

Fall 2018
Issue VII

Seton

Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine



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Frank R. Rainieri, MAI '63

Don Recore, MAI '72

Joyce Mitchell Bertoli, SJA '58

Amy Ryan, SCC '96

Michael Murnane, SCC '04

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Message from the Editor



What happens when you combine two Catholic schools into one? Magic! The road to the unification of Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central was long and sometimes arduous, but so very worth it. Over

the few short months of summer, mountains were moved and we accomplished our goal. From emptying out one building and moving its contents to 206 New York Road, to rewiring and reconfiguring, waxing, polishing and painting, we made the move. We could never have completed this task without countless hours on the part of faculty, staff, parents and volunteers. The outside of the building has a fresh coat of paint, new plants, new signs and a brand-new playground. There were times when it seemed we would never be able to sort through the furniture, computers, books, supplies and necessities. Combining the contents of two buildings into one took finesse and a lot of maneuvering and decision making as to what to keep and what to let go. Muscle was required, and muscle was available.

Now that we have started our inaugural year as Seton Catholic, we can see the fruits of our labor. The gleaming halls and cheerful classrooms were ready to greet the students and their families on the first day of school. It felt natural, it felt right. We know that we have a special thing going on here. You can feel it in the air and sense it in the faith that our families have in us. Thank you everyone who helped in any way to bring us together as a Pre-K-12th grade campus. We know that together we can grow and accomplish so much. The journey has just begun for Seton Catholic and you are invited to come along. Please tell your friends and family about the treasure trove of teachers and professionals who enter these halls every day determined to provide a faith-filled education that helps mold our students to become our future leaders.

Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, SJA '77
Editor



Seton Catholic

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Seton

Roundtable: The Seton Alumni Magazine



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Mary Forbes

When I agreed to take the Interim Principal position, I had one thing on my mind: the success of the unification of Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central. Our faculty, staff and Seton community worked so hard over the summer months to make our school a place where everyone is safe and happy. I am honored to work with, and beside, so many dedicated individuals who have given their time, talent and energy to ensure the unification is a success.

Together we have brought to fruition a plan that will allow Seton Catholic to grow and prosper. We are prepared to offer our students an education that is not only academically rigorous but imbued with our Catholic faith. We have demonstrated the truth of the theme of our 2018-2019 school year, “With God, All Things Are Possible.”

Change is not always easy and we will continue to refine things as we move forward through this school year. Please know that it is my hope, and my goal, to make this year one where we truly become one family at Seton Catholic. We invite our community and alumni to stop by Seton and see what we have accomplished. As you can see by our photos, many hands went into this endeavor and many hands will continue to push us along. We truly are better together.

mforbes@setonknights.org

Class Notes



Weddings

Alexandra Barie, SCC '09, and Eric Ashline were married on June 2, 2018.

Renee Egan, SCC '09, and Matthew Seymour, SCC '09, were married on July 6, 2018.

Daniel Relation, SCC '07, and Kate Flynn were married on July 21, 2018.



Keegan Luck, SCC '06, and Emma Hans were married July 28, 2018.

Jenn Campbell (Seton Catholic Faculty) and Jesse Toohill were married August 4, 2018.



Soleil Bacque, SCC '05, and Jack Neary were married September 1, 2018.

Clayton Smalley, SCC '03, and Vanessa Johnson were married September 29, 2018.



Ali Pellerin, SCC '07, and Michael Kinahan were married November 10, 2018.

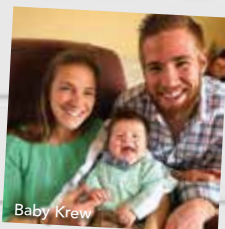
Births

Gena Rosenbaum, SCC '02, and her husband, Gaelen, welcomed their first child, a son, Krew J. Trombley, on December 25, 2017.

Marcy Lacombe Gadziala, SCC '04, and her husband, Pete, welcomed their second child, a girl, Adeline Claire, on December 29, 2017.

Eric Dubay, SCC '96, and his wife, Juliet, welcomed their second child, a daughter, Eleanor Jean, on April 18, 2018.

Nicholas Maggy, SCC '01, and Alexa Pirofsky welcomed their second son, Everett Patrick, on April 28, 2018.



In Memoriam

Fr. Roland Gonyo, OLVA '65, deceased.

John "Jack" William Haley, SJA '52, died on November 3, 2017.

Gregory J. Buckley, SJA '72, died on December 25, 2017.

James M. Ryan, MAI '62, died on December 31, 2017.

Fidelia "Dee" Lessor, 102 years young, died January 3, 2018. Dee worked in the SJA cafeteria for 10 years, was a faithful Bingo volunteer and was the secretary of the St. John's Altar Rosary Society.

John E. Recore, Sr., brother of Don Recore, MAI '72, died March 10, 2018.

Lori Favro, SJA '75, died on March 17, 2018.

Bob Hutchins, MAI '77, died March 2018.

G. Eileen Perras, SJA '36, died April 7, 2018.

Brother James Lacasse died on April 16, 2018.

Michael John Tousignant, MAI '76, died on May 7, 2018.

Judith A. Clark, D'Youville Academy '63, died on May 9, 2018.

Cheryl Edwards Tobrocke, SJA '74, died on June 19, 2018.

David F. Chauvin, SJA '64, died on July 25, 2018.

Patricia A. Nephew, a 2nd grade teacher at Assumption of Mary School, died September 12, 2018.

Suzanne Perras, SJA '45, died September 13, 2018.

Marie V. St. Dennis, MAI, died September 13, 2018.

Thomas J. Cronin, SJA '52, died October 4, 2018.

Roger E. Lemieux, MAI '51, died October 13, 2018.

Dr. Donald T. Kasprzak "Doc," former Seton Catholic Central School Board member, former President of the St. John's Athletic Association and football team physician, died on October 16, 2018.

Peter W. Carpenter, SJA '78, died on October 19, 2018.

Seton



Unification



Seton Catholic is honored to carry on the tradition set forth by its predecessors of offering Catholic education to North Country families. We are blessed to count Mount Assumption Institute, St. John's Academy, Our Lady of Victory Academy and D'Youville Academy among our founding schools, and to keep their legacy alive through our devoted faculty and staff as well as our students.

On January 5, 1989, the Most Reverend Stanislaus J. Brzana, Bishop of Ogdensburg, presided over a joint meeting of the MAI Board of Trustees and St. John's School Board. During that meeting, they passed a resolution which led to the formation of Seton Catholic Central. That fall, as high school students walked through the doors of the former MAI building, they became the first Knights of this united school system.

But change did not stop there. The year 2001 saw the establishment of the Seton Catholic Central Middle School, incorporating seventh and eighth grades. Three years later, the school moved to a newly purchased campus on New York Road of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base. In 2006, the two Plattsburgh-based Catholic elementary schools, St. John's Academy and St. Peter's, merged to create Seton Catholic's sister school, Seton Academy. Together they would come to be known as The Seton Schools. Then in 2015, Seton Academy's sixth graders were moved to Seton Catholic Central, expanding the middle school program. Finally, in May 2018, The Seton Schools' Education Council



announced that the Diocese of Ogdensburg had approved its plans to unify the elementary, middle and high schools at the New York Road campus. They named this Pre-K-12 system Seton Catholic.

During the summer, it was all-hands-on-deck to make sure the school was ready to go for the “little ones” to come over. The Seton Catholic Executive Cabinet established ten committees whose assignments ranged from organizing a Pre-K-12 library to beautifying the grounds to selecting and fundraising for a new playground. Faculty, staff and families served on these committees as chairs, secretaries and voting members, obtaining quotes and reporting unanimous decisions to their assigned cabinet members.

It would be impossible to name all of the Seton Catholic community members who helped make this move possible, whether they painted a classroom or the outside of the school, moved furniture and other belongings from the Seton Academy building to Seton Catholic, ground down stumps, planted flowers or performed countless other tasks. We know that we are so blessed to have such a dedicated, selfless Seton Catholic family so fully devoted to our mission. We love you and we are grateful for all that you have done and continue to do.



NEW LOGO

In July, the Seton Catholic Education Council’s Marketing Committee approved a new academic crest and athletic logo to celebrate our unified identity while simultaneously calling to mind our mother schools, St. John’s Academy and Mount Assumption Institute.

Kimberly Smith, Graphic Design Director at The Northeast Group, designed both logos, which incorporate the signature Mountie blue and gold as well as the Irish green and white. On our crest, a golden cross which graces the middle of the shield, speaks to our foundations in Jesus Christ. In the lower left quadrant, the Diocesan Tower reminds us of our place within the greater Diocese of Ogdensburg community. Lastly, our mascot, the knight, in the upper right quadrant, proudly displays blue armor and a green plume. In the athletic logo, the cross brings together the “S” and “C”.



GUARDIAN ANGEL PLAYGROUND

The Seton Catholic building on New York Road definitely had space for the elementary students, but something was still missing — a playground for our littlest Knights to use during recess and after school. The Education Council approved the Playground Committee’s quotes for a larger structure with a bridge and slides, a tunnel, a small climbing wall, PreK-friendly components and several swing sets. Like our school and logos, the playground equipment sports our signature blue and green.

Fundraising for the playground began with a fund-a-need initiative as part of the 2018 Seton Gala: Saturday Night Fever.

Fr. Timothy Canaan, pastor of St. John's Catholic Church and the Newman Center, won naming rights for the playground. On Sept. 28, Bishop Terry LaValley dedicated and blessed the playground, which Fr. Canaan named, "Guardian Angel Playground."

WELCOME SIGN

Those of you who have driven by Seton Catholic may have noticed a recent addition to the entrance of our school — a brand new, full-color electronic sign! Installed and built by Daniels Signs, this new fixture was donated in memory of Bob and Betty Drake, faithful parishioners of St. John's Catholic Church. The communications and enrollment offices use the sign to let the community know about school events and welcome the community to Seton Catholic.

EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR COMMITTEE WORK

We knew that a unified school called for a fresh look, both inside and out. Our elementary classrooms and several middle and high school classrooms got new coats of paint, with many teachers, students and families chipping in to get the job done. The Faculty Room committee chose newly donated furniture for lunch tables and work stations, and added an accent wall to the faculty lounge. Outside, volunteers painted the New York Road and Kansas Avenue facades of the school to help the blue and green pop. New flowers were planted and dozens of stumps removed or ground down for a cleaner overall look for our grounds.

MOVING DAYS

The Physical Relocation Committee orchestrated two big moving days over the summer to help the elementary teachers bring their belongings from Seton Academy to Seton Catholic. Dozens showed up to help, including teachers and students who were on summer vacation. This committee also moved several lockers from the new elementary wing to accommodate the needs of the newly combined middle-and-high-school wing.

LIBRARY

Seton Academy staff sorted through and boxed up hundreds of books to bring over to the New York Road campus, where committees collaborated to convert the high school computer lab into the elementary library. Desks were moved out and bookshelves, reading tables and a reading corner were put in to get ready for the younger students.

CAFETERIA TABLES

Many Seton alumni will remember sitting at the former St. John's Academy tables during lunch each day. But the cafeteria looks a bit different now thanks to donations orchestrated by Beekmantown Central School District Superintendent Dan Mannix, SJA '86. Now, our Knights sit at roundtables when they break for lunch!

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Primelink installed supplementary infrastructure to allow for the addition of an IP (Internet Protocol) telephone and wireless access point for each classroom. ■



Frank R. Rainieri, MAI '63

An International Student in Paradise



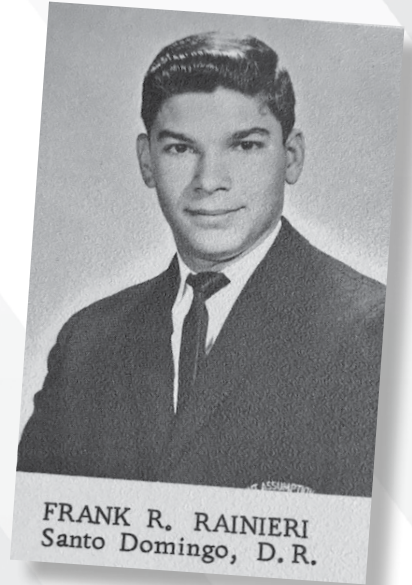
“Those tough rules that I did not like at first made me the disciplined, organized person I am today.”

Frank R. Rainieri, MAI '63, has made his mark by creating one of the most highly visited Caribbean destinations in the world. Not bad for a young man who received his high school education from the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Plattsburgh.

After graduating from MAI, Mr. Rainieri began working toward a bachelor's degree in business administration at St. Joseph's University, in Philadelphia. He then completed the degree at APEC University, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. His Punta Cana empire began to take fruit in 1971 when Mr. Rainieri, an entrepreneur, and Theodore W. Kheel, a well-known New York attorney and labor negotiator, joined forces to create a resort like no other. The dream began with an underdeveloped piece of property that now comprises three hotels, residential communities, residential developments for investment and rentals, a prestigious school, restaurants, a golf course, a church, a village town, and an exclusive mall. Additionally, it encompasses the Grupo Puntacana Foundation, which develops social and environmental programs; a pediatric center that provides medical attention at no cost to those families near the PC zone with limited resources; and its own international airport. Puntacana Resort & Club is now known as a premiere destination worldwide. As a loyal Mount Assumption Institute alum, Mr. Rainieri has been very generous to his classmates and has opened his home and resort to them on many occasions. It is wonderful that the MAI stories and memories continue to be made. Here's what Mr. Rainieri has to say about his time at Mount Assumption Institute.

My Experience at MAI **Frank R. Rainieri, Class of 1963**

It was a great challenge for a young man like I was, to attend a high-school boarding school in another country at the age of 14, far from my family and with totally new disciplinary methods and strong rules. I had to process too much in a short time and get used to doing mandatory chores, like making the bed when waking up basically at sunrise!



It was made more difficult by the fact that I did not speak English by then. The only person with whom I could interact in my own language was Commander Hoisington, of the Air Force Base in Plattsburgh.

As a contrast, those tough rules that I did not like at first made me the disciplined, organized person I am today.

Due to the political climate my country was facing during those days, I could not visit my family for two years, four months and 21 days. It was a time when no cell phone, no emails and no internet existed, and the two international calls that I could make during an entire year were on Mother's Day and my birthday.

But precisely because of the distance between my family and me, I found in the friendships I established at MAI a form of family: friends from all over the world, some of them from France, Haiti, Mexico and Canada. (I remember that we called those Canadian fellows “Canucks.”)

I can proudly say that today most of my classmates are very dear friends of mine, along with their spouses. Every time I have the opportunity, and my agenda permits, I try to catch up with them.

Looking back, I can honestly say that the most valuable lessons I learned from MAI are what I now call “assets”: faith in God, the ability to face challenges, discipline, moral values, and the value of friendship. ■

“Having someone to turn to in times of need is the benefit we have from having a faith we follow.”

Don Recore, MAI '72

Bridging the Gap Between Alumni

Once Mr. Don Recore, MAI '72, becomes associated with a cause or a mission, there is no turning back. Luckily for us, that includes keeping the memories of MAI alive and well-documented. Don has been involved in the Mount Assumption/Seton Catholic Alumni Association for over thirty years and, we dare say, he is second only to Brother Rene, who dedicated his entire life to recording alumni news and bridging the gap between alumni near and far. We are grateful for his continued efforts with the Alumni Association in helping us connect all our alumni from MAI, SJA and SCC.

Why did your family choose to send you to a Catholic school?

During the 1950s and 1960s, my mother was the manager of the St. Peter's cafeteria in Plattsburgh, NY. It was pre-determined at that time that if you were a Catholic, you would of course attend Catholic school. Nothing else was ever an option; we had no thought of ever attending anywhere else.

What were some of your fondest memories of Catholic school?

The memory that always lingers in my mind is the way our school handled the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. We gathered in a couple of rooms to watch grainy old black and white televisions while we discussed the tragic death of the well-loved Catholic President. It seemed to me that everyone was in a state of disbelief! Having someone to turn to in times of need is the benefit we have from having a faith we follow.

What would you consider the greatest gifts you received from your high school experience?

In recent years, people and schools have been talking about diversity as though it is something new. It is not! Over the years, the Brothers at MAI hosted students from more than 19 different countries who came to Plattsburgh and lived with the Brothers as guardians. The “day” students, without

realizing it, benefited from the relationships they forged by studying with students of different cultures as far back as the 1920s. Respect for one another, discipline, hard work and cooperation were all skills I learned at this school, and the guidance provided by the Brothers was second to no other.

Where did you find yourself after graduation?

After graduation I attended college for a couple of years and then entered a management position with the Grand Union Supermarket chain, eventually ending up as a General Manager for Grand Union in Saranac Lake, NY.

Has your experience at Catholic school encouraged you or your family to stay involved with your alma mater in a particular way?

I graduated from MAI in 1972 and did not attend a reunion until my tenth year. Afterward, I became involved with the Alumni Association and continued that involvement until just a few years ago. I attended nearly every Alumni Reunion since that time and just last year served as MC for the annual School Reunion for the Seton Catholic Alumni Association that now represents ALL the founding schools including Seton, MAI, St. John's, OLVA, and D'Youville Academy.

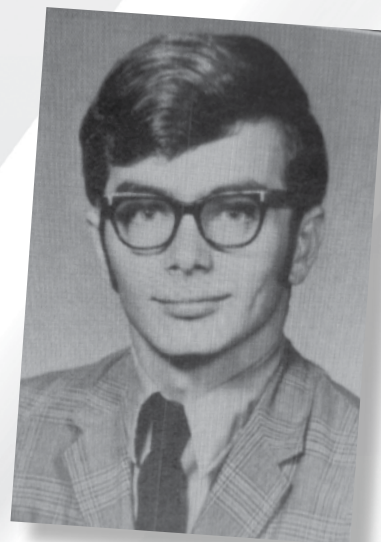
Over those 30-plus years, I have seen classes come and go. The Brothers have dwindled in rank, but their message and mission, to offer education to the children, has remained steady and consistent. Their leadership, guidance and caring have made indelible marks on students from around the world.

What advice would you give students who are preparing to graduate from Seton?

As a student from a Catholic school, remember that you will always see “other” schools



who have more of many things: students, sports offerings, class variety, money. But what you may not realize is the following: A student from a Catholic or private school, on average, will have a better class grade and a deeper moral compass that will help guide them in relationships during their lives. They will also understand that having everything is not always the most important thing. I understand now that “hard work” is the answer to most issues and having the experience of having to work harder to accomplish your goals makes you a better person. ■



Joyce Mitchell Bertoli, SJA '58

Catching Up with Alumni in the Area



St. John's Academy Class of 1958 Reunite at their 60th Alumni Reunion

Back Row: Maynard Ross Ducatte, Ken Rascoe, John Lewis; Front Row: Ann Lagree Laravia, Donna Bates Corodimas, Judy Bourdeau Bissell, Joyce Mitchell Bertoli

In May 2018, Joyce Mitchell Bertoli, St. John's Academy Class of 1958, joined us for her 60th high school reunion. It just so happened that the Mount Assumption Institute, St. John's Academy and Seton Catholic Central Welcome Home Reception was held at Valcour Brewing Company, formerly the Old Stone Barracks of the Plattsburgh Air Force Base. The building is very familiar to Joyce as she lives nearby and was keenly involved with the Friends of the Barracks, a group comprised of area residents interested in preserving the beautiful building for future generations. With a background in art and creativity, along with business experience running the Dollhouse Shoppe in town, Joyce decided to create a 5-foot-long model of the Barracks. Joyce's fine attention to detail brought her on a four-month journey from start to completion. She would say that the building took on a life of its own. The scale of the building was important to Joyce as she wanted the model to accurately portray the grand building. Initial sketches turned into models of cardboard and then wood. No detail was too small and Joyce spent countless hours perfecting her replica. The results are outstanding. The impressive model is now housed at Valcour Brewing Company for all to enjoy. Another piece of St. John's Academy history resides with the model as the owner of Valcour Brewing Company is Mary Theresa Pearl, SJA Class of 1975. We are proud of the alumni among us who enrich our area in many ways. ■



Joyce with her replica of the Old Stone Barracks

Amy Ryan, SCC '96

One Generation to the Next

Why did your family choose to send you to a Catholic school?

My father, Gary Ryan, was teaching middle school History and Social Studies at St. John's Academy when I was Pre-K age. Mrs. Maggie Pearl was the Pre-K teacher at the time and my father was very impressed with the program and the level of morals the teachers and staff displayed. It was because of this that all three of his children were enrolled. My sister, Kelly, my brother, Matt, and I began and ended our education in the Catholic school system in Plattsburgh. We started at St. John's Academy and graduated from Seton Catholic. Kelly was part of the first class to attend Seton Catholic for all four years. Her graduation year was 1993, followed by me in 1996 and Matt in 2001.

What are some of your fondest memories of Catholic school?

Catholic Schools Week was great. I really enjoyed homecoming, attending pep rallies, football games and the dances. There was never pressure for me to participate in sports, but I naturally enjoyed them. In middle school I played modified basketball, track and soccer and continued to play those sports throughout high school. I enjoyed the social aspect of sports. My teachers were also very special. I have so many fond memories, such as Miss Riley and Global Studies, Ms. Forbes and Calculus class, Father Conti and Religion, and Mr. Quantock teaching Government, History and Economics.

What would you consider the greatest gifts you received from your high school experience?

I would say the greatest gifts were the life-long friendships I created. I am still in touch with many of my classmates. The morals and values received helped mold me into the person I am today. Through my experience at Seton I gained enough self-confidence to leave the North Country and pursue

an advanced degree in a field I love. Now my three children are benefiting from the same family values I received. When I moved back to Plattsburgh there was no question as to where they would attend school.

Where did you find yourself after graduation?

After I graduated from Seton in 1996, I attended SUNY Plattsburgh. I received my B.S. in Biochemistry with a minor in Psychology. I was always drawn to science, and later became captivated by the brain and the field of neuroscience. The credits I received from my Seton AP Biology course enabled me to receive credit for both Biology 101 & 102, and I was able to enter SUNY Plattsburgh with eight credits. After graduating from Plattsburgh State, I enrolled in a Neuroscience Ph.D. program at the University of Virginia. Once I saw the campus at UVA I was hooked, and I spent the next six years there studying the pathology of Huntington's disease. When I completed my Ph.D. program, I began my postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. I spent two years in the Pathology Department looking at the effects of aging on the brain. From there my husband, Nick, and I moved back to Plattsburgh and I began a job as a Toxicology Study Director at Wyeth Laboratories. Following the acquisition of Wyeth by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, I accepted an Assistant Professor position at Clinton Community College teaching Biology and Anatomy & Physiology. Two years ago, I accepted a new job at SUNY Plattsburgh as an Assistant Professor in the Biology department where I teach a variety of biology and neurobiology courses. I really enjoy my current position, as I can teach and conduct research while also having lots of opportunities for professional growth.



Has your experience at Catholic school encouraged you or your family to stay involved with your alma mater in a particular way?

Our three sons, Colby (9), Carter (6), and Caleb (3) attend Seton Catholic. We never questioned whether they would be here. My sister Kelly has three children who are enrolled and my brother-in-law, Andy Bilow, is the Dean of Students and History teacher at Seton. Our boys are very involved in sports and play hockey, soccer, baseball and lacrosse. My father, Gary, wore many hats at St. John's Academy and Seton Catholic. He was the Vice-Principal, Principal, Athletic Director, Coach, and Director of Maintenance and Grounds at Seton for many, many years. Seton is a generational part of our family in many ways.

What advice would you give students who are preparing to graduate from Seton?

I would say soak in everything that you can. Try to appreciate all that you have here because you will miss it when you leave. Try out new things and take advantage of every opportunity to become involved in sports, clubs or other activities. You just may end up back here one day with your children enrolled at your alma mater. ■

Patrick Murnane, II SCC '07



Why did your family choose to send you to a Catholic school? My family has deep roots in the Catholic community. Since my grandparents on both sides had roots in Ireland, we strongly identify as Irish Catholics. When my brother, sisters and I went to St. John's Academy, we were second-generation Johnnies.

What were some of your fondest memories of Catholic school? Our tight-knit community is full of wonderful memories for me. As a child I attended St. John's Bible Camp, later becoming a counselor. From the scripture classes to the outdoor fun and games to the final trip to Paradox Lake, it was always a great week. When it came to the school year, we worked hard at our studies, and for our sports teams. Almost all of my classmates played two or three sports. Some of my fondest memories were after school, walking to practice or games with my friends. The different seasons cultivated new friendships, many of which I still hold to this day.

What would you consider the greatest gifts you received from your high school experience? With the sports, homework, bottle drives, and charitable fundraisers, we had a lot going on. Even so, the teachers never seemed to overload us with work. This allowed

the students to find a balanced approach to school. This in turn taught us how to approach life: with balance, patience, and hard work, you can accomplish your goals and dreams.

Where did you find yourself after graduation? After high school, I found myself at Ithaca College. It was a different environment as the college had 7,000 students as opposed to Seton's 300. It was a bit nerve-racking. Thoughts run through your mind like "Will I be able to fit in with a much more diverse group of people?" The question quickly answered itself. Seton's teachings of acceptance, hard work, being kind, and doing the right thing helped me succeed in and out of the classroom.

Has your experience at Catholic school encouraged you or your family to stay involved with your alma mater in a particular way?

It certainly has. Having recently moved back to the area, I'd like to coach at some point. The sports teams that we had were always competitive. I think bringing that spirit of success back to Seton may help bring families back.

What advice would you give students who are preparing to graduate from Seton? Trust your education. Trust your friends. Trust your parents. Most of all, trust yourself. You have two ears and one mouth, so listen twice as much as you talk. It's a big world, with lots to learn, so take it in and always have fun doing it. ■

Where did you find yourself after graduation?

After graduation I moved to Boston to work for Turner, a construction company. After working for a couple of years, I moved to New York City to get my MBA. I worked for Turner in New York City and then at AIG for two years. I married my wife, Desiree, in 2015. Fr. Timothy Canaan presided over our wedding. Shortly after, we moved to Albany, NY, where I am working for our family construction business, Murnane Building Contractors. We had our first daughter, Violet, in March 2018.

Has your experience at Catholic school encouraged you or your family to stay involved with your alma mater in a particular way?

We still participate in the alumni golf tournament, and will occasionally venture up to catch our cousin, Haley Murnane, in her games.

What advice would you give students who are preparing to graduate from Seton?

Capitalize on all of the opportunities that you can: taking AP courses, pursuing extra-curriculars, and SAT prep. Start as early as possible! ■

Michael Murnane, SCC '04



Why did your family choose to send you to a Catholic school?

They knew that it was important to instill Catholic values in our lives. On the educational side, with a smaller number of students, we could get more individual attention.

What were some of your fondest memories of Catholic school?

We had really talented athletes in my class. Despite the smaller student body, we always competed well in many different sports. Playing football, basketball, and baseball with the same group of friends was fun throughout the year.

What would you consider the greatest gifts you received from your high school experience?

Definitely the friendships that I developed. I still regularly see many of the same people from high school. Growing up with the same people that had a similar set of values was very beneficial.

Where did you find yourself after graduation?

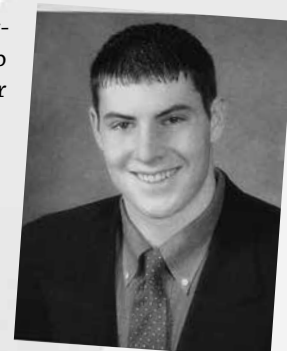
After graduation I moved to Boston to work for Turner, a construction company. After working for a couple of years, I moved to New York City to get my MBA. I worked for Turner in New York City and then at AIG for two years. I married my wife, Desiree, in 2015. Fr. Timothy Canaan presided over our wedding. Shortly after, we moved to Albany, NY, where I am working for our family construction business, Murnane Building Contractors. We had our first daughter, Violet, in March 2018.

Has your experience at Catholic school encouraged you or your family to stay involved with your alma mater in a particular way?

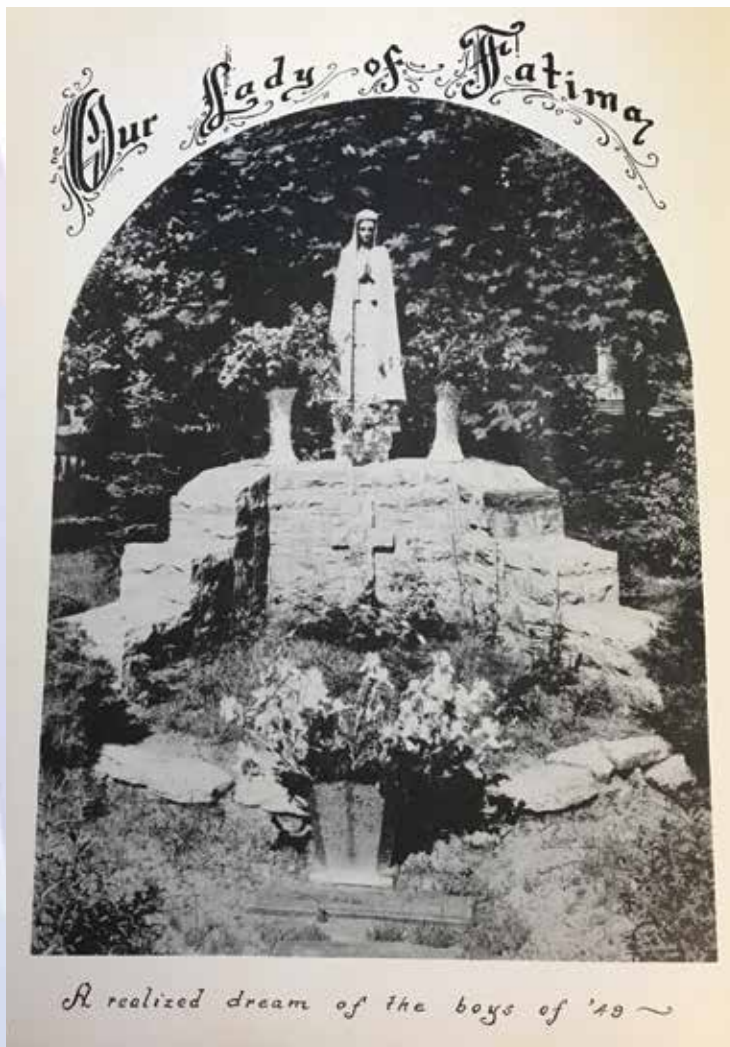
We still participate in the alumni golf tournament, and will occasionally venture up to catch our cousin, Haley Murnane, in her games.

What advice would you give students who are preparing to graduate from Seton?

Capitalize on all of the opportunities that you can: taking AP courses, pursuing extra-curriculars, and SAT prep. Start as early as possible! ■



Statue of Our Lady of Fatima



How it all Began

In 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal. She promised that World War I would end, but a more terrible war would occur if people would continue to offend God and not do penance. Her message was for prayer, reparation, repentance, sacrifice and the abandonment of sin. She stressed the importance of praying the rosary daily for peace and the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. In 1945, World War II ended with a horrendous loss of life and destruction. This was especially true in Eastern Europe where countries formerly occupied by Nazi Germany were now controlled by Communist Russia. Communism promised a better life but was controlling in human rights and denied the practice of religion.

Sister Mary Carmelita was a Religious Sister of Mercy who taught Latin and Religion at St. John's Academy. Sister was very committed to the message of Our Lady of Fatima and felt that Mary's message should be communicated to the students at SJA. She then began to teach about this message to the male students in her religion class. The message of Fatima and the evils of communism were also being taught and discussed in other classes. From this teaching and discussion, the boys in Sister Carmelita's religion class decided that the school should purchase a statue of Our Lady of Fatima to be placed on the school grounds of St. John's Academy. This idea was enthusiastically received by all of the students, with donations made to purchase the statue. By 1948, the present-day statue of Our Lady of Fatima was erected on the front lawn of SJA to the right of the main entrance and adjacent to the convent of the Sisters of Mercy. Following the arrival of the statue, Sister Carmelita was able to find a stone mason to construct an appropriate grotto for the statue.

Before the statue arrived, Sister encouraged students to pray the rosary following the requests made by Mary in her apparitions at Fatima. When the grotto was completed and the statue was in place, you would see on any school day all of the high school students praying the rosary at the end of their lunch hour in front of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. With this article we give special thanks and recognition to Sr. Mary Carmelita RSM and the male graduates of the Class of 1949 for their efforts to honor the Blessed Mother with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. ■

Male Graduates of SJA Class of 1949 and students of Sister Mary Carmelita's Religion Class:

Ross Allen
 Arnold Amell
 Harold Bruette
 Alvin Bull
 Gerald Curtin
 Norman Fleury
 Edward Gonyea
 Philip Hart
 Robert Korthas
 Eugene Lefevre
 Armand Mancuso
 William Manning
 Lawrence Manor
 Harold Reid
 Arthur Rock
 Andrew Ryan



Harold Ryan, SJA 1950



Don Jackson, SJA 1950

Caleb Moore

Valedictorian 2018



Class of

My time at Seton spans fourteen years, from Pre-K to senior year, and I filled it with just about everything I could. I was active in Key Club, Model UN, NHS, NJHS, Science Club, FBLA, Student Council, Yearbook Club, the Student Leadership Team, Peer Tutoring, and a few other things here and there. I played a total of nineteen seasons worth of sports, and I joined the 2017 NC Mission of Hope summer mission to Nicaragua before my senior year.

I would be a very different person if I had never been a Seton Knight. One specific piece of me that Seton cultivated is my leadership skills and confidence in my abilities. Part of going to a smaller school is knowing that you have a responsibility to get involved and do things with your time if you want anything to happen. If you want to raise money for a cause or have fun school events, you better organize a fundraiser or run for Student Council and make them happen. My favorite part of Seton is how it pushes you out of your comfort zone again and again, forcing you to grow as a person, get involved, and make new connections.

Second to my studies, the most significant part of my time at Seton was definitely my running. My two coaches, Coach Champagne and Coach Bombard, have been guiding and teaching me since I ran modified Cross-Country in seventh grade. After six years of seeing them almost every single day after school, they've come to be like a second set of parents who I can trust and look up to. I owe much more than just success on the track to them. They symbolize another aspect of Seton that I am grateful for: Family. Seton's community is tight-knit, supportive, and welcoming. I really do see Seton as a home where I will always be welcomed back and warmly greeted at the door. I am not Catholic, nor are many of my friends, but that doesn't separate us in any way from the community of help and support that Seton is fortunate to be a part of.

I feel prepared not just for college, but for all of life's trials that will undoubtedly come. I can't wait to be on campus this fall, running along the Charles River with my new team, sitting through lectures on topics as different as calculus and philosophy, and using all of the skills that an education at Seton Catholic has given me. I know I'll stop by Seton whenever I'm in town.

Ella Imani Archer
Cedar Crest College

Cassie McKenzie Bullis
Merrimack College

Ava Jeanine Goble
Undecided

Casey Blaze Halloran
Clinton Community College

Shuangyue Han
SUNY Buffalo

Xiyue Han
Temple University

Noah Kane
Clinton Community College

Chao Ju Lai
Temple University

Michelle Lynn Lareau
Clinton Community College

Caleb Robert Moore
Harvard University



Rachel Racette

Salutatorian 2018



2018

Laura Ann Morelock
Siena College

Dawson Colvard Pellerin
SUNY Canton

Lin Qi
University of Arizona

Rachel Yvonne Racette
Colgate University

Ming Chak Sham
Penn State University

Alexander Perras Sharon
Clarkson University

Carolyn Anna Spittler
Clarkson University

Haizhou Yang
Indiana University

Gretchen Joan Zalis
Ithaca College

Zhiyi Zhou
University at Albany

The past seven years of my life effectively revolved around Seton and my time there was an experience I will never forget. Being part of such a small class has its ups and downs, but it gave me a chance to get to know everyone to the point where nothing could surprise us about each other.

Sports at Seton held some of my fondest memories, especially winning basketball sectionals this year and the trip down to Saratoga for regionals that followed. My coaches were always great people and helped me have an amazing time in every season I played.

My time at Seton was an opportunity I'm grateful for. The memories I have and the people that I got to know have made the past seven years well spent.

Below is an excerpt from Rachel's Salutatorian Speech:

"Looking into the future, I hope each one of us will be open to learning about ourselves and about other people. I want us as individuals to work to stay grounded and keep our focus on what truly matters, to have the courage to step outside our comfort zones and take risks. I want us to also have the courage to take an inward look and not be afraid to ask ourselves if we are becoming the people who we truly want to be. Most of all, I want us to find success and happiness whether we attain it in the most conventional or unusual ways. Seton has been quite the ride these last few years and I will miss many parts of it: the community, the sports, and the friendships. It has been a wonderful experience. Now, as Bilbo Baggins said, 'I think I'm quite ready for another adventure.'"

Testimonials



My daughter Ella attended St. John's Academy for Pre-K and Kindergarten. In first grade we moved into Plattsburgh and I enrolled her in the city school system. She seemed happy throughout elementary and middle school. Ninth grade was different. As she is my eldest, I just thought it was a normal high school adjustment. Tenth grade was worse. I was really worried

about her, but I never thought about changing schools as a remedy. One week before her junior year began, she asked to attend Seton. As a parent, my greatest wish is to see my children happy.

The small family atmosphere at Seton was just what Ella needed. There is a lot of individualized attention and her grades improved immediately. We found the teachers and administrators easily accessible and extremely accommodating. Although she had never played soccer before she joined the team, everyone was encouraging and supportive. She ended up participating in many more activities and a sport every season for her last two years. That great sportsmanship and team spirit run throughout the school on a daily basis. We found Seton warm and inclusive. We were welcomed to what felt like a big family. For anyone out there whose child is struggling, we would encourage you to consider Seton. We feel blessed for the experience we had at this school.

Dena & Ella Archer



Less than a year ago, my husband and I jointly made the decision to change our lifestyle around from downtown city living to Plattsburgh living! While we were willing to make many sacrifices, one fundamental standard that we were not willing to compromise was the provision of a Catholic education. It was paramount that it would continue to be a mainstay for our family.

We both believe in getting a quality education, for it allows more doors to open and better future oppor-

tunities in life. We had sent our two children to a well-regarded Catholic school in downtown Chicago. It was a beautiful, supporting and loving community that was rich in its teachings. As we considered where to put down roots in the North Country, finding

the right school was a priority for us and without a doubt influenced our decision on where we settled as a family.

We believe strongly in the teachings and philosophies behind a Catholic education. We believe we are giving our children the best environment to be enriched in heart, body, mind and soul. We believe that if our children never say another Hail Mary or Our Father upon graduation, the foundation of education and morality will always be there.

As change happens, no matter how miniscule or monumental, it can be an incredibly jarring and unsettling experience. We were not prepared to be told two and a half weeks after starting school last fall that there was a concern about our son's behavior that led to the realization that he was almost a year behind academically. It was an embarrassing and humbling experience that, despite everything we set out as to do as parents, did not seem apparent in that moment in time. Nor were we prepared to have our daughter (K) being exposed to lessons that my son was doing in 2nd grade! The dichotomy between education in Chicago and at Seton was huge!

However, with the grace of God and the firm but loving support of our son's principal, teacher and resource teacher along with many long, intense homework sessions, our son thrived. It was truly a community effort. He ended the year with a confident jaunt in his walk, an easy grin and grades in his backpack that had showed dramatic improvement.

The level of education that our son received in his 1st year at Seton Academy was the toughest ever and yet the most successful. The intensity and the quality level of education that Seton offers to our children gives us the confidence that our children will be given the tools to be successful, as students as well as upstanding members of our community.

Change can be scary and daunting, but when you can see the tangible benefits of that change—in education, quality of life and community values—it helps you know you made the right decision. And for us, that decision started with Seton.

Eileen Davis-Roesler



Two years ago, my two youngest children went off to college. My husband often asks me why I am still so involved with Seton. I tell him what I tell everyone: I believe in Seton and I want other students to have the opportunities my children had. I reminisce about dropping

our three kids off at Seton Academy. I watched them gain an interest in sports, and I coached their team and helped nurture their passions firsthand. I picked them up from aftercare with former librarian Mr. Page, despite their insistence that I let them stay



longer. I was a little nervous when they graduated from middle school, but I knew they would be in good hands at Seton Catholic Central High School. Those years went by way too quickly.

Recently my daughter was writing a paper for her physical education class at UVM. While discussing different types of coaches and athletes, she told me the best part about Seton Catholic was the sports; this from a girl who was third in her class academically. She believes much of her success with her college applications had to do with her diversity: Olivia played three sports a year from seventh through twelfth grade. At Seton Catholic, if you want to play sports, you get to play sports. If you put in the work, you can do well. She would never have had this opportunity in the public school system.

I love the teachers at Seton. Teachers stay at Seton because they love the school and love the students. It's not for the money; they would make more in the public schools. It's not for the state retirement plan; they are not eligible for it. They believe in Seton, as do I. Because they love our children, they welcome our help and listen to our concerns. Each student is an individual with individual needs. My daughter Emily got into one of the most prestigious photography schools in the country. At the time she was in high school, Seton had no photography class. That didn't stop her favorite art teacher, Ms. Fountain, from helping Emily follow her passion. She found ways for Emily to craft her skills and showcase her talent. Her encouragement and support have changed Emily's life forever.

The fact that students must do community service throughout their middle and high school years teaches our children at a young age that the world is bigger than they are. All children should learn the wonderful feelings that come with doing something for another person with no expectation of being repaid. No one was more surprised than I was when my son won an award for the most community service hours in his senior class. Seton was able to bring something out in Adam that I couldn't. I am grateful for that.

Seton has developed an education that caters to each student. The teachers work overtime to ensure the preparedness of their students, offering after-school help and encouraging participation. They are kind-hearted individuals that I have had the pleasure to know throughout the years. Small class sizes allow for better understanding and academic integrity. Extracurricular activities have helped my children build their resumes and gain leadership positions, and the overall faith-filled community has grown good-hearted young people with an appreciation for service. When my children moved on from Seton, they were prepared to pursue their dreams. My children were happy with their grades, colleges were impressed with their extracurriculars, and I was proud of my children that Seton had so positively shaped.

Seton is more than just a gateway for my children transitioning into adulthood. It is family. After we moved to Plattsburgh from Kentucky, Seton welcomed us, all of us, with open arms. Being a private school, we, the Seton Community, must work together and work hard for the continued success of Seton.

Sharalyn Nachbauer

When my wife passed away seven years ago, one of the challenges our family faced was deciding how to

continue the education of the three youngest children. They were home-schooled and had never attended a real school and I had neither the skill nor the time to continue teaching them at home.

I chose to send them to Seton, enrolling my daughter in sixth grade and my sons in eighth and ninth. I picked Seton because I thought it would provide an environment that echoed some of the values my wife and I had tried to create in our own home: respect, gentleness, service, and an appreciation for learning. I also hoped that, at Seton, I could continue to have an active role in my children's education.

The results were even better than I'd hoped. My children were immediately welcomed at Seton, and the transition from home-schooling to middle and high school was almost effortless. It was an enormous relief to me to see them thriving in a school environment.

I wanted my children to be challenged academically, and Seton gave them that opportunity. They excelled, but they had to work at it, and Seton encouraged them. The school provided the discipline and structure they needed to learn to manage their time and their assignments. Their teachers provided enough guidance that I rarely had to help them with the material. I am very pleased with the education that Seton provided for my children, and I'm thankful that Seton made that education so easy for a busy single parent.

Academics was an important reason for my choice of Seton for my children, but they benefited in other ways I never anticipated. My children surprised me by showing a strong interest in athletics. They had no athletic experience, but an advantage of a small school is that anyone can participate. A motivated student can make the team if he or she makes an effort and actually play. My kids played almost everything Seton offered: basketball, baseball, softball, football, soccer, track, tennis—and they loved it. I think their involvement in sports, the friends they made and the lessons they learned about teamwork and effort and winning and losing and responsibility may be the best thing to happen to them during their years at Seton. I don't think they could have had that experience at a bigger school.

My children discovered other ways to be involved as well, joining various clubs, service organizations, and student groups. Seton provides numerous opportunities for those who want to participate, with an emphasis on service to the community. My three were active and busy.

Finally, Seton gave me something else I wanted—a place where I could find community and be of service while not taking time away from my family. Seton has needs, and depends in part on parents to help meet them. Helping with events, working with the other Seton families, contributing in various ways to the success of our little school—this has been wonderfully rewarding for me. My youngest graduated from Seton this year, but I look forward to years of continuing involvement with this school that has been such an important part of our family, that has served us so well, and for which I'm grateful.

Hank Racette





Reunion Celebration

Word is spreading that the MAI, SJA and SCC alumni are gathering on Memorial Day weekends to celebrate all that they have in common. Each year the reunion has grown, and we hope the trend continues. **We invite all grades from the past surrounding Catholic schools to join us from May 24-26, 2019 to share stories and celebrate friendships.** We highlight the big years such as the 60th, 50th, 40th and more, but all grades are welcome and we encourage you to attend. The wonderful thing about having a reunion span many years, and different schools, is that your high school memories are not limited to just those friends you graduated with. We had very competitive sports teams in the day and our alumni enjoy recalling the spirit with which those games were played, sometimes relishing and needing each other about victories on the field, the court or in the classroom. We organize the event, so the hard part is done. You can help us by reaching out to fellow classmates and encourage them to join in the revelry. We look forward to seeing you in May and we hope you will stop by 206 New York Road to see our newly unified campus.

Saturday Night Fever



The Seton Family Association



The Seton Family Association of 2018-2019 is so proud to be part of this exciting unification year. Our goal is to merge all talents and gifts from all grades. Our overall philosophy centers on inclusion of all students and fostering parental involvement. We look forward to creating fun, engaging events that reflect Seton Catholic's core faith and values.

Hello! My name is Amanda Boyle and I am the President of the Seton Family Association. I live in Plattsburgh with my husband, Eric, and our daughter, Hayden (2nd Grade). Seton has been wonderful for our family. The sense of faith, community and inclusion is irreplaceable. I'm so excited to be part of the Seton Family Association Board. I cannot wait to meet our families and do great things together this year.

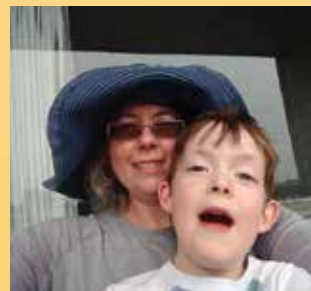


Hello Seton Families! My name is Rebecca Packwood and I am the new Seton Family Association Secretary. I currently live in Plattsburgh with my husband, Kevin, and our daughter, Hannah (4th Grade). We chose Seton because of the quality education it has to offer; the community spirit the school has; and because we felt Seton would equip our daughter with the tools and foundation necessary to become a good Christian—one who is kind, compassionate and respectful to others, herself, and the Earth. I look forward to bringing my talents and gifts to the Seton community.



Hello! My name is Eileen Davis-Roesler. I am the Vice President of the Seton Family Association. Less than a year ago, my husband, Michael, and I and our children, Colby (4th Grade) and Mikayla (1st Grade) did a 180-degree lifestyle change and moved from Chicago to Plattsburgh, NY. It has not been without hiccups. However, it has been the ultimate blessing. We have found love, strength and support in our very special Seton community. I am a strong propo-

nent of a superior education not only for the mind but for the heart and spirit. With that in mind, I look forward to building a stronger community with you and your children.



Hi, I am Kelly Shadrick, the Seton Family Association Treasurer. My son, Sean (2nd grade), my husband, Dan, and I live in Dannemora. This will be Sean's third year at Seton and we couldn't be happier. I look forward to supporting the Seton Family Association and the Seton community.

Our Seton Catholic

Family

Est. July 1, 2018



Mary Forbes
Interim Principal
Athletic Director
High School Math Teacher



Kathy Toner
Elementary Assistant Principal
5th Grade Teacher



Andy Bilow
Dean of Students/Middle
& High School Social
Studies Teacher



Sue Bleeker
Elementary Faculty Advisor/
SEL Coordinator/3rd Grade
Teacher



Christine Boulé
Chief Financial Officer/
High School Business
Teacher



Cara Chapman
Director of International
Students/Communications
Coordinator



Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin
Director of Advancement &
Enrollment Management



Kathy Ames
Nurse



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Assistant Cafeteria
Manager



Val Bacon
High School
Science Teacher



Sharon Bainbridge
Librarian



Suzanne Beaumont
K-8 AIS Coordinator

Faculty



Sue Bushey
Cafeteria Manager



Daniel Cayea
Information Systems
Manager/Data
Coordinator



Judy Cosgro
Pre-K 4 Head Teacher



Leslie Cosgrove
Art Teacher/Pre-K 3
Teacher Aide



Bonnie D'Aust
Aftercare Provider/Pre-K 4
Teacher Aide



Barb Drake
Student Success Coordi-
nator



Sr. Bernadette Ducharme
Volunteer/Cafeteria/Copies



Taylor Edmonston
Music Teacher



Kristin Flores
Spanish Teacher



Sandy Gingrich
Executive Assistant to the
Principal/Photography
Teacher



Daphne Gricoski
High School Science
Teacher



**Sister Cecelia Marie
Hermann**
Volunteer



Sister Helen Hermann
Curriculum & Professional
Development Coordinator



Marie Helene Hyacinthe
French Teacher



Pat Jenkins
Aftercare Provider



Liz Jensen
2nd Grade Teacher



Sue Kocsis
Aftercare Provider



Rick LaDuke
Buildings & Grounds/
Housekeeping Manager



Sr. Brian Marie Latour
Aftercare Provider



Meg Lawliss
Physical Education
Teacher



Doris Leazott
Cafeteria Assistant



Ariel Masten
High School Math/
Elementary Physical Educa-
tion Teacher



Maureen McMahon
High School
English Teacher



Molly Murnane
1st Grade Teacher



Melissa Niquette
Middle & High School
ELA Teacher



Sue Pombrio
Middle & High School
Religious Studies Teacher/
Campus Ministry



Christine Reynolds
4th Grade Teacher



Karen Reynolds
Middle School Math
Teacher/Secondary Level
Religion Teacher



Claudia Sanders
Cafeteria Volunteer



Courtney Savage
Administrative Assistant/
Business Office Assistant



Dulcie Semeraro
Middle & High School
Science Teacher



Maura Spilman
Pre-K 3 Head Teacher/
High School Religion
Teacher



Sarah Stone
Middle & High School
Social Studies Teacher



JoAnn Templin
Nurse/Aftercare Provider



Jen Toohill
Pre-K 3 Teacher Aide/
Music Teacher



Carrie Trombley
Janitorial Supervisor



Robert Wolf
Art Teacher



Natalie Wylie
Kindergarten Teacher



Sally Yanulavich
Business Manager



Caitlin Yell
Middle & High School
ELA Teacher



Thank You

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Seton Catholic’s students, faculty, staff and Education Council members humbly thank you for your continued support in helping fulfill our mission to provide an exceptional Catholic education in the North Country.

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