



# ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

December 21, 2016

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

What a unique time it is at this point in the year, when both the Advent season and calendar year wind down, yet we await the great day of Christmas morning with hope and joyful hearts!

I can't help but think of Mary and Joseph at this time, wondering as humans what their personal experiences were in these days they awaited the birth of the Christ child, while much of our focus is on holiday shopping and readiness! Scripture recounts the angel's profound appearance to them both, bringing puzzling news to accept or reject. Despite the social stigma, the judgments, and the altering of their life path as they knew it - they each said "yes." It was a "yes" to mystery and uncertainty...while a "yes" to God. Not knowing it at the time, their lives would carry great suffering, but also great graces and joys, not doubt, for they were not spared the realities of the human existence. They most likely little realized how significant a part of God's plan they were, however, culminating in the birth of our Savior. What may have appeared a disaster in their human worlds, was necessary and nothing short of beautiful and perfect with the Lord.

Each and every one of us are called in our own way to cooperate with the divine plan, presented with opportunities to say "yes" more often than we probably realize. This Christmas, how might God be personally speaking to our hearts? In what ways can you and your family bring Christ into the world again - and again - and again, reborn in our relationships, in acts of service, in the quest for justice, and in the pursuit of peace? Collectively, as parents and a school staff, I pray we are always mindful of how we shepherd our own hearts and our children's, seeking the same willingness to trust our Creator by allowing ourselves to be led to that which fulfills the Lord's purposes.

May the strength of Joseph and grace of Mary serve as reminders that it is possible to say the ultimate "YES" to all that our Lord asks of us each day, with the magnificent moment of the birth of Christ as reason enough to believe and trust God's plans are perfect. Merry Christmas, and a very happy new year to you!

God bless you,

Ms. Grams

**SAVE THE DATE! - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 9:00AM-12:00PM**

**St. Sebastian Registration & Open House for the 2017-2018 school year!:**

New this year, we will host our Registration Fair for current families AND our Open House for prospective families together on Sunday, January 29th, 2017. It will be a day your family will not want to miss, including:

- \* Register for the 2017-18 school year, securing your seat before new seats are opened to prospective families!
- \* Touring the school to see your children's work!
- \* Visit with teachers and staff, School Committee, Home & School, and other St. Seb's committees and activities!
- \* Find ways you can volunteer or contribute to the St. Sebastian community!
- \* Food, Activities, and FUN for your children!
- \* Enjoy speaking with other families and friends of our community!

We look forward to seeing you there! More information will be coming in early January of what Registration materials you'll need to bring.

**A HUGE "Thank You!"** - to our Parking Lot Volunteers, who brave the cold to keep our students safe in the morning!:

Rebecca Desch  
Joe Desch  
Shaneese Williams

Rebecca Keiser  
Taj Pearsall  
Mark Knapp

Mary Madigan  
Jon Metz

**THE STATE OF WISCONSIN REPORT CARD AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT** - Schools participating in the Parental Choice program must annually now provide to the parent or guardian of each student a copy of the school's Accountability Report (report card) and a list of the Educational Options available to children who reside in the pupil's resident school district. To share these with you, we have posted them on our school's homepage, which you will find if you are interested by scrolling to the bottom. Because the report card is new, there is little data on St. Sebastian School specifically at this point, but there will be more information in the coming years as data and progress is now tracked and shared. Please feel free to ask Ms. Grams if you have any questions on this.

**JANUARY MAP ASSESSMENTS** - Speaking of assessments, as a "heads up", in January, we will hold student mid-year MAP testing, one form of formative (benchmark) assessments we use to gauge how each of our students are progressing, following their MAP assessments in early September. To this end, please ensure as we head back in January, that your children are well rested, have a good breakfast, are present for the entire school day, and that you continue to support their learning at home. Prioritizing reading and math games, learning math facts, fostering their natural curiosity on topics that interest them, and reinforcing what they are learning in the classroom are all easy ways to help foster their academic growth. We want our students to be as prepared as possible!

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

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

**DROP ITEMS IN THE OFFICE** – In an effort to minimize classroom disruption, any items to drop off for your child are to be left at the front office.

**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!

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE** - The Girls Scouts will once again host the annual St. Sebastian's Father-Daughter Dinner Dance on Saturday, January 28th from 6-9pm in the Church Hall. All girls from St. Seb's and St. Colletta's are invited to attend with their dad or a special VIP. This year's theme is HOLLYWOOD! Come dressed in your red carpet best as as your favorite Hollywood duo or group. See the attached flyer.

**FREE POWERSCHOOL APP AVAILABLE** - There is a free PowerSchool App you can download to your mobile device, available through your App Store. You will need your PowerSchool username and password the first time you log into the App, but after that you will be able to open the account on your mobile device just by opening the App.

### **READERS ARE LEADERS UPDATE**

#### **Read N Quiz**

Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to read for pleasure and take reading comprehension quizzes using the Read n Quiz reading incentive program. After successfully passing quizzes, students earn points.

Congratulations to these students for earning the following points!  
Keep reading!!!!

#### **5+POINTS**

Mykiah Hill

Gabriel Spellman

#### **10+ POINTS**

Harrison Schwabe

#### **25+ POINTS**

Anita Hatten

#### **100+ POINTS**

Bennett Corr

