 6th graders won. Elan Coleman had her design printed on the shirt for the race and Jordan Harris's design was printed on race posters. Next year's Cardinal Cup Race will be held April 26, 2008.



Liayra Brown
Seton Keough H.S.



Christina Ehatt
Seton Keough H.S.



Kenshard Burley
Calvert Hall College H.S.



Roy Diaz
Archbishop Curley H.S.



Alyssia Gilmore
Seton Keough H.S.



Pierrerea Henry
Seton Keough H.S.



Tyvon Garnett
Archbishop Curley H.S.



Joshua Geathers
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Shaniquea Jones
St. Paul's School for Girls



Antoinette Lilly
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Jose Guzman
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Diego Martinez
Mount St. Joeseph H.S.



Liz Ramirez
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Linneetra Seward
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Michael Parker
Baltimore Talent Development H.S.



Gary Spratley
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Andrea Spencer
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Asia Thomas
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Anthony Williams
Archbishop Curley H.S.



Devante Williams
Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.



Yolanda Vargas
St. Paul's School for Girls



Bryonna Witherspoon
Seton Keough H.S.

Congratulations
MSA
Class of 2007

Mother Seton graduate attends law school

"Mother Seton Academy has given me so much that I feel an obligation to give back," said Ricardo Johnson, 20, a graduate of the class of 1999.

Service is one important life lesson that Johnson learned as a graduate of Catholic schools – first at Mother Seton, then Mount Saint Joseph High School, and most recently, La Salle University in Pennsylvania. "I have seen that a Catholic school education does lead you to the right path," he said. Ricardo grew up Baptist.



Ricardo Johnson addresses his graduating class at La Salle University.

Recently, Ricardo, a Political Science and Economics major from La Salle, delivered the Commencement Speech at his graduation in May. Speaking in front of crowds has become natural to him. While at La Salle, he was president of the Student Government Association

(SGA). He served as chairman of the SGA's annual basketball marathon to raise funds for the American Cancer Society and was on the executive board of the African American Student League. He was also president of the College Republicans. Last fall, Johnson received The Warren S. Smith, M.D. Scholarship, given to African American students. (The scholarship is named for one of La Salle University's first African American graduates.)

Ricardo has even bigger dreams. The Baltimore native plans to return home to attend the University of Maryland School of Law. He was accepted into 10 law schools. He wants to pursue a career in real estate law and real estate development.

Ricardo heard about Mother Seton because his mother was a teacher's assistant at Father Charles Hall School, which has become a feeder school to Mother Seton. Ricardo and his mother attended an open house. "I loved it right away," he said. He was then accepted into the summer program. When students are accepted to Mother Seton, they must attend a two-week summer program to make sure they fit into the school's model.

And it was the perfect fit for Ricardo. "It wasn't hard for me to adjust to the school's model. (The students begin school at 7:45 a.m. and end with homework assistance at 4:45 p.m.)

"Mother Seton brings students from all around the city who have different experiences, but they are from the same background. I felt as though I belonged with everyone else," he said.

Ricardo remembers having to wake up early in the morning to arrive at school on time. "I had to catch two buses to get here," he said. "The day does go by pretty quickly."

With the help of Nicole Yeftich and the Graduate Support Program, Ricardo was accepted into Mount St. Joseph High School. "She was always there for me – from getting into high school to getting into law school," he said. "By attending Mother Seton you develop a lifelong relationship. You build upon that relationship and it lasts." He also credits many of Mother Seton's benefactors for his success – the Moyneauxs, the Bisciottis, and the Burches. "They have been really good to me," he said. "MSA is a special place because of the people here. They really have become my family."

Building Hope, Changing Futures: MSA leadership transitions

Nicole Yeftich

From driving students and their families to college for the first time to tutoring a student in math after school, Nicole Yeftich has single-handedly grown Mother Seton Academy's Graduate Support Program from 24 students to a group of more than 200 alumni. Nicole started at Mother Seton as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Eleven years later, she has served as the After-School Program Director, 8th Grade Language Arts and Math teacher, and for the past five years as Director of the Graduate Support Program. The Indianapolis native is a graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Nicole will be replaced by Bro. Stephen Strausbaugh, CFX.

Sr. Ellen Smith, IHM

Sr. Ellen Smith, IHM has been a staff member at Mother Seton Academy



Sr. Ellen Smith, IHM, Ms. Nicole Yeftich, and Sr. Ann Claire Rhoads, DC join in the MSA graduation at St. Patrick's Church.

for the past nine years. She recently celebrated 50 years as a Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton). She was the first co-principal of the school when Mother Seton started in 1993. She has worked as a Spanish teacher, 6th grade teacher and tutor. She retires this June and will be replaced by Sr. Michael Marie, IHM. "It has been a wonderful gift to me to be able to be a part of Mother Seton

Academy. I am extremely grateful," said Sr. Ellen. The Philadelphia native is a graduate of Immaculata University in Pennsylvania and received a master's degree in Education from Temple University.

Sr. Ann Claire Rhoads, DC

For the past ten years, Sr. Ann Claire, DC, has served as the 6th, 7th and 8th grade teacher at Mother Seton Academy. Most recently, she was the teacher for the 8th grade boys. The Baltimore native joined the Daughters of Charity 35 years ago. Sr. Ann Claire, who is retiring this year, will be replaced by Sr. Joan Warner, also from the Daughters of Charity. "My most joyful experiences at Mother Seton have been the prayer time and the prayer services," she said. Sr. Ann Claire has a bachelor's of arts degree from Catholic University and a master's degree from the University of Dayton.

MSA Students benefit from special after-school programs under the direction of Sr. Karen Pourby

In addition to running the school library, Sister Karen Pourby, OSF coordinates and supervises after-school homework/tutoring and mentoring programs. Sr. Karen joined Mother Seton Academy (MSA) in 2006 after teaching in various parish schools, including Sacred Heart in Allentown, PA and St. Rita's in Baltimore. She also served for three years as parish life facilitator in South Carolina.

Tutoring is offered four days a week after school, from October through April to students who would best benefit from individual assistance as identified by their teachers. Students not only receive assistance with difficult subjects, but with organizational and study skills as well.

Tutors come primarily from Loyola College, College of Notre Dame, and various local high schools including, Archbishop Curley, Seton Keough, Institute of Notre Dame, and Polytechnic Institute. A number of adult volunteers also provide tutoring for this program. Many of these individuals have also returned to work with students throughout the day.

On Fridays, a group of students from Loyola College work with Sr. Karen to offer mentoring to select students six times each semester. MSA students have an opportunity to converse with Loyola students in a relaxed environment

while participating in fun activities. This year, the students have worked on craft projects and there have been trips to the National Aquarium, Maggie Moos, and a tour and presentation at Loyola College.

While most mentors and tutors commit to serve the full school year, many of them choose to volunteer for three or more years. "This helps us provide consistency and a sense of belonging," said Sr. Karen.

"These two programs truly help our students to overcome obstacles to their success by providing them with additional adult role models, a positive school environment, involvement in the community, and positive peer influences. Teachers have reported tremendous gains in both educational and behavioral goals," she said.

MSA students have only good things to say about these programs. "I have very little I can do when I go home; it is not safe to walk on the streets and there are too many distractions in my house to focus on my homework. I just have so much fun because the volunteers that come are so caring. They also have as much energy as I do," said Keyon Urquhart, a 7th grade student in the mentoring program. "The only thing I do not like is that I wish it was longer so we could do more stuff," he added.



Lauren Jones, Student Service Coordinator from Loyola College, with 7th grade MSA student Bridget Savoy.



Kenshard Burley, Anthony Williams and Michael Parker show off their new 'runners in training' shirts after running practice for the Cardinal Cup Race with Nicole Yeftich and Deborah Kreipl. These shirts were donated by Nicole and her father, Tom.



8th grader Shaniqua Jones and Board Member, Suzy Price run past the finish line at the Cardinal Cup Race.



6th grader Taiwan Parker collects, sorts, and delivers mail before spending his paycheck at Exchange City.



8th grader Linneetra Seward learns to manage her finances and write checks at Exchange City.



7th grader Joyce Henry reaches as far as she can while AmeriCorps volunteer Layla Ormbrek measures the results for the presidential challenge.

Students enjoy special activities at MSA

Mother Seton continues to offer students a variety of enrichment activities. "We believe in a wholistic approach to education. It is important for students to gain exposure to real world experiences and to become well-rounded individuals," said Sr. Eileen Clinton, IHM, principal.

This school year students have participated in the following trips:
Tour, Roderick's Dairy Farm
Tour, Baltimore City Police Station
Sports Day & Health Fair,
Loyola College
Fun & Career Days,
School of the Cathedral

"Roots of Rap," Goucher College
"Number the Stars,"
Toby's Dinner Theatre
"Lets Go Science Show,"
Hippodrome Theatre
Tour, Museum of Natural History
Tour, TV 13 Studio
Exchange City
Tour, Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers
Tour, Beth Am Temple
6th Grade Retreat,
St. Joseph, Eldersburg
7th Grade Retreat,
Carmelite Monastery
8th Grade Retreat,
Marianist Retreat Center



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Mentoring field trip at the National Aquarium

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