



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

October 11, 2017

School Office: 414-453-5830

Email: stsebsschool@archmil.org

Fax: 414-453-9449

Ms. Grams, Principal

Website: school.saintsebastianonline.net



[Like us on Facebook!](#)

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." - Anne of Green Gables

Dear St. Sebastian School Community,

Finally the fall weather has set in, and the beautiful WI leaves are changing into their rich, colorful brilliance! Though I struggled to connect with ol' Anne of Green Gables as a child, I do love her character's quote above, reminded by all of the beauty (and tasty treats) that fall brings.

As you may recall from our All Parent Meeting, as a community it is important to focus on not only what unites us in our sameness, but also, as an intentional community of diverse members, to highlight and celebrate our wonderful differences. Yesterday I had the opportunity to read to Mrs. Sawyer's 3rd grade class and chose the book, The Colors of Us, a family favorite. The story is told by young Lena, talking with her mom upon noticing all of the varied colors of their friends and family, as her eyes were opened to the rich tapestry of colors they comprise.

Before reading the book, we put our hands into the circle and noted the many shades of colors our skin were. After the story had ended, I asked what they thought the theme of the story could be. Instantly hands shot up with responses such as, *"That we are all the same!"* or *"That color doesn't matter!"* While I affirmed that both are indeed true, it threw many for a loop when I said the book's theme is actually the opposite focus, that in a wonderful way, we all have differences; our skin colors being one of them. Heads cocked to the side as students considered this. A student then raised her hand and said, "I think God made us all different colors because it would be boring if we all looked the same." How very true!

We again put our hands into the circle and instead of observing as in the first time, smiles universally beamed as the children looked at all of our colors and commented to friends how much they liked our range of colors. I suggested we end with a fun chant, similar to a sports huddle, asking what they wanted to cheer together. Endearing and affirming, one student's suggestion sparked the class to cheer, *"We love St. Seb's!"* as the decision. I found it interesting that following our story and discussion on celebrating one aspect of our differences, a connection was immediately drawn to our school, where together we learn firsthand to value our sameness and our differences. I couldn't help but think that I'm so glad I live in a world where there are not only Octobers, but also schools like ours. Though far from perfect, we comprise a pretty fantastic community of imperfect people together on a journey.

Enjoy the long weekend, and God bless you!

Ms. Grams

Here are some reflections that our 3rd graders wrote following the story, The Colors of Us, highlighted in the opening of today's Newsletter:

- *"When I heard this story, I thought of my friends and family. I think of them because we're all different colors. You can find colors everywhere! The color of me is like peanut butter. I get it from my mom. I'm glad God made everyone different!"*

- *"I love this book because it talks about skin colors. I also think that people need to work on not making fun of others for their color and I think the book helped us with it. The funniest part of the book is when the girl called colors by food names!"*

- *"The color of my skin is like butterscotch. I like it because I like butterscotch candy and because it's unique and awesome!"*

- *"I think my color is great because its unique, just like two of my friends. I get my color from mommy and daddy and I love it."*

- *"My skin is like a honey peach. I think my sister and brother would like this book too. Everyone's skin is perfect!"*

- *"My skin is like almond butter and peanut butter. I like my style because it's unique, just like my dad's."*

- *"My skin is like dark chocolate, brownies, chocolate milk, and nutella. I got that from my dad. I like my skin color because it looks like chocolate and I love chocolate."*

- *"When I heard this story I thought my skin color was light caramel and cashew butter with a banana. I learned from this story that the way God made you is important in some way."*

- *"I get my skin color from my mom and I love her. The color of me is milk chocolate."*

- *"From the story I learned that everyone's skin color is awesome and amazing the way it is. And from the story I learned that everyone does not have to be like someone else. My brother would like this book because he likes books that tell that everyone is awesome. My skin is a light caramel apple or like a super light chocolate!"*

Thank you, 3rd graders, for sharing these reflections about yourselves with us!

NO SCHOOL – Remember, there is no school on October 12 and 13 due to the teacher’s convention.

ST. SEBASTIAN AUCTION - REGISTER TODAY FOR THE PARISH AUCTION!

All are invited to this year’s St Sebastian Auction! Join the St Sebastian Community on Saturday, October 21st for fun, fellowship and fundraising, Oktoberfest style!

All information and ticket purchase can be found at this link: <http://bit.ly/SebsAuction2017>

Any questions or for more information to sign up as a volunteer, please contact Kelly Bentfield at kbentfield@saintsebs.org

The Auction is our parish's biggest fundraiser, and a great way to meet or reconnect with people. Saturday, October 21 - at St. Sebastian.

\$50 Price includes:

- + Complimentary Beer, Wine, Soda & Water+ Generous Appetizers & Dessert
- + Dozens of Items for bid
- + Plenty of fun for all!

Timetable:

5:30 - 6:15 Mass

6:15 - 7:30 Check-in

8:15 - Voice auction begins

8:30 - Silent auction closes

9:30 - Raffle winner announced, event wraps

10:00 - Checkout / item pick up begins upstairs

Click here to register: <https://stsebs.schoolauction.net/sebsauction2017>

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES - All students in grades K4-8th grade are welcome (not expected) to bring a costume to change into on Friday, October 27th for our annual parade and grade level fun. As you prepare costume ideas with your child, please be certain to note that costumes violent in nature, inappropriate in meeting dress code, and/or scary to little ones will not be permitted. Additionally, as always, no items resembling a real or fake weapon are permissible. We look forward to seeing the fun and creative ideas of those participating! More info on the day will come from your child's teacher, as warranted.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED - Are you interested and available to consider substitute teaching at St. Sebastian School? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Lori Golomski at [414-453-5830](tel:414-453-5830) or lgolomski@saintsebs.org for more information.

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

Completing the letter "R" in reading:

K4 - Maren O'Brien and Ian Melendes

Keep up the good work!

NEED FOR CHILDCARE HELP ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH - We are looking for anyone who has completed Safeguarding training, and consents to a background check, to consider supervising childcare that St. Sebastian is offering to families attending the showing of the documentary "53206" on Tuesday, October 17th. Middle school students will be in attendance to help for service hours as well. The time would run from 5:10-8:30pm, at the latest. Thank you for considering helping in this needed capacity!

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION - If you are a St. Sebastian parish member or day student in grades 5-8 and you would like to play basketball this year's registration **deadline was October 6th**.

Registration forms received after the deadline will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. All teams have a 10-player limit after the deadline. Forms are available in the school office or on line.

If you have not signed up and still wish to play please contact Michael Lehmann at 414-745-9987 or email mlehmann2@wi.rr.com

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 31 FUNDRAISER – St. Sebastian Boy Scouts are taking orders for Christmas wreaths. Boy Scouts will be reaching out to the St. Sebastian Community to fulfill their holiday decorating needs. Please support our Boy Scouts as they raise funds for equipment and camp.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS – PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE COMPLIANT – Anyone who wishes to chaperone or volunteer with our children are required to complete the Safeguarding All God's Children program. It includes a background check, signing a code of ethics, and attending a one-time class. The classes are offered at different locations at various times throughout the year. Currently, a convenient Safeguarding class is being offered this month at:

St. Matthias
9306 W. Beloit Road
Steiger Hall or Church Basement

Wednesday, October 18 6:00 – 9:00 PM

To pre-register: the Archdiocese now has an online portal to help you to be compliant to work with children. (If you need assistance, the school office would be happy to assist you with this portal.)

- Please go to: <https://milwaukee.cmgconnect.org/> and register for a new account.
- Please be sure to choose St. Sebastian (Milw) as your site.
- Once you have an account you will need to click 1. Safe Environment - Milwaukee and follow all the prompts. **You need to sign up for a live session.

NEW THIS YEAR: If you have already taken the live class but have not had a background check in over 5 years, please go to <https://milwaukee.cmgconnect.org/> and register for a new account. Please be sure to choose St. Sebastian (Milw) as your site. Once you have an account you will need to click 2. Five Year Background Check & Code of Ethics Renewal - Safe Environment - Milwaukee and follow all the prompts. You do not need to sign up for another live session. If you get asked to sign up for another 2-3 hour class, you are in the wrong area.

UNIQUE ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE - On Saturday, October 21st at 7:30pm, the Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra will have its first concert of the season, conducted by Music Director Michael Kamenski. This will be pops/light classical concert including highlights from the movie E.T and Black Knight (Batman), selections from the musical Ragtime, Chabrier's "España", and many more. The **SPECIAL – UNIQUE** opportunity is that the audience will have opportunities to sit on stage around, behind AND WITHIN the orchestra throughout the concert. This is a child-friendly concert with general admission ticket prices of \$15 for adults and \$6 for students, all available at the door or at MFSO.net.

The concert is held at Hamilton Fine Arts Center in Sussex – Townline Road, just west of Silver Spring Country Club.

NEW SERVER TRAINING - Training for new servers (servers must be baptized Roman Catholic) who would like to serve mass on Sundays and Wednesdays (school masses) will be held for grades 5-8 on the following dates: Wednesday, October 25, 2:00pm – 3:30pm in the church and Saturday, October 28, 11:00am – 12:30pm in the church. If you are interested but these dates do not work, please contact me to schedule another time. We need many children, so please consider this rewarding ministry! Contact Mr. Kamenski to register for **one** of these two dates (or to set up another time) mkamesnki@saintsebs.org or 414-453-1928.

SCHOOL CANTOR AUDITIONS - Once again we will hold auditions for cantors for the all-school mass. Children in grades 5-8 may audition. Simple auditions will be held on October 18 and 19. The teachers will have the schedule of audition times (during school hours). Last year's cantors also need to re-audition. For questions, please contact Mr. Kamenski.