



# MOTHER SETON ACADEMY

## A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

A NATIVITYMIGUEL SCHOOL  
A PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE SCHOOL

WINTER 2008-09

### Celebrating Black History Month

With the election of President Barack Obama as the first African-American President, students at Mother Seton Academy were especially excited to celebrate Black History Month. Teachers at MSA prepared lessons that recognized the accomplishments and contributions from African-Americans throughout history.

Students were invited to attend the US Postal Service Stamp Unveiling - featuring Civil Rights Heroes at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum.

Thanks to the generosity of Catherine McClelland, students also attended Jazz: From Africa to America, a concert at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

### Students Serve the Community

One of the integral components of the holistic education at Mother Seton Academy is service to the community. While all students are required to complete five service hours each year, most students complete at least two or three times that.

"The MSA service club exposes students to a wide array of service opportunities in Baltimore. The club empowers students and allows them to realize the significant impact their time, energy, and presence can have on our world. It's also a chance for MSA students to have a lot of fun after school doing something positive for our world," said Laura Peterson, an eighth grade teacher who assists with this

program. "We often have a waiting list to participate."

By partnering with a variety of non-profit and community organizations, Mother Seton Academy is able to offer a variety of opportunities for students to help individuals in the community.

Earlier this school year, students and their families baked bread for families at St. Ann's Parish. "Everyone had a great time. In addition to learning about social

justice, students were able to practice math

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*Brandon Sample enjoys baking at one of MSA's community service days.*

### MSA Students Establish Small Businesses

The vision of The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, (NFTE), is that "every young person will find a pathway to prosperity." NFTE has found a mission at Mother Seton Academy. MSA was invited to participate in a pilot program of classes on business entrepreneurship under the direction of Sr. Joan Warner, DC, an eighth grade teacher at MSA.

"The purpose of NFTE is to teach students what it means to run a business," stated Sr. Joan. Students learn to distinguish and apply business factors and laws such as costs and revenue, cost of goods sold, variable and fixed costs, supply and demand, mark-ups, and the marketing factors of price, place, population, and promotion. Built upon NFTE's core values of "Individuality, Initiative, and Community," students also practice perseverance and philanthropy. Mother Seton's NFTE students are becoming active philanthropists; they will contribute ten percent of their profits to the school.

Various businesspeople have visited our students this fall, sharing their experiences and challenges in starting a new business. Mr. LaRian Finney, CEO and

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*Business owner Justice Hartley, left, prepares change for Jose Covarrubias at the NFTE market at Mother Seton Academy.*

## MSA Students Establish Small Businesses

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president of Visionary Marketing Group in Baltimore, who is also a member of the President's Round Table, stressed the importance of perseverance. Another guest, Ms. Janet Schwind, owner of an animal sitting business, shared the realities of having her own company.

On December 10, the NFTE students embarked on a day trip to New York City's Wholesale District. The trip's objective was to see firsthand what wholesale prices look like and to see what different businesses had for sale. Then the students invested in products that they could resell with a minimum markup of one-hundred percent – double the wholesale price. Eighth grade student, Jordan Harris, has learned ways to maximize her profits. "When you shop wholesale, it can be much cheaper. In New York I was able to really develop my bargaining skills." The NFTE program has taught her to use money wisely.

On December 15, the NFTE students transformed MSA's cafeteria into a bustling marketplace to sell their goods. "After perusing the tables and talking with the business students, it was apparent that they had skillfully planned for this day. The displays were well thought out and there was much negotiating happening," shared Sr. Eileen Clinton, IHM, Principal. The buyers were pleased with their purchases and deals as well. Jose Covarrubias, a sixth grade student who purchased a hat and sunglasses at the sale, said he was able to practice bargaining and that he paid a very fair price.

Sr. Joan sees great value in this program. Students certainly found applications of math skills in the real world, and they realize it takes more than desire to run a business. Teachers have noticed that NFTE students are participating more in class and asking relative, real-life questions in many subjects.



## Mother Seton Academy Holds 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Harvest

Leaves were changing on the trees to show off brilliant colors in red, orange and yellow. Like the fall season, November brought joy and success to Mother Seton Academy. On November 8, the school again partnered with Grand Cru, in Baltimore's Belvedere Square, to host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Harvest event at Loyola College. Over 250 people came together to sample 20 different types of wine from French Chardonnay to Italian Merlot. Not only were the guests busy sampling fine wines but they also enjoyed delicious food donated by Loyola College and other generous businesses.

The Silent Auction featured a variety of enticing items including round trip airfare, construction and

roof work, a Disney World package, and much more. Students participating in Clay Works, one of the after school clubs, created clay coasters which were displayed and available for sale.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City Council President, welcomed everyone and Sr. Charmaine Krohe, SSND, Mother Seton Academy's President, shared information on the positive progress of the new school — opening in August.

The staff, faculty and students at Mother Seton Academy express their heartfelt gratitude to Loyola College, Grand Cru, the Mother Seton Academy Wine Harvest committee, and the many supporters and guests who made this event a success.



## Students Serve the Community

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skills, including ratio and measurement," commented Sr. Marianne Roderick, SSND, a sixth grade teacher.

During the first semester, Sr. Lisa Perkowski, a novice with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, served at Mother Seton Academy. She prepared a choir from Mother Seton to perform in the community. In December, students visited the retired School



Sisters of Notre Dame at Maria Heath Care in Baltimore where they sang holiday songs – encouraging the audience to participate. For an encore, carolers offered holiday joy to the less mobile sisters in their rooms.

Students also twice visited the Children’s House at Johns Hopkins where they were graciously welcomed and given an informative tour by Mindy Weidman, the volunteer coordinator. Afterward, they cleaned and organized games and toys in the playrooms and then baked special treats for families staying at the facility.



Most recently, students collected hundreds of cans for a community food drive to support the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at Saint Rita Church in Dundalk, MD. Mother Seton students and staff are thankful to the many businesses as well as to the individuals who allowed them to serve along with them.

*(Top) Carlos Ramirez-Cruz enjoys his visit with Sister Ursula Anselmo while Fantasia Luck-Harris sings with Sisters Rosalie Quinn and Catherine Sherman at Maria Health Care. (Bottom) Leslie Montenegro decorates cookies with Sister Materna Zienne.*

## Students Secure History in Time Capsule

MSA students have prepared a time capsule with artifacts that represent MSA’s history. Additionally, they completed surveys and reports that describe what student life is like in 2009. The capsule will be installed into the new school and will remain sealed until its opening twenty years in the future.



## Teams Learn Through Experimentation

Teachers at Mother Seton Academy understand the importance of presenting lessons in ways that reach students of all learning styles. That is why their classrooms have both formal and informal learning spaces, along with both textbooks and educational manipulatives. In the new school, MSA will be adding SMART Board technology, a science laboratory and a state-of-the-art library and media center.

In one recent science lesson, sixth grade students studied oxygen. Specifically, they explored the principles of oxidation. After reading from their textbook and listening to the teacher’s presentation, the class separated into teams. It was time for the experiment. Teams set up a station with steel wool in a glass jar and placed it in a pan of water. They then set up a second station, identical to the first except that they added a burning candle. Teams recorded short and long term findings and prepared a report based on their results and what they had learned in class.



*Kori Harris and Isabella Carrillo are ready to test their hypothesis.*

## Fall Festival at MSA

On MSA’s Fall Festival Day, students were unexpectedly challenged. After breaking into teams, they were given a few rules and a finite amount of materials to use. Their task: to construct a creative and attractive scarecrow that would stand on its own. All teams were able to complete the assignment and enjoyed doing so. Their creations were displayed in front of the school.

Students also decorated pumpkins to share with their families. The pumpkins were judged for creativity, humor and originality.





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## MSA Welcomes New Board Members – First Graduate

Mother Seton Academy welcomes back **Brother Art Caliman, CFX** to the Corporate Board. Brother Art had been with MSA from its earliest days and has returned as the representative of the Xaverian Brothers, one of the six sponsoring communities. Besides being Senior Vice-President at Bon Secours Health System, he serves as the Owner's Representative for Mother Seton's new school project.



*Ricardo Johnson shares his memories of attending Mother Seton Academy with benefactor, Norbert Paszkiewicz. Above, Ricardo is ready for his MSA 1999 class photo.*

MSA also welcomes seven new members to the Board of Directors: **Paul Speargas, CFA**, Senior Chief Advisor for WMS Partners, LLC; **Michael Kelly**, Coordinator, Business Development & Governmental Relations for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; **Brendan Baloh**, Project Manager for The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company; **Larry Lawson**, Director of Technology for St. Agnes Hospital; **Dana Moore**, Attorney at Law for Venable, LLP; and **Sister Donna Deisen, OSF**, Congregational Council Member for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. They, along with the other members of our boards, continue to dedicate their time, talent and energy to the school's mission. Mother Seton Academy is grateful for their gift of service and welcomes them to the MSA Family.

MSA is also proud to welcome its first graduate to the Board of Directors, **Ricardo Johnson**, who attended MSA for two years. After graduating from Mother Seton in 1999, he went on to Mt. St. Joseph High School and then to La Salle University. Ricardo is now attending Law School at the University of Maryland and is an intern at Constellation Energy. Wanting to assist in fundraising, Ricardo has joined the Development Committee to help identify new potential donors.

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### Principal:

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