



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

February 1, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian School Families,

WOW! WOW! WOW!

This past Sunday as you know, we held our Open House in conjunction with Registration for both current and prospective families for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. I can honestly say Sunday will go down as my favorite day to date (and there have been many already!) to be fortunate enough to serve as the School Leader of St. Sebastian. The energy and positive "vibe" throughout the entirety of the morning was undeniable, as families, students, parishioners, curious neighbors, and returning alums showed an investment in our community. That was no doubt the workings of the Holy Spirit, along with dedicated staff, volunteers, and parents. I felt our children were so impressive in their behavior. They were their well-mannered selves, as well as welcoming to newcomers, with their sparkling personalities! We had over 35 new families visit us, as well as an impressive turn-out from you, our wonderful families.

This is clearly the norm of our community, where we "show up" for one another and for what matters; most especially our students. As I mentioned in my remarks at Open House, engagement in this community is not a mandate, but rather an *expectation* of who we are and what we want for our children, here at St. Sebastian. We are proud to be your partners in faith, academics, and learning in community. Thank you for the ways you show your investment both in and outside of the school hours, only strengthening the educational experiences our students receive.

A very special "Thank You" to our many volunteers, from staff, teachers, students, and parents. Thank you to Molly Ambrose, Megan Murray, and Lena Stephenson for their many efforts behind the scenes to make Open House as special as it was. A huge thank you to Mrs. Fredericks, Mrs. Blaha, Mrs. Golomski, and Mrs. Shambarger for their efforts to help coordinate our newly revised initiatives with Registration. Our teachers are here more hours than you can imagine, many of whom are often in on the weekends to put finishing touches on their lessons, their classrooms, and their experiences for our students. And as always, there are so many parent volunteers behind the scenes as well, through St. Coletta, Home & School, School Committee, Finance Council, and Parish Staff. It surely takes a village!

Thank you for making St. Sebastian so special for our students and our families, and we hope you are enjoying celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

God bless you,
Ms. Grams

CHOICE REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018 - The Choice registration window is opening **TODAY**. Current school Choice families need to register for the 2017-2018 school year between February 1st and February 28th. You must complete the application **ONLINE** all related application steps must be completed by February 28th.

St. Sebastian Parish has an enrollment cap, which means there are a limited number of seats available. New families will be applying for those seats, so please act soon so you do not lose your Choice seat. Step-by-step instructions were included in your registration packet to assist you in this process. Please contact Ms. Grams if you have any questions.

INFORMATION ON FEBRUARY CONFERENCES - Our February Conferences are going to be held on Wednesday, February 22nd, from 1:00pm-8:00pm, with a break from 4:00-5:00pm for teachers to have dinner. Conferences on that date are going to be held AS NEEDED / AS REQUESTED, whether by the teacher requesting one, or if you have a particular concern for your child. Teachers will be contacting you in the coming weeks if they feel it important to meet together. We will also be opening the Sign-Up Genius in a future Newsletter if you feel the need to discuss your child's academic, behavioral, or social progress.

Thursday, February 23rd, then will be a Staff Professional Development day and thus, no Conferences will be held. In talking with staff and parents, it seems to be the most productive use of our time with the initiatives we are focusing on. Attention on this day will be given to Learning Targets, Differentiated Instruction, and Standards based assessments.

Friday, February 24th is a much-deserved day off for the entire community.

FISH FRY THIS FRIDAY! - YOUR Neighborhood Fish Fry is this Friday, February 3 in the school cafeteria. Please join us for a great meal and fellowship with the St. Sebastian community! Don't forget to tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about the best fish fry in Washington Heights! As an added bonus, our very own, Holly Rutenbeck is making the soup -- Broccoli Cheese! This soup won't be available next month. See you on Friday!

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR FRIDAY'S FISH FRY - Thank you to all the regular volunteers and 3rd grade families who are helping with fish fry on Friday. We are still in need of volunteers, especially for clean-up help (Friday from 7:30 PM - 10:00PM) and with dessert donations. Please email Lena Stephenson at roblena@sbcglobal.net or send a text to 414.403.7131 if you are able to help. You don't need to be a 3rd grade family to help with Friday's fish fry

SAVE THE DATE! - Tickets are on sale for the St. Sebastian Cabaret "Ham & Cheese Variety Show!" We've got all the ingredients for a tasty night of entertainment from your favorite Sebs performers and their friends. They've cooked up a couple of skits and musical numbers sure to please every palette. Just go to <http://bit.ly/SebsCab2017> to reserve your spot or download a form and return to the Parish House. Want to volunteer in the bar or backstage? Contact saintsebastiancabaret@gmail.com

