SETON CATHOLIC

CARDINAL POINTS

SetonSchools.org

Volume 2, Issue 1 February 2013

God Created Life … At Seton, We Help; We Celebrate; and We March For Life!

Children are the life-blood of our families, our school, our communities and our world. God calls us to love one another, to hold life precious, and to care for those who need care. Seton Catholic answers His call in several ways throughout the school year.

> ***"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart..."***
> - Jeremiah 1:5

Supporting Birthright Ministry

One way is through our support of Birthright. Birthright is an international organization established to help women through unexpected pregnancies regardless of age, race, creed, or economical status. The local chapter of Birthright is housed at 303 South 6th Street, and has been "adopted" by our school because we share the same belief, that "ALL LIFE IS SACRED". Birthright is an independent and interdenominational organization, not funded by, or affiliated with, any specific religious or political group. Birthright provides its services free of charge, and exists because of the moral and financial support of its donors and volunteers.

Each September, Seton walks in the "Walk for Life" to raise awareness and funds for the Birthright organization. Students and their families are invited to make posters and to stand together for life at this event. We support Birthright in other ways as well. This year the student council at our Intermediate Building decided to donate their bake sale proceeds to Birthright to help meet local remodeling needs. To date, over $300 has been raised!

A Birthday Party for Jesus

Another tradition that has become very popular is Seton's "Birthday Party for Jesus". The "Birthday Party for Jesus" is a celebration of Jesus' birth hosted by our Primary Building students. This event brings our entire student body together, students from PS to 12th grade. It is planned to coincide with the epiphany, representing that wise people of today still seek Jesus, just as the 3 kings did over 2,000 years ago. Students and staff are invited to bring $1 donations as "gifts for Jesus" that are donated to Birthright. This year, we had two Birthright representatives, Cathy Funkhouser and Debbie Coleman, join the celebration. They spoke to the students about the organization and thanked them for their contributions.



Seton gives Birthright a F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God), holding over $300 raised at Jesus' Birthday Party, to support a ministry that's close to our hearts!

Right to Life March

January 2013, nineteen of our Seton Catholic High School students traveled to Washington, DC as part of a group representing our

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Archdiocese at the annual Pro-Life March. SCHS junior Abby Dargie was eager for her 2nd March for Life. Recalling her experience in 2011, Abby indicated that the greatest impact for her was, "knowing that so many people were there supporting life." Another SCHS student, senior John Hornak, is attended the Right to Life March for the first time. John said, "I am definitely looking forward to the march, and to being part of the whole experience and seeing so many people there." John went on to say that this will be his first time visiting our nation's capital. "I hope to be able to check out the Smithsonian [Institute]," John said.

High school students also helped place 4,000 red crosses on the lawn at the Intermediate Building to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that led to the legalization of abortion.



Reaching Out

For many years, the students and families from the Primary Building have been reaching out across the globe to help children in need. Through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), we have been able to provide schooling, clothing and other basic needs to children in developing countries like Venezuela, Uganda, Honduras, Guatemala, and Kenya. The children we sponsor are currently between the ages of 10 and 17. When they are grown into adulthood, they are phased out of the program and new children are assigned.

Each classroom has pictures of their mission children in the room, and pray for them by name. Individual classes write letters and send pictures to them as well. Our friendship and love with the mission children and their families grows. The students are growing closer to Jesus because He asks us to love one another as He has loved us. Sponsoring these children is a wonderful way to love as Jesus taught us.

Each month preschool through 2nd grades hold a bake sale to support the Mission Children at lunch time. To date we have raised $366 through our bake sales towards our $1,000 goal.

If your family would like more information on CFCA, please call 800-875-6564.

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Proud to March For Life on Capitol Hill!

Christmas Spirit *by Emily Linginfelter, Senior*

Mr. Tim Love, the music director of Seton Catholic High School, never misses a beat when teaching his band students to always leave a place better than they originally found it. We put this lesson to the test this past December when we were invited to perform a Christmas concert for the residents of Friends Fellowship. Being uncertain of what was ahead, the fifty-four musicians, dressed in their official band concert polos, carefully loaded the instruments and music folders onto a trailer and took a short trip on "Big Blue", our school bus, across town.

Upon arrival, Mr. Love gave brief instructions and a last reminder on proper behavior as the receptionist guided everyone into the performance hall. We quietly and efficiently put the various instruments together and sat in the preplanned arrangement of the band. I could see the anxious and slightly intimidated faces of my peers as they looked around the room and studied the audience members that were well advanced in their years. Our director could also sense the uneasiness of his band, and during the introduction, he invited the students to stand if they had any grandparents or relatives in the audience that day. All of the tension drifted away as faces lit up when family members exchanged hellos.

We surprised the audience by beginning the concert with the singing of our morning prayer. Not many people truly expect a wind ensemble to also pass as a choir. The entire program flowed seamlessly as the band performed music compositions such as A Celtic Christmas, The Holly and The Ivy, and a Cambridge Carol. The audience members soon began to tap their feet with the rhythm or hum along to the many timeless tunes of Christmas. Eventually, as the final note of our concert hung in the air, the smiling audience stood up and gave a loud applause. At that moment, the entire band knew that we had, indeed, succeeded in finding the true spirit of Christmas.

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Happy Birthday Jesus!



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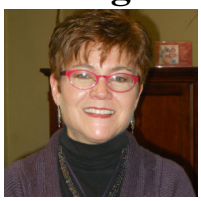
Thoughts from our Elementary Principal…



Dear Friends,

Seton Catholic Elementary is indeed a special place! Not only do our students push to meet higher academic standards, but they also participate in service to our Richmond community. As concerned Catholics, we strive to have our students acknowledge needs in our community and work as a classroom team to address them. Each grade level works on a community project of choice throughout the school year. We have had preschool students singing and visiting at the adult day care center. We have 6th grade students making cards for nursing home residents. Another grade level cleans the gorge area a couple of times in the year. One grade level collects funds to give to the St. Vincent de Paul organization in town. Student Council rallies students to bring in fresh fruits as they create fruit baskets for the elderly at the Interfaith apartments. At the close of the Christmas season, we hold a birthday party for Jesus and students donate one dollar each for Birthright. All of these projects go right back to our Richmond community. Students see the needs and work together to serve others as Jesus did and we fully expect them to continue that throughout their lives. They are learning that we are "called to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another – and walk humbly with God." Through our Catholic education, students learn what is important, both academically and socially, and we look forward to seeing them as a strong presence in our community for many years!

God bless,
Kim Becker

Our SCHS Principal writes…



Dear Friends of Seton Catholic Schools,

The "Grad at Grad" is a central concept that inspires our daily life at Seton Catholic High School. It refers to The Graduate at Graduation, and what we, as a Catholic school, aim to create in our graduates. Each student has been provided with and, hopefully, generously responded to, the challenge to become a young man or woman who is open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, committed to serving others, and one who strives for wellness of mind and body. This "whole person" aspiration is meant to remind us daily of our multi-faceted goals as students, faculty and staff.

An intended outcome of a Seton Catholic education is to form graduates who will respond to others in light of the social and moral teaching of the Catholic Church. It makes our job as educators easier when the community is living the message and leading by example. Early in the fall, the seniors organized a "Baking for Babies" bake sale fundraiser to benefit Birthright. In November, the seniors organized our annual canned-food drive; and one week before Thanksgiving, they delivered nearly 1,600 canned goods to the Circle-U Food Pantry. In December, thanks to a "free dress" fundraiser and penny war, we collected nearly $400 for the local Salvation Army.

The totals in both time given and talent performed by SCHS students are impressive. This year, Seton Catholic High School students have truly embraced our Gospel call to love God and love others. To date, Seton Catholic students have performed more than 2,300 hours of Christian service in our community. Seton Catholic Schools, our local churches, food pantries, animal shelters, Birthright, YMI, and the Historic Preservation Commission are some of the many agencies who benefited from our students' voluntary efforts. I can assure you that our students benefited from their experiences as well.

This month, we celebrate our continual emphasis on excellence...we celebrate being different...we celebrate our uniqueness...we celebrate our special mission to serve . . . and we thank God for the many blessings that he continues to bestow upon us. May Catholic education always have a strong presence in the greater Richmond area.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Rick J. Ruhl

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Spreading holiday cheer!

Sadly, every year more and more elderly tend to be "forgotten" during the holiday season. The student council at the Seton Intermediate Building makes it a plan each year to include the residents at Interfaith Apartments on West Main Street. Student council spreads holiday cheer to their elderly neighbors by delivering fruit baskets just before Christmas vacation. All students in grades 3-6 are invited to pitch in by contributing fresh fruit for the baskets. Students bring in everything from peaches to bananas to oranges, apples and more! In total 96 fruit baskets were delivered this year.

First year student council member, Lydia Reichley, said, "All of the people in Interfaith were smiling as if Jesus was standing in front of them. When they said, 'Thank you and Merry Christmas,' it filled my heart with joy." Another student, Clare Kitchin added, "I really liked delivering the fruit bags to Interfaith Apartments because it was really nice to be able to help people. It was nice seeing the people's faces when we gave them our fruit bags." Sixth grade student, Trent Reichley remarked on the recipients faces as well saying, "I knew I was doing a good thing. I liked



seeing their faces light up as we went in."

We have received several cards and phone calls from the residents thanking our families for all of our generosity and remembering them.

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