



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

February 15, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

Happy St. Valentine's Day! There were hearts, love, prayers, positivity, and wonderful "vibes" in the building yesterday. The children seemed to have a fun day with their classroom festivities, showering one another with LOVE! We were sure to save the sugary treats for the end of the day so you could reap the full joy and benefit of that at home! :)

Speaking of saints, love, and goodness, in honor of Black History Month, we at St. Sebastian School would like to showcase Saint Moritz, the first black person to be documented as a Saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

The jet-setters who frequent the Swiss resort town of St. Moritz are no doubt unaware that it was named after this wonderful guide for us in the Church! Also known by the names of Saint Maurice or St. Mauritius, St. Moritz was a third century Roman legionary who was born in Thebes in Upper Egypt. Maurice was martyred in what is today Switzerland for refusing to persecute Christians for the Roman Empire. An Abbey was erected on the site of his death and to this day remains an active monastery and pilgrimage site. St. Moritz is the patron saint of soldiers, swordsmiths, armies, and infantrymen! His feast day is September 22nd.

How important it is to ensure our children and fellow adults are aware of the many men and women from all races, ethnicities, parts of the world, and walks of life that comprise the communion of Saints! Let us continue a shared mindset in accompanying one another in our earthly journey, growing together in holiness through the gift of community.

God bless you,

Ms. Grams

NO SCHOOL – There is no school this Friday, February 17. Our teachers will be attending the Archdiocesan Literacy Day. The office will be open from 1:00 – 5:00 for anyone who needs to drop off Choice documentation.

CHOICE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE - As shared in an email earlier this week, **there will be an Open Lab time TONIGHT from 4:30-6:30pm in the school's Computer Lab** for parents desiring assistance with the enrollment process. If you are a continuing Choice family, please bring a copy of a utility bill with your name and current address on it for residency verification. If new to Choice, you will also need a copy of your W-2's for federal income verification. Call our office with any questions!

CHOICE REMINDER - AND CLARIFICATION - FOR FEBRUARY 17th - ALL who are applying for the 2017-2018 Milwaukee Choice Program are strongly encouraged to apply - AND HAVE ALL DOCUMENTATION provided to us in order to "verify you" in the system - **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17th**. The reason for this is because Friday 2/17 is considered the "3rd Friday count date". Being the first of the Open Application months, returning students have priority of acceptance for re-enrollment. If you do not apply by that time, you are then in the general applicant pool with all other new families.

FEBRUARY REMINDERS ON CONFERENCING DATES –

- **Wednesday, 2/22** - A reminder that students are dismissed at 11:30am for Spring Conferences to follow after (see the Sign Up Genius links below that were emailed out earlier this week for Spring Conferences. As a reminder, conferences are held on an as-requested basis, by either teacher or parent.)

- **Thursday, 2/23** - NO SCHOOL for students. - Professional Development Day for staff.

- **Friday, 2/24** - NO SCHOOL for all students and staff.

SPRING CONFERENCES FOR STUDENTS - Here, again, are the links if you wish to sign up for a Spring Conference:

K4-4th grades:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaba623abfc1-spring>

5th-8th grades + Specials:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4eaba623abfc1-spring1>

If you would like to schedule a conference with Mrs. Shambarger, Mrs. Golomski, Mrs. Ambrose, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Skinner, or Mr. Schiefelbein (Title I), please contact them.

YEARBOOK ORDERS – Order blanks were sent home with each student last week. A copy was included in the February 8th newsletter as well. Extra forms are available in the office. The cost is \$12. Checks are made payable to St. Sebastian School. Orders are due by March 8th.

VISION SCREENING – In order for our school to offer vision screening to our kindergarten students, and any other students with a concern, we need 2 volunteers. Prevent Blindness Wisconsin will be having a vision screening training specifically for Catholic schools on Friday, March 10th in the afternoon. We would receive a free vision screening kit with charts, ocular paddles, etc., courtesy of the Christ Child Society of Milwaukee. The trained volunteers could then arrange to conduct the screening at our school at their convenience. Please contact our school office at 453-5830 if you are interested in helping.

1st GRADE PARENTS – 1st grade parents are hosting the March 3rd fish fry. Mark your calendar!

MORNING SAFETY – Our playground is supervised beginning at 7:35 AM. If your child needs to be on the premises before that, please make arrangements to have them go to PAL.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT NEEDED - Please consider becoming involved in any of the opportunities below, where we need parent support in order to best provide for students in these areas:

- **SAFETY:** Ms. Grams is convening a task force of parents who will study, revise, and implement or safer and more efficient means of pick-up in the afternoons at dismissal. Please let Ms. Grams know by next Wednesday, February 15th if you are able to participate in this important matter. You can contact her at: hgrams@saintsebs.org.

- "**St. Sebs SERVES**" Day: In order to best meet our mission of preparing students to serve God and others in their communities and the world, it is a goal to grow a school-wide service program, with hands-on opportunities for our children to engage in. If you are interested in this meaningful opportunity to help shape this program, please attend a brief morning meeting on Thursday, February 16th at either 7:30am or 4:30pm at school (your children can come hang out with us as well). If you cannot make either meeting, but are interested in participating, please let Ms. Grams know by Wednesday, February 15th (hgrams@saintsebs.org). We will begin our efforts in hopes of coordinating an all-school Lenten service day, ideally.

- **High Interest Day:** High Interest Day is always a day our students look forward to; perhaps the highlight of their school year! In past years, we have had dedicated parents coordinating this day, however, as shared at Open House, we currently do not have a team able to make High Interest Day a reality for this year, thus far. If you are interested in being part of a team to try and plan this great day for the students, please let Ms. Grams know. The more hands available, the easier on volunteers, as well as more enjoyable for the students' experience!

* If you know of anyone interested in helping with any of the areas above (whether parent, parishioner, alum, etc), all are welcome! Please let us know. The goal is to provide the best educational opportunities and experiences for our students as we can together.

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

Completing the letter "R" in reading:

K5 - Finn Fitzpatrick

Completing the letter "A" in reading:

K5 - Kellen Gifford and Rhialyn Alston

Keep up the good work!

WINTER FARMER'S MARKET - Our 8th annual Winter Farmers' Market & Brunch will be in the church hall on Sunday, March 5 from 9am to 12:30pm. This event fed nearly 500 people last year, and will not be possible without your help. Please visit the online portal at <https://stseb.datapropeller.com/ParticipantPortal> or come to the Gathering Space after mass on Feb 19th to see what volunteer opportunities are available. Contact Tonia Schmear at tonschmear@hotmail.com or (262) 754-2766 with any questions about volunteering. Advance tickets are also available after mass on Feb 19th and Feb 26th.

SPRING SOCIAL - HOUSE PARTY 2017 - All parents, teachers, parishioners, friends, neighbors, and countrymen, please join us on March 11th from 7:30-11:30pm in the school cafeteria for a classic basement party. Live music from the band *Bright Lights, Big City* playing songs from the 80's and 90's. The cost for the event is \$25 for one person and \$40 for two people, which includes beer, wine, and light snacks (very light, like bag of Doritos light, so eat at home or, even better, make it a night and go out to dinner with friends or your kids' classmates' parents beforehand). Please open the attachment for additional information.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME BUYING SEMINAR -You and your family love St. Sebs. Wouldn't it be great to move a little closer so the kids (and you!) can walk to school? Or if you've been renting, did you know that there are many ways you can find and buy a home in Washington Heights? Come to the neighborhood home-buying seminar and house tour on Saturday, February 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at HiMount School. Go to <http://whna.net/event/home-buying-seminar/> for more information.