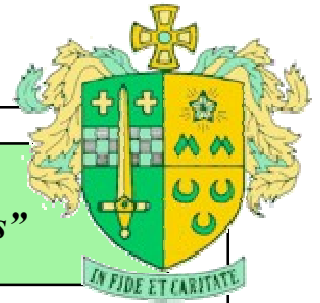


# Rebelations

December 2007/January 2008 Parent Newsletter

*"A place where everyone belongs"*



## Message From the Principal

Dear Friends:

December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent and the start of a new Church year. In Advent we remember the first Coming of Christ in history, prepare our houses for the celebration of Christ's birth, and prepare our hearts to be more welcoming dwelling places for Christ, who dwells within us.

I would like to make a few suggestions that may be helpful to you and your family. First, pray for peace. Historians feel that God chose the time of Christ's birth because it was a time of peace, a peace enforced by the might of Rome, but a peace nonetheless. Our world is filled with violence. Most of us don't have the level of influence to make a difference in world affairs, but prayer is powerful. We can pray that those who do have influence will hear God's voice asking them to act as peacemakers. Next, we can work for peace in our own homes, schools, neighborhoods and places of work. We can express differences respectfully and really listen— not just to each others' words— but also to each others' hearts.

We also need to participate in the political arena and seek ways to influence issues that we believe in. For example, there is a wonderful bill in the Pa. legislature right now that will provide free college tuition to students in Pennsylvania, including those graduating from Catholic schools who are normally

excluded. As discussed later in this newsletter, we need to support this bill! If you have never contacted your legislator before, try it.

Finally, as winter approaches and we spend more time indoors, we need to read more. Perhaps we can establish a quiet time when everyone reads or does homework and the TV is off. Maybe we can discuss what we're reading at the dinner table. Reading is an enjoyable pastime, provides something to think and talk about, and is the best way to raise SAT scores!

I wish you a blessed Advent and peaceful Christmas. May you grow closer to God and to all those you love. *In fide et caritate*, Sr. Patricia



*For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. Luke 2:11*



## Administrative & Academics

### Christmas Vacation

Christmas vacation begins with early dismissal on Friday, December 21, and continues through Wednesday, January 2. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 3, 2008. Have a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year!

### No School

Mark your calendars now! There will be no school on Friday, January 18. It is a make-up day for those who missed semester exams. There will also be no school on Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King Day.



### Semester Exams

Exams will take place on January 15, 16 and 17, 2008. Students will report to homeroom as usual. Exams are one hour in length, 8:10 - 9:10 AM and 9:20 - 10:20 AM. Bus transportation to school will be provided at the regular time. Buses will depart from school at 10:30 AM. The schedule is:

- Tuesday, Jan. 15— English & Math**
- Wednesday, Jan. 16—Religion & Science**
- Thursday, Jan. 17— Social Studies & World Languages**

### Test Preparation for Freshmen

Because the SLS semester exams are the Freshmen’s first experience with cumulative testing, special assistance will be provided to help them prepare. Semester Exam Outlines, prepared by freshman teachers, will be posted on the SLS website prior to the Christmas break. These outlines give an overview of the materials that will be tested. Hard copies of the outlines are available from Mr. Tim Zugates at 412-561-3583 ext. 118. Be sure your student reviews this valuable resource over the Christmas break. Good luck!

### School Closings/Delays

In case of bad weather, SLS follows the decisions of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. We will notify KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI TV stations in the event of a cancellation or delay. The information will also be posted on the SLS website. If no announcement is made changing the status of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, school will be in session here at SLS as usual.



If the Pittsburgh Public Schools call for a two-hour delay, students should report to SLS by 9:45AM. If the City does not have a delay, but the public district that transports your child does, your child’s transportation will follow your school district’s announcement.

When school is closed due to an emergency, the

day(s) missed will be considered 0 day(s) in the cycle. Generally speaking, when school is closed, all activities scheduled in the building for that night are also canceled.

### Financial Aid/Grants/Scholarship/ Tuition Information Night for Parents of Incoming 2008 Freshmen Tuesday, February 12, 2008 - 7:00 PM SLS Auditorium

This is a night of information for parents and students considering SLS for Fall of 2008. We will discuss ways to finance your SLS education, reviewing all the financial assistance that is available. No registration is necessary. Please contact Nancy Rizza at 412-561-3583 ext. 129 or rizzan@slshs.org with questions or concerns.



### SLS Placement Test

The annual SLS placement exam for current 8th graders will be held on Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM AND Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 AM. –1:00 PM. Registration forms can be found on the school website or you can contact Nancy Rizza at 412-561-3583 ext. 129. Note: This is not an entrance exam, but an exam used to help place students in appropriate academic classes. It is also a requirement for many of the academic scholarships available to incoming freshmen. Please let your interested relatives, neighbors or friends know!

### Morning Announcements Online

Morning announcements are now posted online daily at the SLS website.

### Annual Fund

Please give generously to the SLS Annual Fund. You can make a gift to the Tuition Assistance Fund—which helps individual families who struggle to send their students to SLS—or to the General Fund—which helps the school meet rising and/or unforeseen expenses throughout the year. Both funds are essential to the school’s ability to keep enrollment up and tuition costs down. Thank you!

## Test Results

In October, Freshmen and Sophomores took the Iowa Tests of Educational Development. The results are back, and we will mail individual results home with report cards. Feel free to call or e-mail Sister Patricia at 412-561-3583 or [sisterpatricia@slshs.org](mailto:sisterpatricia@slshs.org) if you have questions or concerns after you have reviewed your child's scores.

## Letters/Calls to PA Legislators Needed

Could you use some extra money to pay for college? The Reliable Educational Assistance for College Hopefuls (REACH) bill (HB 1722) is stalled in the Education Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. This bill will provide full scholarships for high school students to attend one of Pennsylvania's state universities; or, students may receive up to \$7,400 to apply toward an education at any other college or university in Pennsylvania. Students must graduate from a certified high school in Pennsylvania, which includes Catholic and other non-public schools, and they must meet certain criteria, such as a certain grade point average and a residency requirement after graduation.



HB 1722 will not only provide opportunities for needy students to attend college, it will make a difference for our communities by keeping bright students in-state. Please contact your legislators. Tell them to ask their colleagues on the House Education Committee to urge Chairman Roebuck to schedule the bill for a vote and ask them to vote in favor of HB 1722.

If passed, this promising new program needs to be funded. Governor Rendell and Education Secretary Gerald Zahorchak are compiling budget projections for next year. Please contact them as well and urge them to appropriate funding for the REACH Scholarship program. It is very quick and simple to contact your legislator via the internet. Just click the link below to log in and send your message:

<http://votervoice.net/target.aspx?id=pacc:19503761>

## Free On-Line College & Career Planning Service

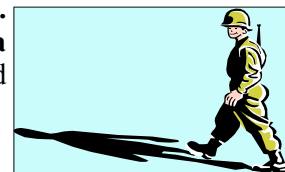
Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in October will have access to *My College QuickStart* free of charge. *My College QuickStart*, new in 2006, is an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit comprised of four main sections:

- My Online Score Report: An enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, the student's answer, and the correct answer with explanations.
- My SAT Study Plan™: A customized SAT® study plan based on student PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.
- My College Matches: A starter list of colleges based on the student's state and indicated choice of major.
- My Major and Career Matches: Major and career matches that are compatible with the student's general interests and personality type.

See Mr. Tim Zugates for details on how to log in or if you have any questions.

## Students Honor Veterans

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Ronald Bowes, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools, eight SLS students attended the Ninth Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast held at the Westin Convention Center. The breakfast was sponsored by The Friends of Danang. The students were: **Michelle Perry, Kelly Nickerson, Anna Tang, Peter Croke, Michael Nee, R.J. Smith, Amanda Lippert,** and **Justin Havens.**



## Tuition Assistance Opportunity

Do you use gift cards or certificates to shop? Purchasing those cards/certificates from two local churches can help you pay your SLS tuition!

St. Louise DeMarillac in Upper Saint Clair offers a Catholic Tuition Aid Program called *Feed the Mind*, which can provide credit for SLS tuition based on the purchase of store certificates/gift cards. These can be purchased at the parish office located in the LeGras Parish Center, 320 McMurray Road, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Saturday from 8:30 AM -1:30 PM and Sunday from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM. (The office is closed from noon to 1:00 PM weekdays.) St. Louise will send a check directly to SLS for each family that has earned credit through the program.

St. Thomas More Parish, at 126 Fort Couch Road opposite South Hills Village, also participates in a similar program and sends credit earned to SLS. Certificates can be purchased at the parish center daily from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM and after all Masses on the weekend, both Saturday night and Sunday.

**Both parishes allow non-parishioners to participate!** Just specify the name of the student who is to receive the credit and the school the student attends.

## Faculty Change

Mr. Dwight Szarkowski, one of our religion teachers and campus ministers, has accepted a position as the Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Jacksonville, FL. This is a wonderful opportunity professionally and, in addition to the advantages of a warmer climate, the move will take Dwight's family closer to their extended family.

We were fortunate to find **Mrs. Nancy Denman** to replace Mr. Szarkowski. Mrs. Denman has a B.A. from Seattle University, an M.A. from Franciscan University of Steubenville, and both S.T.B. and S.T.L. degrees from *Pontificia Universita A' S. Tommaso D'Aquino "Angelicum,"* in Rome. Mrs. Denman has taught at Franciscan University as an Adjunct Professor of Theology. She has also taught high school religion at the Christian Brothers Academy in Albany, New York, and at St. Mary's Central High School in Sandusky, Ohio.

Let us ask God's blessings on both Mr. Szarkowski and Mrs. Denman as they begin their new ministries and pray as well for the students with whom each will work.



## Spirituality & Service

### Campus Ministry

Upcoming Campus Ministry events include:

**Dec. 4 - Parents in Prayer  
7:00 Brothers' House Chapel**

**Dec. 12- School Liturgy 10:00 AM  
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Also on Dec. 12, students accompanied by Mrs. Mutone and Mrs. Kathy Wray will go to St. Paul's Cathedral for the Latino community's celebration of Our Lady's feast. At 6:30 PM the *Mananitas* will be sung with a mariachi band. Mass in Spanish will be offered by Bishop Zubik at 7:00 PM. A reception with Mexican food will follow.

**Dec. 20—All-School  
Advent Prayer Service  
8:40 AM**

**Jan. 4—Christmas Mass & Celebration of  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Feast Day**

**Jan. 8—Parents in Prayer  
7:00 Brothers' House Chapel**



*Oh Lord, let Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servants who delight in Thy name; give them success and mercy. Nehemiah 1:11*

## Rebels Reach Out Volunteer Club

In November, members volunteered at a Soup Kitchen Service Project, serving meals in Shadyside on Saturday, Nov. 24.

The club sponsored a Poinsettia Sale with all proceeds going to Children's Hospital and the Carrie Martin Fund. Red and white poinsettias in three different sizes could be ordered by contacting **Peter Croke** in homeroom 313. Flowers were available for pick-up in the SLS cafeteria on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11:00 AM -12:00 PM. Thank you for your support!

Non-perishable food items were collected at the Thanksgiving Mass on Nov. 20. Our students also participated in a band-aid drive for Children's Hospital. We are proud of our students' compassion and willingness to serve.



## Activities and Events



### **Christmas Concert December 6—7:30 PM SLS Auditorium**

There's no better way to kick off the Christmas season than to attend the annual SLS Music Department Christmas Concert. This great holiday event will feature the Concert Band, Chorus, Silks, Rebelettes, Flute Choir, and Jazz Band. Get in the Christmas spirit by attending the concert and then enjoying cookies and punch in the cafeteria afterwards. There will also be a Chinese Auction. All are welcome!

### **Silver Ring Thing: Abstinence Presentation Friday, January 18, 2008 6:30—9:00PM SLS Auditorium**

SLS will once again host the Diocesan presentation of The Silver Ring Thing, a high-tech, high-energy program that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent until marriage and the dangers of promiscuous behavior.

With dramas, videos, special effects and speakers, teenagers will be motivated in a unique and personal way to choose to commit to both God and their future spouse to remain abstinent until marriage.

This presentation is for students in grades 8-12. You may register on the website ([www.silverringthing.com](http://www.silverringthing.com)) or at the door the evening of the event, beginning at 5:45 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 each for adults and students; it is \$15.00 if you want a ring.

### **Green & Gold Dinner Auction Amazing Success**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 13<sup>th</sup> annual SLS Dinner Auction a tremendous success! The Green and Gold Gala, with a record number of attendees, will provide SLS with approximately \$120,000 in technology and classroom resources. Proceeds will be

used to upgrade the computer lab, purchase Smartboards, internet, web access, and software for classrooms, and give our students the best education possible. Special thanks to chairs, **Patrick** and **Doris McGonigle**, a planning committee made up of parents, past parents, alumni and other friends, and a working committee who helped that night.

We are especially grateful to the following wonderful volunteers: Deborah Amato, Mary Black '76, Debbie Brust, Loretta Bucci '74, Karen Dominick, Dee Dudiak, Joe Kramer '80,

Mary Ellen Reiser, Rossana Bucci, Andrea Cencich, Sr. Laura Coughlin, Redsy Croke, Kay Dieckmann, Terry Fedele, Amy Ganser '90, Debbie Garrity, Susie Gillespie, Marianne Hudzik '66, Barbara Kotek, Karen Kublack, Suzanne Leehan '80, Filomena Lies, Toni Luvara, Barbara Marone, Michelle Modrak, Margaret Myron, Antoinette Paliotta, Jennifer Panian '90, Laurie Pascuzzi, Janice Perella, Karen Perry, Donna Salsburey-Tranovich, Debbie Vargo, Jo Ellen Yeasted, Mary Walsh '73 and Kathy Wray. We absolutely could not have done it without you!

## Extracurricular Activities



### Student Council Corner

Student Council members are hard at work decorating the school for the holidays, planning a Christmas dance and preparing for the candy cane sale. The school will soon be decorated with Christmas trees, garland and many other seasonal additions to adorn the hallways. Student Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and relaxing New Year!

#### Candy Cane Sale

Student Council will be selling candy canes during all lunch periods starting December 10. For 25 cents each, a student can send a candy cane treat and Christmas greeting to a friend. Candy canes can be picked up in the cafeteria during all lunches on December 18 & 19.



#### Christmas Dance

**Saturday, December 15, 2007**  
**7:30PM - 10:00PM**

Don't miss the fun! Student Council will be sponsoring a dance to kick off the Christmas vacation. Students should listen to homeroom announcements for further details.



### 2008 Variety Show

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration, Student Council will sponsor the annual Variety Show. Individual rehearsals for students who are interested in performing will take place Jan. 22, 23 & 24 with a full dress rehearsal for all acts on Monday, Jan. 28. The Variety Show will take place on Wednesday evening, Jan. 30, at 7:00 PM and Thursday, Jan. 31, during an all-school assembly.

#### Student Council Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected Freshmen members of the 2007-2008 Student Council:

- Class President: **Zachary Dominick**
- Vice-President: **Nina Fischetti**
- Freshman Class Senator: **Becca Osterwise**

#### Band News



The Band is selling Sarris candy bars. They make excellent stocking stuffers! See any band member to purchase one. Only \$1!

There will be no Band Parents meeting in December.

### Auditions for Spring Musical

SLS will present "Barnum" April 4, 5, 11 and 12, 2008 in the school auditorium. A great family show, "Barnum" tells the true life story of the great circus owner P. T. Barnum. Auditions for the show will take place during the week of January 7-11, 2008. Times and details concerning auditions will be posted. All students are welcome to audition.

### International Club



The month of November is always one of the busiest months for the International Club. Members prepared and decorated the school for International Education Week, 11/12-11/16, to encourage all to celebrate cultural diversity. Each morning the prayer was said in a foreign language by one of the club members and the cafeteria provided foods from different cultures. A Dress-Down Day during the week raised money for the South Hills Interfaith Ministry's Thanksgiving feast for refugee families living in the Baldwin community.

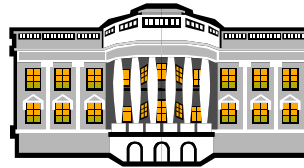
Several members of the club worked many hours on Nov. 15 to cook and serve the Thanksgiving feast at Baldwin Presbyterian Church on E. Willock Road. It was very hard work, but all the members who participated felt it was very worthwhile. The club also held a bake sale at school the day before Thanksgiving. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the seventy ESL (English as a Second Language) students at Paynter Elementary in Baldwin.

Club members will be going to Paynter School during December to visit the children and give them gifts. The club will also go to see the Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, on Sunday, Dec. 2, and join in the pre-Christmas festivities. Future plans include trips to different ethnic restaurants.

### Pro-Life Candle-Light Prayer Service

Rebels for Life will be sponsoring another candle-light Pro-Life Prayer Service on December 18 at 8:00 PM at the Life Garden. All are welcome to attend and pray for the victims of abortion.

### March for Life



Once again, three buses full of Rebels will make the journey to the annual March For Life in Washington DC on January 22.

The buses filled up faster than ever before this year, illustrating the culture of life that exists at Seton-La Salle.

### Rebels for Life News

Ten members of Rebels For Life were able to attend the annual banquet of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the South Hills on November 10. They heard the testimonies of three teens in crisis pregnancies who were able to choose life for their babies, thanks to the services provided by the Center. It was a wonderful evening and a tremendous learning experience for those in attendance.

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grefenstette, ten members of Rebels For Life attended the dinner for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation on November 13. The evening featured several prominent speakers, including Bishop David Zubick. The pro-life messages were very powerful.

### NYC Senior Trip

Seventy five seniors will make the annual Senior Trip to New York City, January 18-20. Students will have a tour of the city, see a Broadway play, and relax during their semester break. Mr. John Manear and eight other faculty members will accompany the seniors on the trip. Bon Voyage!





# Achievements and Accolades



## Students of the Month

The Student of the Month award is given to one student in each grade who exhibits outstanding character, respect for others, Christian attitude and active involvement in the Seton-La Salle community. The special students who achieved this high honor in October are:

- Senior: Maria Salvatori**
- Junior: Grace Killian**
- Sophomore: Natalie Kist**
- Freshman: Theresa Nee**

Well done!

## National Honor Society Officers



Congratulations to the following newly elected officers who were selected by their fellow NHS members:

- President: Peter Croke**
- Vice-President: Megan Perry**
- Treasurer: Maria Salvatori**
- Secretary: Eric Garrity**

## Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Program

Sophomore **Justin Havens** has been selected by the faculty as the Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership representative from Seton-La Salle High School. Justin will attend the HOBY leadership seminar this summer. We know he will be a fine representative of our school.

## Hometown High-Q Team

SLS participated in Channel 2's (KDKA) Hometown High-Q on Saturday, December 1 at 11:00 AM. The team consists of **Michael Nee**, **Rebecca Belan** and **Sean Morgan**. The moderator is Mr. John Manear. The team came in second. Congratulations!

## Music Honors

The following students have been selected to participate in the Annual Diocesan Honors Music Festival. Outstanding students from all the Diocesan High Schools are selected by their teachers to rehearse and perform in the Festival. The Festival ends with a concert on February 1, 2008 in O'Connor Hall on the grounds of St. Paul Seminary. The guest band conductor this year is Mr. Drew Fennell from the River City Brass Band. The guest choral conductor is Mrs. Christine Frattare, Conductor and Music Director of the Junior Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. The concert is free to the public and will start at 7:30 PM. Congratulation to these outstanding musicians:

### Choir

- Brittany Acosta
- Amanda Lippert
- Sean Morgan
- Michelle Perry



### Band

- Sean Alan
- Gordon Brash
- Liz Chasky
- Emily Glod
- Frank Gustine
- Mike Hajduk
- Bobby Johns
- Grace Killian
- Nicole Nesbitt
- Nikki DiNardi
- Sharon Pike
- Leah Scabilloni
- Caitlin Selewitz





### Auction Volunteers

Heartfelt “thanks” to the following students who worked hard to make the Auction the wonderful success that it was:

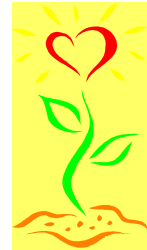
Student Greeters/Table Captains:

- Peter Bissert**
- Madelyn Bucci**
- Elizabeth Chasky**
- Mitch Cunningham**
- Stephanie Lash**
- Stephanie Mancine**
- Josie McGonigle**
- Justine Modrak**
- Daniella Paliotta**
- Gabriella Paliotta**
- Pasquale Paliotta**
- Michelle Perry**
- John Sigg**
- Scott Susco**
- Maura Westerlund**
- John & Mary Wray**

Student Cashiers/Registrars:

- Rebecca Belan**
- Ryan Coyle**
- Brian Dudiak**
- Patrick Dudiak**
- Eric Garrity**
- Robert Johns**
- Zac Rumski**
- Matt Russo**

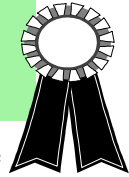
- Maria Salvatori**
- Carly Sawyer**
- Kathleen Sigg**
- Derek Stokan**
- Nick Zurku**



We appreciate all that you did!



## Spectacular Sports!



### Fall Sports Wrap Up

The **Lady Rebels Volleyball team** finished their perfect (18-0) regular season with the perfect ending—the school’s first WPIAL Championship! They routed Greensburg Central Catholic 25-12, 25-16 and 25-18, looking and playing like true champions. To reach the finals, the Rebels won play-off games against Brentwood, OLSH and Bentworth. The Bentworth semi-final match was by far the most challenging and exciting match of the year and really tested the mettle of the team. After winning the first two games 25-17 then 25-15, the Rebels were tested when the tough Bentworth team fought back with two wins of its own, forcing a fifth game. The Lady Rebels showed their desire and resilience by rallying from deficits of 5-1 and 10-8 to win the last seven of nine points for a 15-12 triumph.

After their WPIAL Championship, the Rebels advanced to the PIAA championship tournament after defeating Coudersport 3-0.

Although the Rebels came up short in the PIAA quarterfinals, they still advanced further and did better than any other team in school history, ending the season with an amazing 20-2 overall record. Key players included **Brittany Brace, Melissa Buddie, Alex Cochran, Elizabeth Dobrosielski, Aubrey Johnson, and Anna Schneider.**

We are proud of the effort, energy and character of all our Fall athletes and grateful for the support of their parents, fellow students and teachers. Look for a summary of the Boys Soccer post-season in next month’s Rebelations.

**Boys and Girls Bowling** season has begun as the teams have opened their seasons with play against Canevin Catholic.

### Basketball Camp for Kids

A "Little Rebel Dribblers" basketball camp for all boys and girls in kindergarten thru 3rd grade will be held in January and February. Please see the SLS website for additional information and registration.