



THE INQUISITOR

IN THIS ISSUE

- Science Fair
- Editorial
- Playing Through a Pandemic
- Winter Sports Wrap Up
- VEX
- Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- March For Life
- Lent
- Improv
- Obscure Saints
- St. Paddy's Day DIY
- The Mandalorian-Review
- Fashion DIY-Cloud Earrings
- Grins & Giggles

Science Fair

By: Elizabeth Moore

The Seton School 2021 Science Fair was an overwhelming success! Each year the seventh and ninth grade classes are required to participate in the science fair for educational fun. The ninth and seventh graders presented their experiments on different days; with ninth graders taking three days, and the seventh graders being separated by three class periods.

The seventh graders with the title of First Place this year are: Gabriel Marm, Helena O'Keefe, and Greg Bauer. Second Place went to Bryce Cooney, John Fleisig, and Gabriel Hambleton. Robert Gasser, Ryan Baughman,

and Patrick Gross were given third place for the seventh graders.

Catherine Witter and Luke Mantooth were awarded First Place for the ninth graders, with Aaron Bishop and Catherine DeWolf in Second Place. Third Place was Nicholas VanderWoude and Anneliese Orr; with Honorable Mentions going to Amelia Geary, Matthew Baldwin, Theresa Lalli, Clara Luetkemeyer, Madelyn Zadnik, and Anabel Clune. Congratulations to everyone who participated!



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What Happened to St. Valentine's Day?

By: Charlotte Yelvington

The original reason for celebrating February 14th was to commemorate St. Valentine, a martyr in the time of the ancient Roman Empire. His martyrdom has been celebrated on February 14th since before the time of Shakespeare. Throughout the years the holiday has become less of a religious holiday and more of a day to celebrate romance. I believe that St. Valentine's Day should revert to its religious roots and become more of a day to recognize the martyrdom of St. Valentine.

Over the years, St. Valentine's Day has been commercialized and has lost its true meaning. The sale of Valentine's Day products makes over \$27.4 billion dollars per year, with the average American spending about \$142. While getting your loved ones something sweet to show that you care is very thoughtful, the focus of St. Valentine's Day should not be getting gifts for or from others. Buying gifts for your loved ones is not bad in any way, but the whole holiday should not be focused on it.

One way to incorporate the religious meaning of St. Valentine's Day is by praying to St. Valentine. He is the patron saint of lovers, among many other things, so it is a good idea to pray for him to watch over our loved ones and to aid our relationships. His intercession in relationships is a wonderful thing! Another way to help bring back the religious meaning of St. Valentine's Day is by calling the holiday St. Valentine's Day. Over time, the holiday has begun to be just called Valentine's Day. One easy way to help remember that it is a religious holiday is by referring to it as such.

There are not many things better than celebrating your love for others, so I hope you had a blessed St. Valentine's Day! May Saint Valentine watch over you and all your relationships!



Playing Through A Pandemic By: Addie-Quinn Kammerdeiner

Coronavirus has changed our school quite a bit, but one class that has changed significantly is band. One thing that has changed in band is the fact that no woodwinds or brass instruments can be played by the students. The band has been using all percussion instruments this year, which includes a lot of different sounds! According to Band Director, Miss Erwin, "Playing percussion involves learning to play an endless number of instruments: from drums of all sizes, to tambourines, triangles, sleigh bells, woodblocks, etc., to xylophones, glockenspiels, marimbas, and other keyboard percussion instruments."

Along with alterations in actually playing instruments, the location of band class has changed, as well. Due to more space for larger classes being needed in Faustina, band is now taking place in St. Benedict, formerly known as "the weight room". Miss Erwin finds this new classroom as a pleasant change, stating, "This has been a great location for band, as the classroom has a door that opens up to Seton's backyard. We often take our instruments outside for rehearsal on nice days!"

The band has also been planning for their trip to Disneyworld, which is scheduled for this June! The band has been raising funds for this special trip since the summer of 2019, and they are still very excited to go on their trip and gain a lot of new experiences! After having the trip postponed from the summer of 2020, to Christmas of 2020, and now to the summer of 2021, the students in band are still excited to make their trip happen. The band has been in contact with travel agents who work with young musicians going on performance tours and the agents are still working on making this trip possible for Seton's band. Besides changing the date of the trip, another change has been the location for where the band will be staying which is "the Coronado Spring Resort, which is decorated as a beautiful blend of Spanish, Mexican, and Southwest American cultures."

The student body and faculty are thrilled to see that the band has continued to play on through a pandemic!



VEX Season Update

By: Jenna Novecosky

Seton's VEX Robotics team had a successful season this year, despite the many challenges that came up due to Covid-19. The program consisted of students who met up on Mondays and Wednesdays to make land-based robots that compete in tournaments with other schools. Usually there are regional competitions with all the major high schools in the area; however, Seton was the only team in the state of Virginia to host this year. So far, Seton has been successful at the two tournaments they've hosted, and they hope to host one more this year. Although 48 teams were originally expected, both tournaments had only 12 teams.

To prevent the spread of Covid-19, tournaments were split into two sessions, participants wore both masks and face shields, spectators were not allowed, and social distancing was practiced. As shown in the photos, the tournament from this season looks a lot different than last year's, but everything worked out well. One VEX student shared that, "This year has been a challenge, but we still managed to work through it." Mr. Hoffman, the leader of VEX, will host his annual rookie week in June 2021, for any students interested in joining the club!

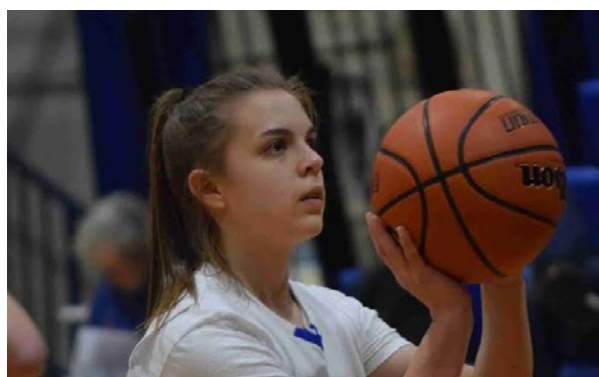


Winter Sports Update

By: Jenna Novecosky

Seton's winter sports teams had a great season this year. Although they didn't have complete seasons, the teams benefitted from a lot of valuable practice time and several games. Mr. P., coach of the girl's JV and varsity teams, states how "The spirit is wonderful, especially when you consider all the games that we have had cancelled because of Covid." Mr. VanderWoude explains how "All teams have had ups and downs regarding team records/scores, but the process has been very rewarding for the players that have persisted and demonstrated the Virtue of the Year: Fortitude." Congratulations to Andrew Nguyen, a junior on the varsity basketball team, for scoring 1,000 total points for Seton!

The Seton Swim Team has been very successful this season. Although Covid-19 brought many challenges, the team stayed strong with over 100 swimmers. At each of the nine meets, which were all hosted by Seton, the swim team, as stated by Athletic Director Mr. VanderWoude, "continued to develop champion teams and swimmers/divers who have persisted in overcoming the odds to grow in excellence!" The Seton girls won the DAC Conference regular season title for the 27th year in a row, with the boys right behind, winning for their 25th year. A huge thank you to all the coaches, managers, and families who made the season possible!



The Secret Danger Show

By: Noelle Peters

Semper Ridiculum, an improv club at Seton, has been performing at Seton for 11 years under the direction of Mr. Matt Moore. Recently, due to Covid-19, the improv troupe has been unable to perform in shows. However, due to the creativity of students they have constructed a new concept to create "The Secret Danger Show". This is an actual show with 4 episodes airing February-March. This new show is following an elite team of secret agents, who uncrack a mystery buried in the basement of Seton. Throughout the broadcast they are integrating improv along with acting into the series. However, this improv will not be done via interaction with a live audience. The audience will fill out forms to instruct the improv members. Once the improv members receive their instructions, they will perform spontaneously to fit the audience's demands. Each show will be around 30 minutes each.

How do I become a part of Semper Ridiculum?

Show up! No one is naturally born talented to do improv. Come dressed ready to move around and with an open mind. Mr. Moore says, "Improv is not about being funny, it's about being clever, thinking faster than your audience, and making everyone around you look good. If everyone is doing that you will have award-winning performances." Improv practices will be in Faustina. If you are interested in joining, talk to seniors Tim Kelly or JP Moore, or you can email Mr. Moore at (m@attmoore.com). Semper Ridiculum is open to grades 7-12 or any family members wanting to come along!



March for life

By: Elizabeth Moore

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the March for Life was held virtually this year. This caused various groups to hold their own activities to mark this sad anniversary. Most parishes and Catholic schools in our diocese hosted some way to honor the unborn and pray for an end to abortion.

On Friday, January 27th, 2021, Seton School honored the unborn by hosting a Rosary procession around the neighborhood. The procession was led by our statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Despite the cold weather, dozens of people came to out to pray as a community and witness to the world that we greatly desire an end to abortion. After the procession, the participants went to the chapel for a holy hour led by Father Ed. Mrs. Ruth McCaa, a Seton teacher, remarked, "It was a devout, thoughtful, and appropriate way to recognize the way of supporting the March for Life [...] I am proud of all the Seton families who came." Many Seton families participated in the holy hours, prayer chains and rosaries offered at their home parishes. While the March For Life may have looked very different this year, the energy of the pro-life movement did not waver and we continue to pray for the soul of our country and an end to the scourge of abortion.



Crisis Pregnancy Centers: There Is Another Choice

By: Elizabeth Dwane

Crisis pregnancy centers are clinics that provide care and support to women and men affected by unplanned pregnancies, especially women considering an abortion. Some examples of pregnancy centers are AAA Women for Choice and the Warrenton Pregnancy Center. These centers offer services such as pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, and positive alternatives to abortion, such as adoption information. They also provide supplies (diapers, clothing, bottles) to take care of one's baby if needed. Additionally, they offer post-abortion support for those who have undergone an abortion, as the experience has proven to greatly and negatively, affect one emotionally. Although crisis pregnancy centers are mostly directed at women, men are also affected by unplanned pregnancies. Mrs. Duran, who worked at a pregnancy center for eight years, told of a particular experience that she had. "When one young man discovered his girlfriend, who I was working with, was pregnant, he actually was excited about keeping the child. However, the young lady was feeling the weight of the world, her fuzzy future and her family involvement and immediately said she couldn't keep 'it.' After covering all her fears, financial, future plans, options of keeping the child or putting the child up for adoption, she was still very hesitant. The young man stormed out and punched the steel dumpster outside our building and broke every bone in his hand. It was a very sad but unfortunately a very common scenario where the girl is traumatized and desires an abortion, which means death of a father's child." Crisis pregnancy centers offer healing, support, and a variety of options for all those affected by unplanned pregnancies and abortions, striving to guide their clients to the right decisions and assist them in any way.

Lent: A Spiritual Journey

By: Elizabeth Dwane

Lent has introduced itself back into our lives for yet another forty days. As this year's spiritual journey begins, it is important to approach it with the right mindset and make the best effort to give God the best Lent you can give him. According to Mrs. Carroll, "Don't look at Lent as a negative time involving giving things up. It is a positive time to grow in virtue and, therefore, to grow more in love with Jesus Christ. We should approach the end of Lent with excitement—not because we can start enjoying what we gave up. Rather, we should now appreciate much more what Jesus did for us on the Cross." Additionally, the first Beatitude, "blessed are the poor in spirit," is a beautiful concept to keep in mind. According to Mrs. Duran, who teaches tenth grade girls' religion class, "The key to this beatitude is detachment (if you detach from some unhealthy behavior, you'll actually be adding a virtue). Without this beatitude, the remaining seven are tough to follow." She added that it is important to look at what is drawing us away from our heavenly goal. A helpful way to combat this is to "draw a pie chart and assign percentages to each area of your life, including physical workouts, social time, screen time, student or job time, pursuit of holiness time (prayer, charitable work, Mass)." Looking at this chart can help determine your current priorities versus what they should be.

A common issue that we run into during the Lenten season is falling back on sacrifices. However, when this happens, it is important to not dwell on the mistake and instead look forward, putting forth the effort to sacrifice the next day. As put by Mrs. Carroll, "Thank Jesus for a new opportunity to make a sacrifice for Him and ask His help in persevering." Additionally, it is not wise to take on impossible sacrifices that are nearly unmanageable. Instead, Mrs. Carroll adds that you should "start with manageable things and then as Lent goes on, and you are being faithful, add something more as you get closer to Good Friday." However, it is equally as important to add positive things to our life during

Lent as it is to fast. A couple of examples are making the effort to attend daily Mass, putting aside time each day to meditate upon the Scriptures, or something as simple as doing an extra chore for a sibling or parent. Another idea would be to join Mr. Heisler in the chapel after school for the Consecration to Jesus Through Mary, as suggested by Mrs. Carroll. Another good addition to the Lenten experience is reading spiritual books, which can serve as meditations in preparation for Easter. Some recommendations by Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Duran will be listed after this article.

Lent is a beautiful time of year filled with fasting, prayer, and sacrifice. It is a time of repentance, spiritual growth, and meditation whilst preparing for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Lenten journey should be guiding one closer and closer to the ultimate and eternal goal, Heaven.

Spiritual Books:

- Lenten Meditations with Fulton Sheen by Fulton Sheen
- Lent and Easter Wisdom from Fulton J. Sheen by Fulton Sheen
- Tears of Christ by St. John Henry Newman
- 33 Days to Merciful Love by Father Gaitley (or any of the 33 Days books)
- A Woman Wrapped in Silence by Father John Lynch (available from Amazon or AbeBooks)
- Suggestion by Mrs. Carroll: "In Chapter XV, the reader will stand beside Mary at the foot of the Cross. This chapter is 50 pages which need to be read slowly and prayerfully, a few paragraphs at a time. On Easter Sunday, one can read Chapter XVI and watch the meeting of the Resurrected Jesus and His mother."



Obscure Saints: Pope St. Hilary

By: Abby Ramos

Pope St. Hilary, also called Hilarius, was born in Sardinia, Italy. He lived in the early 400s. Although he has a “hilarious” name, he was more serious than you’d think! St. Hilarius was known for adding disciplinary laws in the church. Before he became a pope, he was an archdeacon in Sardinia. As an archdeacon, he fought to keep the leadership rights of the papacy. On November 17th 461, St. Hilary was elected to be the pope after Pope Leo I’s death. As pope, he built many chapels and buildings that are still in Rome today. He also fought against the heresies of his time- Nestorianism, the belief that Jesus’ human nature and divine nature were two separate persons, and Arianism, the belief that Jesus never was divine. Most famously, St. Hilary was known for defending the bishops’ rights and helped to reform the bishops. He also defined the Church’s role in the kingdoms as its spiritual leader. Pope St. Hilary had a big impact on history because he helped reform the Catholic Church by improving the bishops, building many holy buildings, and stopping heresies from spreading.



Giggles & Grins Seton’s Silly Corner By: Noelle Peters



The Mandalorian Review

By: Addie-Quinn Kammerdeiner

The Mandalorian is a remarkable TV series that can be found on the streaming service, Disney +. The way the show captures every emotion is awe-striking, and the epic feeling you get while watching gives you a nostalgic feeling, reminding you of the original Star Wars trilogy. The Mandalorian currently has two seasons, and there will be a third coming out in 2022. The Mandalorian is directed by Jon Favreau, although a few episodes had special guest directors including Dave Filoni and Bryce Dallas Howard. The TV series won the Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Award for Outstanding Stunt Coordination for a Drama Series, Limited Series or Movie.

The series takes place five years after the events of The Return of the Jedi, when Darth Vader and the Galactic Empire fell. The Mandalorian follows the story of a bounty hunter named Din Djarin, who belongs to the religion of the Mandalore. Din Djarin's religion requires him to wear a mask and never show his face to another living creature, which causes a big problem later in the first season. Din Djarin is hired by an old Imperial officer to retrieve The Child (also affectionately called Baby Yoda by adoring fans).

Din Djarin then goes on his quest to find The Child and bring him back to ex-Imperial forces being led by a man by the name Moff Gideon. Once Din Djarin finds The Child, he feels a strong connection to him, especially once The Child uses the Force for the first time. As Din Djarin hands over The Child, he realizes he made a mistake and then his new mission, without any money involved, is to protect The Child. After rescuing The Child from the Imperial scientist, Din Djarin starts his new quest to bring The Child back to his own kind, the Jedi.

The second season of The Mandalorian continues to follow the journey of Din Djarin and The Child's quest for safety. Along the way, Din Djarin meets many familiar faces that we have seen in the original Star Wars trilogy and also in the animated series, Star Wars: The Clone Wars. Some of these familiar characters are Boba Fett, Ashoka Tano, and Bo-Katan Kryze. We are also introduced to more members of the Mandalorian religion that do not follow it as strictly. They reveal their faces and stick together. All of these characters help Din Djarin on his quest to protect The Child and bring him to the Jedi.

This series is by far my favorite TV show! I have grown up watching the Star Wars films and if you are worried about being disappointed by The Mandalorian, I can personally tell you that you won't be. The special effects are spectacular, and you feel like you're watching one of the full-length feature films, every episode! You grow extremely fond of the characters and each episode will have you wanting to binge all of them in one sitting.

I definitely recommend this series to any Star Wars fans out there, along with sci-fi fans, in general! The show even has an "old western" feel to it so if, you enjoy those types of films with action, this is definitely the show for you!



DIY Cloud Earrings

By: Abby Ramos

Supplies:

- Oven bake or polymer clay
- 2 eye hooks
- 2 earring hooks
- A jewelry plier OR wire plier
- Sewing pin (to cut-this is what I used) or an X-acto Knife

Instructions:

1. Roll the clay into a ball slightly smaller than a centimeter
2. Split the clay ball in half
3. Roll out the clay halves on one side then turn the clay and roll again to making a wide oval
4. Cut four slits- two off the center and one on each side
5. Shape the slits to be round, cutting the excess
6. Put the eye hook on the top
7. Add more clay near the eye hook if needed to cover the eye
8. Put on a baking tray covered in aluminum and bake at 275° F for 10-15 minutes
9. Let earrings cool completely
10. Open the hook's loop then carefully put the opened loop at the bottom through the eye hook
11. Put the earring through, good side facing away from the hook and carefully close the opened earring hook loop



St. Patrick's Day DIY and Recipe By: Charlotte Yelvington

Copypcat McDonald's Shamrock Shake

Prep Time: 2 Minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 large scoops of vanilla ice cream (about ¼ cup each)
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 6 drops of green food coloring
- Whipped cream for topping
- Maraschino cherry for topping

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a blender, mix vanilla ice cream, heavy cream, peppermint extract, and food coloring until completely smooth, then pour into a glass. (Tip- If the ingredients get stuck, don't add more heavy cream! Just mix with a spoon until it isn't stuck anymore.)
2. Top with whipped cream and a cherry before serving.
3. Enjoy your Shamrock Shake!



DIY Leprechaun Trap

STEP 1: Gather your supplies

Supplies needed to make a leprechaun trap:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • Colored Craft Paper | • Pencil |
| • Scissors | • Craft Glue |
| • Craft Sticks | • Acrylic Paint |
| • Gold Craft Glitter | • Sequins |
| • Needle and Thread | • Beads |
| • Twigs | • Tin Can |

STEP 2: Prepare the tin can

Cut a piece of green craft paper and glue it around the outside of the can. Make sure it covers the whole can and trim off any excess. Once you have done that, fill the can with some small pebbles or stones.

STEP 3: Prepare your rainbow and pot of gold

Cut out individual pieces of construction paper for each color of the rainbow. Glue the pieces on to a semi-circle shaped board. Attach to a popsicle stick.

For the pot of gold, cut out a pot shape from black construction paper. Place on a board with some overlap on the top. Use glitter glue to make the top look like gold.

STEP 4: Prepare the ladder

You will need 2 full-sized craft sticks and another stick cut into 5-6 small pieces. Paint each piece with green acrylic paint. Allow time to dry. Once the paint has dried, place the 2 full sized sticks on a flat surface so they are parallel to each other with enough space to glue the small pieces. Glue on the other pieces to complete the ladder and set aside.

STEP 5: Prepare the remaining pieces

Prepare a needle and thread and then thread the beads onto the thread. Be sure to leave some thread on each end because your string of beads will need to be tied to two small twigs.

As an alternative, you can cut out triangles from craft paper and stick them on a piece of thread to make a bunting.

STEP 6: Finalize the leprechaun trap

You now have all the pieces needed for making a leprechaun trap! Finish up by decorating the tin can with all the items. You can even add more if there is anything you think you need to add to make this the perfect leprechaun trap! You could even sprinkle some Lucky Charms cereal for an enticing bait!

