



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

February 22, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

Happy summer... in February! I'm sure there is frigid weather to come, but why not enjoy it while it lasts?! Tonight, as a reminder, is our Spring Conference sessions, on an as-requested basis. We are looking forward to seeing many of you this evening!

When it comes to education - and life for that matter - I am a firm believer in merging "the best of the old," with "the best of the new", evident in educational philosophy, approach, and best practices. To that end, we've all heard the phrase, "If its not broke, don't fix it;" of which I wholeheartedly agree. However, at the same time, we must also continually consider and re-evaluate how and where to shift our sails based on the generation of learners coming to us, the opportunities available in the present day that may not have previously existed, what is proving successful in education, taking risks with innovative thinking, and most importantly, who the individual child is before us.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been energized by a number of experiences heavily emphasizing problem-based learning! Opportunities are all around us... but do we keep aware and search them out? Life, as we know, rarely provides a neat and tidy answer to it's challenges. While foundational knowledge and skills are essential in building a "toolbox" for life, we also must continually offer students opportunities to face new challenges, honing the art of problem-solving, critical thinking, and operating "outside of the box" at times. Last week, I was fortunate to attend 6th grade's annual trip to Camp Edwards, and was impressed to see the many ways students were challenged to work together and problem-solve through various scenarios that were fun, relevant, and meaningful. (A very special "thank you" to Mrs. Mrozinski and Mrs. Clementi for their efforts in the planning, as well as the parents who were able to attend and participate!) It was truly a fantastic opportunity. Secondly, if you have not yet seen the movie "Hidden Figures," I highly suggest doing so! It is amazing on so many levels and will inspire you, for certain! Additionally, this past weekend I took my daughter to Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry - which was phenomenal, should you ever have the chance! We viewed a film on young engineers and how they solved real world problems by their ingenuity, innovative thinking, and relentless quest for knowledge, all coupled by their inner drive and passion to make the world a better place.

As always, know that it is a gift and honor to be your partners in education. We hope you enjoy a wonderful long weekend with your families. I encourage you to help your child approach "a problem" you may come across sometime soon, though through a new lens in which he or she must consider the challenge, do a bit of research together on it, and spend time talking through it from various angles. They will most likely surprise you by their responses!

Ms. Grams

NO CHESS CLUB – Chess Club will not meet tomorrow because there is no school.

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 1

8:15 AM St. Sebastian (Mass and Distribution of Ashes)
12:00 PM St. Catherine (Mass and Distribution of Ashes)
6:00 PM St. Catherine (Prayer Service and Distribution of Ashes)
7:00 PM St. Sebastian (Ecumenical Service and Distribution of Ashes)

YEARBOOK ORDERS – Order are due on March 8th. The price is \$12.00. Extra order forms are available in the school office.

MARCH 10 – Reminder, this is a half-day of school with dismissal at 11:30. Our teachers will be attending an inservice in the afternoon.

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.

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

Completing the letter "R" in reading:
K5 - Milond Hill-Kirkendol
Completing the letter "E" in reading:
K4 - Grace Mahn
Completing the letter "D" in reading:
K4 - Clara Mayek

Keep up the good work!

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. Enjoy a variety of basement games, including darts, foosball, bags/cornhole, flip cup, and other classics. 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 before you come or, even better, make it a night and go out to dinner with friends or your kids' classmates' parents beforehand). Please make checks payable to St. Sebastian School and send them in to the office Attn: Molly Ambrose/House Party. For questions please contact Molly Ambrose at mollyj26@hotmail.com. Please open the attachment for additional information.

BUILDING FAITHFUL FAMILIES – March 8th at Mount Mary University, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Title: The Real World of Social Media: Predators, Bullies and Digital Disrespect

Presenter: Eric Szatkowski, former Special Agent with the Wisconsin Department of Justice and worked mostly in the state's Internet Crime Against Children Task Force

Visit www.inspiroyouth.org for more information.

DSHA THEATER - The DSHA Fine Arts Program will present "A Piece of My Heart" March 10-12 in the DSHA Hansen Theater. This acclaimed drama tells the stories of six young women who served with our armed forces in Vietnam. Their stories come alive through the acting skills of tremendously talented DSHA students. Those students include St. Sebastian graduate Susan Falk. The show is appropriate for children age 10 and up.

Evening performances will run on Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11 at 7pm, and there will also be a matinee performance on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12 at 2pm. Ticket information is available through the DSHA Box Office, at (414) 616-2813 or www.dshainfo/tickets.

THANK YOU for your anticipated support of the DSHA Fine Arts Program!!!