



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

February 28, 2018

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Dear St. Sebastian School Families,

This past Saturday, our community gathered to pay tribute to cherished long-time teacher and friend of St. Sebastian School, Mrs. Judi Kearney, as she was laid to rest. There were countless long-time Sebs families gathered to honor her role for so many of our students over the years. To that end, Mrs. Fredericks reached out to community members and compiled some memories of Mrs. Kearney, shared with you below.

Memories of Mrs. Kearney

Judi Kearney was a special St. Sebastian School first grade teacher for 27 years. She retired 11 years ago but continued to volunteer for many years until cancer changed the course of her life. She passed away on February 15th.

Mrs. Kearney was devoted to her students and to the St. Sebastian community. She shared her guiding wisdom with many staff members and parents. Judi loved children and wanted every one of them to be successful. She instilled the lifelong gift of love of learning into her first graders, even introducing them to a little German to broaden their horizons, as well as to the Great Masters. She had a love of children's literature and taught her classes to learn to love books and the worlds they opened. She was quick with a warm smile and a hug.

Judi also went above and beyond on a personal level. She would join families who invited her to celebrate in their special occasions – First Communion and graduation parties, to name a few. She joined one of her students on a family outing to The Art Institute of Chicago. Twice, Mrs. Kearney joined our parish delegation to visit and support our sister community in Teosinte, El Salvador. Following her retirement, Judi generously arranged for our front office to be updated with fresh paint and new carpeting.

A former parent, who became a close friend of Mrs. Kearney's over the years, shared that at their last luncheon together Mrs. Kearney expressed to her how happy she was to be showered with the love, kindness and support of so many friends and especially her family. She will be missed by the many, both children and adults, that she inspired along her journey.

Let us all keep the Kearney family in our prayers. We are thankful to Judi and her family for her years of service at Sebs and the lives she touched, innumerable to measure. We know her legacy lives on, as just last week a student in Mrs. Kozina's classroom (Judi's former classroom) brought her a note from a book he found from Mr. Kearney, expressing his love for her and the work she did. God is Good.

THANK YOU, 6TH GRADE PARENTS! - Thank you to our 6th grade parents and our Home & School coordinators for providing the monthly treat of lunch for the staff today! It is a wonderful addition to thank and support our amazing teachers and staff. We appreciate you, parents!

PENNY WAR CHALLENGE RESULTS! - If you have not yet heard from your children, our students met the challenge of the school-wide Penny Challenge competition with impressive results! Congratulations to the winning team of grades - 2nd, 7th, and St. Coletta - for winning the challenge! Overall, \$857.75 was raised as a school and will be donated to the charity of the winning grades' choosing. The "reward" for this challenge is in the gift of giving to others. Our students were motivated and did an awesome job!

<p><u>HALF-DAY ADDED TO OUR CALENDAR</u> - On FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, we will be adding a half-day to our school calendar in order for our faculty to attend an Archdiocesan professional development program. Please mark your calendars and plan to pick up your child at 11:00am on that day.</p>
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GOOD NEWS – SAFEGUARDING SESSION TO BE HELD HERE – If you have been wanting to take the Safeguarding All God’s Children class, we have a convenient opportunity coming up. It will be offered here at St. Sebastian in the evening on **Thursday, March 8th**. This one-time session is required by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Any adult working or volunteering with children or chaperoning a field trip is required to have participated in this awareness session, as well as completing a background check. You must register online at www.archmil.org/offices/safeguarding.htm.

YEARBOOK ORDERS – Order forms for this year’s school yearbook were sent home with each student last week. Extra order forms are available in the school office. The cost is \$13.00. Orders are due March 8th. Checks should be made payable to St. Sebastian School.

TRIVIA NIGHT - MARCH 17TH - Do you have the luck of the Irish, or the skill of a trivia wizard? Either way, join us for a night of fellowship, fun, and fundraising. Register your team (up to 10 members-age 16 or older) by filling out the attached form and returning to the school office. Teams must register and pay the entry fee of \$10/team member. Bring your own snacks and beverages, but a little leprechaun says there will be 992 ounces of a well-known green St. Patrick's Day beverage for everyone's (of age) enjoyment. Prize given for the best team spirit such as creative team name, theme, coordinated outfits, or table decorations!

PEW OILERS NEEDED (March 1-18) - Our church is such a serene and beautiful environment for all to enjoy. We would appreciate it if you could help give it the loving touch it deserves. We need the help of several adult or student volunteers to assist with lemon oiling the church pews and interior doors. This job needs to be completed before March 18th. Please call Julia Galligan, at 453-1061, to register for a section of the church pews. She will try to work around your schedule and will provide training and supplies: lemon oil and flannel cloth. Scout groups, this would be a great service opportunity. Teachers, perhaps you and your students may want to take this project on for a Lenten group project.

READERS ARE LEADERS UPDATE - Congratulations to these students for earning the following points! Keep reading!!!!

10+ POINTS

Macie Curran

50+ POINTS

James Moratek

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

Completing the letter "I" in reading:

K5 - Lillian Morby

Completing the letter "G" in reading:

K5 - Cora Hatten

Congratulations on completing the program Cora!

Great job to all. Keep on reading!!

BOX TOPS OLYMPICS - Congratulations to the 5th grade class for winning Gold, 1st grade winning Silver and 4th grade winning Bronze in the 3rd week of the Box Tops Olympics!

In the final, the 3rd grade won the overall gold and a pizza party with a final count of 500 box tops. Super job and congratulations to the 3rd Grade for winning. Way to go! Thank you everyone for clipping and your amazing efforts!

FORENSICS TEAM NEWS – Congratulations to our forensic team. They were on fire this weekend! The team took first place at Longefellow Middle School on Friday night AND a first place trophy at Milwaukee Jewish Day School on Sunday.

Individual medals went to the following team members:

Lily Beecham, Clare Whitney, Vin Stephenson and Claire Nistler all received 3rd place medals. Naana Dampare and Indie Jiardini each received 2 – 3rd place place medals.

Michael Whitney and Ian Treacy received 2nd place medals.

We now have 10 team members qualified for state. Joining last week's qualifiers are Katie Knapp, Lily Beecham, Keegan Madigan, Naana Dampare and Indie Jiardini.