The Ed and Helen Reaver Family Media Center has been open to MSS students since September. It was with great joy that we held the dedication and blessing on February 3, 2023 at the end of Catholic Schools Week. (See more on page 3)
Dear Friends of Mother Seton School,

The mission of Mother Seton School calls for all of us to strive for academic excellence and to love and serve Christ in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul. We do this through our commitment to the Core Values of Vincentian Education – holistic, integrated, creative, flexible, excellent in teaching and methodology, person-oriented, collaborative, and focused.

As you will read in this issue of Seton Soundings, our faculty and staff continue to embrace the Vincentian core values in numerous ways, and this year in particular, through collaboration and person-oriented service.

The opening and dedication of the Ed and Helen Reaver Family Media Center is one such instance. Through a collaborative effort between alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and students, we realized a longstanding dream of creating a dedicated space that better represents the best we offer in reading and technology skills. Not only did everyone work together to find the funding, but the design and implementation of the space were done with the input and assistance of members of our MSS community.

Our middle school students had opportunities to practice their collaboration skills through participation in the CyberPatriot program and the Upward Enterprises Challenge Course. Members of the MSS Cybersecurity Club combined their skills to compete in the national CyberPatriot challenge, learning methods of network security and how to prevent system attacks. This education has become all too necessary and important in our digital world. Participation in the Challenge Course allowed students to work together to overcome obstacles—literally—and engage in trust-building exercises designed to demonstrate the power of teamwork.

We were fortunate this year to be able to return to normal activities following the easing of COVID restrictions. This allowed our families, students, faculty, and staff opportunities to demonstrate how we love and serve Christ by helping the most vulnerable in our society. Through various service projects, we collected: non-perishable items for local food banks; coats, hats, gloves, and socks for Frederick County families living in shelters; toys and books in memory of Tommy Laudani (MSS ‘14) for the Johns Hopkins Children's Center 'Snowflake Station'; and toiletries for shelter residents. Donation drives benefitted the American Heart Association and the Maryland Coalition for Families of Frederick County. Students also showed their love by visiting with retired Daughters of Charity, hosting bake sales to benefit local agencies, and even folding 1,000 cranes for peace in our world.

As this eventful year ends, I'm grateful we could gather together again in person, and I look forward to seeing you at the MSS Carnival in May. Meanwhile, we will continue to strive to exemplify the Vincentian spirit and invite you to join us. As St. Vincent de Paul has said, “Let us live together in great charity and friendliness.”

Kathleen J. Kilty, PhD
Principal

BLESSING & DEDICATION OF THE MEDIA CENTER

Photos on right (top l) Ms. Monacelli gave a presentation of the construction that took place during the summer. (top r) Carmel Kelly, MSS ’75, spoke about the family’s gratitude to Ed and Helen for their ongoing love and support and years of dedication to MSS, (bottom l) The Reaver Family: Ed and Helen, children, some grandchildren, and a few great-grandchildren (bottom r) Former MSS Principals- Sister Mary Catherine Conway, D.C. (1995-2006) and Sister Patricia Anne Bossle, D.C. (1979-1983) attended the dedication.
Surrounded by family and friends, Ed and Helen Reaver were honored on Friday, February 3, 2023 at the dedication and blessing of the Ed and Helen Reaver Family Media Center.

Located where the library was previously located, the new Media Center expanded the location by removing several walls and increasing the space to 1484 sq ft. New tables, chairs, and shelves enhance the renovated space. A large Promethean Board, 28 student Chromebooks, and five high speed computers were added to complete any task required in the Media Center.

The children of Ed and Helen Reaver and their spouses decided to do something special at Mother Seton School to honor their parents since they all attended MSS. (Janet '74, Dan '75, Matt '76, Greg '77, MaryAnne '79, Chris '81, Laurie '82, Vince '83, Brian '85; spouses: Carmel Kelly '74, Anne Harris '77, and David Shields '78)

In addition to the donations raised by the Reaver Family, funds were also received from the Knott Foundation, the Delaplaine Foundation, and two-years of Penny Power donations provided by MSS students and families.
MSS STEM FAIR IGNITES CURIOSITY

Each year, middle school students participate in a yearly STEM Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and have the opportunity to perform an experiment or create an invention. Winners are invited to then take their project to the Frederick County Science and Engineering Fair.

Events such as the STEM Fair are an important learning experience for our students. As 21st-century citizens, our students will have to make some of the toughest decisions of any generation based on their understanding of emerging science and technology. STEM fairs involve students in the practice of science and engineering, requiring them to apply those skills to a topic of interest to them. As Mrs. Kuykendall, Middle School Science teacher says, "Doing science is the key to understanding science."

Grand Champions: Emma and Sarah Simmons

First Place: Gr 6: Giovan Nana, Temperature Effect on Balloon Powered Cars; Gr 7: Catalina Caretti, Stain Removers; Gr 8: Emma and Sarah Simmons, Respiratory Distress Monitor for Asthmatic Horses (Invention)

Second Place: Gr 6: Brian Bowers, Liquids That Prevent or Cause Rust; Gr 7: Noah Riling, Inclined Plane Physics; Gr 8: Olivia Jaeger, Calming Dogs with the Right Frequency of Music

Third Place: Gr 6: Philip Field, Effect of Peroxide Concentration on Forming Foam; Gr 7: Peyton Myles, Efficacy of Homemade Water Filters; Gr 8: Aidan Burnette, Testing Glow Fuel vs. Kerosene in Model Jet Engines

Honorable Mentions: Gr 6: Mackenzie Hager, Making a Geiger Counter; Gr 7: Gabriel Valerio, What Type of Coal Burns the Hottest; Gr 8: Lindjie Ulma and Bernadette Forze: Testing Homemade Root Beer Against A&W
Several students in seventh grade joined this year’s MSS Cybersecurity Team. Team members participated in CyberPatriots, the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air & Space Forces Association to inspire students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In October, students competed in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. Through a series of online competition rounds, teams located across the nation were given a set of virtual operating systems and were tasked with finding and fixing cybersecurity vulnerabilities while maintaining critical services.

Although our MSS teams did not advance in the competition, they learned critical skills and are looking forward to competing next year.

(right) Catalina Caretti and Madelyn Fogle, gr. 7, work on solving a challenge presented during the National Youth Defense Competition.

As a way to begin middle school, sixth graders spent a day with their classmates practicing communication skills, problem solving, and team building at Upward Enterprises Challenge Course located in Adamstown, MD.

Students navigated obstacles by relying on each other, climbed over rope walls as a group, and even had the opportunity to soar through the trees on a zip line.

We are grateful for our partnership with Mount St. Mary’s University, which provided our students with this experience.

(left) Joey Cleaver leads a blindfolded Madison Williams across a rope line, an exercise that creates trust and practices good communication skills.
CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

Students in Mr. Cosentino’s middle school Religion classes were treated to a special visit in November. Mount St. Mary’s Seminarian Michael Hickey, who is studying to become a priest for the Diocese of Fort Wayne, Indiana, brought a first-class relic of Blessed Stanley Rother to share with our students. Father Rother was a 1963 graduate of the Mount Seminary and was martyred in 1981 while ministering to the people of Guatemala. He was beatified on September 23, 2017, and is the first martyr born in the United States and the first U.S. priest to be beatified.

Helping Others Keep Warm this Winter

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration, students collected winter hats, gloves, and socks to benefit families living in shelters in Frederick County. Delivered by the Maryland Coalition of Families, over 380 items were collected and distributed.

Seton Shrine Provides Inspiration

Throughout the school year, our students have the unique opportunity to visit the historical homes located next door where Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton lived, worked, and prayed. In October, it was the sixth grade’s chance to walk in the footsteps of a saint and to immerse themselves in the history, traditions, and faith that are the cornerstone of our Seton legacy.

1,000 Cranes for World Peace

Mrs. Myers’ art students folded 1,000 cranes for peace! The students started at the beginning of the school year and even challenged themselves to try to fold cranes as tiny as they could. The lesson is based on the Japanese legend that if you fold a thousand cranes your wish will come true. Their wish was for peace in our community and in our world!
VISITING WITH THE RETIRED SISTERS

Throughout the year, students are given the opportunity to visit the retired Sisters living next door at St. Joseph’s House (attached to the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton).

In October, students in grade one spent time at St. Joseph’s Ministries (former Villa St. Michael) visiting with retired Daughters of Charity. The students and Sisters enjoyed playing games, coloring and making crafts, and having treats.

In December, students in our Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) club visited the Sisters and created plate designs with things they were grateful for in their lives. The plates were then glazed and given as a keepsake for the Sister and VMY student.

We are blessed to have these opportunities with the Sisters!

COLLECTING TOYS FOR TOMMY

The Toys for Tommy student outreach project was a huge success again this year!

Led by our National Junior Honor Society James Bayley Chapter, new and unwrapped toys and books were collected in November for the Johns Hopkins Snowflake Station, a place where parents can "shop" for free gifts for their children under pediatric care.

This drive was created in memory of Tommy Laudani, MSS’14, who passed away in 2018 from a rare cancer. Our toys were added with those gathered at Delone Catholic High School and St. Francis Xavier School.

Members of MSS NJHS (back l-r) Peyton Faller, Abigail Field, Isabel Brodsky, Sarah Simmons, Gabby Brauning, Gavin Green, Callan Goodman, Millie Benson, Vivian Lewis, Olivia Jaeger, Ryleigh Stouter (front) Ruby Bodnar and Emma Simmons.
GRANDPARENT’S DAY RETURNS

After a two-year hiatus, we once again opened up our doors to one of the most anticipated events of the year—Grandparents Day!

Over 300 grandparents joined us on September 16th and were treated to a continental breakfast provided by our H.S.A., classroom visits with their grandchild(ren), and several rousing performances by our younger students including Kindergarten’s favorite song, Tony Chestnut.

“It’s an honor to participate in Grandparents Day at MSS! My 3 grand daughters are thriving at MSS, and their Pap and I couldn’t be more proud of them!”

-DONNA DONOVAN-

(left) Ava Donovan, gr. 3, enjoyed playing a game with her grandmother, Donna Donovan, during the classroom visits on Grandparents Day.

(right) Taylor Reisinger (MSS ’18) brought her family dog Summer to be blessed by Deacon Joe Wolf during this year’s Blessing of the Animals.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

It was a beautiful day on October 11th for our annual "Blessing of the Animals." In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, second graders began the event by singing a song and reading special prayers. They also provided snack treats for the furry friends. Prayer Partners joined together to pray and walk around the MSS circle, while Deacon Joe Wolf from St. Anthony’s Parish, assisted by Philip Field, gr. 6, blessed all sorts of animals including horses, chickens, cats, dogs, and even Pumpkin the cow.

Scan here to watch the Blessing of the Animals video

Scan here to watch the Grandparents Day video
Broadcom MASTERS Top 30 Competition

Emma and Sarah Simmons, gr. 8, competed in the nation’s premier science and engineering competition for middle school students. Emma was awarded 2nd place in the STEM Engineering category for their Portable Bronchodilator Delivery System for Equine Inflammatory Respiratory Diseases. Sarah received the “Rising Star” award for her work with the project. Great job, girls!

MSS Spelling Bee Winners

We rang in the Christmas break with our schoolwide Spelling Bee. All of our participants did a great job! Congratulations to Ava Fout, gr. 4, (left) who lasted until the end giving her 1st place. She represented MSS at the Frederick County Spelling Bee in March. Olivia Jaeger, gr. 8, (right) placed 2nd and was the alternate.

Lead with Compassion Peace Poster

In the fall, several MSS students participated in the Thurmont Lion’s Club Peace Poster contest. The theme was "Lead with Compassion." Trent Faller, gr. 5, won 1st place and his artwork moved on to the district level competition. Grace Williams, gr. 6, won Honorable Mention. Way to go!

We sure can Keep Christ in Christmas

Congratulations to the winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest sponsored by the Emmitsburg Knights of Columbus. 1st place: Brooks Eberle, gr. 2; Jemina Nana, gr. 5; Sydney Bowser, gr. 6. 2nd Place: Amelia Nevius, gr. 2; William Wisniewski, gr. 3; Abigail Shriner, gr. 6. 3rd Place: Piper Seiss, gr. 2; Gemma Common, gr. 3; and Peyton Faller, gr. 8.

My Pledge to Our Veterans Essay

Answering the call "My Pledge to Our Veterans," middle school students participated in this year’s VFW’s Patriot Pen Essay Contest. Congratulations to Olivia Jaeger, gr. 8, Eva Doll, gr. 7, and Emma Simmons, gr. 8, who each placed locally. Emma placed 1st and Olivia placed 2nd for Emmitsburg VFW Post 6658, and Eva placed 1st for Westminster VFW Post 467.

KOC Free Throw Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest. These students competed at the district level in March. Riggins Koenig, gr. 4; Camren Snapp, gr. 5; Joselyn Neil, gr. 5; Giovan Nana, gr. 6; Jordyn Ohler, gr. 6; Kathleen Robinson, gr. 6; Everett Abbott, gr. 7; Mason Hewitt, gr. 8; Vivienne Storch, gr. 8; Gavin Green, gr. 8; and Lindjie Ulma, gr. 8.
This year's 'Angels Above' Alumni Golf Tournament on October 7th was our biggest one to date! Organized by the children of Jack and Shirley Little, we had 120 golfers, 80 sponsors, and a full day of great weather, friends and food! At our annual Christmas program, the Little Family presented a check to Dr. Kilty for $30,000 from this year’s 'Angels Above' Alumni Golf Tournament. That brings their grand total to over $240,000 for the Jack and Shirley Little Scholarship at MSS! Now that’s an awesome Christmas gift!

Special thanks to Tony Little, MSS ’78 (in photo), Pam (Little) Bolin, MSS ’77, Tim Little, MSS ’74, Scott Little, MSS ’79, Marylou Little, MSS ’76, Ed Little, and family members for their dedication to MSS and our students!

Lynne Phelan Robinson, MSS ’71, received the 2022 McElroy Award from Friends of Catholic Education (FOCE) on October 5th. The McElroy Award honors individuals whose actions and achievements have advanced Catholic school education in Frederick County. Lynne has been the Director of Athletics at Mount St. Mary’s University since 2007 and is one of only 50 female athletic directors out of 357 in the NCAA Division 1 for colleges and universities. Her accomplishments as Director of Athletics are numerous and include beginning the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the Athletic Advisory Committee, and the Team Chaplaincy Program. In addition, she has served as an officer on the NACDA 1-AAA Athletic Director’s Association and is currently a member of the NCAA Division 1 Women’s Lacrosse Committee.

left (l-r) Dottie Phelan (Lynne’s mother), Lynne Phelan Robinson (MSS’ 71), and son James Robinson (MSS ‘06). Lynne’s siblings attended MSS in addition to her children James, Kate (MSS ‘02), and Mary (MSS ’04).

Throughout the fall, middle school students met with MSS Alum Edison Hatter and his father Ed Hatter during Science class to plan and discuss their STEM Fair projects. This year, we were blessed to have had several alumni return to MSS to be STEM Fair judges.

(l-r) Dillon Fitzgerald (MSS ’06), Ed Hatter (MSS ’71*), Mackenzie Orndorff (MSS ’19), Edison Hatter (MSS ’14), Anna Eyler (MSS ’13 ), Bill Little (MSS ’68*), and Jeff Crefton (MSS ’95) (* left before graduation)
Areas of Need

Mother Seton School is blessed to have many loyal donors that believe in our mission: Alumni including those who left before graduation, current and former parents, current and former teachers, Sisters and friends of the Sisters, businesses and organizations—all friends who want to "pay it forward" and make a difference for our students and the future of MSS. Will you help us with several areas of need?

Assist Our Students

Provide a Hot Lunch
Students have the ability to purchase a homemade hot lunch every day at MSS. For some, this may be their only option for food.

Will you help us support these children by providing lunch money for them?

Donate now! Scan the code or use the enclosed envelope to make a gift.

Naming Opportunities

Would you like to honor your loved one or family by funding a large project at MSS?

- A Chapel
- Upgrade Middle School Science Lab
- Outdoor Learning Pavilion

If you are interested in finding out more about these naming opportunities, please contact our Advancement Director, Jennifer Buchheister, MSS ’83, 301-447-3165 advancement@mothersetonschool.org.

RMDs & QCDs
It's a Win-Win

Are you currently taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your individual retirement account or 401(k)? You may be able to make a qualified charitable donation (QCD), which is a tax efficient way to donate to Mother Seton School and reduce your taxes. Your financial institution makes the donation directly to Mother Seton School. **By sending the payment directly to the school, you reduce your taxable income.**

If your spouse is also taking RMDs they can use a QCD for the same charity as well.

We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor or institution to see if a QCD would benefit you and Mother Seton School.

Become a member of the Mother Seton Society. How?

- Include Mother Seton School in your will
- Establish a gift annuity or charitable trust (We can help you!)
- Name Mother Seton School as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, pension plan, or IRA

Benefits of Mother Seton Society Membership

- Recognized on the Mother Seton Society members plaque
- Recognized in our Annual Report
- Invited to special events including donor appreciation dinner
- Enrolled in yearly and special masses said at the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
The mission of Mother Seton Catholic School, a vibrant, Christ-centered community, is to inspire students to strive for academic excellence and dedicate their lives to love and serve Christ in the tradition of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul. MSS is sponsored by the DAUGHTERS of CHARITY, foundresses of St. Louis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5       Walk-a-thon
May 31-June 3 MSS Carnival
**Wed-Sat after Memorial Day this year!
June 4       8th grad Graduation
June 8       Last Day of School

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MSS

Please contact the Advancement Office and share your news with us! Contact Jennifer Buchheister at advancement@mothersetonschool.org.

Follow us on:

Hands-on learning and a well-rounded curriculum are complemented by a beautiful natural setting adjoining the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded in 1810 the pioneering school that became Mother Seton School. Today we continue her mission to provide an excellent, affordable Catholic education to all who seek it.