



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

October 4, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian School community,

Happy Fall to all! Thank you for such an excellent turnout for parent teacher conferences last week! Aside from one parent remaining to circle back with, I am pleased to report that 99.6% of our students had a parent show up for conferences, thus far! This is excellent, and speaks to the work we do together. As you know, this early round of conferences was to identify with your children areas they shine and can use their strengths to their advantage, as well as areas they can aim to grow. In talking through this beforehand with my own child, her self awareness of both areas was confirming that even young children can know themselves well and contribute significantly to the reflective process. We are anxious to see over the course of the year how this strategy serves our students as we measure and reflect together.

Speaking of goals, as you know from the All Parent Meeting held in September, we are focusing efforts this year on intentional conversation aimed at highlighting our differences as the wonderfully diverse community that we are at St. Sebastian. To this end, our school is partnering with Milwaukee's Safe & Sound organization to host a viewing of the documentary "53206", a film centered on an area of Milwaukee with the highest incarceration rate in the country. Safe & Sound is providing dinner, childcare, and thought-provoking discussion for all who come. Please consider joining us on Tuesday, October 17th at 5:30pm in the Church Hall for this community event, inviting your friends and neighbors as well. A special thanks to Seb's parent Katie Sanders for bringing this opportunity to us through Safe & Sound.

Lastly, given the tragic events out of Las Vegas this week, here is a link that principals have shared, centered on "How to talk to children about shootings - an age by age guide." <https://www.today.com/parents/how-talk-children-about-shootings-age-age-guide-t59626>

May God bless all those impacted by such an incomprehensible act, and may we collectively trust in the Lord that the Light of Christ always - always - overcomes any darkness in the end.

Have a wonderful week and God bless you,

Ms. Heather Grams

Principal

THANK YOU TO 1ST GRADE PARENTS! - Thank you, parents, for your contributions in hosting one of the dinners for our faculty over conferences last week. A special thank you to parent Lisa Metz for organizing this gift to our hard working teachers within the grade level! You are all appreciated!

MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL VISITS - All parents of 6th-8th grade students are invited and encouraged to attend our morning of visits and presentations from the area Catholic high schools on Monday, October 16th. The morning will run from 8am-10:45am or 11 at the latest. Look for the schedule your child will be bringing home with the order of presenters.

8th grade parents: *Please also note that the High School Placement Test for Catholic high schools is November 3rd! If there are any high school open houses you'd like to attend beforehand with your child, see the individual school's websites for more information. Deadlines will be approaching quickly and parents are the primary organizers of these logistics. We are happy to assist as we can.

HOT LUNCH NOTICE – As of October 10th, all households that have not filled out their free/reduced application will go to full pay for lunch. The price of hot lunch is \$3.00 per day.

REQUEST FROM NEIGHBORS – Our neighbors would like to remind you to be courteous drivers. Recently, several cars have parked so close to driveways that the people who live there had to cut over the grass and curbs to get out of their driveway. Also, there have been reports of drivers coming out of our playground and intentionally driving the wrong way on 54th Street. Please remember that we share the streets with the good people in the neighborhood who support St. Sebastian School.

STREET CLOSURES – The 3rd annual Milwaukee Marathon will be held on Sunday, October 15th. Please be aware that there may be some streets closed around St. Sebastian.

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 registration **deadline is October 6th**. Registration forms received after 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.

Additionally, there will be a mandatory 5th grade or first time player meeting for all parents of students participating in basketball October 19th @ 7:30pm in the school cafeteria. The meeting will provide the necessary information regarding the program along with a questions and answers session. Please print out a copy of the YAC policies found on the website below and bring it along with you to the meeting. We suggest you read through it prior to the meeting:

<http://saintsebastianonline.net/community-life/sports/youth-athletic-council-2/> Contact Michael Lehmann at 414-745-9987 or email mlehmann2@wi.rr.com if you have any questions.

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

Completing the letter "R" in reading:

K4 - John Hegerty and Ava Alston

Keep up the good work!

BOOK FAIR FOLLOW-UP – The book fair last week was a big success. Thank you to all who helped set up, find wish lists, straighten books, take down and everything in between. It would not have been as successful without your help.

We want to remind you that the student and teacher wish lists are available at Rainbow Books, the sponsor of the book fair, located at 5704 W. Vliet. These lists will be there through Christmas and make a great place to check for birthday gift ideas. They are open Wednesday, 3:30 – 8:00 and Saturday 9:30 – 5:00. Stop in and see what else this amazing children's book store has on the shelves.

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

Register online at www.archmil.org/offices/safeguarding

Also, for those who are tech savvy - the Archdiocese now has an online portal to help you to be compliant to work with children. We encourage you to begin the program and 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 do need to sign up for a live session.

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.

BOX TOPS WEEK - It is National Box Tops Week so clip away and send in as many box tops as you can. Anyone that fills a collection sheet (attached) with their name on it by Wednesday 10/11/17 will be entered into a drawing for Yo Mama gift cards. The drawing will be on Wednesday before dismissal!

SEBS STORE -The Sebs Store is open for business again this Friday after school! Bring your money and stop by to find out what "Treats" have arrived with the Halloween season. All proceeds benefit the 8th grade class trip to Washington, DC.

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.