

SEAS NAVIGATOR

A PUBLICATION OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON MIDDLE SCHOOL

MNSAA SCHOOLS OF
DISTINCTION 08



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@gtracs.org. All previously submitted items have been italicized. New items are not italicized. Please email for Navigator to mlundberg@gtracs.org. **Published 16 December, 2011**

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

From the Principal

What a blessed week we've had here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton!

- † Our week started with a beautiful Monday morning Mass remembering Our Lady of Guadalupe. We adorned her picture in our main hallway with little white lights to thank God for blessing St. Juan Diego with this magnificent vision of our Lady.
- † Our reconciliation service on Tuesday was beautiful and such a perfect time to prepare our hearts to be *little Bethlehem's* as we face the challenges and great joys of a life in Christ. May we embrace our persecutions, sufferings, and abundant blessings with thanksgiving and praise. Thank you, God, for your mercy, forgiveness, and refining us to be better servants of your great love.
- † Thursday, our 6-8th grade choir members presented the *Christmas Carole*. We enjoyed the sounds of Christmas peace and love as Mrs. Richards and the choir shared their gift in telling the forever-story of Christ's entrance into this hurting world in word and song. How blessed we are to be an extension of the Catholic Church and celebrate the true meaning of this season as we prepare ourselves throughout Advent. May our Lord look kindly upon each of us and fill our hearts with true peace, forgiveness, and love.
- † Raelynn Stein and a group of 6th graders have been establishing a beautiful relationship with the residents of *Tendercare* on La Franier Road. The residents look forward to the visits and our students anticipate the time with great eagerness and joy. Each month, all 6th graders are included in a project to take to the residents (decorative Kleenex boxes, placemats, Christmas cards). The monthly visit occurs on a Thursday with the help of our supportive parent drivers. Between 20-25 students are the "gift-bearers" as they deliver their masterful creations and most of all, share the love of Christ with the residents. This month, our students read Christmas picture books and shared Christmas memories with the residents. Raelynn Stein stated, "The blending of generations is a beautiful thing to witness." Thank you to all who help make these visits possible to share our love for Christ with the local community.
- † Melissa Lundberg, our new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton secretary, has been diligently training all week with our lovely Denise Krueger. After the break, Denise will move to her new home and enjoy the beauty of Immaculate Conception Elementary. How dearly we will miss her jovial laughter, her unwavering peace in the midst of chaos, and her radiant light for Christ. It is comforting to know that you are a "4-digit-extension-away," Denise. You will forever remain in our hearts, dear sister in Christ.

In closing, I wanted to share a quote that Erick Chittle (SF Principal) passed along this week in his staff bulletin: **"The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant waiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously." (Pope John Paul II)**

Sincerely Yours in Christ Jesus, Lori Phillips

Parent Lunch Duty Schedule and Diocesan Prayer Request for the weeks of 12/19-23/2011 and 1/2-1/6/2012.

Our prayers are for...

12/19	12/20	12/21	12/22	12/23
Deceased Priests	Rev. John Bashe	Rev. James Bearss	Rev. Stanislaw Bereda	Rev. Robert Bissot
MONDAY Helen Alfaro William Kalajian	TUESDAY Kelly Kazmierski Quin Doud	WEDNESDAY Kathryn Clulo Cassandra Will	THURSDAY NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	FRIDAY NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK
1/2 Rev. Michael Conner	1/3 Bishop Bernard Hebda	1/4 Rev. Ray Cotter	1/5 Religious Brothers/Sisters	1/6 Rev. Anthony Cureton
MONDAY NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	TUESDAY Kelly Kazmierski Helen Alfaro	WEDNESDAY Connor Valade Peter McAndrews	THURSDAY Paul Mulcahy John Steimel	FRIDAY Robin Ehardt Alexander Thelen

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 you

**Beatitude of the Month
(December)**

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Our Prayers are....

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

For all those recovering from injury, illness or surgery, may they feel the healing touch of the Holy Spirit.



Upcoming Events...

- 12/19 8th Grade Cookie Dough Orders Delivered to school
- 12/20 Mass at 10am in lunch room
- 12/21 Christmas Break Begins After full day dismissal. GTACS Band Concert at 7:00 p.m. at SFHS Gym. All school bands performing!
- 1/3 School Resumes—No Mass
- 1/4 Feast Day for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—Special Student Breakfast provided (send students to school hungry!) Mass at 10am in lunch room
- 1/16 Full day of school—**Parent Transportation both ways (TCAPS No School)**
- 1/20 1/2 Day for Preschool—8th grade students Teacher Work Day (Parents provide take home transportation)

8th Grade Cookie Dough Sale

The delivery for the Cookie Dough Orders is set for Monday December 19th. If you student sold Cookie Dough please plan on picking him/her up after school with his/her orders to deliver. Thank you!



From the Diocese

Join us as we celebrate Vocations in the Diocese of Gaylord on Saturday, January 7 at St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord. Coinciding with the Feast of Epiphany, this year's event will begin with Mass celebrated at 5:00 by Bishop Hebda and followed by a "12th Night"-themed buffet dinner. Fr. Francis Partridge will be the keynote speaker. Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Vocations Recognition Awards. This year's recipients include Joel and Mary Beth Myler and family of Traverse City; Rev. Edwin Thome and the Parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Traverse City; and all of The Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Gaylord. Special entertainment and time to meet and greet our seminarians is also being planned. Everyone is invited. There is no cost to attend, but a freewill offering to offset the cost of the meal will be accepted. Space is limited so advance reservations are required. Leave a message for Susan Roundy at the Diocese at 989.732.5147 or send your reservation via e-mail to sroundy@dioceseofgaylord.org no later than January 4

Fond Farewell From Denise Krueger

My last day at SEAS will be Wednesday Dec. 21. In the New Year when we return from Christmas break I will be at IC and Melissa Lundberg will be your new secretary here at SEAS. Please remember to send all communications to her e-mail address at mlundberg@gtacs.org. It is hard to leave such a dedicated staff and awesome student body. My comfort is in the fact that I am not really leaving just moving to a different location in the GTACS family. I will continue to pray that our school be one of Hope and Light of Jesus Christ for the world. May God continue to bless you and your family.



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!

Box Tops

The Box Tops for Education people are introducing a new way to earn cash for schools. Simply go online to boxtops4education.com and register yourself as a supporter of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Then choose what activities you'd like to do, such as watch a video clip or take a short survey. Box Tops will electronically be added to the SEAS total! And please keep saving your regular Box Tops at home until further notice. We will have another heated contest between schools in the spring

Art Class Supplies Needed

Your help is needed in collecting art supplies for our students. We need wrapping paper tubes, old long-sleeve wool sweaters (the sleeves are what we will be using), tabs from the top of aluminum cans, any old CD's, fun yarn (like eyelash yarn, ribbon yarn, multi-colored yarn), and ribbon. Have your student bring them to the SEAS office.

K of C Free Throw Contest

This year the Knights of Columbus Councils in Traverse City will be sponsoring their annual Free Throw Contest on Saturday morning January 14, 2012 at St. Francis Gym (123 E. 11th. Street) in Traverse City. The competition is for all boys and girls ages 9 to 14 as of January 1, 2012. The Knights of Columbus sponsor this Contest annually with the winners progressing through the local, district, regional, and state competitions. Last year, more than 179,000 sharpshooters participated in over 3000 local competitions. All contestants will be recognized for their participation in the event. Contestants are required to furnish proof of age (copy of birth certificate) and written parental consent (parents/guardian need to sign registration form) to compete and may take part in only one council level competition. Entry forms will be available with registration and warm up beginning at 8:45 a.m. and the contest starting at 9:30 a.m. To obtain entry forms for pre-registration or additional information, please contact Dave Sliwinski at 645-0730.

Builders Club Advent Activities 2011

Monday December 19th

Bethany Christian gift collection ends today and the gifts are sent over to be distributed



Tuesday December 20th

History of the candy cane to be read over announcements; each student will receive a candy cane and its history

Wednesday December 21st

Judging of the doors /Christmas Break Begins after a full day

GTACS BAND CONCERT

You are invited to see the GTACS 5-12 grade bands performing their Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 21, in the Saint Francis gym. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. and should conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the sounds of the season!

