



THE INQUISITOR

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U.S Army 3rd Infantry Regiment Visits a Local Catholic School **By: Gabriel Marm**

The U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Regiment “The Old Guard” recently provided ceremonial support for Seton School’s annual “Honoring our Heroes” assembly with special guest, Medal of Honor Recipient Walter J. Marm.

On Wednesday, February 15, Seton School in Manassas, VA, hosted its annual “Honoring our Heroes” school assembly. Each year, Seton hosts an assembly to honor our nation’s heroes, and to inspire the student body with the stories and actions of the soldiers who fought and died for our country. The Seton School PRO (Parent Resource Organization) Board worked in collaboration with the commanding officers of the Old Guard to organize the event.

The Old Guard was formed in 1784 as General George Washington’s private guard and served during the Civil War as the defense of Washington DC. It has, since then, served as the defense of our nation’s capital in the event of a national crisis or emergency and is also the Nation’s highest performing Drill Team. After a few short remarks by Seton’s principal, Mr. Robert Pennefather, the Continental Color Guard marched in to the beat of a fife and drum and the Colors of our Nation were posted. The soldiers of the Color Guard are the same men and women who bear the American Colors during the President’s speeches and other major national events. These soldiers are not only trained as reenactors but are given the same military training that every other American soldier receives. After the Colors were posted, The U.S. Army Silent Drill Team marched into the gym. The Silent Drill Team is the Nation’s highest performing march and drill team. The soldiers of the Drill Team perform all over the country for national events and represent our Nation to other countries by their excellence in performance. “It makes me so happy to have these soldiers at our little school!” remarked Mrs. Dana Marm, who worked with the PRO Board and the regiment to organize the event.

After the performance, special guest Col.(R) Walter J. Marm, U.S. Army Retired and a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, rose to the podium

and addressed the student body. The Medal of Honor is America’s highest decoration for valor, above and beyond the call of duty. Col. Marm detailed his experience during the battle of Ia Drang in the Vietnam War, for which he was awarded the medal. He addressed the students about his strong Catholic faith, and how it had pulled him out of many struggles. “I wear the medal to represent all my buddies who did not make it out.” Col Marm remarked.

Lastly, Mr. Pennefather gave his closing speech, thanking the soldiers of the Old Guard and Col. Marm. With a closing prayer, the soldiers marched once more into the gym. The students were now permitted to talk and interact with the soldiers of the Old Guard.

Getting to talk with the soldiers was an amazing experience for the students. Freshman Gabe Hambleton said, “The experience I had with the Old Guard was exceptional. The honor and respect they showed towards our country was professional. Their performance was very impressive to watch. It made me proud to be an American.”

This was the very first time in its entire history that the Old Guard has performed at a school. The assembly was a memorable opportunity, and privilege, for the Seton students and community to see first-hand the honor and courage it takes to be among those who defend our country.



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Henry Knight

PHOTO EDITORS

Shannon O'Malley
Briana Shillingburg

FACULTY ADVISOR

Mrs. K.

Life Is Still Fighting

By: Emma Fox

2023 brings with it the debate over abortion. Although on June 24, 2022, Roe vs. Wade was overturned, the battle for life is still on going. Supporting the unborn and their mothers is nevertheless extremely critical.

Each state is now charged with the decision to support unborn children and outlaw abortion or allow these murders to continue. Standing up for moms and their little ones will change the world. By showing our love of life and freedom as we attend the March sends a message to all in public office.

Many states held and are continuing to hold marches to support life. Some states have already been strong and outlawed abortion. Make your stand to continue supporting them and to help bring about the end of abortion in the faltering states.

At the D.C March for Life:

“Tammy Milligan came dressed as “patriot Wonder Woman” and stood out in the crowd. She said she never thought Roe v. Wade would be overruled in her lifetime, but the fight doesn’t stop there. ‘We want it to be unthinkable for a woman to have an abortion.’ . . .

“House Speaker Kevin McCarthy offered support in a statement pledging that the new Republican majority will stand with abortion-rights opponents.

‘While others raise their voices in rage and hatred, you march with prayers, goodwill, fellowship, compassion, and devotion in defense of the most defenseless in this country.’ (1)

The overturning of Roe vs. Wade marks a new time for us. Finally, we are starting to step forward. How many babies and their mothers have been saved from death and agony since states stood up for the truth? Abortion ruins all it touches; make it your fight to heal the wounds and prevent more from being made.

Everyone has a right to life, and all should be seen as equal. Success can be found in everyone because God made us all to be free. Our world will prosper as life grows. Unity among all people brings about healing and love. We are all made to be with each other. Each baby conceived is a separate, perfect, individual. Just as God made you, that little one is made for life, freedom, and love. Give them all the chance to achieve greatness. All of us are created by one God. All of us are equal. All of us are destined for Heaven. All of us are made for freedom. We are all called to lift others up.

Even now prayers and backbone are needed. Pray the rosary, did our Blessed Mother not say that she is with us and will hear and answer our prayers. Never stop fighting and praying for life. The battle is not over, but with God it can be won.



St. Valentine

By: Shannon O'Malley

February 14th is a well-known holiday that most people associate with love and romance, but does anyone know where it originates from?

St. Valentine lived in the 3rd century and was a priest in Rome. He became famous for marrying couples who were in love during a time when weddings were outlawed in Rome by Emperor Claudius II. Valentine was sent to jail after the Emperor found out he was performing these weddings. While in jail, Valentine shared the love Jesus had given to him for others and befriended many of the other prisoners. One specific friend he made, Asterious, was so impressed with Valentine's wisdom that he asked him to help his daughter with her lessons. His daughter, Julia, was blind and needed special help and guidance from Valentine. They both grew to be very close friends after a while of Julia coming to visit Valentine in jail to learn her lessons.

Emperor Claudius II offered to set Valentine free from jail if he would abandon his faith and agree to worship Roman gods. Valentine refused to leave his faith and encouraged Emperor Claudius to trust and keep God close to him. Because of his outrage to Valentine's faithful response, Emperor Claudius sentenced him to death. Valentine was beaten, stoned, and beheaded and died a martyr on February 14, 270.

Now that you know more about the saint that gave us St. Valentine's Day, let's look at some popular traditions and how they came to be:

Valentine Cards:

Either store-bought or homemade, Valentine cards never fail to make people feel loved and appreciated. The first Valentine was written by St. Valentine just before his death. He wrote an encouraging note to Julia to stay close to Jesus as well as thanking her for their friendship. He signed it "From your Valentine" which inspired people to start writing their own letters with loving messages for their friends, families, spouses, etc.

Who is Cupid?

Cupid is portrayed as an angel launching arrows to incite love among people. He is typically seen on Valentine's Day cards and is a well-known symbol that relates to the holiday. Cupid has his roots from the Greek god of love, Eros, and according to Greek poets, he would play with the emotions of God and men by shooting golden arrows of love.



A Fantastic Foreign Feast

By: Anneliese Orr

Seton's Foreign Language Week has come around again, exciting the students with traditional food for every day of the week. Each day represented a language and culture. Foreign cuisine was offered for students to buy at lunch and an array of Latin, French, Spanish, and German words were scattered decoratively throughout the school. The first day of Foreign Language Week was opened by the Latin classes. Italian ice was for sale in both lunch periods. The next day, soft pretzels were sold by the German class. This is a fitting class to sell soft pretzels, after all, the pretzel origins are rooted in South Germany. It is believed that the pretzel was inspired by a fasting bread made by early Christians. The shape is still a debated mystery, but it could resemble the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) or the crossed arms of a worshiper. The Spanish class once again pulled off the most successful and popular sales of Cuban Coffee and Churros! As the name suggests, Cuban Coffee originated from Cuba after the Italians introduced coffee beans to the native people. Cuban Coffee is particularly sweet and loved by everyone who drinks it. Churros' origins, on the other hand, are harder to pinpoint. Regardless, churros are delicious to say the least and will always be one of the first to sell out. Finally, completing the week on the appropriate Mardi Gras, was the French class. French cuisine is one of the best and most delicious in the world. From cream puffs to macaroons, the French class did not disappoint hungry students. Foreign Language Week emphasizes the beauty in different languages and cultures and will always be an engaging week for students to look forward to.



Mardi Gras 2023

By: Anneliese Orr

Mardi Gras is a fantastic celebration that spreads itself across several cultures from North America to Brazil. Despite what popular culture says, Mardi Gras is not about partying hard. Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday", is a Christian tradition that allows a feast on the last day before Lent. As we know, Lent requires 40 days of abstinence from rich foods, and mental preparation for Easter. Therefore, Mardi Gras turned into a huge celebration of partying and feasting. Even though Pope Gregory added Mardi Gras as a holiday to the Gregorian calendar in 1582, it was not until the late 17th century that the holiday became a part of North American tradition. It was firmly established in France's territory of Louisiana and has been a very popular celebration in Canada and The United States ever since. In fact, Louisiana is the only U.S. state in which Mardi Gras is a legal holiday. Popular culture emphasizes grand celebrations, picnics, floats, parades, and ridiculous costumes. This way of celebration, although fun and light, might take away from the purpose of Lent. In Lent, we should keep our heads clear of distractions and focus on improving our hearts for God. We should celebrate Mardi Gras with friends and family and contemplate how even though the material gifts given by God bring happiness, the humble sufferings of Lent bring true eternal Joy. Therefore, while you are out celebrating with friends and family, keep in mind the beauty of sacrificing delicious food for God in the weeks to come.



The Beginning to a Lovey Lent

By: Josiah Albin

Ash Wednesday is a special day in the Catholic faith where we all come together and celebrate the start of Lent. But a common question among many people is whether or not it is a holy day of obligation. The primary reason why Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation is because it is a day of fasting, as opposed to a day of feasting. The Catechism of the Catholic Church spells this out in its section on the Sunday obligation, explaining how Sundays and other days of obligation are days of rest, where we commemorate the Paschal mystery.

Ash Wednesday is not just part of Catholic liturgy, it is also found in many of the Western religions. Some religions that also celebrate Ash Wednesday are Catholics in the Roman Rite, Lutherans, Moravians, Anglicans, Methodists, Nazarenes, as well as some churches in the Reformed tradition, including certain Congregationalist, Continental Reformed, and Presbyterian churches. This shows that even if we are different in how we practice our Christian faith, and our faith traditions seem vastly dissimilar, we still have many similarities with each other.



A 40 Day Lent

By: Henry Knight

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 22nd this year. Seton kicks off Lent with its annual Ash Wednesday Mass which sets the tone for the next six weeks before Easter. The 40 days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving pauses only for solemnities and Sundays during the Lenten season. The reason the Church requires us to draw on Lenten practices is so that we may unite ourselves to Christ and do our best to imitate the 40 days he spent in the desert after his baptism. Jesus fasted and prayed during his time in the desert and was tempted ruthlessly by the devil during his 40-day period of isolation. It is important for us to remember that Jesus was tempted to break his fast and to give up his sacrifices, but he did not and instead prayed to God for strength. During Lent, Seton offers many different prayers so that we may be assisted by the power of God during this period of suffering. The number 40 is significant throughout the church's history, as during the great flood it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, Moses spent 40 days on the mountain before God gave him the 10 commandments, and the spies spent 40 days in Canaan. The most important thing to remember during Lent is that we are not alone, and that Jesus is suffering with us and helping us along our journey.



Basketball Wrap-Up By: Henry Knight

This season has been successful in many ways for the Seton basketball teams at every level. Although not every team has a winning record, they have been able to be successful, and to make improvements in different areas of the game.

The varsity boys had a winning record of 15-8-1 and are ranked number eight in the state. Each player on the varsity team has made tremendous improvements individually, and the team has been able to form a special chemistry and to play very well together.

The junior varsity boys, led by head coach and head of guidance at Seton, Pat Geary, have had trouble winning their games this year with a record of 3-16, but have achieved victory in other areas. The players have all learned more about the game and will be much better off next year on whichever team they end up playing for.

The junior high boys had a great season so far with their current record of 10-5. The team lead by Coach Kevin Fox has made massive improvements, and many of these young men look forward to advancing to the JV level next year.

The varsity girls had an excellent season with a near perfect record of 21-6, were VCAC regular season and tournament champs and went undefeated in the conference. Aside from their overall success as a team, Mary Pennefather accomplished a personal achievement of reaching 2000+ career points. Well done and deserved, Mary!

The junior high girls had a learning year with a record of 3-12, but the experience will be valuable next year regardless of the team they are on. The JV girls had an impressive season at 11-7 and will provide valuable assets to both the varsity and junior varsity teams next year.



Swim for the Win By: Briana Shillingburg

Another great sports season has come to a triumphant close. The Seton Swim team had an amazing 2022-2023 winter season, and hopefully will have many more victories to come.

The junior varsity teams' season came to an end on January 28th but the varsity team continued their season until February 11th, at the state championship meet.

This year the selected varsity states team drove out to Lynchburg, VA for the final meet of the year. The girls team brought home the win this year in the VISAA State Championship.

What a wonderful way for the seniors to end their Seton swimming career. This team will miss many seniors next year, including Joe Wilson, JJ Brox, Joey Dealey, Moira Haggerty, Amelia Halisky, Kateri Mantooh, Jacqueline Oswald, Mary Pennefather, and the two seniors who joined the team for the first time this year, Tim Blanchette and Colin Nguyen.

This year turned out to be an amazing season for the Seton swim team. Now many of these swimmers are heading on to new sports for the spring season while others are taking a break until next year. Go Seton!



Seton Science Fair

By: Briana Shillingburg

As a Seton student everyone is required to complete a list of tasks to graduate. One of these requirements is the science fair.

Everyone must participate in the high school Seton science fair one of their high school years. If you come to Seton in the seventh grade, you will also participate in the middle school science fair as part of your Life Science class. Most students complete their high school science fair requirement while enrolled in biology class. Seton science teachers help the students by showing them, step-by-step, how to collect data, write a science report, and present on the chosen experiment. They teach how important it is for things to be done in a precise manner, and how every detail and mistake influences an outcome.

This year the high school science fair was on Wednesday, January 25, followed by the junior high science fair on Wednesday, February 1. The students gathered together in Faustina with their projects ready to present and answered questions from judges.

A student from the high school science fair, Mary Park, responded to a question about her first Seton science fair, "It was stressful to present, and the judges kept asking challenging questions." Many students probably feel the same way Mary felt when presenting.

This year's science fair was a success, and many can't wait to see what type of projects will be presented next year.



Medical Missionaries Dance

By: Matthew Baldwin

This year's traditional NHS dance was another fun-filled evening for everyone who attended. The NHS members helped transform the gym into a magical experience for all who went that night. More than one hundred students showed up for a fun night of food and dancing, and the NHS did not disappoint. Upon entering the school, the students were given a ticket to be entered in a raffle for a pair of wireless earbuds, before walking into the dance itself. The gym had been wonderfully decorated with lights, festive tablecloths, and a photo booth for people to take pictures with all their friends. There was also a food table with croissants, hot chocolate, and a smoothie machine. After the students ate and drank, the music began, and people took to the dance floor.

"The dance was a lot of fun this year. It was really cool to come and see all of my friends and hang out with them." said Jed Albin, "I'm really glad they were able to host the dance this year."

"I had a really fun time and I'm so glad that I decided to come this year with all my friends," answered an anonymous student. After a while of dancing, the music was stopped to announce the winner of the wireless earbuds raffle. After the winner was announced, the music was turned back on, and the students danced the night away.



Washington's Big Birthday

By: Josiah Albin

President's Day, also known as Washington's birthday, is celebrated on the 3rd Monday of February in many American households. It's also a three-day weekend for all Seton students to enjoy with their families and get some quality time at home. President's Day is one of the major patriotic holidays here in the USA. The holiday allows Americans to feel a connection with our founders and gives us a sense of pride in the great leaders we elect for our country.

Although the modern President's Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February, instead of a set date, it was originally celebrated on Washington's actual birthday, February 22nd. When the holiday was first announced, in 1879, it would have been celebrated on February 22nd every year as a federal holiday. But in 1968, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act was passed, making this holiday fall on the third Monday of February. The purpose of this act was to guarantee federal employees a three-day weekend during the month. This means the holiday can now happen anywhere between February 15 to February 21. In later years it became more commonly known as President's Day, since it would become a combined holiday to also celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday which is February 12th.

President's Day is not just for honoring our former US presidents' birthdays, it is also time to have fun with your family. Since everyone will be home you can enjoy themed and non-themed activities to spend quality time with your family. President's Day allows even the busiest of office workers to get a day off and enjoy the often-rare time spent with their loved ones. During the holiday we can also be thankful for all the great things that the presidents have done for us and how they have contributed to our extraordinary country.



Yours Truly, Julie

How can I make this Lent the most fruitful for me and strengthen my relationship with God?

~Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Pope Francis said, "Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert, and live out our Baptism fully." Lent is a wonderful time of year where we as Catholics all try to make more sacrifices and prepare our hearts and souls for the Resurrection of our Lord. You can make the most out of Lent by setting some goals prior to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, such as inserting more prayers and sacrifices into your day or giving something up that you tend to focus more on than God. Setting time out of your day to read the Bible or a daily devotion is also a fantastic idea to keep your relationship with Jesus strong and grow in your faith. I hope that Lent will further you in your spiritual journey and help you to get closer to Christ!

Yours Truly, Julie

I've been so busy and always seem to have a lot on my plate. Sometimes I think I bite off more than I can chew. How can I make time for everything?

~Busy Bee

Dear Busy Bee,

When you enjoy many various activities, your schedule can fill up quickly. There is nothing wrong with having a lot to do and it can even be a good thing to be busy. If you are feeling a bit too overloaded, though, don't forget to take a break when you need it for your mental and physical health. You need to prioritize the things in your life that are important and make room in your life for the things that matter. A great habit to get into is having good time management and using your time wisely. This will ultimately make your life a lot easier when you are juggling too many things. I hope this helps!

Yours Truly, Julie

You Are Royalty

By: Emma Fox

Dressed in their best, eighty-five people with special needs came to the 2023 Night to Shine. All Saints Catholic Church was the host church on February 10th for a memorable night from 5:45 to 9 pm. There was a red carpet to welcome all the guests into the lobby. Many people, both young and old, came out to cheer on the partygoers as they walked down the carpet. Once in the lobby, each guest was paired with a volunteer buddy, many of which were Seton students. The ladies were paired with ladies and the gentlemen with gentlemen for the most part. However, a few guests were extra special, for the greater number of buddies led to a few guests having multiple buddies. In the lobby there were corsages and boutonnieres, a shoe shining shop, and a hair and make-up station for the attendees to enjoy.

All night music played, and everyone got to dance. For at least one guest, according to her buddy, "Her favorite part was her song request...the cha cha slide." Each guest, as well as many buddies received glow in the dark necklaces, and pretend microphones to use during the night to take home with them at the end.

Later in the evening a dinner of Chick-fil-A nuggets with tater tots, macaroni & cheese, and fruit cups was served. Afterwards, a dessert table consisting of chocolate pudding, with optional whipped cream, strawberry Jello, and cookies was set out. All night long drinks from the bartender: lemonade, soda, and water were available. Many people took advantage of the white limo driving around the All Saints' parking lot. The inside was decorated with a lighted floor and ceiling.

The highlight of the night was the crowning of each guest as king or queen of the prom. Tim Tebow showed up on the big screen on the stage and reminded everyone, but especially the guests, that "You are royalty" and that each would need a crown. At that moment, each buddy crowned their guest with gold or silver king crowns and queen tiaras. This was a magical moment for the prom goers, though each showed it differently.

"She looked up at [her buddy] with the brightest smile and didn't say a word. I [the buddy] could just see complete joy on her face."

Another guest cried out, "I am a queen!" and still another "was so happy and was a ray of sunshine." And yet another buddy said that "She loved it!! she was also so excited to get a gold crown this year (it was the first time that some of the queen crowns were gold and not all silver)".

After the crowning, the dancing continued until 9pm or until parents began to find their children and head home. All the

guests, as they left, were presented with a gift bag. The 2023 Night to Shine at All Saints was a great success.

As Mrs. Mary Jo Smith said, "Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs. It was started by the Tim Tebow foundation in 2015 and is celebrated annually through church hosts around the world simultaneously on the Friday before Valentine's Day. This year, there were 620+ churches in the US and 46 countries who participated. This was All Saints' 4th time hosting. We had 85 guests, 130+ parents of the guests, and over 150 volunteers in total, in which 100 of those were from the Seton community!

This is not only a wonderful event for our guests and parents but is also a great opportunity for the local community to give of their time and to be able to share joy and love with our special guests!

We consider it to be our favorite night of the year! I hope you will join us next year as well!"



You Are Royalty Continued By: Emma Fox

Here are some thoughts shared by Seton students who volunteered as buddies for the night:

Mary Catherine Hurley

What was the most enjoyable part of the night?

"Making my buddy laugh."

What inspired you to volunteer?

"I wanted to be a part of giving an amazing night to someone with a disability. Just from watching the videos and seeing the pictures from previous Nights to Shine I could see all the joy they got out of it. I also had never done anything like it before and wanted to get to know and have fun with some really amazing people."

Would you do it again next year?

"Definitely"

What is one special memory you made?

"I was singing Taylor Swift in the back of the limousine with my amazing buddy, Madison. She knew every word and was singing it at the top of her lungs along with the rest of the kids in the limousine. I was happy I got to share that experience with Madison and sing along with her."

Anna Russo:

"The limo ride was pretty cool, but the most enjoyable part was just getting to meet all the different guests. I decided to volunteer because I wanted to be able to help make the guests have a really awesome night. I've never done this before, but I would love to do it again! My guest seemed to have a really good time, she left with a smile, hugging many of the buddies. I had a ton of fun and I highly recommend it."

Junior Girl:

"The best part for me was being able to dance with my buddy and going around with her to help her meet new people and dance with them too. Each guest was super sweet, and it was a really great experience to meet them!!"

What is one special memory you made?

"The excitement from my buddy on her first limo ride ever is something I'll never forget. It was actually one of the best nights of my life. One of the most exciting moments for me was when I saw the guests' reactions when they were walking down the red carpet. I loved how excited and sweet they all

were. Another thing that made me really happy to see was how amazing each buddy was with their guest! Every guest I talked to said that they were having an amazing time! Also, ... I loved helping my buddy meet new people, but honestly it was a life-changing experience for me too! I didn't expect to have so much fun, especially since I wasn't with my friends for most of the time, instead I was spending time with all the new amazing people I met, and I would do it all again in a heartbeat!"

Anonymous:

What was the most enjoyable part of the night?

"The cha cha slide with my buddy...she LOVED IT."

What inspired you to volunteer?

"People said it was an amazing experience, so I decided to try it and they were not wrong at all!"

What is one special memory you made?

"Just simply meeting all of the buddies and getting to know them...they were all so fun and sweet!"

Would you do it again next year? "Yes"

Did you, as a volunteer buddy, have fun? "Yes"



Creative Corner

By: Matthew Baldwin

“My heart leaps up” by William Wordsworth

My heart leaps up when I behold
 A rainbow in the sky:
 So was it when my life began;
 So is it now I am a man;
 So be it when I shall grow old,
 Or let me die!
 The Child is father of the Man;
 And I could wish my days to be
 Bound each to each by natural piety.

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways” by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
 I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
 My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
 For the ends of being and ideal grace.
 I love thee to the level of every day’s
 Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
 I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
 I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
 I love thee with the passion put to use
 In my old griefs, and with my childhood’s faith.
 I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
 With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
 Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
 I shall but love thee better after death.

The Impasta by Anneliese Orr

Acini sighed as her parents listed the rules of going out. She looked nervously out the window, itching to go outside and enjoy the day. Finally, the long speech was over, and Acini was free. Chatting happily with friends on her first venture out of her box, Acini felt at peace. But even outside on a fresh, beautiful day, Acini felt stiff. She looked at her friends with jealousy. They moved fluently and carefree. Suddenly Acini’s friend spotted a spa. The perfect place to relax and loosen up! The friends went inside, where the table clerk showed them to a steamy room. This room had a huge hot tub. The friends gasped in excitement and slipped into the boiling water. Acini hesitated. Her parents always told her to stay away from hot water, but she wanted to fit in with her friends. After a small back and forth in her head, Acini decided “What’s the harm?” and plopped into the boiling water.

The water enveloped Acini, and her mistake was soon realized as Acini’s straight and stiff form softened and bent. Acini screamed as she became soggy and shapeless. Acini remembered her parents’ words: “You are a spaghetti noodle, darling. You are strong and brave and unbreakable. But if you fall into hot water, you will be weak and eaten.”

Acini’s friends were not spaghetti noodles. Upon hearing countless screams for help, they looked around.

“Where’s Acini?” they asked. They did not know where their friend had gone, but they did find a singular spaghetti noodle in the tub.

The moral of the story is to always obey your parents, because if you don’t you will shift into a shapeless noodle, and no one wants to be a noodle.



All Quiet on the Western Front

A Movie Review

By: Titus Stanton

For the past 100 years, Hollywood has tried to capture the brutality and horror of war on the big screen. From movies such as Saving Private Ryan to The Patriot, these movies show how depressing and brutal war can be. But of all of these movies, none capture the sheer horrendous reality of war better than Netflix's All Quiet on The Western Front (2022). It is in this German movie, an adaptation of the 1928 book by Erich Maria Remarque, that the pure essence of war is captured on television and shown to the whole world.

All Quiet on The Western Front follows the story of Paul, a young German who enlists with his friends in the German army during the middle of WWI. Entranced by the prospect of honor and glory, Paul and his friends are elated to know they are being sent to the front line. But as they march along the muddy road and begin to hear the sounds of artillery coming closer, their joy slowly turns to horror. After arriving at the front, Paul sees the full reality of war as he watches each of his friends die over the course of WWI. The story also follows the German military hierarchy as they struggle to find a swift end to the conflict. But as the fighting slowly trudges on, Paul becomes a shell of his former, enthusiastic personality, turning into a battle hardened, emotionless soldier.

All Quiet on The Western Front is an almost perfect example of how war can scar and change people. In the beginning of the movie, Paul and his friends are happy to be serving their Germany and Kaiser. But by the end of the movie, Paul has become void of all feeling and purpose, fighting only to keep himself alive. The movie itself is extremely graphic in its depictions of World War One, showing both horrific and ingenious weapons used on both sides. From scenes of massive bayonet charges to the loathsome life of living in mud filled trenches, the production and accuracy of the movie is astounding for only having a 20-million-dollar budget. The movie itself stands at a striking 91% on RottenTomatoes.com, with critics saying, "A striking and harrowing portrait of the perils

of nationalism, the chaos and madness of combat, and the lasting physical and psychological scars produced by both." Though this is an excellent movie in the historical sense, I would not recommend this movie to anyone who is squeamish, due to its very graphic and violent scenes. But even though it does contain realistic violence, I believe that All Quiet on The Western Front is a movie about showing the true essence of war and the priceless value of peace. It gives the audience a view of war not from some brave, flawless champion who is praised for his heroism, but from a frightened, unknown soldier who just wants to return home. It shows how the German leaders who control men like Paul do not truly care for their lives and only care about the glory they can achieve by their soldiers' sacrifices. In the end, the purpose of the movie is plainly shown: that we must value and honor the sacrifices of those who brought us peace.



Rolling with the Robots

By: Titus Stanton

Throughout Seton's history, there have been an assortment of clubs and societies. Out of all the different clubs and activities that are found here at Seton School, none stand out more than the VEX Robotics Club. With its sprawling variety of builders, programmers, and drivers, this acute group is always ready for the next competition.

Seton's Vex Club is comprised of six teams, 46A, known as Inferno, 46B, known as R-SOF, 46V, known as Venom, 46Z, known as Zamazor, 46F, known as the Fighting Irish, and 46T, known as Terminal Velocity. Each team has approximately four members, all with different jobs and skills. Led by their supervisor, Mr. Mark Hoffman, each team has to create and modify one or more robots to compete in weekly competitions. The teams have an extensive variety of parts and mechanisms to build their robot from scratch. The robots are designed to eject foam discs into a hanging goal in order to score points. Over the school year, each team uses unique planning to improve and remodel each robot to improve speed, control and ejector.

This year, team 46B has proven why they are the best by winning the entirety of the Virginia Middle School State Competition. Using both ingenuity and creativity, they defeated another Seton VEX team, 46V, in the State Finals. By placing high in the State Championship, Seton's VEX teams will travel across the country to Dallas, Texas to compete in the International Tournament, or Worlds. With the Worlds competition only a few weeks away, these VEX teams are pushing their hardest to produce the best robot possible.

So far, the season for Seton's VEX teams has had its highs and lows. While teams like 46V and 46B have been steamrolling the competition, some teams did not secure a place in Worlds. But although they will not be going to Worlds, these teams use this time to learn from their mistakes and to improve their strategy for next year's season.

This year, Seton's VEX teams have strived for and have achieved great success. They have made Seton proud by winning games, competitions, and tournaments, all in the name of Jesus Christ. Seton should be proud of such hardworking and persistent students taking up the mantle of Conquistadors and competing in these competitions, all for the greater glory of God.

