



THE INQUISITOR

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High School Social

by Allison Quispe

The high school Back-to-School Social for this year was a fun PJ-themed social. This event has always been such a great way to start the new school year, especially if you're new. It is fun to meet new people and make friends. This year there were games like pillow fights, checkers, spike ball, and the annual cornhole tournament. Everyone had a terrific night hanging out with friends while drinking delicious Coke Slurpees and eating nachos. At the end of the day, everyone had a blast with friends while eating and playing games.

1. What was your favorite part of the whole event?

Andrea Rivero (Freshman)- My favorite part was probably when Nick Moore and Joseph Dwane sang the toast song.

Gigi Hill (Sophomore)- Being able to spend time with friends.

Robert Gasser (Sophomore)- I liked the nachos and the Coke Slurpees.



2. Would you come again next year?

Andrea Rivera (Freshmen)- yes, definitely.

Gigi Hill (Sophomore)-If my friends go, I will most likely go.

Robert Gasser (Sophomore)- Maybe, but only if friends go.

3. Favorite game?

Andrea Rivera (Freshmen)- I loved the Pillow fighting.

Gigi Hill (Sophomore)- I think chess was the best game.

Robert Gasser (Sophomore)- Cornhole was my favorite.

4. What are your thoughts about the social?

Andrea Rivera (Freshmen)- I loved it. I'll definitely be coming back next year.

Gigi Hill (Sophomore)- If I could change something I would do song requests.

Robert Gasser (Sophomore)- It was ok. I had fun which was good.

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Jr High Scavenger Hunt

by Emily Coreas

Seton had a successful event on September 23rd for the junior high students. The students went to the gym for a scavenger hunt. They had to get some tasks completed and then take a photo from Mrs. Pogue's camera. The winning team was the "Hot Pink Cowgirls". Then some students played bingo. There was also a chalk fight! All the students were throwing powdered chalk at one another. Afterward, the event concluded with pizza and soda.

Kiara Ghering (7th Grade):

"My favorite was the chalk part. Yes, I'll be back next year, I had a lot of fun."

Angela Andreu (8th Grade):

"I loved getting the chalk thrown at me. Yeah, I definitely would love to come next year, and I definitely enjoyed it."

Brian Orellana (8th Grade):

"Throwing the color powder at people was fun. Yes, I would like to come next year, and I had fun."

Jacob Wood (8th Grade):

"My favorite part was throwing toilet paper at Haley. Yes, I would come next year, but I can't because I'm in eighth grade. Yes, I had so much fun, but I got really wet."

Francesca Knighten (10th Grade, helper):

"I had fun and I love throwing paint at people! I would love to come again next year and help out!"



The Jr High winning team, the Hot Pink Cowgirls, holding their prize.

Welcome Class of '29!

by Teresa Curran

Coming into Seton as a seventh grader is always a fun and exciting experience, but it can also seem a little overwhelming. Many of the new students have come from very different schools, while others were homeschooled. It's important for them to remember that all the students here at Seton have been through the same thing.

In the first few weeks of Seton, this year's seventh graders were already fitting into their new school. Here are some of the Class of 2029's first impressions of Seton School:

What is your favorite thing about Seton?

"Definitely sports." (volleyball and basketball) - Charlotte Smith

One seventh-grade girl said, "My favorite thing about Seton is the vending machines."

"I like Seton because I have a lot closer friends here than at my old school." - Eva Clune

Is Seton what you expected? Better or worse?

"It's not as fast-paced as I thought it would be."

"It was more crowded than I thought [on the first day]. When the bell rang in between periods, it was so chaotic. No one was letting me through and then I had to run!"

"It's better! It's bigger and cleaner than I thought it would be. And it's fun because we get to switch classes." - Charlotte Huppenthal

"It's better than I expected. I used to go to HFA, and I like Seton because you get to switch classes, and it's bigger." - Eva Clune

What's your favorite class and why?

"Grammar, because of Mrs. Ciscanik and because it's easy." - Charlotte Smith.

"Life skills, because I like Mrs. Heisler."

"Life skills, because we get to do fun stuff."

Pumpkin Pizazz

by Collette Kramer

'Tis the season of pumpkin spice once again! It's fall- the time of leaves, cool mornings, and everything pumpkin. You name it, they have it in pumpkin, and earlier every year too! While Fall food in the summer seems a *little* extreme, pumpkin is a delicious and fun flavor that deserves to be used for more than just Thanksgiving pie. Pumpkin spice lattes from Starbucks, pumpkin flavored doughnuts at Dunkin', there are so many options! However, despite the many choices at stores and restaurants, nothing beats a homemade baked good. Here is a great recipe you can make at home with a can of pumpkin:

Ingredients:

- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 c. packed brown sugar
- 1 (15-oz.) can pumpkin puree (about 2 cups), preferably chilled
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 c. vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 2 tbsp. maple syrup
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350° and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, pumpkin spice, salt, baking powder, and baking soda.
2. In a separate large bowl using a hand mixer, beat brown sugar, pumpkin puree, butter, vegetable oil, eggs, and vanilla until smooth. Add dry ingredients and stir until combined. (The dough will be sticky and soft.)
3. Using a medium cookie scoop, scoop dough onto prepared baking sheets, leaving at least 2" between each cookie. Bake until springy to touch, about 15 minutes. Transfer cookies to a cooling rack to cool completely.
4. In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat together butter and cream cheese. Add powdered sugar, maple syrup and vanilla and beat until fluffy.
5. Spread filling onto the bottoms of half of the cookies. Place the remaining cookies, bottom side-down, on top. Serve immediately or store in the fridge in an airtight container for 2 to 3 days.

This fun twist on a traditional dessert is perfect for a special treat, with just enough spice and gooey cream cheese frosting.

Have You Forgotten?

by Gabriel Marn

Many of us remember the news broadcast on that fateful morning. Some of us lost the ones we love in the attacks. A few of us fought in the war that raged on for the next 20 years. But all of us know what happened on the morning of September 11, 2001.

For many years the attacks were still fresh in the memory of our nation, but as time passed by, many people have all but forgotten the pain and anger of that day. But these people are those who did not witness the horrors in downtown Manhattan. They were not the first at the scene in Washington. They did not lose loved ones during the attack or in the years afterward.

The lives of countless men and women were completely uprooted by the events of 9/11. Many people still suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress which was caused by the events of that day. There are many people who try to forget the horror of that day. But we should not try to erase the memory of those who perished. The right thing to do is to keep their memory alive, by living a life of love. Our country was awakened that day to how suddenly the gift of life can vanish, and to how painful it is when one whom you love can so suddenly not come home. We cannot assume that there will always be another chance; so, "we must decide what to do with the time that is given to us" (JRR Tolkien). Living a life of love for those around us is the best way to show that we are grateful for the love that was once shared with those who died.

For years after the tragedy, the American people lived this kind of life. Now, however, many people have lost all understanding of what real love looks like. With the loss of this ideal, we see our country treading down a road of disorder and hatred. Our country promised that day to never forget those who didn't come home. We will always seek to keep alive the memory of those who died on the day the world stopped turning.



The Virtue of the Year

by Christina Curran

The virtue of the 2023-2024 academic year is gratitude. Gratitude is a virtue necessary for us to grow in our spiritual lives. A perfect example of someone who practiced gratitude every day is St. Faustina. Although she is better known for her devotion to Divine Mercy, St. Faustina is also the patron saint of gratitude. St. Faustina was born in 1905 and died in 1938 in Poland. Saint Faustina felt a call to religious life at a young age. She later entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and made her vows in 1928. Faustina would make a list of her little crosses every day and thank God for them, even though they were hardships because they were given to her by God. She said, *“Jesus, I thank you for little daily crosses, for opposition to my endeavors, for the hardships of communal life, for the misinterpretation of my intentions, for humiliations at the hands of others, for the harsh way in which we are treated, for false suspicions, for poor health and loss of strength, for self-denial, for dying to myself, for lack of recognition in everything, for the upsetting of all my plans....thank You, O Jesus, for everything!”*

Mrs. Carroll was asked how she wants Seton students to practice gratitude this school year. In the first article of each month, *The Sentinel* highlights a list of gratitude reasons for each five years since Seton was founded. She said that the faculty chooses a certain aspect of gratitude to focus on for each quarter. This quarter’s focus is to accept whatever God sends our way. Mrs. Carroll wants the students at Seton School to see blessings everywhere and not complain about the things that may seem hard. Mrs. Carroll encourages all students to have a positive attitude and to be grateful for everything, even crosses. She also encourages gratitude, especially to parents, coaches, and everyone we may meet

during the day. Finally, she asks that every student find at least five things to be grateful for each night. St Faustina’s feast day is October 5. Pray to St. Faustina that we may learn to practice the virtue of gratitude more easily in our daily lives, especially during this 2023-2024 academic year.

[How to Give Thanks as St. Faustina Would | The Divine Mercy](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=510)

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=510



An Outstanding Orientation

by Colette Kramer

On August 19, the Saturday before school started, Seton hosted an orientation for new students and their parents. Orientation is a relatively new event here at Seton and has been tremendously beneficial in helping new students get a good start at school. A new high school student said, “It really helped me to find my way around the school.” And a seventh grader added, “I think it made me feel more comfortable when school started.”

Orientation opened in the gym, where every student received a welcome bag put together by the student government representatives. Talks were given by various staff members, including Mr. Maher, the event organizer, and an explanation of the planner and how to use it was given. Although the parents were then dismissed, the new seventh graders went through a mini version of their class schedule, and new high schoolers were given a tour of the school by their class reps. The seventh graders also made a handprint wall in Faustina with colorful paint. After attending their classes and paying a visit to the beautiful chapel to pray, students gathered in the gym again for games. They were divided into groups and played various games, including a tug of war. The day concluded with frozen desserts for all.

Besides being a fun and enjoyable way to be introduced to junior high school, orientation helps students to become accustomed to the school’s atmosphere, meet their new teachers and the whole staff, and start making friends that will last their whole time at Seton.



Seton Missionaries in Guatemala

by Allison Quispe Sanchez

In the summer of 2023, a group of Seton students embarked on a week-long mission trip to Antigua, Guatemala. The team consisted of ten students: Julia Starrs, Amelia Geary, Lily Griffin, Annaliese Orr, Camila Lopez, Seth Kellogg, Monica De Micoli, and Gabriela Brown, accompanied by chaperones Ann Martella, Aminda Lopez, and Marilyn Brown. Their mission was to support the children of "Gotitas de Amor," an intermediate school in Antigua, by engaging with them and providing companionship.

At Gotitas De Amor, the students helped the children in their educational journey. Each Seton student was assigned a homestay where they had breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Their daily routine included walking to a Spanish school in Antigua, where they received four hours of personalized tutoring to address their specific struggles with the Spanish language. After classes concluded around noon, the group returned to their host families for lunch and participated in various daily activities.

During their stay in Guatemala, the students had the opportunity to explore the country's rich culture and natural beauty. They climbed a volcano, visited a coffee plantation, and learned the art of chocolate-making. Last year's mission trip was a resounding success, leaving everyone eager for the possibility of a similar experience this year.

In interviews with the participants, several students shared their motivations and experiences:

Gabriela Brown decided to join the mission trip to become more fluent in Spanish, a sentiment shared by Seth Kellogg and Monica De Micoli. Julia Starrs, on the other hand, saw it as an opportunity to improve her Spanish skills and embark on an adventure.

What they liked most about the mission trip varied. Gabriela Brown enjoyed the shopping and spending time with the children. Seth Kellogg cherished the chance to experience a foreign country, help at the school, and immerse himself in a new culture. For Monica De Micoli, the highlight was interacting with the children, even if they spoke rapid Spanish. Julia Starrs found great joy in playing with the children and practicing her Spanish with them.

Guatemala left a lasting impression on the students. They appreciated its beautiful architecture and jewelry, the diverse experiences it offered, and the country's resemblance to other places they had lived or visited. They particularly enjoyed exploring the coffee plantation, climbing the volcano, and visiting the chocolate museum.

Chaperone Señora Martella, the organizer, also shared insights:

Señora Martella explained that Guatemala was chosen because it offered a well-rounded program that combined a faith-based Spanish school with homestays and community-focused mission work. The country's beauty and friendly people were additional reasons for the choice. She enjoyed witnessing her students actively engage in mission work, including their generous book donations. She also appreciated the cultural exchange between Seton students and the children of "Gotitas de Amor."

Overall, the mission trip to Guatemala in 2023 was an enriching experience that left a profound impact on both the students and the chaperones, setting the stage for future adventures and cultural exchanges.



Balancing Sports and School

by Christina Curran

Many people find it difficult to balance their schoolwork with their sports schedules. Especially at the beginning of the year, it is very important that students form healthy homework and studying habits so that their grades do not suffer, and they still are able to enjoy playing on a team. So, how do students enjoy their sports and not feel overwhelmed with schoolwork?

bbb When asked what their number one tip for balancing schoolwork with sports was, a senior student who plays soccer and volleyball said, "The most important thing is to not procrastinate with your schoolwork." Another seventh-grade student, who plays two sports, recommended, "Do your homework during the car rides on the way to your away games. You can work together with your teammates to make it more fun."

bbb Aside from these helpful tips, some tips for studying and keeping up with homework are:

1.) **Use your planner-** Write down the homework you have! It sounds simple but this will make sure you don't forget anything at school and help you keep your thoughts organized. Check off or cross out the homework when you complete it and move on to the next subject!

2.) **Have a quiet workspace-** Get rid of any distractions while doing your homework and studying. If you have your phone near you or if you're listening to music while doing homework, it will take much longer to finish.

3.) **Work ahead (with moderation) -** Even just getting ahead on a little bit of homework or studying on the days that you don't have sports is extremely helpful. This will make it much easier to complete your homework in time if you have a busy sports week. 4.)

Prepare for the next day- Pack your bags the night before! Make sure you have everything you need for your game or practice the next day: your uniform, water bottle, shoes, etc. Pack your backpack the night before, too. Make sure you don't leave any homework at home by putting everything back in your bag after finishing your homework for the night. Preparing the night before will save you stress, and it will give you more time to study in the morning if needed. 5.)

Take neat notes- If you take neat notes and highlight the most important points, it will save stress and make it much easier to study and make study guides! Plus, if a friend asks for your notes, they'll actually be able to read them.



Tips for New Students

by Monica Smith

The new school year has begun, and you might be nervous. Don't be! There are plenty of ways you can feel comfortable in your new school. Firstly, you should try and come out of your comfort zone. Staying within yourself and hiding in yourself will not help you make new friends or embrace your environment. Nora Blanchette, who is a 10th-grade girl and has been here for 3 years, said, "Just being yourself helps you to feel comfortable." She goes on to say, "If you don't feel comfortable, then there is something wrong." This could mean that you are nervous, which is completely understandable, but in the end, you must come out of your comfort zone and talk to people.

Secondly, try introducing yourself to your new classmates, and ask them questions about themselves, so you can learn more about them. This will give your classmates a chance to learn more about you as well.

Thirdly, sign up for school activities and clubs! Seton offers so many clubs and activities, that there must be something you will enjoy! The fall sports have already started but start practicing for winter and spring sports because they will be coming soon!

The fourth tip is to find out what classes you have with other classmates and find a walking buddy. This is a great way to get to know people and make new friends.

Finally, sit with your classmates at lunch. Do not sit in a corner and eat by yourself. This will not help you make any friends. Sit with people and enjoy each other's company.

So, as you move along Seton's fun and exciting school year, remember these tips:

1. Come out of your comfort zone.
2. Introduce yourself to your new classmates.
3. Try a new sport, club, or activity.
4. Find out what classes you have with your classmates and have a walking buddy.
5. Sit with your classmates at lunch.

Clubs and Activities

by Victor Henry

The Activities Fair is an annual event that takes place at the beginning of each school year. The event aims to give Seton's variety of clubs a chance to advertise themselves to Seton's student body. Here is a spotlight of 3 of some of the most interesting and popular clubs to investigate joining.

Chess Club

The Chess Club, managed by President Nick Moore and Mr. P, is the club for you if you want to learn or get better at chess. They meet almost every day during 5th-period lunch for instruction about opening strategies and to practice by playing against other members. The Chess Club is for any range of skill and is welcome to all.

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Club is a low-time commitment club designed to improve writing skills and to have fun doing so. They meet on the last Wednesday of the month from 2:45-3:45 in Jerome (library). During the meetings, members write short stories and poetry, which focus on character development and applying important writing concepts. This club doubles as a great way to practice writing to do better on your school papers, so it is just as useful as it is fun.

Swing Dance

Swing Dance Club is the perfect club for those who love to dance but don't know how. Drop by Faustina on Fridays from 3:15-4:15 with your friends to start your weekend with some fun and music. Join club presidents Maddie Zadnik and Gabe Callaghan as they teach new swing steps and guide the noobs on how not to make fools of themselves on the dance floor. Swing Dance is a fun club for anyone to join, and new members are greatly welcomed. No experience is required.



The Chess Club

by Zach Moore

The Seton Chess Club started in 2023, and has been growing rapidly ever since! During both lunch periods every day, the Seton Chess Club begins their games and starts having fun. Anyone is welcome to join, and or challenge the Chess Club at any time during lunch. The founder and club President[1] is Nick Moore. Nick Moore is fourteen and has been learning chess for the past year and a half. In recent years chess has exploded, taking the world by storm, so it's exciting that we have our very own Chess Club right here at Seton School.

Q: What is the Chess Club?

A: We're an organization designed to improve and develop chess skills and nurture the love of chess throughout Seton School.

Q: When do you meet?

A: We meet every day during fifth and sixth period lunches. We occasionally have events and meetings. After school meetings will be notified via emails, and morning announcements.

Q: Favorite chess opening?

A: The Dutch defense. It leads to very dynamic games and it's very solid; you can play it very aggressively, which I find is often unexpected.

So, if you have a minute free during lunch, stop by and play a game! It's a lot more fun than you ever might've thought.



Looking Fly for Fall

by Emily Coreas

Fall is the time of year when the weather gets colder, and the nights get longer. It is also the perfect time to look stylish and modest at the same time. It's easier to find modest clothes around this time in stores because everyone would like to cover up and keep warm. There are multiple ways ladies and gentlemen can look fashionable and modest this fall. Also, scarves; are they in or out this fall? Keep on reading to find out.

There are some colors associated with autumn. This color scheme can be used for some outfits: deep browns, warm oranges, dark reds, and mustard yellows are examples of earthy colors.

Sweaters: Sweaters are not only comfortable, but they are also on trend. The best sweaters for women can be found at H&M, Charlotte Russe, and Marshalls. Many sweaters have interesting designs on them from floral patterns to geometric patterns. Pullover sweaters are also very pretty. Sweaters for men can be found at Old Navy, Kohls, and even Target. Affordable and stylish can be found everywhere.

Flannels: Flannels are fashionable during the autumn. They can be paired with a sweater or a t-shirt. Flannels have a unique plaid design and come in many different colors. They can be found at H&M, Old Navy, and American Eagle.

Pants: Bootcut pants paired with a sweater is a chic combination in the fall. Cargo and corduroy pants are also stylish for both men and women. They are available at Forever 21, H&M, American Eagle, Hollister, and Old Navy.

Shoes: Boots and slippers are suitable for both men and women. Uggs and Bearpaw are available at stores like DSW, or Journeys, and at the Shoe Department.

Scarves: Are they in or out this fall?

There are many mixed opinions on scarves; some people hate scarves, but some absolutely love them. Here is what Seton students and teachers have to say about scarves:

Luke Wood said, "I honestly never wear them. They're trendy but I don't think the trend is going to stop because they've been around for a long time. I think they look fine on other people."

Alivia Compton had a similar opinion as well, "They look good on some people, but I can't pull them off." Andrea Rivero said, "They personally are not my style, and they're itchy."

It truly depends on how you style a scarf. Some people know how to work a scarf, and others struggle to find the right scarf. There are many different types of scarves like infinity, square, triangular, and rectangular scarves. A soft cotton scarf is a right fit for someone who finds them itchy. A white, beige, or gray scarf looks classy for the fall. So scarves are in this fall, as long as you find the right one and make the effort to knot it with style.



Back to School in 2023

by Emma Fox

Seton School in Manassas welcomes three new teachers into their devoted faculty for the 2023-2024 school year.

First is Mr. John McMahon, a Christendom graduate of 1992. He will be instructing his students in English 12 and Latin I, II, III, and IV. McMahon comes to Seton with 28 years of experience in teaching Latin and 26 years in English from both a public and a small, non-denominational private school. Among the staff at Seton, McMahon points out familiar faces, including athletic director Dan VanderWoude who is also a Christendom alumnus of '92, Jill Pogue, head of the foreign language department with whom he took Latin classes in college and Director Bob Pennefather. For McMahon, being able to teach at Seton has answered his long-cherished hopes. In his own words, "For years I have been dreaming of teaching at a Catholic school. Seton has a reputation for both academic excellence and faithfulness to the Magisterium, so when the opportunity to work here came along, I jumped at the chance."

Another teacher whom Seton welcomes is Mrs. Mary Brand, 1994 alumna. Now as a mother of five, she is coming back to teach Language and Logic to the juniors and Religion to the 8th grade girls. Active as a student at Seton, she continues her role in building up the Seton community both as a teacher and as the head of Seton's 50th Anniversary Celebration committee, whose festivities will culminate in the 2024-2025 school year. The celebration is still in the initial stages of planning, and Brand says, "We hope it [the celebration] will be an opportunity to look back at the first 50 years and give thanks for the blessings God has bestowed on the school and community, as well as to look forward to the next 50 years and beyond." At Seton, Brand is carrying on her career as a teacher. Formally a math and religion teacher, she has taught at Oakcrest, Bishop O'Connell, The American School in Switzerland where she was also the math department chair and dorm head, St. Anne's-Belfield, Chelsea Academy, and The Summit Academy where in addition to teaching she was the Gala Coordinator. As well as teaching in schools, Brand taught CCD classes and is currently teaching a confirmation class at her parish, Precious Blood Catholic Church, in Culpeper. Brand says, "I chose Seton so that my children can have the opportunity to attend the school. My time at Seton made a huge impact on my life, and I am thrilled that my children will have the opportunity to attend as well. I am also excited to give back to the school and reconnect with other alumni and friends through my role in the 50th Anniversary Celebration. I am thankful for the opportunity to work alongside many of my former teachers and mentors, including Mrs. Carroll, whom I greatly admire."

Seton's last addition to their teaching staff is Mr. Charles Chalkley. This school year he will be instructing high school students in both Advanced and regular Biology. In addition, he will also teach Life Science to the 7th grade class. As a Youth Apostle, Chalkley became more closely connected to Seton through his ministries with Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He helped with multiple cookie ministries at Seton and came to know some students. A first-time teacher, Chalkley was asked why he chose to come to Seton. He said, "Over the last two years, I've grown in appreciation of the goals of the school. Other than that though, it has seemed more like God has led me to the school, and I've just been along for the ride."

Thrilled to have these three teachers officially join the school community, Seton looks forward to this upcoming academic year. Welcome Mr. McMahon, Mrs. Brand and Mr. Chalkley.

As they prepare to teach at Seton, the teachers each have their own contribution to give their students and community...

John McMahon: *"I fully support Seton's mission to develop the character and intellect of each student in a Catholic environment. More specifically, I hope to imbue my students with a love for the Latin language and English literature."*

Mary Brand: *"I am looking forward to sharing my experience in non-profit fundraising and event coordinating for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. In the classroom, I hope to inspire my students as my teachers inspired me. I have fond memories of logic and religion classes at Seton and actually still have my notes from those classes I took 30 years ago!"*

Charles Chalkley: *"For the students, I'm hoping to give them not only a love for the subject, but also a better understanding of how God reveals himself to us in creation. For the community in general, I'm hoping to continue to deepen the devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary, as well as contribute to clubs and teams as I am able."*

The Big Brother / Big Sister Breakfast

By Teresa Curran

Entering Seton as a seventh grader can be overwhelming. The new class must get used to all of their new classes, their teachers, their new schedules, as well as all of the events that make Seton what it is. Seventh graders often have many questions, whether it be on homework, or how to make friends. To help them, Seton has a unique program, made specifically for helping the seventh-grade class to feel more comfortable in their new school. This program is the Big Sister/ Big Brother program, in which each seventh grader is assigned a senior that they can go to if they have any questions, and for help to feel more comfortable at Seton.

Mrs. Duran originally had the idea in 2013 and was asked some questions about this wonderful program.

1. What is the main purpose/ goal of the big sister/ big brother program?

“The most obvious one is to help the new kids transition easily. Everyone’s been new to something, and it’s important for them to know that they aren’t alone. If they know that the older students have been in their place, they are more real, more approachable to them.”

2. What are some of the benefits of the program?

“I think the biggest benefit is actually to the seniors. When they are role models for these kids, they must be aware of how they act. When they give their little (sister/ brother) a good experience, it makes the “Little ” be a good “Big” when they are a senior. Their positive experience makes the future seviees have a positive experience, as well.”

Mrs. Duran said that modeling respect far outweighs talking about it, and seniors can have a far larger influence than even a teacher does sometimes.

The Big Brother/ Big Sister program has four major events each year, and this year’s first event was the Big Brother/ Big Sister Breakfast! This event took place on September 14th, during the first period. The seniors all sat with their seventh-grade buddies, and the morning began with the pairs interviewing each other. After a few minutes, the pairs were called forward to share what they had learned about each other. This was followed by a fun game in which each table had to pass a ping pong ball all the way down the table on the spoons given to them. The first table to finish got the first choice of cereal to have for a breakfast celebration afterward. Overall, it was an enjoyable experience for both the seviees and seniors, and the first of many more events to come!



Creative Corner

By Luke Griffin

This is the "Creative Corner," where we feature fun, creative content. Feel free to submit your original poems, flash fiction, drawings, jokes, and riddles to inquisitor@setonschool.com.

Christian Pickup Lines-by Anonymous

So, last night I was reading the book of Numbers, and then I realized, I don't have yours.

I didn't know angels flew this low.

I'd part the Red Sea for you.

You really are a fisher of men because you reeled me in.

Is your name Grace? Because you are amazing.

I would say "God bless you" but it looks like he already has.

"Fruit of the Spirit"

By Deborah Ann Belka

Within each of us,
 the Holy Spirit lives
 and His awesome power
 in our lives He wants to give.
 But, we must feel the fire,
 the burning of desire
 to call upon His strength
 so His might we'll acquire.
 Once we have received,
 this supernatural gift
 our souls will belong to Him
 and our spirit's He will lift.
 For, He'll anchor us in His love,
 in all things, we'll have peace
 and His unexplainable joy
 in our life's will never cease.
 We'll have patience for everyone,
 to others we'll be kind
 His gentleness and goodness
 will fill our hearts and minds.
 People will see that our faith,
 is humble and full of justice
 for our meekness will shine
 as they learn to trust us.
 Within each of us,
 the Holy Spirit lives
 and all of His fruits . . .
 He wants to give!

Fall Sports Kick Off

by Victor Henry

Seton's fall sports have just begun. Seton's cross-country team had to say farewell to Coach Uebel last year who left to raise her two-year-old son Ian. However, this has opened the door for new coaches: Coach Gross, and Coach Lynch. They drill into their team that they should "strive for excellence, not mediocrity". And their new team has already shown some "excellent" results.

bbt In their 1st VCAC Meet, the boys' team placed 3rd overall, falling just short behind John Paul the Great and Trinity Christian. Sophomore Michael Brand clocked in at an outstanding 18:16 time, finishing 12th overall in the 5k boys' race, and 1st place in the JV boys' race. Patrick Gross and Jerome Kramer were not far behind him with times of 18:19 and 18:35 respectively. The boys' team also had 7 other runners who ran their first 5k: John Karcher (20:46), CJ Ghering, and Kieran Kelly (21:40) to name a few.

bbt Meanwhile, the girls' team finished 6th overall, finishing well for a very competitive race. Junior Rose Waldron had a great finish with a 23:27, finishing 15th place in the girls' race. Lily Griffin (23:32) finished 16th, just behind Rose, and Penny Kramer (24:12). Mary Munsell (25:02) and Monica Hartung (25:20) also set season bests. Overall, Seton performed outstandingly at their first meet and is likely to continue the great effort with their upcoming meets.

bbt Seton's Boys Soccer teams have all started their seasons strong with many wins. Varsity soccer, coached by Mr. Fioramonti and Mr. VanderWoude is currently on a 4-game winning streak and have an amazing record of 6-1-2. That puts them 2nd in the VCAC Conference. Philip VanderWoude leads the team with a mind-blowing 13 goals in just 9 games! Luke VanderWoude has also shone this season, scoring 6 goals, and having 7 assists, and Gabe Orellana following behind him with a respectable 3 goals and 2 assists. Seton is looking forward to seeing how far Coach VanderWoude can take this team. States seems very possible for this outstanding team.

bbt Our JV team is also having a great season, coached by Mr. Bauer and Mr. Hassan. Daniel Sokban leads the 3-1 team with 4 goals, with Joe Benin, James Clune, and Michael Munsell also scoring. Junior High is doing well under Coach Cooley. Jack Herwick, Luca Moyers, Luke Munsell, and John Cooley lead the team in scoring, and with a 1-2-1 record, anything is possible for this new team.



Opening Events

by Gabriel Marm

Seton School kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with its annual opening assembly and Mass. Every year on the first day of class, the whole school gathers in the gym for the annual opening assembly. Each year during this assembly, the student body is introduced to the virtue that the school will focus on, and for this year, the virtue is gratitude. Mr. Pennefather summarized that “Emphasizing a particular virtue helps us to see that virtue in a deeper way and look for more opportunities to use the virtue in our daily lives.” And after 49 years of Seton’s existence, we as a community certainly have much for which to be grateful. Despite all the challenges and hardships that this school has faced, through God’s grace, we are not only still running, but thriving.

One of the best ways that we can show our appreciation for all that God has gifted to us is by showing our gratitude and living it in our daily lives. “We can live gratitude by saying many short prayers throughout the day. Also, students and teachers can look to help others as a way to thank God for all the ways He helps each of us,” Mr. Pennefather said. Being grateful for all the small things in our daily lives shows God that we appreciate everything he puts in our day. Mrs. Carroll said, “We must be aware of when we are given something... We cannot take anything for granted.” This includes even the crosses we must bear in our day-to-day lives. Offering up a hard test or a bunch of homework to God shows that we are grateful for the opportunity that it is, and a chance to live and grow in virtue.

The last of Seton’s opening events is the traditional opening Mass. Fr. Lee Roos, from All Saints’ parish, says the opening Mass each year for Seton. After the homily, Fr. Roos invited the staff and faculty to the front of the gym to recite the Oath to the Magisterium of the Church. During this oath, the teachers and staff of Seton pledge to be always loyal and faithful to the teachings of the Church and the authority of the Pope. The opening mass is also an opportunity.

For the new students of Seton to experience the authentically Catholic environment. Mr. Pennefather emphasized that “The opening of school events puts us all in the gym together to pray and convey to new students what Seton is like as a school. We are unique and the opening of school events captures the school’s personality.”



The Seton staff and faculty reciting the Oath to the Magisterium.

Ladies Sports

by Monica Smith

The fall sports have begun! The varsity volleyball team is coached by Jill Vander Woude and Gretchen Fox, who are both parents of students at Seton School. They are both excited for the season and continue to repeat that statement to their players before most games. The team's captains are Mary Curran (libero) and Elizabeth Reese (setter). They have encouraging words on the court, at practice, and games, and get the team hyped up before each game. Varsity's current record is 7-3, with incredible wins against Trinity Christian, and John Paul the Great.



The JV volleyball team this year is coached by Annie Vander Woude and Louisa Wagner. The captains of the team this year are Ella Pogue and Molly Schreor. One of the players on the team said, "So far this season has been really fun because everyone on this team gets along really well, and it's a really fun group of girls. Coach Annie and Coach Louisa make everything more fun!" The current record of the JV volleyball team is 4-6. This could change in their upcoming games against Oakrest, Chelsea Academy, and Trinity school. Come cheer them on!



The Junior High volleyball team is coached by Lynn Heller. Their current record is 2-3. They also face Trinity Christian and Emanuel Christian this upcoming week which should be some tough competition. They are all excited for this season, and hope it goes well! Come cheer them on!

Our Tennis Team is coached by Erin Atkinson and Ann Pennefather. Their current record is 4-4, but that can soon change as they face their next opponent, St. John Paul the Great High School, on September 25th. Their captain this year is Julia Atkinson, who is a senior. Come support them in their upcoming season!



Staff Interviews

By Zach Moore

Gabe Marm-Layout Editor

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

Definitely not 7th grade, nor 8th grade... This year (sophomore year) has been the best so far. No demerits and no mistakes! So far...

Q: Which do you prefer? Ties or bowties? Why?

I prefer Ties. They're just superior. I've always worn ties, it's just what I'm used to doing. I don't abhor people who use bow ties or anything...

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I've done a lot of writing, and this year I wanted to try something different. I feel like I'm a fairly experienced writer, and I hope to learn to write better with time.

Christina Curran-Copy Editor

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

8th grade was the best. The classes were fun. I especially enjoyed geography with Mr. Pennefather.

Q: Which do you prefer? Plaid or blue skirts?

I prefer plaid skirts. Blue is just two plain things, instead of one patterned and one plain. In short, blue is just boring.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

My writings would benefit the newspaper because I could let people know what's going on in and out of the seton community, and let parents know about all of the exciting things that their kids are enjoying about Seton.

Monica Smith-Copy Editor

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

I liked 10th grade. I feel older, more involved. Not the youngest anymore.

Q: Which do you prefer? Plaid or blue skirts?

It's got to be blue skirts. The plaid skirt is more poofy, and I like the solid color of the blue over the complexity of the plaid. You can match socks with blue, but with a complex pattern it's a lot.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I like to write quality articles to educate those who read them. I think it's fun, and it stretches my imagination.

Teresa Curran-Copy Editor

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

Definitely 8th. grade I started becoming closer with my friends, and junior high was just fun because of how easy the classes were. And Latin was fun.

Q: Which do you prefer? Plaid or blue skirts?

Probably plaid skirts. They're equal, but if I had to choose plaid because it looks more like a uniform.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I like writing and talking to people. Like, this month I'm interviewing the seves, and I'm excited to get to know them.

Victor J. Henry

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

This is my second year here. I can't really say anything about this year so far, so I'd have to say last year.

Q: Which do you prefer? Ties or bowties? Why?

Ties are better. Bowties are nerdy. Ties are more official. You've got to dress to impress.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I'm decent at writing, and I think I can give knowledgeable input on sports. I hope to liven up the inquisitor this year. It was boring last year straight up.

Luke T. Griffin-Asst. Editor-in-Chief

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

This year is. I have great classes this year. I am excited to play basketball this year with my friends again.

Q: Which do you prefer? Ties or bowties? Why?

I prefer bowties. Those stupid ties are always getting in your way. Whether it be while getting a drink of water, or going about everyday life, they are just inconvenient.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

My incredible writing skills, and unparalleled imagination. My dad's a writer, and he passed down those skills to all four of his kids, especially me. I got my imagination from reading novels.

Staff Interviews Cont.

By Zach Moore

Emily Coreas

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

Probably 8th grade because of Mr. Hoffman's sugar cubes.

Q: Which do you prefer? Plaid or blue skirts?

Definitely plaid skirts. Blue is basic.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I've always enjoyed writing stories, and I thought it would be interesting to write for others, as I've always kinda written for myself.

Allison Quispe-Photo Editor

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

I loved 8th grade. It was the year I came here, and I got to make a ton of new friends after having been homeschooled beforehand.

Q: Which do you prefer? Plaid or blue skirts?

I like plaid skirts. I don't like blue skirts. The solid color is too boring.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I would try to describe more than what is required and make it more fun. I want to make my articles pumped up and exciting. I want to be more straightforward instead of being foggy with my words.

Colette Kramer-Copy Editor

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

8th grade was. One of my good friends joined in 8th grade, and tons of new friends joined too! In 8th grade it was harder because I wasn't used to homework, but in 8th grade I was used to it.

Q: Which do you prefer? Plaid or blue skirts?

I prefer plaid skirts. Plaid is a really nice pattern, they're more comfortable. The blue skirt pockets are positioned weirdly.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I'm a pretty good writer, and I'm great at editing. I enjoy finding out what's happening around school, and letting others know.

Zach Moore-Editor-In-Chief

Q: What was your favorite grade so far here at Seton?

This year is (12th). My classes are a lot more dynamic and much more fun.

Q: Which do you prefer? Ties or bowties? Why?

I definitely prefer ties. I just never liked bowties much I suppose. Ties are nice and simple.

Q: How do you think you'll be a good addition to the Inquisitor staff this school year?

I hope to add to the Seton Inquisitor staff by writing about interesting, important topics. I hope to be a great addition to the Inquisitor Staff this school year!

Mrs. K.-Faculty Advisor/Teacher

Q: Which grade is your favorite to teach?

That's hard, maybe I don't have an actual favorite, but I do enjoy teaching 7th graders. They're not afraid to participate in class, they're typically polite and like to get to know their teachers, so they're full of questions. I love their energy and enthusiasm to learn!

Q: Why did you decide to teach this class?

In college, I was a Journalism and English major, and I really enjoyed it. I worked at my college radio station and thought for sure I'd end up working as a reporter someday. God had other plans and teaching was where I was meant to be, and I have no regrets. When a position opened at Seton to teach a subject I knew and loved, I knew God wanted me to be here and I'm so happy He did.

Q: Who is your favorite football player?

I think my favorite NFL player is Kansas City kicker Harrison Butker. He is a visible example of someone who trusts God completely in his personal and professional life. He's a great Catholic role model for our young people.

As you can see, this year's inquisitor staff is set to be one of the best ones yet!

JMJ

Inquisitor Staff 2023-24

