



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

May 20, 2015

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

Happy Wednesday to you! I thought this week I would share with you insights into what our Faculty has been focusing on in our own goals and learning targets this year, thus far.

This year has held a wide variety of goals we have identified and either continued in efforts towards building (pre-dating my time as principal) or sought new avenues to grow as a staff in the best interest of our students. We take a great deal of time and effort as a team to focus on our own spiritual growth, whether through Archdiocesan "Sustaining the Mission" sessions, the two retreats we have had, or simply beginning all of our meetings with prayer. We hear one another's prayer requests or causes for celebration, we pray for our students' needs, and we pray for you, our families. It is a true gift to work in an environment where we not only can pray with one another, but it is truly the reason we exist as a school and the foundation we root our efforts in - spreading the Word and emulating the actions of Jesus as we can with all others.

Our academic goals and focus are clearly another aspect of the solid foundation we provide our students and encourage one another in as well. As a team, we have considered, dialogued, taken steps in, and in some cases already actualized efforts in. Some of these areas include taking steps towards standards-based instruction and assessment, creating or further solidifying curriculum maps and pacing guides, and building a more systematic scope and sequence in how content areas are laid out and taught over the course of each grade level. We have placed great emphasis on intentionally beginning units with our content area standards and objectives, forming "big ideas" we want our students to grapple with and consider, then forming "essential questions" to pique their interests and guide the lessons. This all then culminates with "learning targets" communicated with students throughout the lessons, which is taking the lesson's objective and re-writing it in "kid friendly" language for the age appropriateness of the class level. I am guessing some of your children may have mentioned these "I can..." statements at home. We are intentionally working to build a "universal language" shared by staff and understood by students as they experience grade level by grade level, and teacher by teacher, for a greater shared understanding of our mission and goals in the education we provide. This coming Monday we then have Lindsay Will from the University of Notre Dame joining us for a day of professional development concentrated on differentiating instruction in meeting the needs of all learners.

As you can see, our staff is continually working diligently and continuing to grow together so that we may provide the best education possible for all of our children. Thank you for the many ways you partner with us in these efforts, show your child's teacher(s) support, and keep us in your prayers as well. What a gift it is to be a part of this growing, ever life-giving community!

Have a wonderful rest of the week and God bless you,
Ms. Grams

Wisconsin Forward Exam State Testing - Students in grades 3-8 will participate in the Wisconsin Forward Exam State Standardized test again this year. The Forward Exam measures student proficiency against academic content area standards set by the State of Wisconsin. The testing window for the Forward Exam is March 20-May 5. Grades 3-8 will complete tests in the areas of ELA (including Reading, Listening and Writing) and Math. Additionally, grades 4 and 8 will complete tests in the areas of Science and Social Studies. Individual class testing schedules will vary.

All components of the Wisconsin Forward Exam are administered electronically. We will be primarily using the new computers in the computer lab and also Chromebooks for some sections of the test. **All students will need headphones** for the test. Many of the students already have headphones at school. If you have not yet sent headphones for your student in grades 3-8, please do so by March 22nd. It will not be easy for siblings to share, so please send a pair for each child. Ear buds are fine as well.

Please be certain, as always, that your children are well rested, present at school on time and for the entirety of the school day, as well as eating a nutritious breakfast. Whether in the classroom or for assessments, we want to ensure students are prepared and ready to engage in their learning!

DRESS DOWN - On Friday, March 17th, students may dress down – all are invited to wear their festive green.

NO SCHOOL MARCH 20TH – Monday, March 20th is a professional development day for the teachers. There are no classes.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FISH FRY - Yes, Friday is St. Patrick's Day. And, yes, Archbishop Listecky has granted dispensation so Catholics can eat corned beef with a clear conscience. But, why eat corned beef, when you can have St. Sebastian Fish Fry for the THIRD WEEK IN A ROW!! Please be sure to tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that fish fry is the new corned beef! It's a carry out only night so we're only offering to go orders!

Thank you Lena Stephenson at roblena@sbcglobal.net to all the regular volunteers and the K4 families who have volunteered to help. We are still in need of a few volunteers in help during the dinner shift and with clean-up. We also need a couple more dessert donations. If you are able to help with the week's fish fry, please contact Lena Stephenson at roblena@sbcglobal.net

YAC SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT --Wednesday APRIL 5th 7:00pm

Students in grades 5-8 who participated in St Sebastian volleyball or basketball this year will be recognized at the 2016-17 YAC Sports Awards Night! Coaches, parents and players are invited to attend this event in the Church Hall (sorry, no siblings). For those unfamiliar with this event, student athletes will receive a red letter "S" and a pin for each sport they participated in, as well as an honors pin if they made honors this year. Returning athletes will receive pins only. Light refreshments will be served. Students in attendance are eligible to win fun raffle prizes!

PICTURE THIS!! - The year book committee is looking for any candid shots of single or groups of students from any school activity. Maybe you went to the pumpkin farm or another field trip and have the perfect smiling face or went to a sporting event and caught a snap shot of the winning shot. We would really like to put them in the pages of the 2016-17 year book. Please send the picture(s) to Mrs. Hartley or put them in her school mail box. Her email is hartleyk@saintsebs.org. Thanks for sharing the smiles.

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

Completing the letter "D" in reading:

K4 - Layla Petersen

Keep up the good work!

CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCOUTING

April 1, 2017

Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, Milwaukee, WI

You are invited to attend the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's **Celebration of Catholic Scouting**. Mass will be at 4 p.m. (fulfills Sunday obligation) followed by Recognition of scouts who received religious emblems or medals, presentation of Adult Awards, and Supper. Cost: \$9 per individual, up to \$36 per family. For more information, please visit: www.archmil.org/scouts

SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT – St. Sebastian Boy Scout Troop 31 is sponsoring its annual Sheepshead Tournament. This fundraiser and community event is supporting equipment, registration, and travel to Summer Camp and other Scouting activities. The event is Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 6:00pm at the St. Sebastian Church Hall. The cost is \$30 which includes chili, snacks, and beverages. For RSVP and registration, contact Peter Daleiden, peter.daleiden@sbcglobal.net.