



THE INQUISITOR

IN THIS ISSUE

- Senior Retreat
- From the Editor
- Mind of a Teenager
- Lent Wrap Up
- St. Patrick
- Movie Review: A Quiet Place
- St. Joseph
- COVID-19
- Most Daring Escape
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- LAC
- Author Spotlight: Maud Hart Lovelace
- Shakespeare
- Spring Sports

A Day of Scholarship and Spirituality

By: Theresa Dwane

On March 5th, 2020, the class of 2020 traveled to Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville for Seton's annual senior retreat, led by Mrs. Montavon, Seton's Guidance Director. The day began with 9:00AM Mass before heading to Our Lady's Hall near the entrance of the church where the retreat took place. To kick the day off, Mrs. Montavon welcomed the seniors and had them play a quick icebreaker game called "Find Someone Who." Each senior was given a sheet of paper with different topics, such as "Is left-handed" and went around gathering signatures from classmates who fit under that topic. This was a good way to get everyone warmed up and learn a thing or two about each other. In her introduction, she also shared a story about positive risk taking and challenged the seniors to boldly take a risk to live out their faith in new ways once they graduate. She gave away door prizes using raffle tickets and introduced the speakers. Both were sponsored by the Associates of St.

John Bosco. The first speaker, Christie Parvin gave practical and spiritual tips for college. Some of the advice she gave was to be intentional about what you want in a college, and begin to develop a strong spiritual life now so that you can thrive in college. She is a graduate of University of Maryland and a former FOCUS Missionary, where she served for 2 years at UVA. She is currently the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at Saint Bernadette's Catholic Church.

The second speaker, Matthew Malanga spoke about having strong, virtuous relationships in college. He is a junior at the University of Mary Washington studying psychology and is the current President of the Catholic Student Center. He talked about how dating begins with friendships and true love comes through dying to yourself for the other person. Senior Cristian Godeanu stated that it "helped me with discerning what groups of people would be best for me to



A Day of Scholarship and Spirituality (continued)

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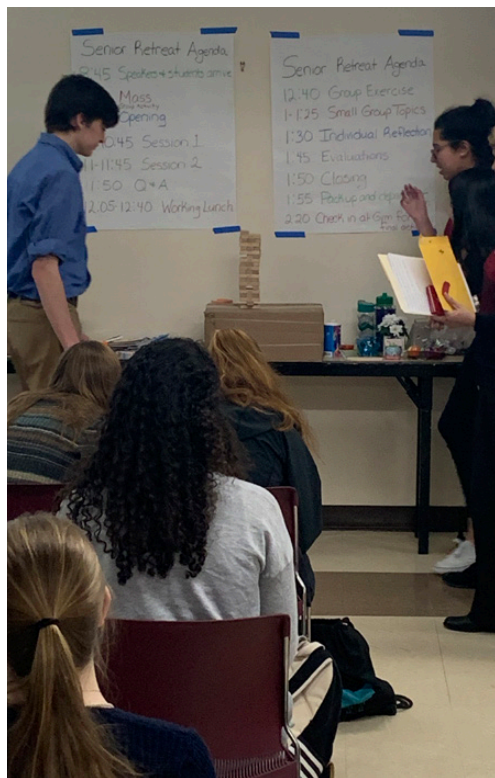
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Mrs. K

talk to, and build friendships with.” After these two talks the seniors ate lunch and listened to Seton alumni Matt Fioramonti and Haley Cackett, who gave their own personal transitioning experiences from Seton to college. After lunch the students played an interactive Jenga game in a small group exercise that helped the seniors think about “their own Jenga tower” and identify what blocks have made them strong (like family, faith, friends, activities, etc) and what forces in the future may “pull out their blocks” and weaken their tower (negative peer pressure, unhealthy relationships, drugs/alcohol, etc) and how they can intentionally keep their tower strong. Before the last major activity of the day, the senior split into groups once more to attend the workshops they signed up for earlier in the year. These workshops included Tick Tock: Time Management with Matt Fioramonti, College Anxiety and Destress Tips with Haley Cackett, and What is my Learning Style with Mrs. Montavon. From these, the students learned more practical advice on how to prepare for and thrive in college.

The last activity of the day was the seniors writing a letter to their future selves. It will be sent to them in 6 months when they are in college, working, in the military, or volunteering/serving in missions. Lastly, Mrs. Montavon wrapped up the day and closed with a prayer, before everyone departed for Seton in time for dismissal.

Many of the seniors found this retreat helpful for them in their preparation for college. Senior Bethany Johnson said that she “learned that you should learn to be comfortable with yourself in silence. This is how you will come to know yourself, which is necessary to form strong relationships.” Senior Simon Kanazeh mentioned that “some of the key takeaways that I got from the retreat was to seek holiness and virtue, appreciate and live in the moment, and by knowing Christ I know myself.” When asked what advice she would give to the juniors attending next year, senior Jaclyn Mendicino advises to “go to it with an open mind. You never know how God can speak to you through it.”



Seton's Response to COVID-19

By: Jillian Riley

On March 14, 2020, Mr. Bob Pennefather, the director of Seton School, sent out an email to the Seton community. The email announced that, because of a recent pandemic, Seton would have to close. The pandemic that Mr. Pennefather was talking about was COVID-19 or, as most people know it as, the coronavirus.

COVID-19 is a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus. A coronavirus is a group of RNA viruses that cause a variety of diseases in humans and other animals. The disease was discovered in China in December 2019 and has since spread around the world. Over the past month this disease has caused mass chaos in the world. At the time this article was written, there were 930,826 cases, 46,782 deaths, and 193,770 recovered worldwide. In just the United States, there were 211,408 cases, 4,718 deaths, and 8,805 recovered. All across America schools have closed for the year. One of these schools is our very own Seton.

On March 16, the faculty and staff of Seton came together to figure out how Seton would handle the cancellation. The teachers have all taken their own spin to teaching online. Some teachers have sent out assignments every day, while others have created YouTube channels to teach their lectures. Like many other teachers, Mr. Tim Heisler, Seton's Dean of Discipline, stated that his approach to teaching has been entirely online. When it comes to thinking about the rest of the year, the predominant question is, will the teachers be able to complete their planned curriculum? When asked about his thoughts on completing his curriculum, Mr. Westhoff said, "I'm not worried about completing the year. What we can get done, we'll get done. I'm sure that if not as much material is covered as would have been without the virus, there will be things both teachers and students have learned during this time which we would not have learned otherwise."

The teachers aren't the only ones having to deal with online learning. The students have had to adapt to this new way of teaching, as well. When asked how she has approached the challenge of online learning, sophomore Sophie Zadnik said, "My approach to completing my assignments at home is looking up what needs to be done or what is going on that day or week, and typing it up on my google task list to keep things organized. I then check it off when I'm done." Thinking about the teacher's curriculum, senior Callie Couture stated, "I'm not concerned for this year. I am concerned for next year

when you guys have to go back because you're not going to be as equipped for some of your classes such as Spanish or Algebra." Because of this cancellation, Seton had to postpone or cancel several major events such as the Spring Musical, Prom, the Senior Banquet, Graduation, the senior sailing trip, the junior's celebration of Mauritius Day, and the senior's open heart surgery trip. When asked about her thoughts on the things that were cancelled, Callie responded, "I'm so glad that I was able to go to Seton because I know that the Seton community will try their best to give the seniors back all that they've missed."

The thing to remember in this trying time is that God will always be there. Mr. Heisler says, "Enough complaining - the reality is, God has given Seton a special mission in this time, and our strengths as a community are shining - we know how to exit our comfort zone and keep on truckin'! It is simply a joy to be in this faithful community, where we are not just challenged to go bigger when struggles hit; we are encouraged by our fellow Setonites to embrace God's Will, secure in the knowledge that He does not ask us to do anything that will lead us astray!" So, remember that God will always be there even if He seems a million miles away, and don't forget to wash your hands.



Understanding the Mind of a Teenager: Anxiety and Depression

By: Jillian Riley

Currently, there is a major pandemic that is affecting the health of people all across the world. Because of this pandemic, people right now are really worried about the physical health of others. While this isn't a bad thing to be worried about, we must remember to keep in mind the mental health of others, especially the mental health of teens. All across the world, schools have closed and cities have gone into quarantine. This quarantine could take a big toll on the mental health of teenagers and cause their anxiety or depression to sky-rocket. So, how could we help prevent a teenager's mental health from deteriorating?

To answer this question, we have to look into what depression and anxiety are. Anxiety and depression are both mental health illnesses. What is a mental health illness? A mental health illness is a health condition involving changes in emotion, thinking or behavior, or a combination of these things. Mental illnesses are almost always associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities. When asked how she would define anxiety and depression, Ms. Annie Mosimann, MA, Resident in Counseling at Alpha Omega Clinic, said, "One could describe general 'depression' as an extended experience of sadness, emptiness, and/or irritability, accompanied by noticeable changes in the body and difficulty functioning on a day-to-day basis. General 'anxiety' could be considered an extended experience of being in a state of hyperarousal (always "on alert") and/or muscle tension, while habitually worrying that something bad is going to happen." How can you tell if a friend or loved one has anxiety or depression? For each mental illness, there are distinct signs that can help you tell if someone you know might be suffering.

A lot of people believe that the symptoms for anxiety and depression are the same. While it is true that there are similarities between the two, anxiety and depression have their own set of symptoms. Some common symptoms of depression are sadness or hopelessness, tearfulness or frequent crying, loss of interest in activities, poor school performance, and thoughts of death or suicide. Regarding anxiety, some traits to look for might be frequent worrying about events, to the point of sometimes avoiding these activities and events; becoming easily tired and irritable; having difficulty sleeping; often being distracted; and seeming restless a lot of the time. A lot of people might ask, "What can I do to help someone suffering from anxiety or depression?"

There's a lot that people could do for a loved one they know who is suffering. If a friend comes up to you asking for help with

anxiety or depression, you should definitely try to help him or her. Mrs. Eve Montavon, the guidance director at Seton, says that, "Teenagers can help their friends by being good empathetic listeners, but to remember that they are not experts in the field. Teenagers should try to find a trustworthy adult to help their friend." There is also a lot that a school can do to help. Most schools, Seton included, train their teachers in Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses. Another thing someone can do to help is learn the signs and symptoms of anxiety and depression.

There isn't a specific thing that causes depression and anxiety. Hormones impact them, and sometimes they run in the family. Depression and anxiety are both treatable. The sooner someone gets help the better. If we want to be our spiritual best, we need to make sure that the whole of ourselves is healthy and able to serve God in the best way. It's understandable to be suffering from anxiety or depression; there is absolutely nothing wrong with having one or the other or both. Even though it might seem hard, the best thing you can do if you are suffering is to seek help. Whether you seek help from a friend, a teacher, a family member, or a physician, the sooner you seek help the sooner you will reclaim your health and feel better. Don't be afraid to ask.

Sources

- [Understanding Anxiety Pamphlet by Expressions Workshop Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Understanding Depression Pamphlet by Expressions Workshop Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Parent's Guide to Teen Depression \(https://www.helpguide.org/articles/depression/parents-guide-to-teen-depression.htm\)](https://www.helpguide.org/articles/depression/parents-guide-to-teen-depression.htm)



Sticking to Your Sacrifice

By: Emily Flynn

As we enter the end of Lent, we can start to feel discouraged or less motivated in our Lenten sacrifices. This is okay and part of being human. What is important is that we make an effort to rekindle our determination to sacrifice in preparation for Easter. One of the most important things to keep in mind during this time of sacrifice is that temptation will happen. If we weren't tempted to give in and indulge in whatever we sacrifice for Lent, then it wouldn't really be a sacrifice in the first place. Temptation is inevitable and is part of the sacrifice. The second thing to keep in mind is that Lent isn't about winning or losing it's about the struggle. It is not a matter of how well we do in giving up or sticking to something; it's about how much we try even after we fail to keep our sacrifice. Picking yourself up from a moment of weakness is just as much a part of sacrifice as is keeping yourself from giving into the temptation. So, when you do find yourself giving in, don't feel discouraged and keep on going. The final point to have in mind is to keep up with our Lenten sacrifices with prayer. Sacrifice without prayer is like trying to fight a war alone. Don't underestimate the power and resolve you can get from even just a few minutes of prayer. With these points in mind we can all try our best to finish this season of Lent with as much motivation as we started.



St. Patrick: The Saint of the Shamrock

By: Theresa Dwane

Even though St. Patrick is well known throughout America and Ireland, some of his life details are uncertain. However, biographers have gathered enough information to convey the courage and heroism of this great saint.

St. Patrick's date of birth is uncertain, but he could have been born between the years 383 AD and 415 AD in England, Scotland, or another country around this area. At age 16, he and a few others were kidnapped by sea raiders and brought to Ireland to be slaves. Patrick, in particular, worked as a shepherd, and it was during this time that he started spending more time with God in prayer. After 6 years, Patrick possibly returned to France, then later to Britain, where he stayed for some time. On the trip back to his home country, he traveled by sea for three days then by land for a month. He and the sailors with him were lacking food at that time, so the sailors, who had heard Patrick speak about God's power, asked him to pray for food. Patrick did as he was asked and not long later, the group came across a herd of swine, which provided them a feast. Having witnessed God's miraculous hand, the sailors gave thanks to God and showed Patrick great respect. After the long trip, Patrick was welcomed by his people back at home. After his return home, it is possible that he stayed at the monastery in Lerins in France for three years and then spent another fifteen at a monastery in Auxerre, where he was ordained a bishop.

One day, he had a dream that called him to return to Ireland to serve the people there. Without hesitation, he did what he was called to do and traveled to Ireland, where he had been enslaved in the past. There, he converted many and preached in areas that had hardly had any exposure to the faith. In addition, Patrick encouraged chastity especially from the women, ordained priests, and founded monasteries. Despite his good works, he endured multiple attacks on his faith especially from the pagan druids, who often tried to imprison him. Nevertheless, he escaped every time, which showed how God was always on his side, and the courage he entrusted to Patrick. He continued spreading God's word throughout Ireland, despite persecution, until his death. The date of his death is also uncertain, but he probably died around 493 AD. He is the patron saint of Ireland, and his feast day is March 17. One of the most common symbols we associate with St. Patrick is the shamrock, which he used to teach the Irish people about the concept of three Persons in the Trinity.

St. Patrick did so much good during his lifetime, and he can continue his work today in our own lives. We can invoke St. Patrick's intercession in times of trial with our faith to help us remember that God is on our side no matter the circumstance. Through imitating St. Patrick, we can spread the faith through words and example, and have the courage to follow God's call, and stand up for the truth.

A Quiet Place Movie Review

By: Luke Weidenkopf

A Quiet Place is a thriller movie co-written by Scott Beck and Bryan Woods and directed by John Krasinski, who also stars in the film. The story takes place in a post-apocalyptic world where, if you make a sound, then a monster will come and kill you. The film follows a family doing everything that they can to survive.

The film begins with the Abbott family. It's been 89 days since the monsters came. The family is in a store quietly shopping for supplies. The youngest son, Beau (played by Cade Woodward), sees a rocket ship. He brings it to the family and the father, Lee (played by John Krasinski), quickly grabs the rocket and takes the batteries out of it. He signs to the boy that he cannot make any noise and picks up his stuff and walks out. The family follows suit but the daughter, Regan (played by Millicent Simmonds), feeling empathetic, hands the boy the rocket. She smiles and walks out. Beau decides to take the batteries and walks out. As they are walking home Beau puts the batteries in the ship and switches it on. A loud liftoff sound is immediately emitted from the rocket ship. Lee drops his bags and runs towards his son. Right before he reaches his son a monster comes out of the woods and takes him.

The story then fast forwards to day 472. The mom, Evelyn (played by Emily Blunt), is pregnant but is not due for 20 more days. The family is living on a farm and doing the best they can. They are still hurt from the loss of Beau but manage to live on. Regan still blames herself for the incident and believes that everyone else

does too. Lee decides to take his son, Marcus (played by Noah Jupe), into the forest. Marcus is terrified of the monsters and does not want to go. Regan volunteers but her proposal is immediately rejected. She storms off in anger and after much push back, Marcus finally agrees to go to the woods. Regan goes to her room and stuffs it with things. She then walks into the forest and goes to visit her younger brother's grave. She lays down the rocket ship and sits there, thinking. Evelyn is walking in her house and her water breaks. She is shocked but pulls herself together and goes into her basement to alarm her husband. As she is walking down the stairs she steps on an exposed nail. She drops the picture frame of her dead son and tries not to scream as she gathers up her courage and gets up. She turns and sees the monster at the top of the stairs.

A Quiet Place is one of the most innovative and original movies of the past 10 years. This thriller is so suspenseful that you will do your best to not make a single sound while watching it. Although it is a great movie, the audience for it should definitely be older. The audience should be from grades 10 or 11 and above because there are disturbing scenes of death and extreme suspense, but they are not gratuitous and are necessary to the story. It explores and explains the importance of family and the love that family members have for each other. A Quiet Place is an excellent movie and you should definitely see it.



Leading Like St. Joseph

By: Emily Flynn

We have all heard about St. Joseph, the quiet carpenter and husband of Mary. There isn't a lot of information on his life, but we can still reflect on what little there is known. In fact, some of the greatest lessons we can learn from St. Joseph are the ones he taught in silence. Even though St. Joseph never spoke in the Bible, he is still greatly honored. St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church, the unborn, fathers, workers, immigrants, and a happy death. St. Joseph is a great role model for humility in leadership. Although St. Joseph understood his role as the head of the holy family, he still recognized his lowliness in relation to Jesus and Mary. Some people tend to think that leaders need to be loud or even arrogant in order to make others follow them. St. Joseph is the perfect example of being assertive in his leadership without needing to cross the line to being domineering. He could do this because of his virtue. Mary knew St. Joseph's virtue and trusted his leadership even during frightening times. Practicing virtue and trustworthiness is key in becoming a leader that people will follow willingly. Whether it's in school or sports, even if it is in your future job or family, developing virtue and humility will make you a leader that people choose to follow.



Corona Virus Report

By: Aaron Forman

Nearly every country in the world has felt the impact of the Corona Virus, often referred to as COVID 19. Two weeks ago, the World Health Organization declared COVID 19 to be a pandemic. Currently, the United States reported that there are 32,000 cases of the virus in our country alone and that number increases with every report. The country that has been the hardest hit by this virus has been Italy, where they are sadly reporting that over 5,000 people have since died as a result of COVID 19. People in Italy are being urged to remain at home, limiting their excursions to medical needs and grocery stores. Many states in the US have also issued similar requests of their citizens, with 9 states issuing "shelter in place" orders. In these situations, the government has ordered non-essential businesses to shut down until further notice. Businesses such as bars, night clubs, gyms, and hair salons are generally deemed non-essential, while businesses such as grocery stores, gas stations, banks, and pharmacies are considered essential. Most public and private schools have closed across the United States, with some education systems choosing to put their lessons online. In addition, nearly every college has shut down their campus and moved all instruction to an online format. The effects of COVID 19 are being felt worldwide.

Everyone can exercise caution and ways to prevent the spread of this illness. First, limit your exposure to large groups of people. If possible, stay at home. If you must go out, maintain a distance of at least six feet between people to prevent the spread of germs. Second, wash your hands frequently, using soap and hot water. Scrub your hands for at least twenty seconds, and dry completely. Last, if you or someone in your home is ill, please do not go out in public unless it is to get medical care. The symptoms of COVID 19 are similar to those of Influenza A and B, but may have slight differences. The flu causes severe body and joint aches, with a headache and possibly nausea. COVID 19 usually does not cause severe body aches, but a sore throat and a dry hacking cough are more prominent. In both illnesses, patients can have a fever as a complaint. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as the Novant Health website have a comprehensive list of probable symptoms and how to deal with them.

President Trump and his newly appointed COVID 19 task force, led by Vice President Pence, have asserted that the nation needs 15 days of self-quarantine to help put a stop to the spread of this virus. Every person needs to help our nation combat this illness by staying at home and limiting activities outside of their home. This really is a simple request, which could have a tremendously positive affect on our nation's health.

The Most Daring Escape in WWII

By: Luke Weidenkopf

On March 24, 1944, 600 Allied troops attempted to escape from the prisoner of war (POW) camp, Stalag Luft III. Stalag Luft III was 100 miles southeast of Berlin and was deep into Nazi controlled Poland. The camp was mostly made up of Allied airmen and was considered to be impossible to escape from because the soil was very sandy, loose, and easily collapsible. Another reason is Germans had placed seismograph microphones around the camp to detect tunneling. These two facts did not stop RAF pilot, Roger Bushell, from making a plan to escape. The plan, codename Big X, was to dig three tunnels, Tom, Dick, and Harry, and to use them to escape. Over 600 POWs contributed to the tunnel making. Two of the tunnels, however, did not end up working. Tom was hidden next to the stove chimney in hut 123 but was discovered by the German guards and blown up. Dick was in the shower room of hut 122 but the digging was stopped when that area of the camp was cleared for expansion. Dick was then used to hold supplies. Harry was dug under a stove in hut 104. It took one year to dig but was finally ready in March 1944. The tunnel was 30 feet deep and 336ft long. It was held together by 4,000 wooden boards taken from prisoner beds. An estimated 100 tons of soil was dug up and displaced around the camp. In total the POWs used 4,000 bed boards, 52 twenty-man tables, 34 chairs, and 76 benches to build the tunnel. Also they used 635 mattresses, 192 bed covers, 161 pillow cases, 1,219 knives, 478 spoons, 582 forks, and 1,400 cans of powdered milk to dig the tunnel.



On the night of March 24, 1944, the plan was put into action. The escapees were put into three groups with foreign language speakers being the top priority (because they had the best chance of survival). There were two major problems with the escape. Firstly, the temperature was below freezing and secondly, the tunnel wasn't long enough to open into the forest; it opened just a few yards away from a sentry tower. Roger Bushell had already stamped the fake papers so he knew there was no going back. He told the POWs that they were going to continue. 76 men were able to escape. Once the 77th men got out of the tunnel a German guard spotted him and sounded the alarm. 73 of the 76 men were captured. Roger Bushell was among those. The three men to escape were two Norwegians and a Dutchman. 23 of the captured men were sent to other POW camps and the other 50 were executed. Although the escape was mostly a failure it shows the determination of the Allied POWs during WWII.



The Cherry Blossom Festival

By: Rose Sladky

The Cherry Blossom Festival is a popular spring celebration that takes place between March and April of every year in Washington D.C., to commemorate the gift of cherry trees from Japan to America in 1912, and to mark the friendship between the two countries.

Several people, including Dr. Takamine, a Japanese chemist, Dr. Fairchild from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Eliza Scidmore, board member for the National Geographic Society, aided the effort for cherry blossom trees being brought to D.C. Early attempts to bring over cherry blossom trees and seeds failed, as the seeds did not survive, and the trees were infested with bugs. Eventually, in 1912, Yukio Ozaki, the mayor of Tokyo, sent around 3000 trees as a gift to the U.S., and these survived. First Lady, Helen Taft, helped plant the first two on the banks of the Tidal Basin, along with Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador.

In 1915, the U.S. reciprocated this gift by sending flowering dogwoods to Japan, who later gifted the US another 3800 trees in 1965. Many of these were planted near the Washington Monument.

The first official Cherry Blossom Festival took place in Washington D.C. in 1935. The festival has expanded over the years and showcases events, activities, and performances, including floats, marching bands, and fireworks displays. Many events are free and family friendly and the festival attracts more than 1.5 million tourists, making it one of D.C.'s main spring tourist attractions.

Many of the Cherry Blossom Festival events have been cancelled due to the coronavirus, however there is always next year! Spring is here, and you can go outside and enjoy the rest of nature!



Seton's Very Own Literature Club

By: Lainie Vestermark

Seton has its fair share of clubs, but there is one club that has been at work for many years. The Literary Art Club has been an active club at seton since 2008. It was founded in 2004 and continues to pass down its beneficial knowledge of old and new literature. The Club's current president is junior Catie Pacheco. The Literary Art Club (LAC) is known for its inclusive and encouraging attitude. Seton students submit their own literature and artwork to the club's yearly Journal which started in 2008. Many students love to participate every single school year. It gives them a chance to show off their talents. Each piece of art and literature is also judged and awarded once the journal is released. But the journal is not the only thing that makes the LAC a great club; their interactive and positive advertising is essential. The Literary Art Club invites Seton families and friends annually to join them at their LAC Murder Mystery Dinner, a night full of friends, food and of course, mystery. Throughout the night, the guests have to solve the murder and catch the culprit. They base the night off of popular mystery novels in literature. In addition, the club meets every Thursday and each month is assigned a particular theme. For example, October would most likely be given the theme of horror and mystery, while December would focus more on Christmas classics. The theme focuses on the type of literary work but it also pertains to certain time periods as well. The goal of the LAC is to promote the love of literature to Seton students and it will continue to do so for the years to come.



Author Spotlight: Maud Hart Lovelace

By: Rose Sladky

Maud Hart Lovelace was an American author who is best known and loved for writing the Betsy-Tacy series. She based the books off her childhood memories and experiences from her hometown of Mankato, Minnesota. Maud was born on April 25, 1892 and died March 11, 1980.

Her parents were Thomas and Stella (Palmer) Hart. She had two sisters: Kathleen, who was three years older, and Helen, six years younger. They were the model for the fictional Ray family. Her friends, Frances Kenny, nicknamed Bick, and Marjorie Gerlach, known as Midge, were the inspiration for Tacy and Tib. Maud married Delos Lovelace, a newspaper reporter, in 1917. They had one daughter, Merian. Maud would tell her daughter bedtime stories about her childhood in Minnesota, and these gave her the idea of writing the Betsy-Tacy books. Although she did not originally intend to write an entire series, after Betsy-Tacy, readers asked for more, and she ended up writing ten books for the series. She wrote the books from 1940-1955.

The books follow the story's heroine, Betsy Warrington Ray throughout her life. We meet Betsy as a child. She becomes friends with her neighbors, Tacy and Tib, and as they grow older, we see them go to school, attend parties and dances, become women and married, and later witness the start of World War I.

The books are known for their historical accuracy, as Maud drew from the diaries, scrapbooks and photographs of her childhood, and used them to help her create the world of Betsy. Maud especially describes music, architecture, food, books, plays, family and social customs, the town, and fashion that is in accordance with that time period. This enables readers to get a vivid and descriptive view for the time period and the town.

Maud has a Minnesota Youth Reading Award (MYRA) named after her. She has legions of devoted fans today, and there is even a Betsy-Tacy Society in Mankato, as well as a Maud Hart Lovelace society.

If you enjoy the Betsy-Tacy series, you should check out other similar children and young adult writers including Sydney Taylor, who wrote the All-Of-A-Kind-Family series, Hilda Van Stockum, who wrote The Mitchells, Jeanne Birdsall, author of The Penderwicks, Elizabeth George Speare, who wrote Calico Captive, and Eloise Jarvis McGraw, author of Mara.



Who was William Shakespeare?

By: Lainie Vestermark

William Shakespeare has been a leading figure in the world of theatre and literature for hundreds of years. Although many people know his name and his plays, not many people know his story. His father, who was also named William, and his mother, Mary, were both working parents who most likely paid for young Shakespeare's education. At 18 years old he married an older woman by the name of Anne Hathaway and together they had three children. Sadly, Shakespeare would often be away from them for long periods of time. He would only return to his family during Lent, when all the theatres were closed. (Biography). As a playwright, the theater was very important to him so it was a priority in his life.

In total, Shakespeare wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets.(Biography). Many of his sonnets would pertain to a lost romance or loved one, but his plays went through different stages. For example, his first few plays were focused on comedy, like A Midsummer Night's Dream, while his later plays were tragedies such as Hamlet. In the 1590s, Shakespeare focused more on his sonnets. Most of his poems dealt with lost love and had tragic themes.(Biography)

Many conspiracies surround Shakespeare and who he was. While we know some historical information about Shakespeare, there was still speculation about whether he was the one who actually wrote his plays. This claim was made by a group of people called, "The Oxfords". They believe that Shakespeare was just a figurehead and never contributed to the plays themselves. Although it was a popular theory at the time, most people today do not choose to agree with it because they believe Shakespeare to be the rightful author of his works

Shakespeare died in 1616 of unknown causes; however, there have been accounts that point to sickness being his cause of death. Shakespeare is buried in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford. Even after hundreds of years, Shakespeare's plays and sonnets are the most renowned pieces of English literature to date. (Biography). It's important that we remember Shakespeare's remarkable works because of the impact they have had on theater and literature. Shakespeare's accomplishments will surely live on for centuries to come.



Spring Sports

By: Aaron Forman

Has COVID 19 shut down your sports season? Sadly, you are not alone. The Delaney Athletic Conference (DAC) has suspended all sports seasons until further notice. This has been hard for all athletes, parents, and fans but it is especially hard for graduating seniors hoping for a final season of high school athletics. "It's just really disappointing. I was hoping for one last season with my high school team mates," said senior baseball player, Conrad Guyant. Varsity baseball coach Steven Forman said, "I remain optimistic that we will be able to have at least some of our games once the season resumes. I know this is hard for everyone, but I really feel badly for our upperclassmen."

Seton athletic director, Dan VanderWoude, has encouraged all athletes to stay fit during this time at home. While team practices cannot take place, he advises athletes to maintain a healthy diet and work out on their own. Student athletes can exercise, run, or even practice their sport at home with a sibling. Seton athletes aren't the only ones facing a suspended or cancelled season, though. All major league sports organizations have suspended or cancelled their seasons, as well. Remain positive, athletes, and keep your skills up. Hopefully we will all be out on the field soon.

