



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

December 20, 2017

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"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David. As king he shall reign and govern wisely....This is the name they shall give him: 'The Lord our justice.'"

- Jeremiah 23:5-8

Dear St. Sebastian School Community,

Last evening's annual Christmas concert was a wonderful reminder to us all of the gift of God's goodness, the gift of hope this Advent season, the gift of our children, and the gift of our St. Sebastian community!

This past Sunday and all of this Third Week of Advent we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. With rose-colored reminders to "REJOICE!", we know the coming of our Lord, our hope and our justice, is not far away. During these final days before Christmas, as people of faith we believe that God *is* near - even in our doubts, our difficulties, and even the darkness. Let us pause in our Advent journey, then, considering how the coming of Christ is evident in the culture of our school and homes. How do our priorities, interactions, rituals, and environments reflect our grounding in the Gospel? How would a newcomer, walking through our doors and meeting us for the first time, know that we are people of faith? As a community of faith, may we be reminders of God's presence to those who most need signs of mercy and hope, proclaiming together, "Come, Emmanuel!"

Have a wonderful holiday, feeling the warm embrace of the Light of the World who comes to us on Christmas morning...and we'll see you next year!

God bless you,

Ms. Grams & the staff of St. Sebastian Catholic School

SPECIAL DRESS DAY TOMORROW – Tomorrow is a free dress day. You may dress up or dress down wearing Christmas themed clothes (including ugly sweaters!) or red/green.

JANUARY CALENDAR DATES - There is a lot going on in the month of January! Please see the calendar included in this Newsletter so you have all pertinent information as it impacts your children and family.

JANUARY 2ND, 2018 - As a reminder, there is no school for the children on Tuesday, 1/2/18. Please keep all of our St. Sebastian Staff in your prayers on Tuesday, 1/2/18, as we will gather together for a retreat before our students return. The theme of our retreat is "Cultivating the Gift of Resilience". We will be praying for you, our school families, as well and look forward to the children's return the following day, Wednesday, 1/3/18.

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 soon be shared 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 Wednesday, 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.

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 classroom shots to yearbook@saintsebs.org. Email Ms. Wagner mwagner@saintsebs.org with any questions!

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!

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 – 5:30 PM in the church hall. Acts must be under 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 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!

CLOTHING ITEMS NEEDED - If any families have extra (or outgrown) mittens or gloves, please consider donating them to the school office. We keep a small supply in the office for students who have forgotten theirs at home. Also, gently used, laundered underwear would be greatly appreciated, as well as socks, tights and leggings. Thank you!

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED - Are you interested and available to consider substitute teaching at St. Sebastian School? If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Lori Golomski at [414-453-5830](tel:414-453-5830) or lgolomski@saintsebs.org for more information. A teaching license is preferred, but not required.

The pre-requisite to being a substitute teacher at St. Sebastian's is an undergrad degree in any area, a background check, and meeting Safeguarding requirements.

LOST and FOUND - The lost and found box is overflowing with sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, hoodies, hats and gloves! PLEASE take a look and see if any of these items are yours.

READERS ARE LEADERS UPDATE - Read N Quiz - Students in grades 1st-5th are encouraged to read for pleasure and take reading comprehension quizzes using the Read n Quiz reading incentive program. After successfully passing quizzes, students earn points. Congratulations to these students for earning the following points! Keep reading!!!!

5+ POINTS
Samantha Kokalis
Dylan Egerson

10+ POINTS
Leo Rutenbeck
Harper Forman

25+ POINTS
Eleanor Hegerty