



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

November 16, 2016

School Office: 414-453-5830

Email: stsebschool@archmil.org

Fax: 414-453-9449

Ms. Grams, Principal

Website: school.saintsebastianonline.net



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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

What a gift it was to see you all at conferences last week, prioritizing our communal purpose - the well-being of our children. An educational blog I recently read resonated with me in saying, "We are here to nurture lifelong learners and responsible, compassionate, and confident members of society. As the school leader, it's my job to ensure that this mission is lived out on a daily basis." While we strive for this reality every day, I am keenly aware it also takes countless community members committed to the same purpose to have an impact. The article, titled "*Creating a Community of Learners, Starting with Yourself*," addresses ways to work together in creating educational experiences for students through everyday interactions, regardless if you have a degree in Education.

It is important we remember the "essentials" of the learning process, as we cultivate a community where our children are curious, motivated, critical-thinking life-long learners. One area I have observed we need to "step it up!" is in parent engagement and volunteering, as it cannot be the responsibility of a minority of our population. When parent engagement is strong, students have more rich and diverse experiences, whereas when it is inconsistent, so too is that reality for students, limiting opportunities to grow. With conferences this year, our goal was 100% parent involvement, which we are close to - and will happen. Such an expectation is essential in who we are and what we stand for. Excellence in education does not happen by chance.

Keep watch for a survey coming out on ways you might contribute to the goal of creating more clubs, enrichment opportunities, and diverse learning experiences for our students, giving of our time in varied ways as parents. Students ask me, "Can we have chess club?", "Can we look into robotics?", "Can we have a service club?" - YES, YES, and YES - but it will take our village to do this well.

Have a wonderful week and God bless you,

Ms. Grams

TREE LIGHTING – Milwaukee's 103rd annual tree lighting ceremony will take place at city hall on Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 PM. The Wallace family from St. Sebastian School donated the city tree this year!

STUDENT PHOTOS HAVE ARRIVED – In an effort to prevent bent photos from coming home in backpacks, parents can pick up student photos in the school office. Any that are not picked up will be sent home on Friday. (Or you can make arrangements with the school office.)

NEED A GIFT IDEA FOR A CERTAIN SOMEBODY? - Well, good news: St. Sebastian School & Spirit Wear online store is open and just in time for Christmas! Fleece & hats & tees (oh my!) plus scarves & totes & more (oh, score!) make terrific kid, teacher, coach and grandparent gifts. Give something useful that supports St. Sebastian School. Stock up on gifts to give on birthdays, special events or just to say thank you to anyone (everyone!) who helps your child succeed. Give a gift that is unique, affordable and **not** the same old boring gift card*. **Order deadline: December 5.** Delivery Monday December 19th. Click here now: <https://sebsgear.itemorder.com> Contact Rebecca Desch (deschjr@me.com) with questions. (*no gift cards were hurt during the typing of this announcement)

A BIG THANK YOU - to all the students and families that supported the 8th grade Walking Taco and Bake Sale! Your support helps us pay for our trip to Washington DC in February!

YAC CONCESSION COORDINATOR NEEDED - The Youth Athletic Committee is looking for a volunteer to take on the duties of Concession Coordinator, for which the goal would be to transition the role the new volunteer sometime this basketball season. Concessions and admissions for games hosted at St. Sebastian are an important revenue source for the sports programs.

The volunteer duties for the Concession Coordinator are not super intricate, and involve 1-2 hours of commitment per week during the sports seasons (September, October, 1st 3 weeks of December, January and February). The Concession Coordinator more or less purchases the concession stock, keeps their receipts and then submits them to the YAC treasurer for reimbursement every month or so.

Anyone interested in filling this vital role can contact Katie or Derik Summerfield at katieandderik@att.net.

NEW SERVER TRAINING SESSIONS - Children from St. Sebastian Parish (both from St. Sebastian School as well as other schools) who are in grades 5-8 are invited to attend one of the following training sessions for serving at mass:

Wednesday, November 16, 2:30-4:00p

Friday, November 18, 3:00-4:30p

Monday, November 21, 3:00-4:30p

Please e-mail Mr. Kamenski at mkamenski@saintsebs.org to register for one of these dates. If none of these dates is possible, please still respond by e-mail, indicating that you would need another option for training. Both boys and girls are welcome. This is only for new servers, not for servers who are already trained.

HOLLY BERRY GOLD BOUTIQUE, DECEMBER 3-4 - Reservations are due by November 23 for the Ladies luncheon. Tables are filling up fast. You can register online or call Theresa Graff at 414-232-6769. Donated baked goods for the Boutique (can be dropped off December 1 & 2) are welcomed and appreciated. If you would like to help in any way, call JoAnn at 405-5303 or Sue at 331-3358 for more information.

Country Springs Waterpark passes. Order now through November 30th for an early December delivery date. Only \$12.50 per pass. (Remember “spectator” passes are only \$5 at the door so if you are not swimming, you don’t need to buy a waterpark pass.) Blackout dates are as follows: 12/26/16 - 1/3/17 and 4/8 - 4/32/17. Passes are also not allowed on Saturdays.

Make checks payable to St. Sebs Home and School, return to school office or use backpack mail attn: Leah Sealey. Extra order forms in the school office or use form below.

2016/17 COUNTRY SPRINGS WATER PARK PASSES

Family Name _____ Mail Carrier Room # _____

or Homeroom Teacher Last Name _____

Number of passes _____ x \$12.50 = _____

Write your check payable to St. Sebastian Home and School

Return via office or backpack mail BEFORE NOV 30th, Attn: Leah Sealey
