



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

January 4, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian School Families,

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas, New Year's, and time off was relaxing, meaningful, and joy-filled! I came across a couple of "New Years conversation starters" to consider discussing as a family:

*"As we say goodbye to the past year and welcome the new year,
What good things in the past year can we thank God for?"
"What can we do to make our family life more peaceful?
What can we do to help people live in peace in our city and our country?
What can we do to encourage peace in the world?"*

As we begin our new calendar year, there are important upcoming evenings for our school and community. In the month of January, we look forward to prioritizing:

- Mid-year **MAP testing** for grades 1-8 and St. Coletta throughout January
- The **end of the 2nd Quarter** on Friday, January 13th
- **St. Sebastian's feast day** on Friday, January 20th
- **Registration & Open House** for ALL CURRENT and PROSPECTIVE families on Sunday, January 29th, from 9:00am-12:00pm (see more info on the following page!)

Over the holiday break as I shared in a Newsletter, we hired a new wonderful teacher for our 3rd grade students in Room 103, replacing Mrs. Forsythe. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Becca Kaja (pronounced, 'Ki-yah', with a long 'i') to our school community! I spoke with the children about the transition yesterday, and it was clear from classroom visits all are in a great place, as we press on with renewed energy and excitement for the school year ahead!

Lastly, on this feast day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, we celebrate the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church. As I shared with the children, there are everyday ways and possibilities - both big and small - to become a Saint! Let us strive for holiness and everyday goodness in service to our Lord and one another.

God bless you,

Ms. Grams

SAFEGUARDING - DO you volunteer with children in the parish or at school? The Archdiocese, as part of our effort to insure the safety of our children, requires every person who works with children, paid and volunteer, to participate in a one-time Safeguarding program. This is a requirement for any adult who wants to chaperone a field trip, coach, etc.

One of the sessions offered is on **Monday, January 9th 6:30PM -9:30PM** at **Christ King Parish Center**. Register online at: <http://www.archmil.org/offices/safeguarding/Registration.htm> for a complete listing of available sites.

MAP TESTING IN JANUARY - We will begin our mid-year Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing on January 9, 2017. All students in grades 1-7 will be tested in reading and math to measure the progress that students have made in these areas since September. Teachers will then work with students to set goals to achieve during the remainder of the school year. Final MAP tests will be administered in reading and math in May. To help your students be present, healthy, rested, and prepared for the MAP test, please:

- ensure your students are in attendance and on time every day;
- provide a healthy breakfast for your students;
- enforce a regular bed-time (elementary students generally need 10 hours of sleep per night);
- practice reading daily;
- practice math facts and other math skills daily; and
- encourage your students to do their best and show what they know!

PACKERS IN THE PLAYOFFS! - This Friday, January 6th will be a Packers / Playoffs dress down day! (Students may wear Packers or any other NFL team they choose to support for the Playoffs. All dress code policies apply.) May the best team win and **GO PACK!!**

LIGHT UP SHOES - Please do not send students to school in light-up shoes. They are certainly fun, but unfortunately too much of a distraction in the learning environment. If this is your child's only pair of shoes and you need time to purchase a new pair, please communicate that to Ms. Grams or the Front Office to see how we can assist you. Thank you.

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS – All 6th grade parents - Camp Edwards PARENT MEETING at 6:00 pm in the Multi Purpose Room on Thursday, January 5, 2017.

GRADUATION PHOTOS – 8TH graders will have their graduation pictures taken on Thursday, January 5th. They may dress up that day. Do not send any money to order on that day. Proofs will be sent home later.

BUILDING FAITHFUL FAMILIES – There will be a presentation at Mount Mary University titled: Diffusing Parent-Youth Disputes. The presenter is Moira Kelly, an adjunct instructor on dispute resolution at Marquette University. Time: 7:30 PM. Visit www.inspirioyouth.org for more information.

4 – 7TH GRADE GIRLS – “Girls Night IN” at DSHA – February 17th Pajama Party, Pizza and Movie. Sign-up online at my.dsha.info/gni or call 414-466-3707.

