

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS RENEW COMMITMENT TO MSA



MSA recognizes its sponsoring communities.

Xaverian Brothers; Bro. Edward Brink, Councilor for the Marianist Brothers; and Sister Kathleen Cornell, Provincial Leader for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. All were from different religious communities coming together for the same purpose: to see the “new” Mother Seton Academy now located on Greenmount Avenue in Baltimore City and to once again commit to the mission of the school by continuing to be a sponsoring community.

They came from Scranton, Emmitsburg, Baltimore and St. Louis. They were Sister Mary Persico, the President of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Sister Esther Anderson, the Congregational Leader for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; Sister Claire Debes, the Provincial Leader for the Daughters of Charity; Bro. Lawrence Harvey, the General Superior of the

It all began 19 years ago when Mother Seton Academy became the vision of these six Sponsoring Communities. Wanting to offer a quality Catholic Education to children who came from families that would not otherwise be able to afford it and knowing that no ONE community could do it alone, they joined hands and resources to open what is still today a co-ed tuition free Catholic School. Since then, over 200 middle school children from inner city low income families have received the best of education and gone on to graduate from some of the most prominent public, private and parochial high schools and colleges. Mother Seton Academy has been so successful because these six religious communities believed that the only way out of poverty for urban young men and women was to come together and give the gift of education.

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MSA Students are drawing on a unique opportunity to study the ancient angelic harp.

Sr. Lisa Perkowski, IHM, and harpist Jacqueline Pollauf have been working together to provide opportunities for MSA students to learn an instrument. Ms. Pollauf is an instructor at T.W.I.G.S., a music program for Baltimore City students under the Baltimore School of the Arts. Sr. Lisa, MSA's music and art instructor, sought out seventh grade students Lila Tapahuasco and Amber

Wainwright to become the first MSA harp students within the T.W.I.G.S. Program. Through BSA and Peabody Institute, a harp has been loaned to MSA for practicing; and since early October, Lila and Amber have been taking Saturday lessons with Ms. Pollauf through T.W.I.G.S. Lila and Amber are preparing for their first recital this month.

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Sr. Lisa introduces Lila and Amber to the new harp in Mother Seton's music room.

LOTS OF BUSY ELVES COME TO VISIT MSA



Students Diane Acosta, D'Asia Faulkner, and Allanah Cohen prepare bread batter.

When you walked into Mother Seton Academy on Saturday, November 14th, lots of elves and their parents were busy participating in fun Christmas service projects. Sr. Marianne, a sixth grade teacher, assisted students while they carefully mixed ingredients for pumpkin bread. The senior members of St. Ann Catholic Church later were delighted to receive this delicious gift of Christmas. In the multi-purpose room, other parents and students were busy stuffing, stamping and sealing over 4,000 Christmas cards that would be sent to all the good friends of Mother Seton Academy. Santa's Workshop was about to end when who should appear but the big man in the red suit – Santa Claus himself. Santa took time out of his very hectic schedule to thank all the students and parents for participating in MSA's Santa's workshop.

★ on the calendar

The 16th Annual Cardinal Cup 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Walk Returns



Runners take their mark in hope of winning the 2009 Cardinal Cup Race.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Spring is right around the corner and so is the 16th Annual Cardinal Cup 5K Race and fun walk. This event is hosted every year by The School of the Cathedral of Mary our Queen. Students and families from both schools enjoy the beautiful morning and the friendships they have created, but also have some good exercise. The event is fun and easy with practice. This year's race will be held on Saturday, April 24th, at 8:00 a.m. at the School of the Cathedral located at 111 Amberly Way in Baltimore City.

For registration information, please call 410-563-2833 or visit MotherSetonAcademy.org. See you on April 24th!

CHRISTMAS IN JANUARY

When Santa left an early Christmas present of 20 inches of snow on December 19th, Mother Seton Academy closed early for the holidays. This meant that the well rehearsed Christmas performance had to be postponed to early January after the students returned from Christmas break. No problem! The show must go on! Sr. Lisa resumed rehearsals. The Christmas performance was held for parents and friends on Wednesday, January 6th, at 6:00 p.m. The students flawlessly sang carols both new and old, while the Christmas story was enacted in front of the stage. There is no question that Sr. Lisa performed her musical magic by coaching the students to sing loudly and with expression. "It was beautiful, almost like Christmas all over again" responded one of the parents as she watched the children on stage. Everyone at MSA will anticipate next year's Christmas show no matter when it's performed!

MSA STUDENTS STUDY HARP

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Additionally, Ms. Pollauf proposed a partnership between MSA and Peabody's Harp Department. This collaboration partners an MSA student with a Peabody harp student for a series of ten lessons. While Peabody students practice their teaching methods, eager MSA students acquire the basic skills to play the harp and read music. Three Peabody harp students gave a beautiful performance at Mother Seton Academy on January 26, demonstrating the range of sounds and techniques a harpist can create. Three MSA students have been selected and will begin lessons with their student teachers in the upcoming weeks. At the culmination of the series, these students will perform in a recital at Peabody.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

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Sister Charmaine Krohe, SSND, MSA President, welcomes Sister Claire Debes, DC.

On November 11, 2009, these leaders and their representatives began their day at the new school with prayer led by our 8th grade students in the prayer room. With the students, they celebrated the charisms unique to each community and prayed in gratitude for all that had been and in hope for all that was yet to come. Following prayer, the students had a chance to interact with the leaders of our sponsoring communities and personally express their gratitude for all that they had done for MSA. Then it was onto the Conference room where Sister Barbara Bowers, Chair of the Members Board for MSA, led them through a step by step discussion of the sponsorship agreement that was first signed years ago. Unanimously, the leaders of each sponsoring community agreed that they would once again commit to the mission of MSA. "In the spirit of our Foundress, Mother Francis Bachmann, who dedicated her life to the needs of the economically poor and the marginalized, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia sign this Sponsorship Agreement," proclaimed Sister Esther Anderson, OSF. One by one, in the spirit of their founders and foundresses, the members prayerfully signed on once again to continue to build hope and in a collaborative effort transform the lives of our students through education.



Stephanie Aguilera, an eighth grade student at Mother Seton Academy, warmly greets Archbishop Edwin O'Brien during his recent visit to the Academy for Catholic Schools week.

★ event spotlight

Mother Seton Academy Holds 3rd Annual Wine Harvest Event



Nelson Carey volunteers to serve guests while educating them on the variety of featured wines.

Three years ago Nelson Carey, owner of the Grand Cru in Baltimore's Belvedere Square, offered to host Mother Seton Academy's premier wine event. It is his generous donation of wine, which he personally selects, that continues to make this event a success. On Saturday, November 7th, over 150 people sampled a large variety of excellent wines from all over the world while enjoying delicious food donated by Miss Irene's, The Waterfront Hotel, Sam's Kid, and Kooper's Tavern, all located in Fells Point. City Council President, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Honorary Chair, welcomed and thanked all who came. Guests enjoyed participating in the silent auction which featured a plethora of exciting items donated by many businesses and individuals. The door prize and raffle drawings were held thanks to donations from the Country Club of Maryland, Cabot Creamery and Maryland Wine. The evening was a great success – raising over \$18,000 to support scholarships for Mother Seton Academy students.

Please mark your calendar on November 13, 2010 when the 4th Annual Wine Harvest event will be held again at Loyola University.



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★ graduate spotlight

It's finished — almost!

Visiting high school fairs and open houses, participating in shadow days and High School Seminar classes, filling out applications and numerous other forms — that part is over for students in the eighth grade and their families. All that is left is to wait for the high school letters of acceptance.

Waiting, after such a flurry of activities, is really the difficult part! MSA's eighth grade students have applied to some of the finest high schools in the Baltimore area: Mount Saint Joseph, Calvert Hall, Loyola Blakefield, Seton-Keough, Catholic High School of Baltimore, Mercy High School, McDonogh, City, Poly, Western and many others.

And it is beginning again! The seventh grade class has begun the process for high school readiness. Beginnings and endings — it's all part of the academic and personal process!



Paul Britt practices his public speaking skills as he prepares for high school.

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