



MILESTONES

SUMMER 2021



SES GATHERS (IN PERSON!) FOR THE CLASS OF 2021 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

St. Elizabeth School bid a fond farewell to its graduating seniors on June 8. After a year filled with constant changes here at school—SES fully reopened for in-person learning in late April—the graduates were all smiles upon seeing their teachers, friends, and family gathered at this small, outdoor commencement ceremony.

The graduates processed out of the newly-renovated SES, Inc. building as Music Teacher **Bethany Nusbaum** played the violin. Executive Director **Michael Thorne** and Principal **Erin Upton** welcomed the small group of family and staff who had gathered under a tent next to the school's greenhouse. After each graduate walked to the podium and received his or her certificate, a family member came forward to offer words of congratulations and encouragement.

The ceremony was brief but emotional for everyone in attendance. After a year of virtual schooling, it felt wonderful to gather in person and celebrate these graduates and their achievements here at SES.



Right: Family members cheer for this year's graduates

Photos above (left to right): SES Seniors E.J. Heine, Cyan Hill, and Michelle Lucke

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 2

Donor Spotlight

PAGE 3

Classroom Buzz

PAGE 4

SES Students Winning

PAGE 5

Graduation and Summer Photos

PAGE 6

Upcoming Events

Continued on page 5

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome back! It was so wonderful to be back on campus for the month of July, which marked the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Nothing compares to seeing our students and hearing their laughter in person. Our school year successfully kicked off in July with approximately 92% of our students returning to in-person instruction. To ensure our students' continued safety, our reopening/recovery committee will be carefully monitoring regional COVID-19 data as well as any updates to the CDC's recommendations for schools to make informed decisions about when it will be appropriate to adjust the school's COVID-19 safety restrictions.

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that our students were absolutely wonderful this summer—adhering to our safety protocols and patiently maneuvering around our restroom construction, which, we are excited to announce, will be completed by September. These new restrooms will be fully accessible: single-stalled, wider, and equipped with emergency pull cords connected to our PA system. Only six more restrooms remain to be renovated in the summer of 2022. These final restrooms will finalize our multi-year, accessible building project and will make our building fully ADA-compliant. Thank you for your support of this project.

Throughout this challenging year and a half, we have been extremely grateful for our SES families. Thank you for your patience during this time as we collectively and collaboratively navigated the unknown. We hope that you will have a wonderful August break and that you will enjoy this time with your family. We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to school on August 26.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Thorne

Michael Thorne

Join a Committee

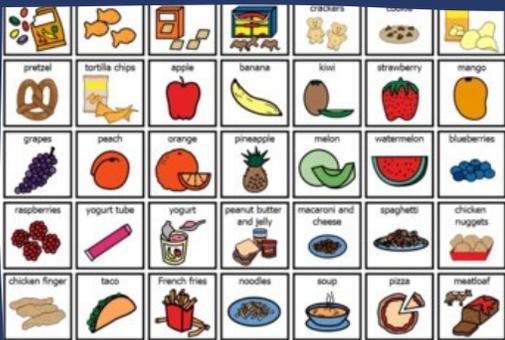
Are you new to St. Elizabeth School and looking to meet fellow parents? SES is looking for interested folks to join our fundraising committees (e.g., Golf, Bull Roast) and help plan our fundraising events. There are three things that we promise by getting involved—you will meet other wonderful people, we will not take too much of your time, and the planning, like our fundraising events, is fun!

If interested and/or to learn more, please contact the Development Office at (410) 889-5054 ext. 1152 or via email at development@stelizabeth-school.org.



Providing our students innovative programs and services with the help of our generous donors

Funding from the O'Neil Family Foundation provided staff training on the use of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), an applied behavior analysis program used with those having cognitive, physical and communication challenges (e.g., autism). PECS consists of six phases and uses specific prompting and reinforcement strategies that lead to independent communication. This is just one of the ways SES is providing cutting-edge instruction and technology to our students with the help of our donors.



SES Student Carson Luke uses one of our new Google Chrome books, funded by the Sisters of St. Francis Sacred Heart.

RECENT GRANT FUNDERS:

THE O'NEIL FAMILY FOUNDATION
PECs Training

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
SACRED HEART
Google Chrome devices
for students and staff

HERBERT BEARMAN FOUNDATION
Vgo Robots for telepresence learning

M&T CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
AMX Acendo Vibe camera/sound bar
units for virtual and on-site learning



CLASSROOM BUZZ

SES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

SES Elementary School Teacher **Beth Bluman** has kept her students busy this summer. From helping out in the community to learning about the life cycle of cicadas, these students are doing it all! Plus, student **Jon McWilliams** has blossomed as quite the writer—he wrote remarkable essays on several of Ms. Bluman's lessons this summer.

In early June, when the 17-year cycle of cicadas returned to the Baltimore area, Ms. Bluman's Science classes explored the creatures' habits and anatomy outside. Here's an excerpt of Jon's essay about what they learned:

"The name of the insect we have been learning about is the cicada. They have 5 eyes, 4 wings, and can be 2-3 inches long. They stay underground for 13-17 years feeding on tree sap until they are fully developed. There are 3 stages: eggs, nymphs, and adults. Nymphs are white with no wings. They are not dangerous because they have no stinger and they do not bite. They don't carry diseases. Something cool about cicadas is that the males sing to find a mate. The male cicadas make the mating noise from their tymbals. The tymbal sounds are found in their abdomen. Cicadas will emerge when it is hot outside. They will start to come out in ideal temperatures around 64 degrees. If the environment is too cold, cicadas will either die or won't be able to fly due to the molting process being disrupted by the environment change."



Left to Right: **Hailey Holmes, Kyle McGarry, Peyton Blackmon, P.J. Gialouris**

Also in June, all of Ms. Bluman's classes learned about the importance of volunteering and donating to those in need. In one lesson, SES Development Director **Kristin O'Ferrall** spoke to the students about how she helps raise money for the school.

After learning about the ins and outs of fundraising, students put their new philanthropic ideas into action, and assembled and decorated food bags so that Ms. Bluman could later hand them out to homeless people downtown.

Not surprisingly, Jon McWilliams had more to say about what he learned this summer. Here is his essay about the importance of volunteering and donating:

"Volunteering is when we use our time to give to the poor or needy. I have volunteered by cleaning up schools and parks. When I volunteered I did not receive pay. It felt good to help people who were less fortunate. When we volunteer we help people who may not be like us or have the resources."

Thank you to Jon, Ms. Bluman, and all of the Elementary School students who helped bring a smile and some healthy snacks to the people most in need in our community.

You're all keeping the Franciscan dream alive here at St. Elizabeth School!



Left: **Bonnie Brundick** with a new friend
Right: **Jon McWilliams**



SES STUDENTS WINNING

THREE SES STUDENTS RECEIVE 2021 CARDIN SCHOLARSHIP

SES Students **Angel Crowder** and **Diego Krueger** have received the Cardin Scholarship Award for the second year in a row, along with new recipient **Shauna McBride!**

"These scholarships recognize students who have overcome daunting challenges, even during a pandemic, to move forward in school, at home and in their communities," said MANSEF Executive Director **Dorie Flynn**.

Shauna plans to use her scholarship funds to attend **The League at Camp Greentop**, while Angel plans to use her funds to attend **Summit Camp**. Diego plans to return to his pick from last year, **Easterseals Camp Fairlee**.



Top Left: **Angel Crowder**
Top Right: **Shauna McBride**
Left: **Diego Krueger**



Camille Dixon receives her crown in her pageant formal wear

SES STUDENT CROWNED MARYLAND'S MISS AMAZING JUNIOR QUEEN

SES Student **Camille Dixon** participated in the Pennsylvania **Miss Amazing** pageant finals in May and was crowned Maryland's Miss Amazing Junior Queen!

Miss Amazing is a nonprofit organization that encourages a national movement of self esteem led by girls and women with disabilities.

To enter the competition, Camille had to send in a video clip of her talent (she submitted a ribbon dance performance). Then, during her virtual live introduction, she had to answer some questions from the judges and tell them three important things about herself.

Camille proudly mentioned her Girl Scout membership, volunteer activities, and her participation in the Big Sister/Little Sister program.

So where does Maryland's Miss Amazing Junior Queen go from here? Camille will compete again at the Nationals this summer in Nashville, Tennessee.

Congratulations, Camille—your SES fans will be rooting for you all the way!

CONTINUED: CLASS OF 2021 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Top Left: SES Graduate **Robb Doub** and High School Coordinator **Leslie Sunderhaus**
Top Center: The Class of 2021
Top Right: SES Graduate **Laniya Brown**
Bottom Right: Executive Director **Michael Thorne**

STUDENTS KICK OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH FUN IN THE SUN

SES students are so happy to be back in the building with their classmates and teachers again, but every now and then, they have to get outside and beat the heat with some water play! Students also enjoyed a Field Day on July 21—they played games and won Eagle Bucks to trade at the school store at the end of the day.



Left to Right: **Diego Hutton**, **Chuck Green**,
Matthew Nagy, **Rachayl Fine**

WANT TO SEE
MORE PHOTOS?



Visit our Photo Galleries at
www.sesbmore.smugmug.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Back to School Night
September 23

**Parent Information Session:
Transitioning to High School**
September 28
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Founder's Day
School Closed for Students and Staff
October 4

SES Golf Tournament
October 13
8 a.m. registration/9 a.m. shotgun start
The Woodlands

20TH ANNUAL

ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL GOLF OUTING



OCTOBER 13, 2021
AT THE WOODLANDS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS PROJECT

To register, sponsor, or purchase raffle tickets,
visit www.stelizabeth-school.org/golf-tournament



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Helping Students with Special Needs Go the Distance

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