

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Alumni Newsletter

New Teacher for Fifth Grade

It's always exciting to have a new face in the classroom. This year, 5th grade is happy to welcome Ali Ann Marrs, whose Catholic school background goes all the way back to Kansas — St. Mary's Queen of the Universe Grade School in Salina. Ali Ann has a master's degree from the John Paul II Institute at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and five years of Catholic school teaching experience.



She loves grammar and she believes it's an essential life skill. She has taught at a Grammar Institute and tells her students, "You are going to LOVE grammar after you leave my English class." Ms. Marrs will be team teaching

with long-time 6th grade teacher Mr. Ezell. He specializes in science and math, while her specialties are language arts, reading, religion and social studies. Ms. Marrs has a special enthusiasm for our patron, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. "She has a special place in my heart."

Bragging Rights

At Goldenview Middle School's spring National Junior Honor Society induction, 10 out of 14 St. Elizabeth's grads were accepted into this elite organization. With a total of 76 new inductees, our grads comprised more than 12% of the total, far exceeding their percentage of the school's enrollment.

Alum in the Gov's Office

If you called Governor Sean Parnell's Anchorage office this summer, the first, very professional voice you heard was our own Mary Dempsey, who studied with the class of 2004. Mary was serving as a temporary receptionist before heading off to the University of Florida in Gainesville this August. Good experience for — who knows?— the future Governor Dempsey.

Big Changes Coming

This summer, St. Elizabeth School received new paint, new carpeting, a new computer lab, and other improvements. We're lookin' good! However, these are cosmetic improvements. An architect has prepared some plans for dramatic changes to the school and the church worship area. These plans are now the subject of town hall meetings with parishioners on August 19 and 25 at 7:00 p.m. and August 28 at 10:00 a.m. Stay tuned for developments. We'll keep you posted.

On to Lumen Christi

Out of this year's 2010 Saint Elizabeth School graduating class, six students are moving on to 7th grade at Lumen Christi Junior/Senior High at St. Benedict Parish.

Do you know where these folks are? This is the eighth grade class of 1987-88. Asterisks indicate names and addresses we need.

Marcus Parker*, Vera Zitzow*, Heather Estabrook, Sam Dickinson*, Josh Durand, Ann Lamm, Christine Scott, Brian Wagner*, Kerry Nangle, John McGavick*, Frank Ciccone*, Leslie Roberts*, Chris Kershaw*

Some people don't realize St. Elizabeth School had a 7th and 8th grade at one time. It was dropped after a few years due to low enrollment. There was no Catholic junior/senior high school to feed into at that time, and students often left after sixth grade to move into public junior high. Today's sixth graders have the excellent option of continuing their Catholic education at Lumen Christi's 7-12 program.

Former Sixth Grade Teacher Directs Online Magazine

When Leda Smith left St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in 2002, everyone was heartsick. Who could replace her in 6th Grade? God provides. In this case, we received the gift of Jessica Fries-Gaither, a Notre Dame University grad who spent five years at our school, eventually team taught with

Madelain Westermann, and now lives in Ohio. Fries-Gaither works at Ohio State U. and is project director for "Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears," an online magazine for elementary teachers. "I miss teaching," says Jessica, "but not grading papers." Husband Tre' is refereeing

soccer when not busy at a civil engineering firm. Both are involved in Notre Dame Alumni activities and "supporting local Catholic schools through tutoring, fundraising, and other projects." Jessica is training for an October marathon. Visit beyondpenguins.nsd.org.

Alumni News — Do You Recognize These Names?

Remember the **Krepels**, a name from the 1990s? They moved North to Talkeetna. **Katelyn** (Kayti) graduated in June with a music degree from Seattle Pacific U. She's engaged to Ben, who grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo as the child of missionaries. Kayti and Ben spent a month visiting in Africa, and are training to go on a mission themselves soon. Brother **Matt Krepel** attends Franciscan U. of Stuebenville in Ohio, and is joining the pre-theology program there for young men experiencing a call to religious life. Another name from that era — the **Origers**. **Anthony**, who graduated from St. E's in 2003, spent his first year of college at St. John's University, a Benedictine school in Minnesota where he

played football. **Jessica Origer** just graduated from high school and will attend the College of St. Benedict, just five miles from St. John's. The Origers left our school when they moved to Willow. Did anyone notice our alum, **Betsy Shelton-Kelley** (now Kelley) who was featured on the cover of *Parade* magazine's yearly piece on "how much people earn"? As noted in an earlier newsletter, Betsy is a professional dancer. Here's news from the **Eck** family, who left our parish and school in the 1990s. **Craig**, who would have graduated in the class of 2000, attended the U. of Missouri with a BS in biomedical engineering and is now in med school at Mizzou. Brothers **Connor** and **Chase** are at Northwestern and **Cam-**

den graduated from 8th grade this year. Remember the **Komin** family? Today, **Kelly**, who studied with the class of 2000, is a student at Cal State Fullerton as a communications major. Big brother **Dan** is entering his last year at UCLA as a political science major. He's the president of the student group "Bruins for Liberty." Thanks to sister **Sarah Komin-DuRoss** for that information. **Kevin Kelly**, 1994, married in December of '09 and is finishing flight training with the Alaska Air National Guard. **Moms** from the **Class of 1994** are planning a reunion lunch. Call 644-9734 for details.

Send us your news and your email address! We want to hear from you!

Saint Elizabeth Alum Garners National Attention on the Ice

For a few days this spring, one of our graduates basked in the national spotlight.

Matt Carle was in the national finals competing for the holy grail of hockey, the Stanley Cup. In an exciting series pitting Carle's Philadelphia Flyers against the

Chicago Blackhawks, the Blackhawks won in a squeaker in Game 6, depriving Carle of a chance to bring the coveted Stanley Cup to visit Anchorage.

Matt is a graduate of the University of Denver where he won the Hobey Baker award, hockey's equivalent of the Heis-

Matt Carle was our famous alumni this summer as his Flyers battled the Blackhawks for the Stanley Cup.



mann trophy. His brothers David and Alex are also Saint Elizabeth's alum. Matt was married this July. Congratulations Matt and Clancey.



PENNIES FOR PEACE

Jerene Mortenson, mother of author Greg Mortenson (*Three Cups of Tea*), spoke to St. Elizabeth students in April. She wowed them with pictures of Greg's work building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and they wowed her by collecting thousands of pennies for Mortenson's work! That jar was heavy! Greg's book has been a wildly successful bestseller. Students enjoyed hearing about the enthusiasm Afghani and Pakistani students have for their education. "We GET to go to school!" became the rallying cry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Elementary. Mortenson is at left, principal Jim Bailey at right. The students' collection for the East Asia Institute was one of **70 service projects** they completed in 2009-10.



Liturgical Ministries Prepare Students for the Future

Saint Elizabeth's graduates are confident and poised before a crowd. At our elementary school, students have, for most of our history, performed as Liturgical Ministers at Mass, serving as lectors, altar servers, cantors, musicians and choir members. If you haven't heard our choir under Mrs. Haines, you've missed a treat. Each year, students are trained to take on public roles in the life of our parish and the parishes which they join throughout their lives. At right, Father Ben Torretto with school ministers, Nicholas Lopetrone, Callie Orizotti and Nathan Lai, from a picture taken about three years ago.



Happy Birthday, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was a remarkable woman. In her day, there were few avenues for strong women to use their skills. After being widowed and left with five children, Seton joined the Catholic Church and plunged into a life of developing a religious community and schools. Sometimes, we forget the humanity of someone who has been declared a "saint." Forget the plaster-statue image, and think of a handsome, intellectual woman making her mark on American education. Elizabeth Seton was born 236 years ago August 29 in New York City.



State-of-the-Art Computer Lab

St. Elizabeth School has had a great computer lab for years, but the computers were aging, and this summer, an entirely new computer lab was installed. At left, our IT person John Emery accepts a check which was a grant from Walmart for \$1000 to help with the costs. Standing with John are Beth Lottridge, our computer and library instructor, and students Mary Lottridge,

who moves to Lumen Christi this year, and Christopher Lottridge. Much of the money for the new lab was raised through our Annual Auction, which has become one of Anchorage's premiere social events, a major school fund-raiser, and a terrific community builder. This year's Auction is at the Egan Center November 6. Thanks to co-chairs Jessica Estes and Elizabeth Roberts and their army of helpers!

Memories!

Can you find yourself in the picture at right? Taken in the winter of 1997-98, we still had our original entryway. Teachers at right of picture are Mrs. Wachowski, 1st grade, Mrs. Boedecker, K, and Mrs. Chudy, 2nd. At the left in back (in hood) is 3rd grade teacher Pam Carver.

The Parish is currently looking at architectural plans to create a new entryway for our school and provide other improvements. (See page 1)

**Living for Christ,
Learning for Life**

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Ensure our school's legacy with a gift to the Annual Fund



Living for Christ, Learning for Life. . . That's our goal at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School. In an effort to ensure a sound financial basis, we have joined Catholic schools nationwide in conducting an Annual Fund. Eventually, we hope our Annual Fund will provide a "third leg" of funding for our school, along with affordable tuition and our major event, the School Auction.

This year is our second Annual Fund. We urge our graduates and their parents to consider a gift to ensure that Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Elementary remains a place where happy students continue to learn for life and live for Christ.

Donate easily and securely by going to www.akseas.com and click on the giving icon. Thank you!



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