



MOTHER SETON ACADEMY

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

A NATIVITYMIGUEL SCHOOL
A PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE SCHOOL

SUMMER 2009

Mother Seton Academy is Moving!

On Wednesday, May 13, 2009, Mother Seton Academy became the proud owner of the newly renovated school building at 2215 Greenmount Avenue. After many years of decision making and searching for the right location, Sister Charmaine, the Board of Directors, and the Mother Seton Academy family have a new school.

The capital campaign: *Building Hope, Changing Futures* was launched several years ago to raise \$7,000,000 for the renovation of the building on Greenmount Avenue. Proudly, the Board of Directors announced in January that they met their goal. This great achievement was due to the unwavering support of the sponsoring religious organizations, foundations, and the many generous friends of Mother Seton Academy. The Board expressed its deep gratitude for such generosity.

Whiting-Turner Contracting Company began renovation in July 2008. The goal was to complete the extensive project by August 2009. After



dealing with several unexpected construction delays, the new school will open on time for the 2009-2010 school year.

"Awesome," "exciting," "amazing," "big," "colorful!" These are the descriptive words of MSA students as they visited their new school on June 4. Excitement arose when the students saw their new black lockers. In the old school, students' lockers were gray bins which held folded coats and hats and were stored on old wooden shelves. The Art Room, painted in a chili pepper red, has storage cabinets and a counter and sink for complete clean-up after art projects. The classrooms have a brightly painted focus wall creating a feeling of warmth and love. This sunny, cheerful environment invites an openness and excitement for learning. At the end of their tour, Sister Charmaine asked the students, "What is your favorite room in the new building?" All answered in unison, "The Prayer Room!"

On the final day of school for the sixth and seventh graders, June 5, 2009, the Ann Street location for Mother Seton Academy closed its doors for the last time. No longer will students have lunch in a crowded cafeteria, recess on the tiny school parking lot, or prayer services in the Art/Music Room. Teachers bid farewell to their classrooms where math problems were solved, the world explored, science projects created and above all, where lessons of faith, life and love

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***"Our
new school
building
symbolizes
how much
we value our
students, their
education, and
their place of
learning."***

***Laura Peterson
8th Grade Teacher***



MSA students visit the prayer room during a tour of their new school.

MSA Student Wins NFTE Competition



Alayna's Barking Biscuits won the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) citywide competition on May 28, 2009. Alayna Albertie, a 7th grade student at MSA, presented her business plan to market her own special recipe for dog biscuits. Justice Hartley, also in MSA's 7th grade, placed second with his plan to market dance lessons.

Alayna received \$1,000 for first place, and Justice received \$500 for second place. Alayna will attend the NFTE National Business Plan Competition in New York City in October. The award for winning this competition is \$10,000.



Scholarship sponsors visit with students at Mother Seton Academy's Donor Appreciation Day. (Left) Mrs. Mary Williams congratulates her student Valentin Mudiay, a 6th grader, on his outstanding academic gains this year. (Right) Mr. John McKenna, a new scholarship sponsor at Mother Seton, meets with Fantasia Luck-Harris and Dally Melgarejo also in the 6th grade at MSA.

Mother Seton Academy is Moving!

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were taught. The Mother Seton family is saddened to leave behind the familiar surroundings and the treasured experiences of the Ann Street building. Nevertheless, they look forward with great hope to a challenging and exciting future.

Yes, the doors on the Ann Street building have closed for the last time but doors will soon open on a large, modern facility on Greenmount Avenue. NEW BEGINNINGS will be in the minds and hearts of all who enter these new doors of Mother Seton Academy where the same warm, open spirit that is MSA awaits them.

Congratulations to all who made this dream a reality!

Students Visit Ford's Theatre

On May 14, 2009, students from Mother Seton Academy boarded yellow school buses bound for Washington D.C. Their destination was Ford's Theatre where they anticipated enjoying a musical entitled *The Civil War*. The performance was a musical landscape depicting the people, voices and sentiments of the American Civil War. Not only was the show educational but all of the students enjoyed the music and the talent of the performers. After the show, the students gathered outside the theatre where they met several of the actors who answered their questions. Many thanks to Steve and Renee Bisciotti who made this memorable day possible for Mother Seton Academy students and faculty.



MSA says Farewell to Sister Eileen Clinton, IHM



Sr. Eileen Clinton, IHM gives Joseph Ross a tiny heart, symbolic of her order's charism.

After four years of dedicated and faithful service as Principal of Mother Seton Academy, Sister Eileen Clinton will be leaving at the end of June 2009. We are grateful for her years of commitment to the staff, faculty, and students as we bring closure to our 14 years in Fells Point. Sister Eileen contributed a great deal of time and guidance in paving the way to our new school on Greenmount Avenue.

Sister Eileen's total dedication to the faculty, her unconditional love for the students, and her faithfulness to the school are special gifts that will be long-lasting memories of the time she spent with us at MSA. As a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, she is a shining example of love, compassion and encouragement for everyone.

We will miss Sister Eileen. She will always remain a part of the Mother Seton Academy family. In the words of the song sung at our end of the year prayer service, "Wherever you go, we will go," Sister Eileen, you will always be in our hearts. We wish you every good blessing as you begin a new journey.

Perfect Day for the Cardinal Cup

Over 300 participants attended the Cardinal Cup Race held on Saturday, April 26, 2009, at The School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen to benefit MSA. Congratulations and many thanks to the Cathedral School, the Race Committee, and



the faculty, friends, students and families of both schools who made this event a success and raising over \$18,000.

Eighth Graders Say Goodbye

On June 3, 2009, eighth graders walked down the aisle of St. Ann's Church to receive their diplomas. A bittersweet feeling pervaded the ceremony. Our graduates were proud to have hurdled the challenges of the last three years and to have accomplished so much. At the same time, they were sad to leave their teachers, friends and the school they had come to love. As a special farewell, Shaniera Scott, a 6th grader, wrote the following poem to her graduates.

FAREWELL

(By: Shaniera Scott, Grade 6)

You have put your mind to it
you have been blessed
You learned some rules
you got through the test
We knew you could
do it all along
Now you stand before us
assertive and strong
Take your courage with you
never give up
Know that you will succeed
no matter what
We are happy today
but sad as well
Sometimes it's hard
to say farewell
Today you approach
a brand new start
But you will forever remain
in our minds and hearts
Keep your head up, stay focused
you will be fine
And through it all remember
we love you –
Class of 2009



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Major Donors Visit for Hard Hat Tour

With the construction of the new Mother Seton Academy nearing completion, the capital campaign, *Building Hope, Changing Futures*, exceeded its goal of \$7,000,000.

On Tuesday, March 30, 2009, Sister Charmaine was delighted to host a special "Hard Hat Tour" of the new building for more than thirty special donors and friends. Our guests donned hard hats and walked the halls of the once vacant building at 2215 Greenmount Avenue. They noted that the rooms in the new building have already been dedicated to specific donors. The Library and Media Center named for the Knott Foundation and the Prayer Room named for the Paszkiewicz Family are examples of these designations.

Sister Charmaine used this occasion to express her heartfelt gratitude and that of the Mother Seton community to the major donors who have helped make this long time dream a reality.



Catherine Hoffberger and Irene Knott chat with sixth grader Da'Trell Pitts at the hard hat tour.

**Mother Seton Academy is moving to its new home at
2215 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218 in August 2009**

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