



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Lynn Tayler
(301) 447-3165

ltayler@mothersetonschool.org

Mother Seton School Students Plant “Pinwheels for Peace”

Emmitsburg, MD – On Tuesday, September 24, students at Mother Seton School took part in the school’s 8th annual International World Peace Day celebration. The theme this year was “Pinwheels for Peace”, which began as an art installation project created by two art teachers from Florida in 2005. Since then, it has grown into an international movement.

The pinwheel was chosen as a symbol of youth and innocence, and participants in the project are asked to decorate pinwheels with their own thoughts and artistic self-expression about peace. Last year, more than 4 million pinwheels were planted worldwide. This year, Emmitsburg joined places such as Honolulu, Hawaii and Cairo, Egypt as students at MSS planted their own homemade pinwheels. Karolyne Myers, an art teacher at MSS and project coordinator, says she conceived of the World Peace Day celebration at Mother Seton School as a way to get students thinking about the larger world around them in a creative way. “I wanted to integrate art, culture, faith, and citizenship into a meaningful project that inspires and educates,” she said in a written statement.

The students also signed a school climate “Declaration of Peace” modeled after the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration, “to insure a safe and peaceful environment for everyone”, included promises to use peaceful language, seek peaceful ways to settle arguments, to listen to all sides of a story, and to accept people with different points of view. Representatives from each classroom collected student signatures and presented them as part of the ceremony. Beckett Tayler was the representative for his third grade class.

“I think the pinwheels were a cool idea to remind us to pray for peace,” he said. “I like our Declaration of Peace because it’s really important (for all of us) to get along if we want to have peace. I wish everyone in the world had to sign it.”

In addition to this year’s Pinwheels for Peace and Declaration of Peace projects, Ms. Myers and her Art Angels club at school sent 1,000 origami cranes to the town of Newtown, CT as a gesture of goodwill and healing at the start of their new school year.

About Mother Seton School

Mother Seton School is an independent Catholic Pre-K through Grade 8 school, sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, approved by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and is accredited by AdvancEd. For families seeking excellent academics and strong values, Mother Seton School is an affordable option that is easily accessible by bus from many locations in the area. For detailed admissions information, please visit mothersetonschool.org.

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Caption: Students at Mother Seton School planted “Pinwheels for Peace” as part of their annual International World Peace Day celebration on September 24, 2013.