



# ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

October 12, 2016

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

I recently read an article written by a mother yearning to keep her family connected, despite their varying schedules, schools, and experiences each day, feeling everyone was pulled in different directions. One way she and her husband work to stay connected with their children is simply by asking and answering the same three questions at family dinner every night: *How were you brave today?, How were you kind today?, How did you fail today?*

On "*How were you brave today?*" she writes, "*I want my (children) to know that courage is generally made of many small acts rather than one grand gesture... Right now, we're the floor they stand on, but some day soon, in school, work, and their personal life, they are going to need to stand on a foundation of their own making. When life is scary or a risk needs taking, I want them to be able to look back on years of audacious actions that prove they can handle right that very moment...I hope this question teaches them to recognize their valor so that by the time they really need it, courage is an old and familiar friend.*"

On "*How were you kind today?*": *Kids can be cruel. So can adults. (Our schools are) certainly an effective way to introduce children to the differences that both divide and sustain us. I don't need my children to be the Mother Teresa's of their playground. I do need them to be aware of what is happening in their surroundings and then I need them to problem solve to find ways to make their environment better. Too often society teaches our (children) that kindness is giving in or becoming weaker for others. That's not what I am talking about here. We are teaching our (children) that kindness is leading with understanding and becoming stronger for others. One day, that might mean speaking up in defense of a friend when everyone else is being quiet. Another day, it may mean sitting eating lunch with the child who always sits alone...Kindness is a strength and I am expecting my (kids) to flex it like a muscle every single day.*

*On "How did you fail today?": If we want our children to seek success with any consistency, we need to make sure they are not afraid of failure. Too often mistakes, missteps and misjudgment lead to an outcome of secrets and shame. I don't want my children to hide bad test grades or broken friendships or anything else that bruises them. (Or anything else that they bruise, for that matter). Life is full of defeat - self-inflicted and otherwise - but that doesn't mean we are defeated! It just means that we are trying to and there is something beautiful in that, isn't there? So we cheer for our failures every night.*

*"I fell off the monkey bars today because I thought I could skip three bars at once. I couldn't" "You tried something new! I am so proud of you. And look how cool that band-aid looks on your scrape!"*

*"I couldn't write my name right when the teacher asked me to and that made me sad." "You discovered writing your name correctly matters to you! What a great discovery. Do you want to work on that tonight?"*

I share these examples to reiterate that it can be freeing - and perhaps even life-giving - to know we can share these moments of challenge, weakness, successes, and even failure within our families, where we model as our Lord does that we can always grow and try again. As the author concludes, "*Sharing our failures as a family is setting us for success as individuals.*" I challenge us all to find the questions that matter to our family and try to grow through our experiences.

I look forward to seeing our Sebs community this Saturday at the Catholic Soles Walk for Education! See the Newsletter for more info. Students walking may wear their shirts to school this coming Monday the 17th to celebrate.

Enjoy the long weekend, and God bless you.  
Ms. Grams

**NO SCHOOL** – There is no school on October 13 and 14 for Teacher Convention.

**PACKERS DRESS-DOWN DAY!** - Students have been rocking' it being dressed well in their uniforms each day! Therefore, on Thursday, October 20th (the day we take on a certain team in Chicago), students may dress in Packers attire, and/or green, gold, and white if you don't have "Packers" gear. Jeans are fine. All attire must adhere to dress down day policy (essentially, nothing too short, tight, or revealing, and clothes free of rips or tears). Please note that all hats will be kept off during the school day. Students choosing not to participate may wear their uniforms.

**GOOD JOB!** – The number of tardy students has been slowly dwindling. In fact, yesterday we only had two students who were late and today we had one! Thank you to all of our families for being conscientious about making sure that their students are in their desks, ready to learn, at 7:55 AM. Remember, if a student is late, a parent (or whoever brought them to school) needs to come into the office and sign them in. If you see the blue flag waving at the door, that is your signal that you are late.

**PARENT COFFEE & CONVO:** Ms. Grams invites parents to share their experiences at Sebs, as well as discuss topics relevant to their age group. Please consider attending the on the Wednesday(s) pertinent to your child's/children's grades, when we'll gather from 7:40-8:10am (coffee provided!) as scheduled:

10/19 - 6th grade

10/26 - 5th grade

11/2 - 4th grade

11/9 - 3rd grade

11/16 - 2nd grade

11/23 - 1st grade

11/30 - K4/K5

\*Please note you are most welcome - and encouraged! - to attend mass with our school community immediately after, at 8:15am, whether you are Catholic or non-Catholic. You are welcome to sit with your child if you join us as an added perk!

**ATTENTION PARENTS OF 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS - HIGH SCHOOL VISITS:** This year, we are changing the format of the local Catholic high school visits. Typically, high schools come and visit on various Fridays spread out through the fall months, presenting only to our 8th grade students.

NEW THIS YEAR is the following opportunity regarding our high school visits:

- 1) We are coordinating ONE morning where the schools are invited in
- 2) We are also opening the sessions to 7th grade students (as well as the 8th grade students), as we gauged 7th grade's interest in attending, which was quite unanimous. We also felt it was important in allowing all 7th/8th students the opportunity to understand the process leading up to high school, particularly academically.
- 3) We are inviting Parents & Guardians to attend and hear the information along with the students, hoping you will take advantage of this. (6th grade parents if you'd like to sit in, you are welcome as well!)

Here is the schedule for the high school visits so you can plan accordingly, if interested:

**Friday, October 21st:**

8:00-8:30am: Marquette High School (boys)  
Divine Savior Holy Angels (girls)

8:30-9:00am: Pius XI (all)

9:00-9:10am: (break)

9:15-9:45am: St. Lawrence Seminary (boys)  
St. Joan Antida (girls)

9:45-10:15am: Choice of the following schools at this time, with time to follow up with any/all afterward:

St. Thomas More (all)  
Dominican High School (all)  
Catholic Memorial High School (all)  
(visit still pending: Messmer)

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to come in and join us. Coffee and light breakfast selections will be offered.

**HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE DATES:** The following are dates for local Catholic High School Open Houses, again for your planning purposes, as interested. See their websites or attend the visit day on 10/21 at St. Sebastian School for more information:

St. Lawrence Seminary - 10/9  
Messmer - 10/16  
Pius XI - 10/23 & 10/24  
St. Thomas More - 10/23 & 10/24  
Catholic Memorial High School - 10/26  
St. Joan Antida - 10/27  
Divine Savior Holy Angels - 10/30  
Marquette University High School - 10/30  
Dominican High School - 10/30

I would encourage each family to visit the schools your student is interested in at this point, regardless of finances. Often times there is considerable financial assistance available, and we encourage you not to limit your options until talking with the Admissions departments at the various schools you are interested in. Academic performance and perseverance is typically the biggest indicator of where your student is eligible to attend. We encourage our students to explore all options.

\* More information will be coming home separately with 7th and 8th grade students in the coming days, specifically on testing dates, admission deadlines, and how St. Sebastian will assist in the process.

**QUARTER COLLECTION** – We are raising money for Cross Catholic Outreach’s project to send Vitafood meals to chronically malnourished children. These nutritious meals cost just 25 cents apiece. Volunteers hand-pack the ingredients and the packages are sent to orphanages, schools and families in various countries. The quarter collection will take place from October 17 – 28.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL WALK**-The Soles for Catholic Education Walk is this Saturday. Once again, St. Sebastian has been blessed to have a bus donated from Lakeside Buses of Wisconsin to transport our families and staff to and from St. Sebastian and Mount Mary. We would like to have a count of how many people will be riding the bus. Kindly RSVP to Lori Golomski, [golomskil@archmil.org](mailto:golomskil@archmil.org), to let her know you will be riding the bus, and how many are in your group. Don’t forget, we will begin the morning with donuts and coffee/hot chocolate on the playground at 9:00 before departing for Mount Mary at 9:30. Whether you are taking the bus or not, please join us for a Sebs Walk Warm-up at 9:00 AM. It looks like it is going to be a beautiful fall day for a walk.

**BUZZ BOOK UPDATE** – Please note the following changes in your Buzz Book:

Janzen  
5525 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee 53208

Also, there is a new email for Alvarez-Reyes: [kreyes7923@gmail.com](mailto:kreyes7923@gmail.com)

**POWER SCHOOL** – The last of the power school letters for students in grades 1 – 8 were sent home today. K4 and K5 letters are next on our agenda. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Shambarger [shambarger@archmil.org](mailto:shambarger@archmil.org)

**TRAINEE WANTED** - Carrie Pruhs, parent of 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls, maintains much of the school's website on behalf of the school office and is looking for one or two people to take over when her kids graduate. It took a few years to really get comfortable with the techniques and get to know the contacts; getting someone started now would help preserve consistency. If you are interested in learning what goes on behind the scenes with the posts on the website and like working with computers, this volunteer position is for you. The program, WordPress, is easy to use and is web-based, so you could work from home. Contact Carrie at [cpruhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpruhs@sbcglobal.net) or call 414-302-9551 for more information.

**COME AND ENJOY THE EVENING!**- St. Coletta Day School is excited to announce ColettaScope, their annual student art auction fund raiser. The event will be held on Saturday November 12, 2016 at Mount Mary University. For more details and to get a preview of the art visit the website at [www.colettascope.com](http://www.colettascope.com) or like us on face book. We would love for you to meet the students and see their unique talents. You might even find a gift or two to cross off your holiday shopping list.

**COACHES NEEDED** – The Youth Athletic Committee (YAC) is in need of basketball coaches for 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys this coming season. If you are interested, please contact Michael Lehmann for details at 414-745-9987 or email [mlehmann2@wi.rr.com](mailto:mlehmann2@wi.rr.com)

**AUCTION COUNTDOWN BEGINS!** - The registration deadline is October 19 for the October 22nd St. Sebastian Parish Auction. The countdown to a fun evening is on!

- 10 – Sign Up – Go to <http://bit.ly/SebAuction2016> and register online or download a form and send it to the Parish House.
- 9 – Come to Mass – Even if you're not attending the Auction, please join an all-parish Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. Sebastian.
- 8 – Charge your cell phone or iPad – Since all bidding and signups are done online, you'll need to bring an electronic device to bid. We'll have some helpers on hand in case you don't have one.
- 7 – Bring a checkbook – It's easy to use a credit card, but the parish pays more than 2% in fees. So bid online, but pay with a check.
- 6 – Volunteer to help – Since we are holding it at Sebs, everything we do is handled by volunteers, and that means you! We've made it easy to pitch in for just a half-hour. Go to the Stewardship Portal to register, or contact Phil Bielefeld – Phil Bielefeld, [pjb0469@gmail.com](mailto:pjb0469@gmail.com) for more information.
- 5 – Bring cash. Beer, wine and soda and food is free, but you might want to bring a few bucks for the Heads & Tails game. First-time attendees play free!
- 4 – Wear what you'd like. Homecoming attire is fun, but you're also welcome to be casual – and wear comfortable shoes for dancing to Front Porch Rockers!
- 3 – Join us on Facebook! Learn about the Item of the Day and join our online bidding. <http://bit.ly/SebsFace>.
- 2 – Become a Remote Bidder! Go to the Auction Website and learn how you can become a online bidder for \$25, in case you can't attend.
- 1 – PRAY FOR SUCCESS! This is our parish's biggest fundraiser, and we need everyone to contribute in some way! Never underestimate the power of prayer! Questions? Contact Kelly Bentfield, [knadlos@yahoo.com](mailto:knadlos@yahoo.com)

**ROSIE READER** - Congratulations to the following students for their progress on the Rosie Reader program:

Completing the letter "R" in R-E-A-D-I-N-G:

K4 - Lillian Morby

K5 - Angelo D'Amico and Sullivan Terry

**CALL FOR DIGITAL PICTURES** - Throughout the year, if you have any pictures of our school children, our teachers, or events that might be used on the school's website, please forward them to Carrie Pruhs at [cpruhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpruhs@sbcglobal.net). It is always good to update the site and get pictures of current students posted.

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN BOUTIQUE** - Join us on October 20 at 7 p.m. in the Adult Formation Room to offer your ideas and suggestions and share your talents. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to participate in any way, please call JoAnn Stasiewicz, 414-405-5303 or Sue Olson at 414-331-3358.

We are in need of a supervisor for our clean-up crew. We have youth volunteers for Saturday afternoon and Sunday at noon, December 3rd and 4th to help with clean-up. An adult supervisor for our team would be greatly appreciated. This is approximately a 2-hour commitment on each day. We need someone for Saturday afternoon from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from noon-2 p.m. You can volunteer for one or both days. Please call Sue or JoAnn for more information.

**CELEBRATE WITH THE ST. SEBASTIAN THEATRE** – The St. Sebastian School Theatre is celebrating 25 years of productions with the ever popular musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* on November 4, 5 and 6 (7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and 2:30 PM on Sunday) in the church hall. Adults are \$6.00 and students are \$3.00. We especially invite all theatre alumni and their families to attend one of our shows and stay for a reception in your honor.

Come and enjoy an evening of fun and music, as the Peanuts Gang dance through a day in the life of Charlie Brown.

For an extra special evening, come to the Fish Fry on Friday night and stay for the play. What better way to spend time with St. Sebastian friends.

**DO YOU PUT GAS IN YOUR CAR?** - We thought so...why not purchase Scrip cards to purchase gas? We carry BP, Mobil, Kwik-Trip, Shell and Speedway gift cards. You can earn a little profit buying something you can't get very far without.... ☺

**BUILDING FAITHFUL FAMILIES** – All events are at Mount Mary University. Visit [www.inspirioyouth.org](http://www.inspirioyouth.org) for more information.

October 19: Mistakes Parents Can Avoid 7:00 – 9:00 PM

January 11: Diffusing Parent-Youth Disputes 7:00 – 8:30 PM

March 8: The Real World of Social Media: Predators, Bullies and Digital Disrespect 7:00 – 8:30 PM

**Mistakes Parents Can Avoid** - Dr. Timothy Elmore will be making a presentation on *Mistakes All Parents Can Avoid* on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm at Mount Mary University Halfaer Hall. This presentation will help guide parents of *pre-teens and teens* in their most challenging role - guiding and mentoring their children into mature individuals. Dr. Elmore helps adults discover mistakes parents unknowingly make that are affecting the next generation. The presentation is based on Tim Elmore's book, [12 Huge Mistakes Parents Can Avoid: Leading Your Kids to Succeed in Life](#)

Dr. Tim Elmore is a leading authority on how to understand the next generation and prepare tomorrow's leaders today. He is a best-selling author, international speaker, and president of [Growing Leaders](#), a nonprofit that helps develop emerging leaders under the philosophy that each child is born with leadership qualities.

The presentation is open to the public. A free-will donation is requested.

**CURRENT PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**(contact the office at 453-5830 for information)**

YAC Basketball Coach

Playground Supervision

Lunchroom Supervision

Supervise clean-up at Boutique

School website trainee

You must have completed SafeGuarding training and consent to a background check to volunteer