

SEAS NAVIGATOR

A PUBLICATION OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON MIDDLE SCHOOL

MNSAA SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08

Catholic High School
HONOR ROLL
2008-2009

GTACS
GRAND TRAVERSE AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

MISSION STATEMENT: *Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.*

Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m. Please email information for system-wide distribution to cnelson@gtacs.org. All previously submitted items have been italicized. New items are not italicized. Please email for Navigator to dkrueg@gtacs.org. **Published: 18 November, 2011**

Our least action when done for God is pleasing to Him.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

From the Principal

Today we celebrate and remember the dedication of the Basilicas of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Rome. What a blessing it is to reflect on our Church and our own family parishes at this time of year. May our hearts be further open to listen more deeply to God's word, challenge us to seek small acts of kindness, and burst with adoration, praise, and thanksgiving in the Mass.

This past week our content Department Chairs and I met for our monthly meeting. In this meeting we review PLC goals and assess our **academic work and progress** in each of the subject areas. One of our focus areas includes cross-curricular endeavors. I am always fascinated to hear of their rich academic plans for large projects. One of the benefits of adhering to the "teaming" model is the sacred 35 minutes per day our teachers spend together while their students are in their elective classes. This may not seem like a lot of time, but our teachers are extremely disciplined and adhere to a firm agenda each meeting. The discussions and "teacher share time" support our learning targets and cross-curricular conversations are born. I am so proud (and *beyond* appreciative) of our teacher leaders and the focus they give to constant improvement and student growth.

We have had some trouble with our **afternoon shuttles to Immaculate Conception**. Our TCAPS transportation liaison shared that they are adding a fourth bus that will rectify the time delays between busses, ensuring that both busses at each school will be on the same time schedule. We hope this will be in place by Monday, the 21st. Thank you for your patience and helpful communication.

Our parent surveys for our **Student-Led Conferences** have been tallied. Thank you for giving us your honest feedback. Although this was a new framework for us, we do find tremendous value in this educational format. However, we realize that with any new initiative, tweaking will occur and we can always improve. Based on your input, there was a general (overwhelming) positive response. 6th Grade: 78% positive, 7th Grade: 81% positive, and 8th Grade: 92% positive. Attendance = 96% overall! Thank you for helping us celebrate your child! Research says that if there is ever a time in a child's education where they present a *nonchalant attitude* toward academics, it is throughout the middle years. Teachers have shared a notable difference in the way they teach and present materials, and the way students attend and are more careful in their work. As always, please know that our teachers are available to meet with you at any time throughout the year to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you are experiencing. We are trying to get away from the "waiting until conferences" mindset so that we can properly intervene in a timely manner to support our students. Our doors (and email communication) is always welcome!

Next Wednesday, we will dismiss at 11:00 a.m. for our **Thanksgiving break**. TCAPS will be providing transportation. On behalf of our entire St. Elizabeth Ann Seton staff, we pray you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by your families and friends. Because of the shortened week, we will not be sending a Navigator. Please know that you will be in our prayers of gratitude for your loving support, Christ-centered partnership, and kindness.

Mrs. Melissa Lundberg will be replacing our school secretary Mrs. Denise Krueger when she transitions over to Immaculate Conception School in the new year. Melissa will begin her training the week of Dec. 12th. Melissa has much experience as an Office Manager and a School Secretary. She also is mother to 7th grader Taylor and has been a member of the GTACS family for some time now. Please welcome Melissa and pray for a smooth transition for both SEAS and IC!

Humbly Yours in Christ ~ Lori J. Phillips



Parent Lunch Duty Schedule and Diocesan Prayer Request for the week of 11/21-25/2011 as well as 11/28-12/2/11.

Our prayers are for...

11/21 Rev. Sylvestre Obwaka	11/22 Rev. Gerald Okoli	11/23 Rev. Francis Partridge	11/24 All Seminarians	11/25 Rev. Leonard Paul
MONDAY Jack Callaghan Marcel Primeau	TUESDAY Kelly Kazmierski Ranger Trucco	WEDNESDAY HALF DAY	THURSDAY THANKSGIVING DAY	FRIDAY NO SCHOOL

Our prayers are for...

11/28 Rev. Richard Schaffer	11/29 Rev. Richard Seifferly	11/30 Rev. Lawrence Sergott	12/1 All Bishops	12/2 Bishop Hepda
MONDAY NO SCHOOL	TUESDAY Helen Alfaro Kelly Kazmierski	WEDNESDAY Joe Coates Sam Ludka	THURSDAY Beth Friend Aris Morgan	FRIDAY Tina Bosio Rachel White

Please plan to be at school from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on your scheduled day. If you cannot make your day please find a replacement or send \$15 to the SEAS office to hire a sub with at least 24 hour notice. The schedule for the entire year is posted on the GTACS website for your convenience.

Beatitude of the Month (November)

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Our Prayers are....

For the soul of Mark Koscieski, uncle of Laura Scerbak (7), may he find eternal joy with our Lord and may his family be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

In thanksgiving for our country and the freedom to worship God. May we always protect this freedom and remember how precious it is.

For Erik Charters, brother of Kendra Charters (8), that he feel God's healing touch as he deals with his illness.



Upcoming Events...

- 11/22 Mass at 10:00 in the Lunch Room
- 11/23 Half Day/TCAPS Provides Transportation/Thanksgiving Break Begins
- 11/24-25 No School/Thanksgiving Break
- 11/28 No School/Staff Professional Development Day
- 11/29 Mass at 10:00 in the Lunch Room
- 12/1 Scoliosis Screening for 6th grade girls and 7th grade boys
- 12/6 SEAS/IC Spelling Bee in SEAS Gym 9:00 a.m.
- 12/13 Reconciliation
- 12/15 SEAS Choir Advent Program 1:30 in SEAS Gym/Parents invited
- 12/22 Half Day/Christmas Break Begins After Dismissal.



Boy's Hair Length Compliance

Please be advised that any male student whose hair length is not off the collar and out of the eyes in compliance with uniform guidelines will be issued a detention on Monday Nov 21st. Please see page 17 of the SEAS Student Handbook for Uniform Guidelines in reference to boys hair length. Students have been given ample reminders since the beginning on the first day of school.

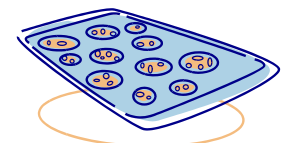
GTACS Custodian Needed

GTACS is seeking a permanent part-time custodian for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School to fill the afternoon shift starting immediately. This will be a minimum of 4-5 hours per day. Applicants must undergo and pass a criminal records check. Send letters of intent and a complete résumé to Lori Phillips, Principals of SEAS, 1601 Three Mile Rd. N, Traverse City, MI 49696 or email Lori at lphillip@gtacs.org. Deadline: Nov. 21, 2011. All hearts of service welcome!



Cookie Dough Sale Begins

Just in time for Christmas baking and visiting! Our 8th grade students will be selling Cookie Dough from **Otis Spunkmeyer** to raise money for the educational trip to Washington D.C. You do not want to miss serving these delicious cookies to your family and friends. Mrs. Krueger recommends the Cranberry Oatmeal or the Strawberry Shortcake cookies. Other flavors include White Chocolate Macadamia Nut, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Chocolate Chunk, and so many others. Seek out your favorite 8th grader or come to the SEAS office to place an order. Prices are \$15 for a large tub of dough. Thank you for your support!



Update to GTACS Website

There are some great additions to the GTACS website. At each of three schools – Holy Angels, Immaculate Conception, and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton – click on Accelerated Reader (at SEAS go to SEAS Library first) to find a link for the library OPAC. This will let you know what book each of the libraries owns, what's available for checkout, and Accelerated Reader information for those titles having an AR quiz. Want to check to see if there is an AR quiz for a title the library doesn't own? Click on Quiz Store which will take you to the Renaissance Learning quiz store. This is an easy way to see what quizzes there are before the student reads a book they own or borrow from the public library. Please note – Holy Angels students can only take quizzes which have interest levels of LG (lower grade) and MG (middle grade); Immaculate Conception have these quizzes available to them plus MG+ (upper middle grade). SEAS students have all quizzes available for testing. Parent Access is not yet available, but it is coming soon and you will be able to view your student's scores on the AR quizzes they have taken. Keep an eye out for that update!

UPDATE; 5th and 6th grade Boy's Basketball

Practices are scheduled to begin on Monday, December 5th. However, we still do not have enough coaches – needing two for sixth grade and two more for fifth grade. If you are interested, please contact Julie Forlenza at 995-8462.

Vasa Ski Club Jr Program (formerly the Traverse Junior Nordic Ski Club)

This club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 10th-Feb. 28th 3:30-5:30pm at Timber Ridge. Just \$75 for the season; includes a one way bus ride to Timber Ridge immediately after school, trail pass, snack, and on-site instruction with coaches. Store your cross-country skiing equipment at Timber Ridge or rent it for only \$40 for the season. Beginners to advanced skiers are invited to join the outdoor winter fun. Download the registration and waiver forms from; vasaskiclub.com or call John Pflughoeft (946-2588) if you have questions.

Advent By Candlelight, Presented for all Catholic Women

Please join us for ADVENT by CANDLELIGHT, A Women's Journey of Preparation, on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at St. Patrick Catholic Church at 6:30 p.m. As we enter our four-week journey to Christmas, come join with other women and be faithfully nourished as we ready our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Program begins in the church at 6:30 p.m. followed by coffee, wine, desserts, and fellowship in the social hall. To reserve a candle, call (231) 313-2729 or email: avetupnorth@yahoo.com A free-will offering will be taken.

Toys For Tots Kick Off

The kick off event will begin at noon and will feature children's activities, refreshments, tours of the Coast Guard helicopter, police and fire displays and a chance to visit with Santa. The event will conclude at 2 p.m. when Santa will fly off with the Coast Guard. While the event is free, participants are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Those making a donation will be eligible to enter to win a variety of door prizes from Great Wolf Lodge, Bill Marsh Auto, Fox Grand Traverse and other corporate sponsors. Toys For Tots will run through Saturday, December 17th. Drop off sites are set up in over 100 locations. The toys are distributed through family service agencies including the Father Fred Foundation, Salvation Army, and the Goodwill Inn.

Thank you

PTC and the SEAS Staff would like to send out a huge Thank You to **Tim and Bridgett Lambdin** for the outstanding dinner and lunch they provided for teachers during conferences last week. Your time, talent, and treasure are greatly appreciated!

Band Fruit Orders Due

Just a reminder to all band students that your fruit orders are due on Monday, November 21st. Please make sure that your order gets dropped off to the school office first thing in the morning. Parents will be tabulating the orders to get the final order placed to ensure delivery before Christmas. Thank you for your support of this great fundraiser for our band program.



SEAS Choir Advent Program



All are invited to come and enjoy the beautiful voices of our SEAS Choir.

Thursday December 15, at 1:30 p.m.

In the SEAS Gymnasium



Parent Rosary Group

We would like to start a Parent Rosary Group at SEAS that would meet once a month in our building to pray for our school and vocations. We know and have seen the power of prayer at work in our world. Please consider volunteering for this special task. Contact the school office if you are interested. Thank you!

PTC NEWS

Ibooks

Did you know you can download the school newsletters to IBooks? Then you can keep them on yourself for quick reference! What a time Saver! If you have questions on how to do this please contact LeAnn Schleuter at leanlehr@charter.net or Carla Nickodemus at carlanickodemus@yahoo.com

Candy Cane Workshop

Do you have leftover Christmas Wrap or gift bags? The Candy Cane Workshop would like to take it off your hands!!! We are seeking donations of Christmas Wrap, gift bags and plastic shopping bags. Each school will have a large box in the lobby to drop your donation. We will be accepting donations until Thanksgiving Break. Thanks So Much!

Looking Ahead

Catholic Schools Week is January 28th - February 3rd. During this week we are seeking volunteers to take over car line duty. Our teachers deserve a little break! Please mark your calendar and check the newsletters closer to January for details.