



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

April 26, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

Welcome back from spring break, as we usher in our Easter season of celebrating Christ's triumph over the cross, *good* conquering *evil*, and the gift of eternal life to humankind spanning all of the ages! Our students and staff alike enjoyed the week of rest and relaxation, and I hope the same was true for your family as a whole.

This time of year is always seemingly contradictory schedule and timing-wise, most notably because as the academic year is winding down, the activity level and number of events are ramping up! Please take some time to read through the following pages carefully, noting May and June end of year activities so you can plan accordingly for your family, as well as keep in communication on key school events. You will also notice there are a number of needs we have and are asking for parent volunteers in order to make the events possible. The greater the involvement with help and support from you, our family partners (as is possible), the greater the opportunities we can offer to our students. The teachers and staff simply cannot pull it all off in addition to their primary focus of classroom instruction, while I know we cannot always rely on the same parents to be available for the many volunteering needs. Surely it takes many hands to make these events not only possible, but equally important is that they are well-run. Thank you in advance for your consideration of your level of involvement with upcoming activities between now and June 9th!

In closing, may the words of St. John Paul II ring true in our hearts and minds, our school and homes, and through all of the Easter season and beyond!

***"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song!"
- Saint John Paul II***

God bless you,
Ms. Grams

NO SUPERVISION – This is a reminder that in the morning, before school begins, supervision on the playground begins at 7:35. If your child needs to be here prior to 7:35, you should arrange to use the services of PAL.

GRANDPARENTS OR SPECIAL GUEST MORNING – Please note that the email address given on the postcard sent to grandparents is incorrect. The correct email to use to RSVP is stsebsschool@archmil.org, or feel free to call the school office at 414-453-5830. This special day will take place on Wednesday, May 3, from 8:00 – 10:15 AM. Please join us for our all-school mass, followed by a reception and classroom visits.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK - May 1st thru May 5th. Please remember your "specials" teachers as well.

SERVICE DAY PROJECT UPDATE - The Service Day morning on Holy Thursday was a great success. It was beautiful to watch our students come together and work hard in service for others. Our students dug deep into their hearts, and piggy banks, and raised \$407.50. We are also blessed to have had two other donations to reach a total of \$682.50. With these funds we were able to purchase the supplies our the students to donate:

200 ham sandwiches for the Guest House
100+ Easter cards for the Catholic Charities Adult Daycare
100 decorated cross necklaces and many personal letters to Educate Uganda
100 flip-flops (beach sandals) and Prayer Cards to donate to Educate Uganda
24 no-sew blankets for Catholic Charities Pregnancy Support Program
14 no-sew blankets for Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program

Equally impressive to these numbers, 318 students acted in concert to help and serve others in the spirit of our Christian Faith. In response, Catholic Charities sent these very kind words: "There is something very alive and positive going on at St. Sebastian - and you are to be congratulated on advancing that living spirit!" We strive to continue advancing that living spirit throughout the school year and years to come.

FIELD DAY FUN DAY – If you recall, there were a couple of articles in our February newsletters informing families that our traditional High Interest Day plans did not materialize as expected. Unfortunately, there were not enough parent coordinators to salvage the day on short notice for this school year. However, in lieu of High Interest Day this year, there is a Field Day Fun Day planned for Thursday, June 8th. **MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED – PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE.**

Planning needs to begin at this time to bring back High Interest Day for next year. If you are able to assist with co-coordinating this special event, please contact the school office.

CHILD CARE – One of our school families is looking for child care in your home for their 2 ½ year old. They would need care Wednesday through Friday. If you are interested, please contact the school office for further information.

GREASE— Be sure to catch a performance of Grease this week at Pius XI High School. The production runs Wednesday through Sunday. 3rd grader Laila Scott is in the show, as well as alum Lily Lustig, who plays the role of Sandy. Good luck girls!

FISH FRY— 7th grade parents will sponsor the last fish fry of the year on May 5th.

JUNE PLANS UPDATE

- **Wednesday, 5/24: HONORS RECEPTION:** This year our Honors Reception will take place in conjunction with our all-school mass (with breakfast to follow for recipients and parents) on Wednesday, May 24th. Parents of the students who earned this distinction will be invited to attend. More info to come!
- **Saturday, 6/3: 8TH GRADE GRADUATION:** Graduation for this year remains similar to previous years. It will be held Saturday, June 3rd at 4:00pm in the church, involving the graduation mass, diploma distribution, and award recognition. The portion of the evening at St. Seb's concludes with a reception in the Church Hall. More information to come.
- **Wednesday, 6/7:** Last day hot lunch will be served.
- **Wednesday, 6/7: ALL-SCHOOL FINAL MASS / "MOVE UP DAY FOR 7TH GRADE" / K5 GRADUATION / LAST DAY FOR K4 & K5:** This year, our final all-school mass will be held on WEDNESDAY (not Friday – however, see notes below on Friday / "CLOSING DAY" plans). During mass, we will celebrate and recognize both K5 graduation and 7th grade moving to the 8th grade pews. *This day will also be the last (full) school day for K4 and K5. Following mass, there will be a light reception for K5 students, their parents, and any grandparents who wish to attend. K4 will return to the classroom for snack at that time. Both K4 and K5 will then participate in fun activities for the remainder of the day until 3:00pm dismissal to conclude their school year!
- **Thursday, 6/8:** A fun **FIELD DAY!** will take place on this day for all 1st – 7th grade students. This will be a dress down day. Cold lunch is needed for ALL students to bring from home. More information to come. (*We will need many parent volunteers for this day! – see note later in the Newsletter.)
- **Friday, 6/9: CLOSING DAY** – This will be a special morning with a new format. We will take attendance on this last day of school for all 1st – 7th grade students, who will arrive to school as the usual morning routine, lining up on the playground with their classes and beginning the morning in their homerooms. As a school, we will then head to the church for our awards recognition, a brief prayer service, and a special speaker, beginning at 8:15am. Students may dress UP on this final day or choose to wear their uniform for our closing assembly and all-school prayer. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us! Students will then return to their homerooms briefly after the gathering to receive their report cards and yearbooks (if ordered). Dismissal will be at 9:30am following our standard dismissal procedure from the school (not the church as in years past). Parents may come to the main entrance for dismissal as usual if your child is not going to PAL. It will be a special final morning together!

THIRD GRADERS WIN BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK CONTEST – It is time to “paws” and congratulate two third grade girls for their efforts in winning the Wisconsin Humane Society’s annual Be Kind to Animals Week contest. This year’s theme is “So Many Ways to Be Kind”. Caroline Grams won third place in the poster competition for grades 3 – 4, and Autumn Swaims won in the poetry division. Both girls will be recognized at a special reception on Sunday, May 7th, at the Humane Society.

STUFF THE BOOKCASE FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – Our students will have a chance to donate their gently used books to the St. Sebastian Saint Vincent de Paul Society. When members of the Society make calls to help those in need, they often take books along for the children in the home who may not have access to reading materials. When you are doing your spring cleaning, would you consider sorting through the books you have at home that someone else might enjoy? There will be a bookcase in the inner lobby area we hope to stuff with books of all sorts and all reading levels. Students may drop off their book donations on their way into school and place them in the bookcase.

BOX TOPS - Collecting Box Tops is a painless fundraiser that benefits our school tremendously. Please clip and collect! Bags of box tops can be brought to the school office at any time during the school year.

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

Completing the letter "D" in reading:

K4 - Marcos Rivera

Completing the letter "I" in reading:

K4 - Jonathan Sawyer

K5 - Micah Keiser

Keep up the good work!

SUMMER PLAYGROUND T-BALL COACH(ES) NEEDED - Help keep a St. Sebastian summer tradition alive. A coach (or coaches) is needed to help teach the basics of baseball to K4 through 2nd grade students. A tee, bat, and balls will be provided, you just need to provide the time and enthusiasm to help our youngsters learn and appreciate America's pastime. One hour a week for 5 or 6 weeks is all the commitment you need. Contact Dave Blanchard (blanchard.dave@gmail.com or call/text at 414-839-3371) for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - The 2017 Run Tosa Run is looking for volunteers to donate a couple of hours on the morning of Saturday, May 20th. Volunteers are needed to help at the start and finish line, hand out water, but mostly to stand on a corner and cheer and point the way for runners. If anyone would rather run or walk in the event, that would be great, too! See the attached flyer for registration and volunteer information.