



# THE INQUISITOR

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## A Hyper Steller High School Social

By: Matt Baldwin

High school students had an out-of-this world experience on September 10th at this year's space-themed Back-to-School Social. The annual high school social has always been a much-anticipated event in Seton history. It is a great opportunity for high schoolers to play some games and socialize, and this year did not disappoint participants. With the help of the student government, and especially the Pogue family, this year's social was one of the best Seton has ever had. Students, from freshmen to seniors, came in their best space themed costumes and competed in checkers, Spikeball, and a black hole (or as we like to call it on Earth; cornhole), tournament. There was even a lottery for everyone who entered to participate in, and contests for the best space costume and best checkers player. What really made this year's social special, though, was the space theme. A unique theme that, while seeming tricky at first, really paid off in the end. Students were able to dance to space music, take space-themed pictures, and eat space ice cream, Dippin' Dots, provided by Mrs. Pogue and the Manassas Mall. The gym, where the social had been hosted, was also beautifully decorated with planets, stars, and lights,

which really added to the intended space aesthetic. The decorations and spacey atmosphere truly helped the night feel special. The space theme, a very creative and unique decision, was the core of the social and really made it an amazing time for everybody who went.

"It was a lot of fun and so different...I really liked it," said Charlie Dusck when asked how he was enjoying the night. Just because this year's social was one of the best Seton's had, doesn't mean next year's social won't be better. Mrs. Pogue might have a few more tricks up her sleeve that will make the next Back-to-School Social even better. This year's event was a really fun time for all who went, and everyone should consider going next year. "It's extremely socializing, and it gives people a chance to meet new people," said William Sokban.

A special thanks to all the teachers who helped chaperone the event and to the Pogue family for helping make sure the social went smoothly and for providing all the fun games and contests.



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# Pizza, Pepsi, Polaroid Party Performs Perfectly

By: Matthew Baldwin

The traditional Pizza, Pepsi, Polaroid Party was another successful event in Seton history. The junior high students arrived on Saturday, September 24th, and were promptly greeted to the fun events the Seton Student Government (SGA) had planned for that afternoon, the first being a school-wide Scavenger Hunt. The students were divided into teams, each led by a high schooler, and given clues or prompts they had to follow to complete the tasks, from arm wrestling to dressing up like a superhero. The students loved running around Seton with their friends and trying to be the first to finish. The next game was the classic Red-Light Green-Light, but with a twist. The students lined up at the back of the gym and slowly inched their way to the other side while a song played, stopping when the music stopped playing. But, if they were caught moving after the music stopped, they were disqualified and the high schoolers who were monitoring the game hit them with a dodgeball, lightly, just for good measure. The students were taking the game seriously, making the riskiest of moves so they could be the first ones to reach the other side and not be eliminated.

"I had a lot of fun, especially with Squid Game Dodgeball," said George Linton when asked about the event.

The next event was a good old-fashioned game of Tug-of-War. The students were pitted against each other again, pulling their hardest to make sure they won. And pull hard they did, as two Tug-of-War ropes were broken in half, just by sheer pulling. The students didn't seem to mind though, laughing at the fact they were able to break both ropes. The final event the SGA had in store for the junior high was a long-standing tradition at Seton and also the one of the messiest. The junior high students had to run around the outside of Seton while dodging everything from water, chalk-dust, and multi-colored slime being thrown by the high schoolers. The junior high had to run fast too, because the high schoolers were making sure their throws hit their marks. In the end, the students were able to clean up and enjoy some pizza slices and Pepsi while waiting for their parents to come and pick them up. The Pizza, Pepsi, Polaroid Party was another great success, as it always is thanks to the Pogue family and the SGA. The students had a lot of fun and even recommended that more students should come next year, although that might just be because there's less chance of them being hit by slime if there's more people.



# Welcome Sevies!

By: Shannon O'Malley

Entering Seton in seventh grade can appear scary and overwhelming, but it seems like the Class of 2028 students are fitting right in! It is important for them to realize that their first year is not as intimidating as it may appear and that all the upperclassmen have gone through the same thing. There are so many opportunities for the seventh graders to get more involved including joining clubs and trying out for a sports team. Here are some of the sevies' first impressions of Seton:

## What is your favorite thing about Seton so far?

*"Everybody here is just really nice."*

-Virginia Knight

*"Being on a sports team [volleyball]."*

-Julia Maranian

*"I love the people here."*

-John Goodman

## Is Seton what you expected? Better or Worse?

*"It's better. I thought four minutes [between each class] would be way too short but they take forever!"*

-Meghan Condon

*"I thought it would be stricter, but it's more laid back."*

-Veronica Gonzalez

*"It's what I expected but a little bit better because the teachers are better."*

-Jonas Wilson

## What is your favorite class and why?

*"Life Skills [because] it's really fun when we get to do activities and reading [because] my teacher is my aunt and because I really love reading and writing."*

-Cecelia Kelly

*"Math because it's the easiest."*

-Thomas McGrath



# New Teacher Feature

By: Titus Stanton

With a new school year underway, we have seen a lot of new and enthusiastic faces. While there are a lot of fresh student faces, there are also several new teachers that some of us did not even know were here! The Inquisitor has been able to conduct one-on-one interviews with two of the new faculty members.

## What classes do you teach?

**Mrs. Halisky:** I teach Earth and Space Science (I am subbing for Mrs. Vestermark this year).

**Mr. Koehr:** I teach Advanced Algebra II, 2nd period and from 2003-2013 taught Algebra I and Pre-Calculus.

## What is your connection to Seton School?

**Mrs. Halisky:** I have a senior, sophomore and 7th grader at Seton.

**A2. Mr. Koehr:** We were homeschoolers and my wife decided that she wanted to send our kids to Seton. At first I didn't want to, but my wife overruled me and it is one of the best decisions I have ever made.

## Q3. Why did you choose to teach at Seton?

**Mrs. Halisky:** I love being part of a great community and really enjoy the students. I'm interested in helping the students gain knowledge, but also love being able to express my own Catholic faith in the classroom.

**Mr. Koehr:** I love to teach and help kids achieve greatness. I love teaching the meaning of value to young men and it is also a pleasure teaching my sons and helping them improve.

## What is one positive aspect about Seton that you like and admire?

**Mrs. Halisky:** I really enjoy getting to know the students and other teachers and harassing the office ladies is also a real plus!

**Mr. Koehr:** I love watching the faculty improve and get better and better. Back in the day we didn't have as many teachers as we do now. It's great to know that we have so many excellent teachers like Mr. Heisler and Mr. DiVetri.

## What's your favorite food?

**Mrs. Halisky:** I'm a huge, huge fan of chocolate and was, in fact, voted "Person Most Likely to Get a Tan From Eating Too Much Chocolate" in the 8th grade. A proud moment in my life.

**Mr. Koehr:** Anything that goes well with a bottle of red wine.

Some of the other teachers who are new to the school are Mrs. Heisler, who teaches 7th grade Girls Life Skills; Mrs. Baughman, who teaches Pre-Algebra; and Mrs. Henry, who teaches Geometry.

The Inquisitor staff hopes that these teachers have the best experience possible at Seton School and welcome them into the Seton family!

# The Faith Centers All

By: Emma Fox

Seton School started their 2022-2023 school year with the traditional opening Mass with the whole staff actively stating their commitment to the teachings of the Magisterium. This took place in the John Paul II center on Friday, September 2nd, 2022. After the homily, Father Roos invited all the faculty to come to the front and pledge their commitment to the Magisterium. As the teachers stood before the student body and spoke into the silence, they maintained one voice. The beauty of their oath truly came out clearer than it would have had they drifted off into sections talking at different points in the oath.

As Mr. Pennefather said, “It is important that our community recognize that living the faith is not about picking and choosing what teachings you want to follow but accepting the fullness of Christ’s teachings.” Other students said that it shows “they [the teachers and staff] all come together” (Shannon O’Malley), it “helps the new students to learn what the teachers are there for/ to help knowing that they are teaching the Faith and so students don’t have to worry about them teaching things against the Faith” (Isaac Fox), and it “shows what Seton is about” (Molly Bauer). Mrs. Carroll adequately summarizes the importance of oath by saying: “At the Mass, the entire faculty and Board of Directors will take the Oath of Allegiance to the Magisterium of the Church. This oath is a sign of Seton’s total commitment to the Catholic Church and all of its official teachings.”

This recitation of the Oath of Fidelity was not the only special part of Seton’s opening Mass; at the end of the Mass, Mrs. Carroll presented Fr. Lee Roos, pastor of All Saints Parish, with a spiritual bouquet which was filled out in all religion classes as a sign of gratitude for all the Masses he has said for Seton. Also, Mrs. Carroll spoke of the nonperishables, such as cereal, oatmeal, canned fruit and veggies, oil, sugar, macaroni & cheese, and canned tomatoes that the Seton community generously donated for the Bethany Food Pantry. According to Mr. Pennefather, “The opening Mass, with our donations to the food pantry and Fr. Roos as the Pastor of All Saints celebrating the mass, shows a deep Catholic bond between the All Saints and Seton communities. That bond and unity is something Christ intended in the universality of the Church.” The Seton community is truly blessed to have such a meaningful beginning to their new school year.



# The Queen's Special Day By: Emma Fox

The Queen of Heaven and Earth has had her own special day that both kingdoms celebrate on September 8th since the 5th century. According to legend, on the day of September 8th, a French man was blessed with the vision of Heaven and the angels singing for joy. He was told that today was Our Lady's birthday and Christ wished that the Church on earth would celebrate with the angels. This man went to his Bishop, the future St. Maurilius, and told him of this vision. The holy bishop granted Our Lord's request and established a feast on September 8th for the Church to remember the birth of Our Lady. Later, in the 12th century it was made a Holy Day of Obligation until recent times.

The Bible does not speak of Our Lady's birth, but there are other early traditions and writings from the first and second centuries which describe it. The "Protoevangelium of James" spoke of the infertility of Saints Anne and Joachim. It said that they prayed and were blessed with the gift of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Augustine wrote that Our Lady "is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley." (1)

To remember the Blessed Mother's feast, many European countries have beautiful traditions. In Italy, many women would eat blueberries and around the country each window had a lit candle in it. Bulgarian women took this day to bake bread and share it with their neighbors and the nearby monasteries. In cold Russia, family members went to visit newly married couples and enjoyed a meal together. In Hungary the people believed that the sun would shower roses, so many watched the sun rise in the morning. Processions were held in Greece in honor of Our Lady, and they would end at a church dedicated to Saint Anne. Another custom came from the beginning of harvest time:

*"September is also the grape harvesting month. In some regions of France, the wine-growers celebrate this special feast by invoking Our Lady under the title of "Our Lady of the Grape Harvest." The new grapes are brought to the church where they are blessed by the priest. Several bunches of grapes are tied to the hands of a statue of Our Lady as a special offering to the Queen of the Harvest. After the ceremony, all partake in a festive meal featuring grapes." (2)*



(1): <https://www.holycrosspdx.org/holy-cross-church/september-8-the-birth-of-mary/>

(2): Commemorating the Nativity of Our Lady by Rachel L. Lozowski (traditioninaction.org)

# Successful School Strategies

By: Josiah Albin

New and experienced students alike get overwhelmed at the start of the school year. You might be at the top of the class and still freak out over things; this doesn't mean that you can't get handy tips and tricks for a successful Seton School year. So grab your locker shelves and water bottles, because you are in for a helpful read.

When starting the new school year, one of the first things you'll visit is your locker. Either out of curiosity if you were given a top or bottom locker, or if you just have things you need to put away, every student will want to go to their locker. When you do get your locker, you will want to keep it organized. It is recommended you get a locker shelf to help divide things up. Keeping textbooks and notes separate will help you when trying to quickly change books in between classes. What can also help is to keep your books and textbooks color-organized, and in the order of your class schedule. It might be a headache to figure out and set up, but it will all be worth it when you only have to be at your locker for five seconds while your classmates are stuck looking at book covers, trying to find the one they need. On the topic of lockers, decorating your locker can always be a positive morale boost and give you a sense of uniqueness. Now this doesn't mean you can go crazy and paint your locker and nail things in, but you can always add magnets or pictures to the inside of your locker and if you want to stand out, you could wrap your locker in wrapping paper, just be sure you can remove it. Always remember that you must be able to change your locker back into its original state by the end of the school year, and not cause any permanent damage or alterations to the locker, purposeful or not. But if you are going to have a decorated locker, you'll also want to keep it clean. Try not to leave food or drinks in your locker overnight and especially anything with dairy in it. It's recommended that at least once a quarter you take everything out and clean your locker, from trash to dust, and anything you don't need any more. But that's enough about at-school lockers, let's move on to out-of-school fun.

With the summer over and the school year started back up again, people have lost a lot of the free time they had so easily over the summer. This doesn't mean you have no free time and have to slave away at homework and studying all day; you should still make time to do your homework and study. Either set a time right after school, or set a time when you have to stop doing whatever you're doing and get started on schoolwork. You don't have to stick to just one method, you can swap between them. If you want to do your homework right after school, then always remember to get a snack or something to keep you going instead of feeling miserable. If you want to do your homework later in the day, maybe after dinner, always have a stop time. Have a time when you can put your foot down and go to sleep or relax before bed. Sleep is very important, and you should value your

own personal health. It is recommended that you get eight hours of sleep, so depending on how long it takes you to get ready and drive to school in the morning, you might go to sleep at 11:00 o'clock, or you might get to bed somewhere closer to eight or nine o'clock.

As we look to a bright and successful Seton 2022 -23 school year we must remember to always stay on top of our work. With this school year's virtue being humility, we must remember to enact those good qualities throughout the school year.



# Which Clubs Suit Your Interests? By: Anneliese Orr

**Art Club:** The Art Club is back this year to help you improve your skills and to have fun with others in the Seton community. Whichever level you are currently on, whether it be an absolute beginner or advanced intermediate, the Art Club is perfect for those who want to hone in on their creativeness and talents! Art Club meets every other Tuesday, so we hope to see you there!

**Choir:** All grades are welcome to sing for the choir. Choir will teach you different harmonies in order to make the Liturgy more beautiful. Singing in the choir can also get you half a credit, so the time you invest certainly pays off. Some things you learn in the choir will be very advanced, and sometimes even difficult, but the choir is dedicated to helping you improve whilst you have fun with the other members.

**Creative Writing Club:** The Creative Writing Club is here to help you develop your skills of story writing, character development, and the many other factors that play into writing fiction. The club meets on the last Tuesday of every month in Jerome. The club allows you to let your imagination flow through the ink of your pen to write something that you'd never think possible before. "This Club is special. You are forming skills while also learning about yourself and your fellow students. Many people think that writing is a thing you just do for school, but many people look for an outlet to express themselves, and creative writing can do that" (Addie-Quinn Kammerdeiner, President of the Creative Writing Club).

**Debate Club:** Join the Debate Club for its first year! Not only is it a fun club to interact in, but it also looks good on your college resume. For more details, ask Zachary Moore, the president of the club.

**Data Science Club:** Join Mr. Linton and Mr. Hoffman as they teach Artificial Intelligence. This knowledge is useful in practically every field of study, from hard sciences and technology, to language and the fine arts. The club looks amazing on a college application, and students in the past have gotten into an International Academic Conference for their data science work. "Anyone can join at any time. You don't have to come in with any knowledge of programming or anything else, just with the willingness to sit down and learn" (Mr. Linton).

**Frassati Fellowship:** In the Spirit of Blessed Giorgio Frassati, this club meets for hikes and outdoor gatherings on weekends. It is open to all students, and this club also volunteers for service projects.

**Hope Club:** "My favorite thing about our club is that we get to provide those who are in need with food and school supplies, or whatever else they might need" (Mary Collins, Officer of the Hope Club). The Hope Club donates to impoverished schools in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Italy. The club intends to plan several activities and fundraisers to raise both money and awareness for those less fortunate. "Our club is set apart from others because we are directing our attention to those outside of our own country" (Mary Collins.) The Hope Club is the perfect way to get involved to help those less fortunate.

**Improv:** Semper Ridiculum, Seton's Improv Comedy Troupe, is back for its 10th consecutive year! Contact Matt Moore at [m@ttmoore.com](mailto:m@ttmoore.com) for more information about how you can be a part of the zany, fantastic Seton tradition known as Improv.

**Jazz Band:** The Jazz Band is the perfect place to offer students the opportunity to learn and perform the uniquely-American style of music that is not typically studied in Band. Jazz musicians learn to improvise and perform in an upbeat or laid back 'swing' style" (Miss Erwin). The Jazz Band hopes to one day accompany Swing Dance rehearsals!

**Sacred Life Club:** This club plans trips to pray outside of the abortion clinic and fundraise to help mothers in need of support and charity. The Sacred Life Club also sponsors the faculty v. varsity volleyball game. Join this club as they promote the culture of life. All are welcome.

**Sea Perch:** this is a robotics opportunity for middle school students. Sea Perch Club designs, builds, and operates Remotely Operated Vehicles (Submarines). A regional middle school competition will be held in January.

**Sons of the Most High:** The first rule of philosophy is to know thyself, and we frequently ask ourselves: "Who am I?" Christians and the noble pagans have grappled with this question for centuries, and it is as important today for us as it was historically. Come to talk about the Good Life and, possibly, get closer to answering that question for yourself. Come for fun and good conversation.

**Swing Dance:** Join friends and grab some snacks for a fun, intuitive, and engaging lesson in dancing. The Swing Dance Club offers lessons and guidance for swing dancing, line dancing, and even ballroom dancing. They intend to help expand the knowledge of dancing in the younger generations and to give everyone a fun time every Friday.



# Fall Sports Kickoff

By: Henry Knight

Fall is here, and with its beginning are multiple sports opportunities for the students at Seton! Boys soccer and intramural cross country are two of the most popular fall sports at Seton, and both cater to students from grades seven through twelve. What is your favorite fall sport at Seton? Here is some information on the boys soccer teams, and the cross country team to help you decide!



**Boys Junior High Soccer:** Junior high soccer is a great opportunity for seventh and eighth grade boys to expand on their skills and have a good time. The junior high boys have been very successful so far in the season and currently hold a win record of 7-0 at the time of this writing, winning every game by at least three goals.

**Boys Junior Varsity Soccer:** Junior varsity soccer is an option to all boys at Seton from grades nine to eleven and will challenge younger players to compete against a faster paced game than junior high. The team is led by head coach Pablo Gomez and assistant coach Matt Hassan, who are both Seton parents. The team holds a strong winning record of 6-2 at the time of this writing and shows promise to stack up more wins.

**Boys Varsity Soccer:** Boys varsity soccer is available to students from grades nine to twelve and is the most advanced soccer team at Seton. The team practices four times a week at Valleyview Park and competes in multiple games throughout the season. The team's head coach, Bob Fioramonti, and assistant coach Dan VanderWoude have led the team to a successful 6-2-2 record (at the time of this writing) so far this season.



**Intramural Cross Country:** Intramural cross country is available to all students at Seton School, for boys and girls from grades 7-12, and will challenge them to grow in their running skills. The team is led by head coach, a teacher at Seton, Monica Uebel, and assistant coach Frank Spicer. The cross country team practices and conditions at Signal Hill Park four times a week, and participates in multiple meets throughout the Fall.

# Ladies Fall Sports Kickoff

By: Briana Shillingburg

Coming into the 2022-23 school year, we are introduced to many new opportunities. One thing that never surprises us is the sports that come along with the year. The fall season sports, volleyball, tennis, cross country, and soccer start the games off. Our athletic program offers volleyball and tennis for the ladies. Before one chooses which to participate in or even just watch, let's look into what each of these teams has to offer.

**Volleyball:** Volleyball is a sport which many of the girls at Seton School are interested in. Seton volleyball has three different teams, junior high(JH), junior varsity(JV), and varsity(V). With volleyball having all three teams, it gives more girls the opportunity to play this sport. Let's see what each team has to offer.

**Junior High(JH):** The junior high team is offered to any seventh or eighth grade girl interested in playing volleyball. The coaches for JH are Lynn Heller and Tim Heisler. For junior high girls, it is beneficial for them to be on a team where they can not only get better at the game, but also learn how to be on a team and work with other students. Many of these girls meet new people that end up being lifelong friends. At the time of this writing, the junior high team has the winning record of 5:3.

**Junior Varsity(JV):** The junior varsity team is offered to any eighth through tenth grade girl. The coaches are Gretchen Fox and Annie VanderWoude. The JV team has played many games including a few home games. Many of the home games this season have been on Tuesdays and occasionally Fridays. At the time of this article the JV team record is 2:5.

**Varsity(V):** The varsity volleyball team has players ranging from freshman to seniors. The varsity team plays home games here in our own gym frequently on the same days as JH and JV. Many people from the Seton community come to cheer on the varsity team, especially for the seniors on the team. At the time of this writing, the varsity team has a great winning record of 5:2.

**Tennis:** Tennis, unlike volleyball, has only one team. The girls varsity tennis team is run by Erin Atkinson as head coach and Ann Pennefather as assistant coach. Seton offers tennis for both girls and boys, but in different seasons. The ladies tennis team is in the fall, while the boys are in the spring. The ladies of the tennis team this year have played in many matches this season. At the time of this writing, the team has an amazing winning record of 3:1.

Each of these teams have much to offer and are a great way to get together with friends and maybe even meet some new ones. Go Lady Conquistadors!



# Yours Truly, Julie

**What should I do if my friends are not acting like themselves and are trying to be someone else to please other people? Should I confront them about it, or should I just walk away?**

~Indecisive Ivy

Dear Indecisive Ivy,

I can understand how it may be difficult to be in a situation where you're in a bad spot with your friend and you feel distressed.

Communication is one of the most important things in a relationship whether it is with a friend, girlfriend, boyfriend, etc. I would talk to your friends and tell them how you feel about the way they are acting and how it is bringing you down. Maybe if they realize that what they are doing is making you upset, they will apologize and change how they are acting towards you. If they aren't acting like themselves just to please other people, that sounds like they are being fake and two-faced which is a big red flag in a friendship.

People sometimes change how they act to impress or please others because they care too much about what others think of them.

Depending on the exact circumstance, it may be a good idea to separate yourself from that friendship for a little bit. Try to notice how you feel after detaching yourself from that friendship. Do you feel happier? Perhaps that friendship just wasn't meant to be and that is totally okay. Not all of your friendships are meant to last and you deserve to surround yourself with people who make you feel happy and loved. Although, if they do apologize and change the way they are acting after you confront them, then they probably do care about your feelings and the problem may have just arisen from a misunderstanding or miscommunication. I hope this helps!

Yours Truly,  
Julie

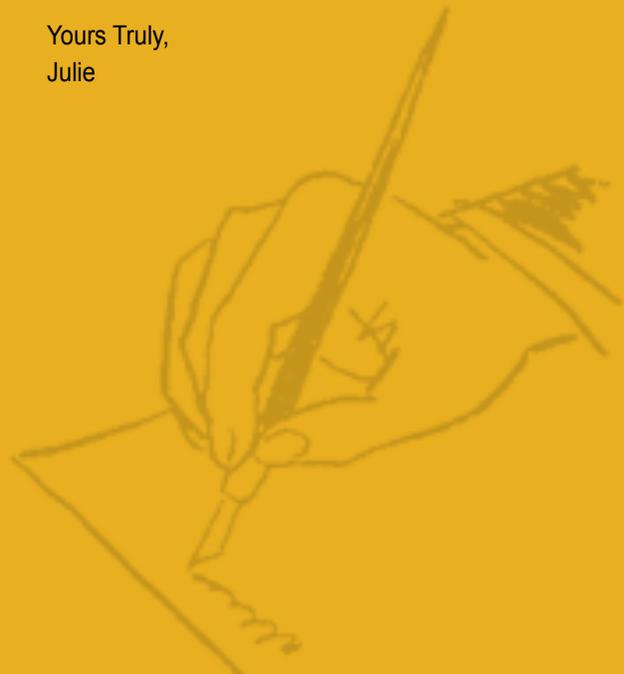
**I've been having so much homework lately and I am overwhelmed with getting it all done. How do I keep my stress levels down and still manage my grades? Help!**

~Stressed Out Student

Dear Stressed Out Student,

Feeling overwhelmed with schoolwork, especially at the beginning of the year, is completely normal! It can be extremely difficult managing homework, family life, friends, sports, etc. You just need to remember to relax and that you can get everything done as long as you stay organized and don't procrastinate. It is a great idea to get your homework done as soon as you get home from school, if possible. As a procrastinator myself, I know that when I finally get my homework done, I feel so good and wish I had just done it sooner. Set a goal and reward yourself when you achieve it because it will motivate you to get your work done. Also, find ways to be productive that work for you such as: listening to music while you study, having a study partner, or finding a distraction-free environment to complete your homework in. When you are tempted to procrastinate, just remember that you will eventually have to complete the assignment so you might as well do it, so you aren't stressing about it later. Personally, it helps me to write down a list of all the assignments I need to get done that day and check them off as I complete them. If you manage your time wisely and get your stuff done, your grades will thank you!

Yours Truly,  
Julie



# It's Time to go Back to School... for the Night.

**By: Briana Shillingburg**

Seton School has many things that they continue to do year after year, one being the Back-to-School nights. The Back-to-School nights are held for both high school and junior high parents.

What is a Back-to-School night? Simply stated, they are mini school days for the students' parents. The parents go to each of their children's classes for what are called "mini classes", and they can get an understanding of what their children will be learning throughout the school year. Some people may say that back-to-school nights are not something that one would necessarily need to go to, but it does have many benefits. Many new families come to Seton every year and these events can help the parents get used to a new school. Not only do the students need to grow an understanding of how the teachers work with them, but the parents should have an understanding as well.

The 2022-23 Junior High Back-to-School night was held Wednesday September 14. The National Honor Society (NHS) members arrived early to set up their table so they would be able to help the parents find their children's classes. The night started off with the parents meeting in the gym for an introduction. After that, the parents were sent off to go to their children's first period class. Each period was 10 minutes long, and the teachers used their short time with the parents wisely. When it came up to the fifth and sixth period classes, which are both lunch periods, the parents were able to go to the gym to enjoy drinks and some sweet treats. Then after that they were sent for the rest of the classes on their children's schedules and that is where the night ended. Many of the seventh graders' parents liked getting to know their children's teacher and learning about what the teachers have in store for the rest of the school year.

The high school back to school night was very similar to the junior high. This back-to-school night was held on September 21, 2022. The night started off the same as the junior high with an introduction. The difference between the high school and junior high Back-to-School night is that not

as many parents end up going to the high school night. The reason for this is because the teachers are ones they have met on multiple occasions. But some parents still attend the high school event because they would like to understand how the year will work and the teachers' expectations.

No matter if the Back-to-School night is for the high school or junior high, it is still very beneficial for parents to go. They come out with a greater understanding of what is in store for their children in the upcoming year and a channel of communication with the faculty which goes a long way in helping them keep their children on track and succeeding.

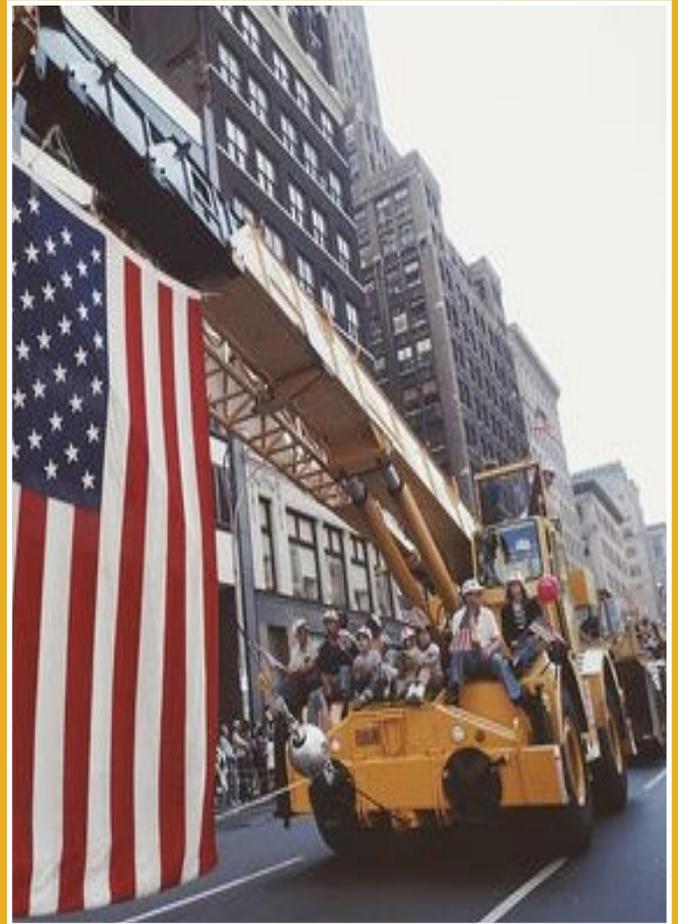


# The Origin of Labor Day

By: Henry Knight

Everyone knows the first Monday of September as a day to relax from school or work and celebrate with family or friends, but does everyone know the reason Labor Day is celebrated in America? Labor Day was declared a national holiday by President Grover Cleveland in 1894 as a response to many protests from workers who wanted eight-hour workdays. Workers had violent clashes with police throughout the previous years. One instance was the Haymarket Riot, which included thousands of workers storming the streets of Chicago to demand an eight-hour workday. Many people worked brutal 12-hour days doing manual labor in factories, railroads, mines, and mills to get enough money to feed their families. Labor Day provided a universal break from the toil that men, women, and children had every day, which allowed them to be together as a family and celebrate during hard

times. Within a few years after Labor Day became a national holiday, company owners began to accept workers' demands for better treatment. The 1938 Labor Standards Act set a minimum wage, limited child labor, and mandated a shorter work week which averaged out to five eight-hour workdays a week. The people took the new work schedule as a gift, and as something they had fought and worked hard for over the years. It is easy to take for granted what we have today, and when work seems like too much, it is important to remember the sacrifices that Americans undertook in the 1900's to make changes to the labor laws. Labor Day is much more than fireworks, cookouts, parties, and bonfires, and while all those things are fun, everyone should take a few minutes out of their Labor Day to think about what the holiday really means to them.



# Staying Safe Schoolyear

By: Josiah Albin

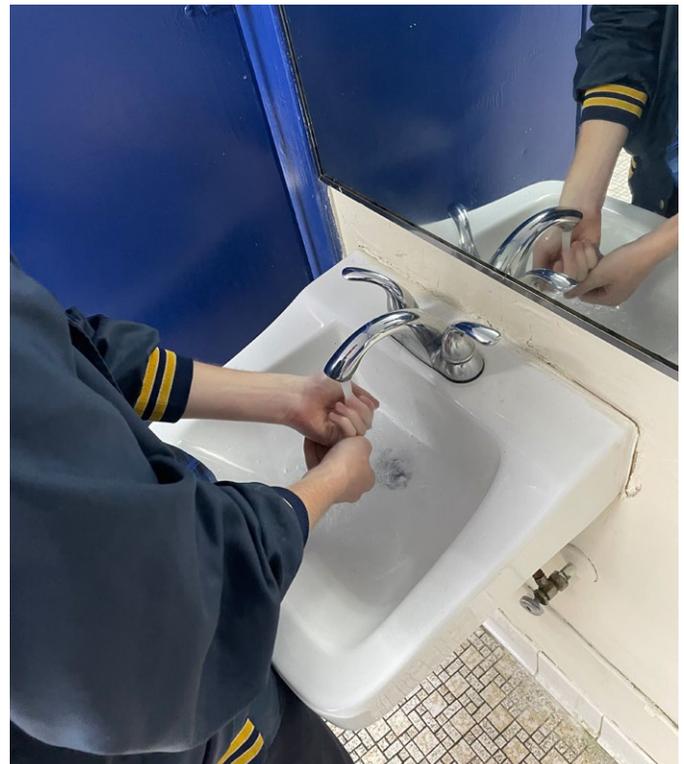
Even if we don't have a global pandemic on our hands, health is still a major priority. Staying home when sick, checking temperatures to be safe, and washing our hands before eating are all good habits. Missing school days might be nice but being sick isn't. Staying healthy is also important for school athletes, keeping yourself in the best condition is always a positive.

In this Seton 2022-23 school year, the times of Covid are well and done. This doesn't mean that you can come to school sick. If you are having symptoms of a fever, cold, or any other sickness, stay home. You don't want to risk spreading sickness around to your friends and teachers. You can always make up notes and tests, so there is no reason to come in sick. It is also bad for you to put your mind and body through the strain of school when you are feeling sick. It may not feel like much to your healthy body, but when you're sick, schoolwork is like loud noises to a migraine. So, remember to always prioritize your own health. You can also stay healthy by establishing good eating habits. Eat your lunch every day, and remember to actually pack a lunch, not just some granola bars, and a banana. Always try to eat a balanced meal and also remember to drink water throughout the day.

Now, this isn't Covid where you get your temperature checked every day before you walk into the building, but you should still check if you're feeling a little rundown or congested. You could be fighting a viral or bacterial infection and not realize it until you check your temp.

While you're at school you also want to have healthy habits. Always wash your hands before and after eating and don't share food with someone at your table. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with hot, soapy water will kill any germs you may have picked up on classroom surfaces. Also, remember not to trash the bathrooms when you use them.

Always strive to stay healthy inside and outside of school. Go easy on the chips and get some regular exercise. A healthy body is always a better body, ready for the adventures and trials of life.



# Which Gun is On Top? *Caution: Spoilers* By: Titus Stanton

In today's modern world, it seems that there is always a conflict going on when it comes to cinema and whether the old originals are better than the new revamps. Everywhere you look you see it: Jurassic Park vs. Jurassic World, Matrix vs. Matrix Revolutions, and The Lord of The Rings vs. The Hobbit. But the new competitors in this battle of the ages are Top Gun and Top Gun: Maverick. Both movies explore the lives and challenges of the people who are a part of an elite U.S. Air Force Unit known as Top Guns. Though both movie titles sound the same, Top Gun and Top Gun: Maverick are drastically different from each other in plot, actors, and setting. In the end, I will critique aspects from both movies and see which one stands as the true Top Gun.

First, I will examine the one that started it all: Top Gun, directed by Tony Scott in association with Paramount Pictures. The plot of the movie focuses on the dangerous life of Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Tom Cruise), a hot-shot Air Force pilot who, with his best friend Nick "Goose" Bradshaw, is recruited into the elite Top Gun school for the best-of-the-best fighter pilots. While training, Maverick experiences many dangers, friendships, and tragedies, with the worst being the death of Goose in a training incident. The movie finally climaxes when Maverick wins the Top Gun Competition, thus giving him the reputation of being the best pilot in the school. When Maverick does become a Top Gun, he decides to become an instructor rather than a fighter pilot, showing that he is not the same, hot-headed rookie and has become more patient and calmer.

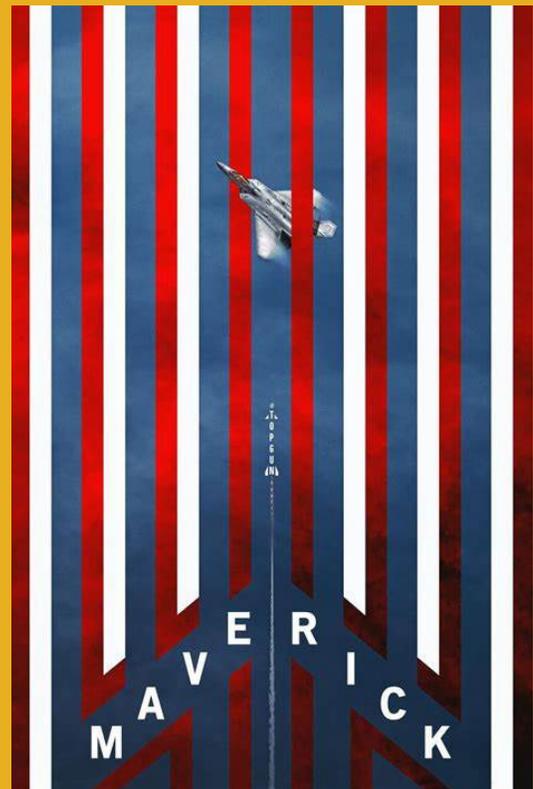
When Top Gun was released in the summer of 1986, it was a smash hit. Created with a measly 15 million dollars, it produced more than 357 million in box office revenue! During that summer, Air Force recruitment skyrocketed by 500 percent. It was nominated for five Academy Awards and was ranked number 455 on Empire Magazine's Top 500 Movies of All Time. Though it was a huge success with audiences, critics were not so enamored. Top Gun has a 57 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, a 6.9 rating on IMDb, and a 50 score on Metacritic. The acting in the movie is surprisingly good due to actors such as Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer in the main roles. The script and plot are on par with any other 80's action movie, though what really takes the cake is the beautiful cinematography used, the memorable characters, and, of course, the F-14 Tomcats that the pilots fly. Though it is far from a cinematic masterpiece, Top Gun influenced and inspired an entire generation of young men and women and is seen by many people as the pinnacle of 1980's cinema.

Now, let us talk about Top Gun's long overdue sequel, thirty-six years in the making: Top Gun: Maverick, directed by Joseph Kosinski in association with Paramount Pictures. The plot again focuses on Maverick (Tom Cruise), who has become an aged old man who is working as a test pilot for the Air Force. After an incident occurs due to Maverick's risky and sporadic choices, he is sent to train the new generation of Top Gun recruits. Among those recruits is Bradley "Rooster" Bradshaw (Miles Teller), the son of Maverick's best friend "Goose". Blaming his father's death on Maverick, he

despises him and doesn't want to take orders from him. Through teamwork, cooperation, and danger, their rift mends and Rooster starts to see Maverick as a friend.

Top Gun: Maverick was released in May 2022. It was welcomed with surprisingly amazing ratings, having a rarely before seen 100% on Rotten Tomatoes for over a month. The movie today has a 79% on IMDb, a 96% on Rotten Tomatoes, and a 90% on Metacritic. It is one of the best-selling summer blockbusters of all time, making over 1.3 billion dollars overall and 123 million in its opening weekend. This movie is a must-see for the whole family. It brings back all the action, humor, and adventure of its predecessor. It has stunning cinematography, great acting and plot, and stellar scenes of real fighter jets that bring back the nostalgia of the first movie. There are some negatives I would argue, such as not as many memorable characters as the first movie. But in this case, the pros of Top Gun: Maverick outweigh the cons, which makes it a movie that every person should watch.

In the end, both Top Gun and Top Gun: Maverick have their pros and cons. But these characteristics, whatever they may be, define both movies for what they are. There are some suggestive scenes in both movies, so an adult should view the movies before determining what is appropriate for their child. Both movies have been able to captivate audiences around the world and become two of the most successful movies of all time. Through riveting plot, captivating action, and humorous characters, Top Gun and Top Gun: Maverick will be enjoyed and inspire many generations to come.



# Creative Corner

By: Anneliese Orr

Creative Corner is an outstanding opportunity to not only express yourself but also to view and become a part of the stories and art that your fellow classmates have submitted. In this issue, the Creative Corner has been blessed to receive many submissions from the Seton Community.

## Retirement

By Anonymous Seton Student

I want to find a place where the people are nice and there's gold in the sky

I want it to be plain and simple and something that's sweet while the time flies on by

I want a big, empty field with a red farmhouse where I play my guitar

And where the weather is warm and the nights are clear so I can count all the stars

I want a nice, loving wife with a beautiful voice so she can sing to my songs

I want our kids to be happy and grow up right so we'll all sing along

I want the air to be living with the chirp of the birds and buzz of the bees

And for the wind to turn orange with the coming of winter and the fall of the leaves

I want to work every morning to keep the house neat until the end of my days

I want to fall asleep one night and never wake up when I pass away

I want the ground to turn soft when they bury me so it's easy for you

And for my coffin to be sturdy to keep the Earth out so I rest in peace too

So when my kids play my songs I hope they think about me

Remember the good times we had, the things they were taught, and how I used to be

And when they die I hope they go to Heaven so I see them once again

Because after I die I want to be waiting for them

## Billy and the World of Of

by Gabe Callaghan

Billy had a strange life.

Not a lot of things happened to him before this happened to him, but from that we can tell that Billy was slightly below average. At some point or other, Billy found a portal. Naturally, as any below average person named Billy would do, he walked in. He ended up in the World of Of. No, it's not an odd name.

Like Billy's life, but even more so, the World of Of was strange. Shortly after finding him-self there, he met a Shnurp, which is kind of like a cat, but not really. Billy looked around. He didn't know what he wanted to do in the World of Of (Billy didn't know many things). He de-cided to take a walk.

At some point along his walk, he found an ugly thing, which had found a girl (and captured her, obviously). Billy defeated the ugly thing with one of those plastic retractable knives that one might find at a dollar store. He introduced himself to the girl, who thanked him for saving her, and then they didn't fall in love, like I bet you thought they would. Billy then realized that in the battle (where Billy fought the ugly thing with the retractable plastic knife that one might find at a dollar store) his Shnurp, which is kind of like a cat, but not really, had died for some reason. Stu-pid Shnurp.

Billy decided to avenge his Shnurp, which is kind of like a cat, but not really. So, he went to the king of the World of Of, who was not very good-looking, and asked him politely whether there were any more ugly things he could defeat. The king of the World of Of said no, which was kind of anticlimactic.

But the king of the World of Of said that because Billy had defeated the only ugly thing in the World of Of, he would give Billy a way to go home.

Billy was only a little excited, but he still forgot about his dead Shnurp, which is (was) kind of like a cat, but not really.

## Falling Short

By Anonymous Seton Student

It was a cool crisp day in autumn, and a hint of pumpkin spice lingered in the air. The steady hum of the city around me put me at ease as I navigated the streets. These familiar lanes on which I frequently walked were covered in leaves. The leaves crinkled pleasantly under my feet with each step, and squirrels chattered noisily in the trees.

It had seemed like a normal workday, and I occasionally encountered the smell of coffee. The temptation amounting to be too great, I bought myself a cup. This was when I collided with her.

The impact had me taken aback, and the steaming hot cup I was carrying slipped readily from my grip. I felt hot droplets of coffee prick me as the lid cracked open. The scalding hot liquid hissed as it hit the sidewalk.

I heard a gasp from the girl as she hurriedly tried to help me retrieve the mug. I froze, embarrassed by my own clumsiness.

"I'm so sorry." I mumbled.

"Don't worry about it—" she stopped abruptly, then continued. "No, I'm sorry. I wasn't paying— I— It's my fault." Her voice was soft and gentle, but a hint of sadness lingered in her tone.

I swallowed hard.

"Here," she said, nudging the mug at my hand. As my hand touched the mug, I hurriedly retracted it.

"Oh!" she exclaimed. "I'm sorry, I didn't notice the coffee on the side." My heart pounded. "N-no. It's fine."

I reached for the mug again and my fingers brushed up against hers.

"I can buy you another if you want. There's not much in here."

I laughed politely. "Thanks, but I should be fine."

"Are you sure? It'd be no trouble at all."

"Don't worry about it. So, what's your name?"

The silence was dreadful, but then she finally responded: "Sophia. -And you? What's your name?"

"My name is Ian."

"Nice to meet you, Ian." Her voice was relaxed. "I should be going now. Is there anything else I can help you with?"

"Er— no. But— uh— before you go, would you like to go out with me for lunch?"

"Sure! I think I'll be free."

"How about around 12:30? We can meet again right here."

She laughed pleasantly. "12:30 it is. See you soon!"

After that day, I knew that she was someone special. I had never felt so good about someone before. More importantly, she treated me with a respect that is rare to find.

Days turned into weeks, and weeks into months. During which, we only drew closer together. Her shy characteristics faded away to reveal a bright, passionate personality. She was sensitive and caring, and little by little I started to realize that she was the woman I loved. The days I spent with her were unlike any other I've ever had. They were full of wonderful memories. Something was bothering me, though, and it had been bothering me for a very long time. Finally, it was time I addressed it.

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The café was cold and dark. The leather gently creaked as Sophia sat down. I nervously fingered the end of my straw.

"Sophia," I started, "I can't do this anymore."

Silence.

"Sophia... you deserve the best, and I am incapable of giving that to you." I gripped my cane tightly between my hands, nervously twisting it back and forth.

"Ian—"

"Please, Sophia, let me talk." Was I really going to say what I was planning to? The emotion suddenly gripped at my heart. My throat tightened as if barbed wire had been knotted in it. I rubbed the base of my nose under my thick sunglasses. "You deserve a man who you can rely on, and I can't even rely on myself! You deserve someone who can call you beautiful... who can see your beautiful face! I'm sorry, Sophia, but I don't have anything to offer. I am... broken. I can't see you. Sophia, I can't see you!"

Silence.

"... do you remember the day we met, Ian?"

"I remember every bit, and it doesn't make sense! Did you pity me, Sophia? Is that why you agreed to go to lunch with me in the first place? Is that why you met up with me every day after that? Why would you choose me?"

"Ian, just listen to yourself! You're speaking nonsense!"

"But I don't understand!" My head spun. "Why do you like me, Sophia? I can't see you. Sophia, I'll never be able to see you! How can I provide for you if I can't even see what's in front of me?! I'm blind!" I buried my face in my hands.

A gentle hand touched my shoulders. "Ian," Sophia slipped into the booth beside me. "Why do you think I like you? Do you really think I'll stop liking you because you can't call me pretty?"

"...It's more than that. I want the best for you, and... I'm not what's best for you."

"Is that what you think? Ian! You are an amazing, kind-hearted, hardworking person. I knew that from the moment I got to know you. You may have a disadvantage that most people don't have to face, but that doesn't stop you, and I admire you for that. Ian, you're the only one who sees me."

I laughed, thinking it was a cruel, ironic joke.

"No, Ian, really. You are the only person who sees me for who I truly am. And no one could ever replace you. Ian, you mean the world to me."

My heart pounded rapidly against my chest. I could feel her warmth and her reassuring presence. I quickly blinked away the salty tears collecting in my glazed eyes.

Sophia's arms wrapped around me in an embrace, and all the sounds, smells, and confusion seemed to melt away. There was only me and her in a second of calm... in a moment of bliss. Somehow, whether I saw it coming or not, I had fallen in love.

Sophia, you were the light in my life when I had none. You gave me confidence in myself when I had no reason to believe I was anything more than disabled. You made me laugh when I felt like crying, and you made me feel like I belonged. You told me that day that I meant the world to you, and the truth is: the whole world, it's just black to me. However, you put an irreplaceable beauty in it.

Let me walk down the aisle and put a ring on your finger and kiss on your lips, and let me dare to utter the words "I do."