



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

October 26, 2016

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

What a fun night the St. Seb's auction proved to be this past Saturday! It was a great evening and wonderful to see so many school families there.

This week I wanted to give a shout-out to our STUDENTS!! Last week Friday we held a morning with the area Catholic high schools visiting our 7th and 8th grade students, welcoming parents to join as well. Our students were so well mannered, respectful, and asked thoughtful questions. Three of the high school's Admissions Coordinators shared with me on their way out statements such as, *"This was our favorite of the visits!"*, *"Your students are noticeably different than other schools. They seem comfortable in who they are and are very polite. That isn't always the case where we go!"*, *"Its neat to see the genuine rapport between your teachers and your students - the teachers clearly care about them!"*, and my favorite: *"It is so refreshing walking into (Sebs). It feels like you're stepping into being part of a family."* I was very proud of our students in how they represented themselves and our school, needless to say. Thank you to our parents who were able to join us as well!

Another grace-filled moment came when I stepped into the other end of the spectrum - one of our "Littles" classroom. The K4 students had "free choice time" and one little guy was off in the corner feverishly working on something, hands full of paper, markers, and tape. Upon completing his project, he came over and handed me "a book", saying "I made this for you." With so many "sentences" (wavy lines) I asked him, "Wow! What does this book say?" He answered, "It's a book all about kindness!" ...Cue the moment my heart melted.

Though we are not always our best selves - students and adults alike - there is so much goodness in our school community. Every day our students make me proud, from our youngest to our oldest. Together we learn and grow into who God calls us to be, thanks to the gift of one another...even the smallest among us.

God bless you,
Ms. Grams

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES - On Wednesday, Nov 9th, students have an 11:30am dismissal - and YES - there is classroom instruction during the half day. Conferences will run later that day, from 1:00-8:00pm and continue the following day, Thursday, Nov 10th from 11:00am-8:00pm. We apologize that conference information did not come out last week as previously communicated, but we are switching to the new format of a Sign-Up Genius for scheduling, and there have been many logistics to figure out for school-wide scheduling within that. Look for the Sign-Up Genius link (now near completion) to come out sometime this week in a separate email blast. If you do not have access to the internet, please call our Front Office to assist you. Otherwise, parents & guardians take care of all scheduling on your own. Thank you for your patience.

MILWAUKEE RUNNING FESTIVAL MARATHON – On Sunday, November 6th from 6:30 AM – 2:00 PM, roads may be closed for several hours to make sure the course is clear and safe for the runners. This will include the St. Sebastian neighborhood. Our very own **Ms. Rick** will be running in this marathon and will be running right past St. Sebastian Church. She will be raising money in honor of Jackie Hoffmann, a 2008 Sebs graduate and a 2016 Northwestern University graduate. Jackie was diagnosed at 18 months of age with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). **Cure SMA** is an organization to help raise money for research to cure this disease and the money Ms. Rick collects will be sent to this worthy cause.

If you are interested in sponsoring **Ms. Rick**, you can donate a certain amount per mile (26.2 miles) or contribute a set donation. Checks should be made payable to **Cure SMA**. Donations will be accepted through November 4th.

COLDER WEATHER APPAREL - With the change in weather, please ensure that your children leave the house wearing more, rather than less, when it comes to warmer gear! Students are outside in the morning, at recess, and dismissal, needing to be warmly dressed (coats, hats, mittens, as appropriate). We like to get them outside as often as we can for recess, as fresh air and running around are important to their development, as well as working their "wiggles" out, allowing them to better focus in the classroom!

WORLD HUNGER DAY QUARTER COLLECTION – 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.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES - Halloween costumes are meant to be a fun expression for your child to wear during our end of the day parade and festivities. All costumes must follow the uniform guidelines pertaining to length, tightness, and be non-revealing, and may not contain elements that are scary or graphic in nature (i.e. no gore elements or something that could terrify the little ones, please). Absolutely no weapons or items resembling a weapon are allowed on school grounds (plastic knives, light sabers, toy guns, etc). Student can have fun with the day in a costume version fit for the school day.

ATTENTION PARENTS - Don't be left out of the Halloween fun on Friday! Join Home & School for "Fizz & Fellowship" before and/or after the costume parade. Refreshments will be available from 2-3 p.m. outside the school doors or in the cafeteria if the parade is held inside. See you there!

COFFEE & CONVO – 5th grade parents had to be postponed to Wednesday, November 2nd. Ms. Grams will welcome 4th grade parents on Wednesday, November 9th. Parents from those specific grades are welcome to drop in between 7:40 – 8:10 AM. Please stay to attend mass with your child afterward, if you are able.

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS - Please note that we will hold our weekly all-school mass the first week of November on Tuesday, November 1st at 8:15am, rather than our typical Wednesday morning the following day in celebration of All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation in the Catholic Church. This celebration is a great day in the Church as we commemorate all of the holy men and women who have entered the heavenly Kingdom, and serve as friends / guides who joyfully contribute in helping steer us towards heaven in our faith journeys. *Any students wanting to dress as a particular Saint are welcome to do so for the Mass, and can bring their uniform to change into after mass, or remain in their Sainly attire.

It would be wonderful to have more parents and parishoners join us at this mass and others. Please know you are always welcome and encouraged to come! You can sit with your child, making it an even more special experience for them as well.

Here are some websites if you want to learn more about Saints and All Saints Day:

- (Kid-friendly): <http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-activities/resource-collections/all-saints-day>

- (More adult-based): <http://www.catholic.org/saints/allsaints>

ALL SOULS DAY - As an FYI, the day following All Saints Day is All Souls Day, annually on November 2nd. Though not a Holy Day of Obligation, this is an important day in the Church as we honor all of the dead. Perhaps with your family, you can talk about loved ones who have died, and/or doing a special activity (looking at pictures, offering a prayer in their honor, pray a rosary, making a poster of memories, etc). Please know that the St. Sebastian community keeps all of your deceased loved ones in our hearts and prayers as well.

ST. SEBASTIAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT – This evening concert date has been changed from December 13th to **Tuesday, December 6th**. All grades will participate.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN BOUTIQUE PLANNING MEETING - Our next meeting will be held on November 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Adult Formation Room. 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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE HOURS - We are in need of a junior-high clean-up crew and an adult supervisor after the Boutique breakfast on Sunday, December 4th for about 2 hours beginning at 12 noon. Please call JoAnn Stasiewicz, 414-405-5303 or Sue Olson at 414-331-3358 for more information or to volunteer.

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 - Harper Fortmann and Lilly Schoonover
Keep up the good work!

SCRIP – Who doesn't eat pizza..?! We have several pizza restaurants in our Scrip program: Domino's, Chuck E. Cheese, Little Caesar's, Papa Johns, and Pizza Hut. Each of them offers an 8% rebate. Your pizza will be extra tasty when you make a little profit.

DIVINE SAVIOR HOLY ANGELS HIGH SCHOOL NEWS – 8th grade girls can shadow/visit on Thursday, November 3rd. Call 466-3707 to register. Space is limited.

Also, younger students can participate in Girls Night In activities:

November 18 Tacos and Trivia for Grades 5 – 7

February 17 Pajama Party, Pizza and a Movie for Grades 4 – 7

Call 803-2842 to register

AUCTION FOLLOW UP - The Auction is over – thanks to everyone for helping put together an amazing night! We still have a few spots available for people who want to join others at these events. Go to <http://bit.ly/2016SebsAuctionExtra> to reserve your spot

- Return to U-Turn – December 1, 2016 – Ladies, it's your time to shop for yourselves before the holidays! Join us at UTURN on North Avenue in Wauwatosa for a FUN night of consignment shopping, drinking, eating and laughs! \$35 per person.
- Sheepshead Party – February 4, 2017 – Join fellow card sharks at the Big Head Brewery tasting room for chili, beverages, sheepshead and prizes! \$40 per person.
- Apple Cider Party – September 18, 2016 – Families, singles, couples – you'll have lunch, make a gallon of apple juice AND take home a fresh apple pie! Kids under 12 are free. \$25 per person.

Please use the same website if you had problems connecting to the internet on Auction night and would still like to contribute to our special donation.

ALSO - Whether or not you attended the auction, please complete this brief survey so we can plan for next year: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/16SebsPostAuction>