



# ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

January 10, 2018

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

January is a busy month to say the least. Please continue to read through the weekly Newsletters and be mindful of calendar dates to help us all keep on top of the many exciting happenings occurring. Of note, I want to highlight a couple key events:

- **CONFERENCES (Thursday, 1/18 and Friday, 1/19):** The link for conferences was emailed via Mailchimp yesterday with the goal of families signing up by this Friday. You will note in the younger grades, a few earlier sessions have been added. Students in grades 3rd and up should plan to attend their conference, for at least a portion of it. We look forward to meeting together to discuss your child's progress.

- **REGISTRATION (Sunday, 1/28, 9am-12pm):** Open House and Re-enrollment for returning families primarily occurs on this day so we know how many seats we have open for prospective families. Please be sure you have prioritized this date, to drop in at some point. There will again be activities for children to partake in. I will briefly highlight school updates pertaining to this school year at 10:00am in the gym if you are interested in hearing more.

- **MILWAUKEE AND WISCONSIN CHOICE PROGRAMS:** \*\*For the 2018-2019 school year, St. Sebastian Catholic School is now accepting a limited number of applications for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program in addition to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. This means families living outside of Milwaukee and meeting the income limits may now apply for a seat in certain grades if you qualify. Additionally, the state has changed its policy this next year that families may move in and out of the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Choice Programs (thus, in and out of the city of Milwaukee and surrounding suburbs). You will only have to prove income when you initially apply for either program. Each year, residency will still need to be proven, however. Therefore, a family who has been in Milwaukee Choice may move outside of Milwaukee and still qualify for Wisconsin Choice, and vice versa (as long as you are applying to a school that the program you qualify for is in effect). Also of note, the income limits have expanded in the Wisconsin Choice Program, which will qualify more families to participate throughout the state. Please see the attachment at the end of this newsletter for income limits, as well as information that will be coming home prior to Open House on 1/28. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

- **STRICT DEADLINE FOR CHOICE APPLICATIONS:** If your family wishes to participate in either Milwaukee or Wisconsin Choice, you MUST apply and provide all documentation to the school in the February application window to be considered in the first wave of those verified and considered as "returning students" at St. Sebastian! If you apply after the February window, you are officially, by law, entered into the "random drawing" of seats with any new applicants and may lose your seat! Be sure you are mindful of these deadlines!

On that note, please contact us with any questions, and have a wonderful week.

God bless you,  
Ms. Grams

**MLK JR. DAY (MONDAY, 1/15/18)** - Due to when conferences needed to fall in the academic year between returning from break, MAP testing, and Catholic Schools Week, please note that we DO have school this year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed on Monday 1/15/18! Much of our focus of the day will be learning about the lives of influential leaders, celebrating the life and life works of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and working on a school-wide "Perseverance Project" which you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks. The fruits of these projects across all grade levels will be presented at our Open House & Registration on Sunday, January 28th as we kick-off Catholic Schools Week. At an age-appropriate level and with the help of teachers and parents, students in grades K4-8th will identify someone in their lives who serves, or has served, as a model of perseverance for a greater good. As a staff, we felt that MLK Day is a perfect time to devote to this project and focus of our school theme for the year, given the example Dr. King set for our world. \*Please note we do NOT have school on the following Monday (1/22/18) as a winter break following conferences.

**JANUARY CONFERENCES** - Our next round of conferences (mandatory for all families) will be held Thursday, January 18th after our 11:30am dismissal, and Friday, January 19th. Look for the Sign-Up Genius that will be sent out this week to sign up for your time(s). On the last round, a number of parents missed their conference or came at alternate times. Please be sure to prioritize your time(s) to the best of your ability. We look forward to seeing you then and mutually sharing updates on your children's goals, progress, and areas to continue growing! Please do not schedule vacations overlapping our conference dates since this time is prioritized for this specific reason.

**FEAST OF ST. SEBASTIAN DAY** - On Saturday, January 20th, we celebrate the Feast day of our patron Saint, Saint Sebastian! Because we are not in school on this day, we will celebrate with students on Thursday, January 18th, with a fun and free pancake breakfast following announcements. If any parents are able and interested in helping serve the children on this day, please let our Front Office know. We will begin making pancakes around 7:15am and wrap up by 9:30am if you can help with a shift or the whole event.

**CLARIFICATION** – There was a discrepancy about the date of the pancake breakfast. It will be served on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, not Wednesday, as part of our celebration of the Feast of St. Sebastian.

**DOGS** – This is a reminder that dogs are not allowed on the playground.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** - Begins with Open House on 1/28/18 and runs the entire week through 2/2/18. Stay tuned for our activities of the week in the coming Newsletters!

**FILL BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS** – Capuchin Community Services is assembling hygiene bags for individuals who visit the House of Peace or St. Ben’s Meal Program. St. Sebastian School is going to participate in this drive for items to include in the hygiene bags. Please refer to the Open House Service Project attachment in this newsletter to see what each grade is assigned to bring to add to this project. Our goal is to fill 100 bags. The collection deadline ends on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADE HEAD’S UP** – Mark your calendars! 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be going to Camp Edwards from February 7 – 9. More information coming soon.

**FORENSIC PARENTS AND STUDENTS** - There will be a judges training session on January 15 at 7:00p.m. in the teacher's lounge for anyone interested in judging forensics. All potential judges must go through the MLFA formal judges training and be registered as a qualified judge with the association before being allowed to judge at tournaments. Please remember that you also need to have the "Safeguarding God’s Family training updated in order to volunteer for a St. Sebastian activity.

If for some reason you can't attend the training session on Monday, Jan 15 and do want to judge, please contact Kathy Kirkpatrick at [414-774-6963](tel:414-774-6963) or [comply8800@aol.com](mailto:comply8800@aol.com) to make arrangements for individual training.

Note to forensic students: You may start practicing after school or during lunch (by appointment) the week of January 15. Remember, three practices are required BEFORE your first tournament and one of those must be with Mr. Russell or Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

**PROGRAM FOR TITLE 1 STUDENTS & FAMILIES** – Abracadabra! Come and see a real magic show performed in our cafeteria on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> during Parent/Teacher conferences. “Magic With Reading and Math” will be held from 5:00 – 6:00 PM with light refreshments provided.

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

Completing the letter "E" in reading:

K4 - Evangeline Lintvedt

Completing the letter "A" in reading:

K4 - Maame Dampare and Maren O'Brien

Great job! Keep up the good work everyone!!

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR** - WELCOME BACK! Children in grades 2-5 are welcome to join (re-join!) the children’s choir which sings approximately every other Wednesday for the all-school mass. New members are also welcome. The choir rehearses approximately every Tuesday in the church from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. There are NO auditions – all are welcome. We sing fun music and learn about church and God and each other! Come and sing with us! Our first rehearsal this semester will be on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is no need to pre-register. Mr. Kamenski 453-1928 / [mkamenski@saintsebs.org](mailto:mkamenski@saintsebs.org) (for questions)

**SAY CHEESE!** - Parents, teachers, and staff: the Yearbook Committee is looking for photos to use in this year’s yearbook! Please submit your photos from field trips/class trips, sports teams, extracurricular activities, and candid classroom shots to [yearbook@saintsebs.org](mailto:yearbook@saintsebs.org)! Email Ms. Wagner ([mwagner@saintsebs.org](mailto:mwagner@saintsebs.org)) with any questions!

**CALLING ALL 4TH THROUGH 8TH GRADERS!!** - Campus Activities Board (CAB) wants YOU to audition and share your special talents for the Snow Show! The talent show will take place on Friday, February 2nd during Catholic Schools Week! Auditions will be held after school on Thursday and Friday, January 11-12th from 3:30-5:30pm in the Church Hall; acts must be under five (5) minutes long. A sign-up sheet for auditions will be posted on the second floor outside of the library when we return from break! Email Ms. Wagner ([mwagner@saintsebs.org](mailto:mwagner@saintsebs.org)) with any questions!

**1/28/18: OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION FOR ALL RETURNING AND PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES!** - Mark your calendars for our St. Sebastian School Open House and Registration for the 2018-19 school year, taking place on Sunday, 1/28/18, from 9:00am-12:00pm. All families should be in attendance, dropping in at some point to pick up / drop off registration forms, to see the good works of our school children and teachers throughout the building, and to socialize with other families, building community. Registration priority is given to all families who attend and register on this day. Home & School and our School Committee will be sponsoring this event with tours, information, and treats, and our teachers are preparing fun activities for the children in attendance. Ms. Grams will give a brief address to all present at 10:00am in the gymnasium (finishing well in time for those planning to attend 10:30am mass!), sharing updates on the school year. All students coming in tWe look forward to seeing you there!

**ATTENTION ST.SEBASTIAN ALUMNI**....our annual alumni VS 8th graders volleyball game is right around the corner. As a celebration of our wonderful school during Catholic Schools Week, there will be two scheduled matches. On February 1st, match one will be from 1:15-2:00 and match 2 from 2:00-2:45. Play for one or both if possible. Alumni of all ages are welcome so please spread the word. An RSVP would also be helpful for our planning purposes. Please send a quick email to [mzimmerman@saintsebs.org](mailto:mzimmerman@saintsebs.org) to let us plan accordingly.

**FATHER/VIP & DAUGHTER DINNER DANCE** - Love is in the air! Come celebrate Valentine's Day with your special little someone at the Sebs Father/VIP & Daughter Dinner Dance sponsored by the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Girl Scout Troop. The dance is on February 10<sup>th</sup>, in the Church Hall from 6-9pm. The cost is \$10 a person, with a \$30 family maximum. It is open to all girls at St. Sebastian School and St. Coletta. Please return the completed flyer (attachment) and RSVP with a check made payable to Troop 1075 in a sealed envelope labeled "Father/VIP & Daughter Dance" to the school office by February 1. Any questions, please contact Molly Ambrose at [mambrose@saintsebs.org](mailto:mambrose@saintsebs.org) or Kristin Rebholz-Hatten at [tissy306@yahoo.com](mailto:tissy306@yahoo.com).

**BOX TOPS UPDATE** - The Home & School Association is excited to announce that the last Box Tops drive brought in \$881.70 in 2017. Thank you so much to everyone for clipping those little Box Tops. We ask that you please continue to send in Box Tops so H&S can support events like Service Day, parent coffees, Grandparents Day, teacher luncheons, etc.

**HOME & SCHOOL MEETING** - The next Home & School meeting is on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30pm in the teacher's lounge in the school. All are welcome to attend. Also, H & S has an opening for a couple positions. Please consider joining the fun and volunteering as the secretary or the fundraising coordinator. We promise, it's a really fun group of parents.

**PARENT SOCIAL – SEBS OLYMPICS - Save the date: February 17th**

While the “top” athletes in the world gather in Pyeongchang, Korea, that will not be the only venue for champions. Sebs Olympians will also be gathering in the school cafeteria to compete in the first Sebs Olympics. The Spring Social this year pays homage to the World’s Finest Games. The purpose of the Spring Social is simply to gather parents, parishioners, and community together to get to know each other better.

The Sebs International Olympic Committee (SIOC) has organized a night full of Minute-To-Win-It like games, or just fellowship if you prefer. Choose a country you would like to represent and come dressed with (inter)national pride. Tickets to the Olympics are \$25 a person or \$40 for two (bring a friend). Your entrance ticket includes light snacks for Olympians and soft drinks/adult beverages to keep everyone hydrated. More details to follow in next week’s newsletter, including an awesome flyer.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

H&S Meeting - January 24 starting at 5:30pm

Open House & Registration Fair – January 28 from 9am-12pm

Alumni vs. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Games – February 1 from 1:15-2pm and 2:00-2:45pm

Student Talent Show – February 2

Fish Fry (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) – February 2 from 4:30-7:30pm

Father/VIP & Daughter Dinner Dance – February 10 from 6-9pm

Parent Social “Sebs Olympics” – February 17 from 8-11pm