



# ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

October 19, 2016

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Greetings, St. Sebastian Families!

How beautiful this past weekend was (and week shaped up to be!) with the leaves changing and beginning to fall. It was a fun reminder for me in loving the season of fall in Wisconsin as a child. I hope you were able to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

For this week's Newsletter, I wanted to begin by shining the spotlight on our fabulous teachers and staff at St. Sebastian! Last week was not a two day break for us, but rather, two days to gather for professional development and conversation about what continues to best impact your child's learning. Thursday we remained on campus and Friday was our Archdiocesan Convention downtown, where a number of speakers shared their areas of specialty that teachers could choose from; all geared towards positive student learning outcomes.

Our development day on Thursday focused on everything from maximizing student engagement, foundations of differentiated instruction for all learners, Title I support, "field trips" to one another classrooms as we examined our own learning styles, digging deeper into our lesson plan development to pull out key understandings for our students, grade level meetings on a variety of topics, how to best bridge support for our students with you, our parents, in Math and Reading, and taking time to reflect on our own spiritual journeys as educators in faith. *Phew!* We are so fortunate and blessed by this dedicated staff, often working extra hours, open to trying new ways to reach students academically and spiritually, and pushing ourselves to grow so that in turn, we may best foster the same for your children.

As parents, we know you clearly work hard to support our children every day as well! That is already apparent this year alone by our significantly reduced tardies, reflecting your prioritization of getting your children to school on time to maximize their learning - excellent! Thank you, as well, for working with us as we enhance safety procedures throughout the year to keep our children safe. Further ways you can support your child through the home and school connection include:

- Pray together as a family. Ask your child what is on their heart....What Jesus may be asking of them...What they are thankful for.
- Prioritizing attending parent-teacher conferences coming up in November (see note below on that).
- Working with your child to practice math facts and reinforce the importance of reading each night, whether on their own or together.
- Keeping in positive communication on their progress with teachers.
- Joining us when you can for our beautiful all-school liturgies on Wednesday mornings at 8:15 am.
- Continued involvement in the social activities, extra-curriculars, and/or volunteer opportunities school and parish wide.

Clearly there is something for everyone! At the end of the day, how committed and invested we are - together as the community of adults - makes for the best experience possible for our children during these formative years.

Have a wonderful week and God bless you always,

Ms. Grams

## **SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATES**

**Signing In** - ALL visitors (whether a current parent or guest) MUST sign in at the Front Office and receive a visitor's badge prior to moving on anywhere else in the building. Please do not ask teachers or students to open doors other than the main doors to enter the building, as they are told not to open the door for anyone, but rather point visitors to the Front Office instead. We must tighten up safety procedures around St. Sebastian for the good of all, most especially our children. The visitors' badges are so any adult or student in the building can quickly and easily identify whether someone belongs in the building or does not. Thank you for respecting this policy and valuing keeping our community safe.

**Safeguarding** - ALL volunteers (and trust us, we want you!) must take the Archdiocesan Safeguarding class prior to volunteering in the classrooms, on a field trip, coaching, or any other involvement with children. Please see the Arch website at: <http://www.archmil.org/offices/safeguarding/Registration.htm> for more info of on-going dates and times, and SAVE your copy of certification!!

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES** - Conference time is quickly approaching, November 9th and 10th of next month. This year, we are restructuring how we arrange for conferences, as well as the format in some cases:

- \* All conferences will now be scheduled by you on a Sign-Up Genius link that will come out later this afternoon, once a few final "tweaks" are made to it. YOU arrange for when your conference is, based on the time slots available. If you don't have access to this, please call our Front Office.
- \* All conferences will span approximately 15 minutes, including Middle School.
- \* Middle School conferences will be held with both grade-level teachers together (6th, 7th, 8th). If you'd like to arrange for a time to meet with a different Middle School teacher outside of that, please arrange that directly with the teacher on an as-needed basis after grade level sessions have been scheduled. (Teachers can let you know when all others have been scheduled). There will no longer be a line waiting outside of a door for Middle School, but rather, you come when you scheduled.
- \* Please be prompt for your signed up time, and if you have to change please be certain to edit that information on the Sign-Up Genius in respect to others' time.
- \* Conference days are long, but fruitful for teachers. Spontaneous "pop-ins" can be challenging on these days. If you would like to touch base with someone outside of your child's homeroom teacher, please feel most welcome to see if there is a time that works, but understand they may need to schedule for another time.
- \* Please value and respect that these days are scheduled for teachers to hold these important conferences with you, not for vacation purposes. The more that happens, the more parents sometimes expect teachers to plan conferences other evenings, impacting our staff's after-school hours and family lives. Please value this time as we do, using it to strategize on how to best support your child in the discussions!
- \* As a "heads-up", every teacher is preparing to discuss you with "*glows and grows*", reflecting on where we see your child glow (shine!) and where we see they can grow. We look forward to hearing ways you see that in him/her as well to share with us!

**BASKETBALL PARENT MEETING TOMORROW** - There will be a mandatory 5th grade or first time player meeting for all parents of students participating in basketball October 20th @ 7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Please print out a copy of the YAC policies, which you can find online: <http://saintsebastianonline.net/community-life/sports/youth-athletic-council-2/> (corrected website)  
Contact Michael Lehmann at 414-745-9987 or email [mlehmann2@wi.rr.com](mailto:mlehmann2@wi.rr.com) if you have any questions.

**HIGH SCHOOL VISITS AND TESTING** - are this week Friday! Please see the past couple of Newsletters for specific schools and times if interested.

A letter went home with all 7th and 8th graders earlier this week with important dates for registration, open houses, testing, and application deadlines.

**COFFEE & CONVO** - Next week Wednesday, October 26th, Ms. Grams welcomes 5th grade parents from 7:40-8:10am interested in joining, followed by 4th grade parents on Wednesday, November 2nd at the same time.

**THANK YOU!** A huge "Thank you!" to:

\* Our many families, teachers, and staff who came out for last weekend's Catholic Soles Walk for Education at Mount Mary! It was a great chance to gather for donuts, coffee, and music at Sebs and then ride a bus to the event to walk. Thank you to Mrs. Golomski and Mrs. Ambrose for organizing!

\* Colleen Poggenburg for all of your work in organizing our school-wide fundraiser! We are grateful for your time!

\* Our parents who could make it to *Coffee & Convo* on Wednesday mornings. Ms. Grams has enjoyed talking with everyone!

\* Home & School who is ALWAYS so supportive of our staff and school.

\* Our first Fish Fry crew for hosting a welcoming and delicious experience.

**BUZZ BOOK UPDATE** – Please note a new address for the Gregor/Barczynski family:  
9530 W. Elmore Avenue, Milwaukee 53222

**WISCONSIN FORWARD TEST SCORES** - Last April students in grades 3-8 took the state mandated Wisconsin Forward Exam. This standardized test replaced the Smarter Balanced Test (2015) and WKCE (2014 and earlier). The Wisconsin Forward Exam was conducted online. All students completed test sections in Math and English Language Arts. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades also completed test sections in Science and Social Studies. If your student participated in the Wisconsin Forward Exam last year, test results are coming home this week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Shambarger, Dean of Student Services, or Heather Grams, Principal.

**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 REMOTE BIDDING** - Reservations close tonight - October 14! It's your last chance to share in the fun, food and fundraising! Go here to register and pay online: <http://bit.ly/SebsAuction2016>

But WAIT! If you can't attend... for \$25, you can remotely bid on Auction items before the Auction and participate in the Silent Auction in REAL TIME. Here's how it works:

- Buy a Remote Bidder Ticket here: <http://bit.ly/SebsAuction2016>
- You will then get a confirmation e-mail with a link to your personal bidding page for the St. Sebastian 2106 Auction.
- Browse the Silent Auction items in the Catalog section of the bidding system and bid as high and often as you'd like. Note that not all items will be available online.
- During the Auction on October 22, you can continue remotely bidding in real time against other Auction guests in real time until the Silent Auction closes at 9:30 pm.
- Shortly after the Silent Auction closes, you will get a confirmation email detailing the items you have won.

**WORLD HUNGER DAY QUARTER COLLECTION** – We are raising money for Cross Catholic Outreach's project to send Vitafood meals to chronically malnourished orphans, the elderly and poverty-stricken families. 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 takes place from October 17 – 28.

With so many hungry and in need across the world, we give thanks for all we have and promise to share our blessings with others.

Non-Uniform Day with Donation to World Hunger Project--On Friday, Oct. 28th, students who bring in money for Cross Catholic Outreach will be able to come in non-uniform clothes. We are working with Cross Catholic to raise money to provide nutritious meals for hungry people across the world. Every 25 cents pays for one meal. Students who come in non-uniform clothes on Friday, Oct. 28th will turn in their money to their homeroom teachers. Everyone who donates that day will get a "Change the World" bracelet. If students do not participate, they will need to come in uniform clothing.

**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.

**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.

**CHARLIE BROWN SHIRTS** - There are play t-shirt order forms in the school office for anyone who wants to place an order. You can fill it out and put it in Rachel Lustig's mail box or bring it to play practice on Sunday October 23rd which is the last day to turn them in.

**FUNDRAISING FOR FREE** - Bring in your boxtops. Our next turn in day is fast approaching. Box tops turn into cold hard cash for our school. Please drop them off in the school office.

**NO CAMPBELLS LABELS** – Campbells has discontinued their Labels For Education program. It was a very successful program which we participated in for many years. However, there is no need to save labels any longer. We appreciate what Campbells was able to provide to schools.

**CITY TINS ARE COMING** - For all St. Sebastian Foodies and Gift Givers, we are now part of the City Tins Fundraising! Look for more details to follow! This is a perfect gift for all the food lovers in your life. All benefits go to St. Sebastian Home and School.

**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:

K5 - Roman Zielinski

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

K4 - Jonathan Sawyer

Keep up the good work!

**WEDNESDAY MASS PARKING** – If you plan to attend mass with your child on a Wednesday, please park on the north end of the playground (by the house next door). We are trying to keep the other end of the playground clear because our middle school students take a short recess after mass.

**DIVINE SAVIOR HOLY ANGELS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** –

**Sunday, October 30**

9:00 am Mass

10:00 – 1:00 Tours

Contact Allison Caswell at 414-466-3707 for further information

**PIUS XI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, October 23**

9:00 am Mass

10:00 am – 1:00 pm tours and information sessions

**Monday, October 24**

5:00 – 7:00 pm tours and information sessions

Open House opportunities include:

Tours

Meeting teachers, students, coaches, club advisors

Learning the admissions process including how to apply, testing and financial aid

Preregistration is not required. Stop by for an hour or stay the whole time!

**EARN SERVICE HOURS WHILE HELPING OUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD** - Help eradicate buckthorn, an invasive species, with the Park People of Milwaukee County. Wear appropriate clothing, including long pants and sturdy shoes. Tools, gloves and other necessary supplies will be provided. Groups and businesses are welcome to assemble teams to participate.

**There are two Buckthorn Weed Outs:**

- 1) Charles Jacobus Park Neighborhood Association Annual Buckthorn Weed Out  
October 22, 2016  
9:00am - 12:00pm

\* Meet at the Jacobus Park Pavilion

For more information, contact John Young at [FriendsOfJacobusPark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfJacobusPark@gmail.com)  
Help eradicate buckthorn with CJPNA and Friends of Jacobus Park! See you on the 22nd!

- 2) 9th Annual Buckthorn County Wide Weed-out  
9 a.m. to noon

Saturday, November 5th

Honey Creek Parkway and Hoyt Park

Honey Creek: Meet at 8024 N. Brookside Place or 630 Honey Creek Pkwy

Hoyt: Meet at pool parking lot

Contact Mike Kreuser at [michael.kreuser@tosapool.com](mailto:michael.kreuser@tosapool.com) with any questions. For more information or to preregister, visit the Park People website.

**CURRENT PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**(contact the office at 453-5830 for information)**

YAC Basketball Coach

Playground Supervision

Lunchroom Supervision

School website trainee

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