



# Alumni Newsletter

*Living for Christ; Learning for Life*

## Archdiocese Honors Tanner Berube for Service

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Alumni were proud February 11 when Tanner Berube, a 2005 graduate of our school, was awarded the St. Francis of Assisi Award, an archdiocesan service award, in the youth category.

Father Steve Moore said this about Tanner: "Tanner is a young man who consistently observes the world around him and sees opportunities for service."

Tanner, currently a junior at Lumen Christi High School, has begun a mentoring program for junior high students. He's been a

catechist for 4th and 5th grade children, regularly helps the Knights of Columbus serve breakfast, and helps organize retreats. He's in drama and school government. Tanner has an innovative spirit — he organized a "Pound for Pound Donation" program at Lumen Christi and St. Benedict Church with teams lined up for a healthy weight loss competition to benefit charity. His principal says Tanner is "compassionate and generous with his time, talents and money."

Words to describe a Catholic School graduate: he

observes the world around him and sees opportunities for service. Congratulations, Tanner.



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### Special points of interest:

- Our current students raised \$1,607.83 for Earthquake relief in Haiti. Combined with a matching grant of \$500 from a parent, that brought the total to \$2,107.83. Super!
- Our School is currently recruiting for next year! Tell your friends!

## News from Alumni and Teachers

**Paul Miranda**, 2000, is a paramedic and in his final school year at University of Alaska Fairbanks. Paul is hoping to work with the Anchorage Fire Department and in the meantime is employed by the university fire department in Fairbanks. **Sister Nan Ross** left our school in 1985 and went to Holy Cross

on the Yukon River. Later, she returned to her motherhouse in Iowa to help out and is now in Dubuque where she reports the community has a "lovely retirement center." **Christy Tuomi** (1980's) is in her third year of medical school at Des Moines University.

Congratulations to **Mary**

**Katherine O'Grady**, 2000, who graduates this spring in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins, and has been accepted into a graduate program in the same field there. **Jayne Kimmet**, who taught 3rd & 4th grades and computers for just over seven years, has arrived in Egypt where she joins her husband who works there.

We heard from **Joe Powers**, who attended 82-85. Joe is a firefighter in Richard, VA and owns a photography studio, has two small boys and graduated from James Madison U. in 99. Thanks for writing, Joe!

# Helen Boedecker's 20 Years!

She holds the record: 20 years at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Her kindergarten run ended in 2002, and who can forget their year in Mrs. Boedecker's class? Many were the parents who came to our school "just" for kindergarten based on Helen's reputation — and fortunately, most of them stayed. A Montana girl, a Gonzaga grad, and an experienced teacher when she came to our school, Helen once said her dad told her, when she had a chance to come to Alaska, "If I were you, that's just what I'd do." And she's been here ever since.

After Mrs. B. instituted the Kinderdilly Circus, it became one of life's milestones. Of course, you remember your role — was it the clown? Weight-lifter? Prancing pony? Or were you the ringmaster? Helen's three-part Tridium ex-

perience, each "day" separated by curtains, was a highlight for students and parents alike. And remember the Christmas program?

It's about community, according to Helen. "I saw friendships develop that have lasted to this day. I've seen people stick together through tragedy."

Since leaving our school, Helen worked for the Anchorage School District as a tutor. She's also floated the Grand Canyon, driven the Alcan and gone to see the Final Four Basketball Tournament. But her best time: being with her two grandkids (at right) and husband Wayne.

*Lucky Grandkids!*



"I loved the community. I loved the togetherness. It was all about our Faith." Helen Boedecker

## Do You Remember Mrs. Brecht?

Lucy Brecht was the kindergarten teacher for one year, 1981-82, the second year of our school's life, right before Mrs. Boedecker. Lucy is still a member of our parish with her husband Julius, and a regular at Holy Spirit Center. "I value the long-time friendships I've had with parents who

had children in my classroom," said Lucy. "I've loved seeing the children years later return and become so successful in their professions. And I remember the tremendous volunteers." Thanks, Mrs. Brecht!



*It's all about  
Community and  
Faith!*

## Sixth Grade Girl Scouts Leave a Legacy of Light



Tanner Berube took home the big prize, but a great group of girls who are spending their last year at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School were also nominated for an Assisi Award.

The 6th grade Girl Scouts, during their long years together, have become experts on candle-lit luminaria, and they've

used that skill for some pretty amazing things: outdoor Stations of the Cross at Holy Spirit Center and organizing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life luminary ceremony with over 1000 luminary bags. They've also cleaned up Campbell Creek, coordinated a Food Drive for St. Francis Food Pantry, raised funds in 3rd grade for the tsunami victims and helped coordinate a Halloween Carnival for St. Mary's Epis-

copal Church. There's not room to list it all! One of their leaders said: "It gives me hope and confidence that our church has such capable young female leaders." Let's hear it for: **Amber Tabios, Meghan Childs, Mary Lottridge, Johanna Estes, Josephine Mills, Katie MacMaster, Marissa Turpin, Sara Choque, Leah Cross, Gabby Martinez, Cecilia Martinez, Aunica Campbell, Heather Siebs and Alice Michaelson.**

# Our Newest Teacher Aims High

Saint Elizabeth's newest classroom teacher is Carrie McLaughlin, an English literature major from the University of Arizona who received her teaching credentials at California State University in Sacramento. She began teaching our fourth grade in the fall of 2009.

A native Californian, Carrie decided to be adventurous and risk the Alaskan cold because she had close friends here and teaching jobs were tough to come by in California. She's glad she made the move.

"I was hired at the end of July," said Carrie, "but I thought I would be taking over a classroom mid-year." To her surprise, principal Jim Bailey called her four days before school started and needed her to begin immediately.

"Everyone here is so friendly and supportive," said Ms McLaughlin, who grew up in the small town of Ojai near Santa

Barbara. "I love the people here."

Carrie attended a high school run by Augustinian priests and it was there that she came to admire Catholic education. "There's a real sense of community in a Catholic school," she said. She's weathered her first Alaskan winter well, with the help of all-weather tires and a novice's excitement over "my first real experience of snow." Nevertheless, count Carrie glad to see the sunlight returning. The mid-winter solstice was not her favorite Alaskan time!

While in college, Carrie didn't plan on teaching, and after graduating she designed custom art frames. But, two things became clear: she wanted to work with people, and she wanted to influence the world for good.

Thanks for choosing to meet those goals at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Ms. McLaughlin.



*Go Forth and Set the World on Fire.*  
Ignatius of Loyola

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*Archbishop of Anchorage Roger Schwietz, along with Mrs. Westermann, helps students with cookie baking in October. The archbishop is head of our Catholic School System and enjoys getting involved when he visits! We now have five Catholic schools affiliated with the Archdiocese.*

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## More Teacher & Alumni News

Former Librarian **Pat Kennish** departed on a mission trip to Honduras March 13. After leaving our school in 2002, Pat was a municipal librarian until 2009. Now she's a full time volunteer and justice advocate!

**Ryan Sobolik** (1997) is married and living in Portland, where he was diagnosed with leukemia last year. After a successful bone marrow transplant, Ryan is doing great and looking forward to mov-

ing to Anchorage in April. You can follow him on Twitter.

**Kathryn Carpenter Taylor** graduated from the U. of Idaho in 2006. She's married to Sam Taylor, lives in Bellingham and is expecting baby No.1 next September!

**Paul DeVasConCellos** graduated from Washington State in biomedical engineering and is now in graduate school there in mechanical engineering.

### News from Christie Volz

Ms. Volz taught 1st grade for only two years, (1994-96) but no one in her class will ever forget her! Like Ms. McLaughlin, she had to set up her classroom with a few days notice. She says about the toilet seat for reading in her room: "Apparently my 'reading throne' news made it to the university level—someone in college there once told me the professor used my toilet as a great example of teaching 'out of the box' — or maybe that was 'off the commode?' Hee-hee." Christie, where *did* you find that toilet?? Now **Christie Bronder**, she says "life is grand in Wisconsin. Eric and I have 2 incredible children, Denali, 4, and Ty, 3. We have a small hobby farm with cows, horses, chickens, sheep, cats, and dogs. Our dream has come alive and next I'll return to the classroom (after being a stay-at-home mom) in some capacity."

Her happiest memories at our school—"finding the 'family' of parents and children to start my life in education. I am forever grateful." So are we.

**Saint Elizabeth  
Ann Seton School  
Alumni News**

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link to this newsletter.

## Become a Fan on Facebook! We Need Your News!

- There are Facebook alumni groups out there, both for our school and for other St. Elizabeth Ann Setons in other places. It can be quite confusing. If you want to become a fan of the one we've started with reminiscences and current news, go to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Alumni Anchorage Alaska and you should find us! We have about 87 fans now — but we have hundreds of graduates.
- Do you see a name in this newsletter of someone you'd like to contact? Email us and we'll try to put you in touch.
- Do you ever wonder what happened to your favorite teacher? Send us suggestions for articles and we'll try to find the latest!
- Have you gotten married? Graduated from law school? Had a baby? Share your news and pictures through our newsletter and Facebook page. Get in touch!
- Make an effort to **send a classmate's name and email**. We would love to extend our group.
- Below, the whole gang of current students in our Miki Center.



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