

Seton's Junior/Senior High School is Building S. T. E. A. M.



Seton Catholic Schools are proud to announce that fundraising efforts have started for the second floor renovation of the Junior/Senior High School. Maze Designs is providing consultation for the project. Planned renovations include creating state-of-the-art science labs, improved spaces for our band and art programs, along with two new classrooms that will be used for future expansion of the curriculum.

Seton Catholic High School Science Chair, Mr. Dan Reichley says, "The current science classrooms within Seton Catholic High School are insufficient and inadequate. There are major curriculum and instruction constraints. Our current science classrooms limit student learning opportunities. In order to meet core educational standards and prepare our students for future studies in science, we need science labs."

The vision of these spaces was an integral part of the original renovation of the high school building. Some of the prep work for these new spaces was done back in the late 1990s during the first phase of the school's initial renovation. The work could not be completed at that time due to lack of funding.

Seton Catholic High School Principal, Rick Ruhl says, "The new science labs will include new



student workstations, new lighting, updated furniture and equipment. There will be sufficient and adequate storage for flammables, acids, and chemicals. This renovation will allow for advanced placement work and other higher-level work to occur within the classroom, greatly impacting our students. These renovations will ultimately lead to a deeper level of scientific thinking and better

opportunities for our students in science-related fields. Our technology coordinator, Mr. Tim Elstro, will be facilitating innovative use of technology within the new lab space as well."

Kelly VanVleet, Seton Catholic Director of Development, remarked, "Seton Catholic High School does not have access to public funding for renovation projects. To overcome this obstacle, there are a number of ways that people can help the school complete this project: make a contribution to this year's Annual Fund or provide free/discounted labor. We are so very thankful to Earlham College for donating science equipment and tables. It's time to make this dream a reality! We have a goal of \$400,000 to reach by June 30, 2014, and we have currently raised \$60,000."

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What is Lent?

If one who knows little or nothing of Christ were to look for the definition of “Lent”, they might find that it is an annual season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and lasting 40 weekdays to Easter, observed by Roman Catholic, Anglican, and certain other churches (www.dictionary.com). But, we set out looking for a deeper meaning and went to the wise 6th grade students of Mrs. Schroeder’s class. When asked what Lent meant to them, here is what they had to say,

“For me, the sacrifices we make in Lent are because of the ultimate sacrifice that God made to save us.”

“Lent is for us to sacrifice little things in remembrance of the huge sacrifice Jesus made for us.”

“Lent is a time where you think truly about others and not yourself.”

“Lent is about praying and preparing for Jesus.”

“Lent is a time of Penance, preparation, fasting, and remembrance.”

“Lent is a good time to reflect on yourself and your actions.”

“Lent helps us to better understand the suffering Jesus went through. He did this for us, not for himself.”

“Lent is a time of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus. It is a time of doing good deeds.”

“Lent is a time to be reverent, to prepare the way for Jesus. Lent is a time of prayer, of good deeds, and of forgiveness.”

“To me, Lent is a time to grow in faith and my love for God.”

“To me, Lent means a new beginning. It is a time to clear my heart and my mind and open up to Jesus.”

“Lent is a time to clean up your act for the resurrection of Jesus.”

“To me, Lent is a time set aside to show God how much we appreciate the sacrifice that he made for us.”

“Lent is a time of giving.”

“To me, Lent means sacrifice and forgiveness.”

“Lent is a time of rebirth.”

“Lent is about Jesus giving up His life for us all.”

Now ask yourself, “What does Lent mean to me?”



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Thanks to the generous support of the Richmond Catholic Community and our many benefactors, Seton Catholic Schools have modernized in a number of exciting ways over the past several years. In 2008, we opened the new Chuck Mosey Memorial Gymnasium and Taggart Atrium at the high school. In 2011, the high school launched a total 1:1 technology integration program, while a much-needed remodeling project was undertaken at the Primary Building.

Renovation and construction are scheduled to occur during the spring and summer of 2014. Assuming the fundraising goal is met, both labs will be finished and functional by the start of classes in the fall of 2014.

If you have any questions regarding the Seton Catholic Junior/Senior High School top floor renovation project, feel free to contact Kelly VanVleet at kellyvanvleet@gmail.com. **Thank you so much for your support!**



Second Grade, a Year of Firsts

Each year during Lent, we are called to renew our spirits and to strengthen our relationship with Jesus. We confess our sins, and prepare for a renewed sense of belonging to Christ. Of all our Seton Catholic students, none learn this lesson better than our second graders. In the fall, Mrs. Manchir, our second grade catechist begins talking about reconciliation and forgiveness with the students. They learn that through the Catholic faith, they can come to the Lord with a sincere heart, seeking repentance, and He will forgive them. The students discuss sin, and prepare for what they might say if meeting with the priest for Reconciliation.

Then during Advent, our Catholic students make their First Reconciliation. “I was nervous because I don’t have an older brother or sister so I didn’t know what it was like,” said student, Leah Miller. “Nervous” was a common thread when we asked our second graders how they felt. Joe Zinkan, however, added, “Nervous and excited. Excited because I knew when I came out I wouldn’t have any more sins...”

Students agreed that afterwards they “felt good”. Samantha Langner told us, “I was happy when I was done with my Reconciliation because

Father Kevin gave my sins to God and then he forgot all about them.” The students that we spoke with also indicated that they feel they make better choices since going to Reconciliation and being held accountable for their actions.

The students are now walking through the Lenten season, seeking repentance and looking for more ways to give themselves to Christ. Shortly after Easter, our Catholic second graders will be ready to make their First Communion -a most exciting and holy time when the children will accept Jesus into their hearts fully through the body and blood of Christ. Samantha Langner is most excited that Father Kevin will be giving her “the bread of life” on this day.

The children are looking forward to this momentous occasion in their lives. Maddie Lindley is eager to get her dress, and a cross necklace for the special day. Andrew Warner shared, “After my First Communion there will be a lot of people there and we will have like a party.” Many of Andrew’s friends agreed, and are excited to share the day with family and friends. First Communion will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27th at Holy Family Church.

All are welcome!



Renewed Hope for Families

Vouchers... controversial to some, a saving grace to others. Some feel that our tax dollars shouldn’t be used at schools with a religious affiliation. Others feel that vouchers are taking resources from publicly funded education. While yet others feel that it is the only way their children can get a good education. And the truth is that School Choice Scholarships are doing just what they are intended to do. They are allowing parents to make a choice about their child’s education.

School Choice Scholarships have been available to students in Indiana for three years. During that time, we have seen an increase in families that have embraced the opportunity to make the choice for their families. For many families, having the ability to choose a school environment that will best meet their child’s needs is an answer to a prayer. We have seen students thrive in the structured classrooms. We have watched students grow in personal responsibility. We have marveled at how students rise up to the challenge of a more demanding

curriculum. We have talked to parents that have a renewed sense of hope for their child’s future.

School Choice Scholarships are making a difference for the children of Indiana. We see it at Seton Catholic. We hear it from other schools around Indiana. We know that for some children, the atmosphere of a small non-public school is the best learning environment for their needs. We believe that School Choice Scholarships are creating a brighter future for many students in Indiana.

Dear Seton Family,

Happy Lent! It hardly seems possible, but I made my first Lenten journey 27 years ago this week. While each Lent since then has been special, that first one was extra special. It was my own little catechism as I journeyed toward Baptism at the Easter Vigil, and formally joined the Church. I marveled at how each liturgy offered a new "lesson in the faith" for this new believer. I listened, with the heart of a child, learning new things about our faith. Everything was brand new.

Viewed this way, Lent can be a journey of renewal in faith for us all. Each day, we pray those special prayers that simply help us keep turning to God for the graces we need for the day. Throughout the day, we find moments, perhaps "in the background" while we are doing other things that help us remember what we are asking for. Our desire grows as we make changes to our daily patterns. As we make sacrifices, in order to experience freedom from self-directed needs, we also experience a freedom for other-directed love and generosity.

Catholics view Lent as a time to become closer to God through prayer and sacrifice. We are asked to give something up or add something meaningful during the 40 days of Lent.

Perhaps more important is realizing the role of prayer and sacrifice in life in general, in addition to during the season of Lent. One of my sharp freshmen gave me this perspective the other day when she said, "Now Mr. Ruhl, if you can give up coffee for 40 days, why do you need to go back to drinking it at all?!" So much theological wisdom is packed into that simple observation.

Compared to others, the sacrifices I have had to endure in life seem minimal—often pale in comparison. I wonder if all sacrifices are viewed in the same way by God. How can my trivial challenges be viewed as equivalent to others who have true strife in their lives? Cancer, death of a loved one, and joblessness are just a few personal examples that first come to mind.



Seton's Class of 2014 reflect and discern God's call while attending senior retreat.

I believe that each and every one of us receives a call from God. In just over 8 short weeks, our seniors will be graduating from high school, and entering a new stage of life. Unless they retreat to live in their parents' basement or are content to "live in a van down by the river," each of them will spend a great deal of time over the next 4-10 years trying to discern their calling. Engineers, teachers, nurses, psychologists, politicians, graphic artists, musicians, social workers and lawyers are just a few of the possible callings percolating through this awesome senior class. Perhaps one of them will be called to be a priest or a religious sister or brother.

Just as every human being is different, each of our callings is different, and so must our challenges and sacrifices be different. After realizing what my calling is, both professionally and personally, I recognize that the sacrifices I will have to make will be entirely different than those of my friends. I will undoubtedly need to make sacrifices in the future to ensure I continue to work towards my calling and not fall from the path. However, I believe these sacrifices are indeed recognized by God. And, by offering our

sacrifices and challenges to God and asking for his help, the load of our sacrifice becomes much less.

True sacrifice is indeed necessary to build ourselves in the image of God rather than in the materialistic sense to which we may feel more inclined. With the help and guidance of God, I hope to turn my sacrifices into beneficial stepping stones to help me get closer to the image God has for me.

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. Happy Lent, indeed! **Peace!**

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rick J. Ruhl
SCHS Principal

Not “WHAT,” But “HOW!”

by Kim Becker, SCES Principal

Chances are, as a parent, your last days in a public or parochial school were at the very least, 10 years ago. As you traveled through your subjects, the instructor announced the next topic or chapter, you read it, you answered questions about it, then you took a test. If you were lucky, there was a video about the subject some time before the test. It was predictable, and often dull. But we survived.

So much research has been done about effective teaching and learning since you and I were in school! We thank God for that! Seton Catholic instructors have been studying and renewing their knowledge base about just HOW to teach even better. With so much information overload available today, we can't possibly come close to learning what we need to know in the old fashioned way. So we are shifting and renewing our methods.

Our first new method is working backwards by design. We check the basic priority standards expected at a grade level, decide how to test those standards, then teach the material. We have discovered more exciting ways to solidify those standards; such as, using the Internet to view countries



Our 3rd graders are engaged in their social studies lesson via the internet.

around the world or to complete individually paced math problems. We can also renew our order of teaching by “flipping” classwork. That is, read and hook students by assigning chapter reading or research on a topic for homework, then spend valuable class time in discussions, debates, or experiments to prove understanding of the material.

Our second renewed method involves our assessments. Instead of a basic spelling test of 20 words, we often add ways to show meanings of those words. Instead of basic math computation tests, we add 2 and 3 part problems to prove application of those answers. Instead of creating posters for a project, we have students use scientific methods or artistic skills to prove understanding.

Finally, we have become more enlightened about just how we

report progress to parents. We have refreshed our report card communication in grades K-2 and will soon add grades 3-6. Instead of simply seeing a grade of “A” or “C,” we now report the mastery level of various components of that subject. Actually, that tells a parent much more. Reading, for example, cannot be explained with one grade. It is a compilation of vocabulary, phonetics, writing, fluency, comprehension – and each of those components deserves a progress point.

Teaching and learning cannot be stagnant any more. We have renewed what we thought was effective teaching and assessing. We are in the midst of that change and we are sure to continue it through the years. School as we knew it, doesn't exist anymore. That renewal is a better, more exciting path for your children!



Our 4th graders discuss their weekly reader.

The Lenten Path by: Andrew Walldrodt, SCES 6th grade student

I believe that Lent is God's way of saying, "Go...Prepare the way for my Son. For now He will soon be the salvation." God made this time to be a road to wash yourself on our way to Jesus. Jesus died for us, and so we should celebrate. Lent helps us to prepare for the celebration. Our hearts need to be pure to be a home for God. Lent is the path to Jesus...to God.

