



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

April 25, 2018

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Dear St. Sebastian School Community,

There are lots of exciting updates to share this week, complete with the glorious sunshine showing itself!

Perhaps the best way to share our updates are as follows:

- **8th grade** returned from an amazing trip to Washington D.C. this past long weekend. The experience was complete with trips to the monuments, Smithsonian museums, new (and incredible!) African American Culture and History Museum, Capitol Hill, Ford's Theater, Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a nighttime history & ghost tour of Old Alexandria, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Georgetown University, and the experience of airline travel! They were a great group to travel with, it is was clear had a wonderful time.
- **7th grade** recently experienced their Fine Arts trip to Chicago, exploring the Art Museum, seeing the *Sound of Music* performance, and taking in the beautiful skyline of Chicago. Our group received a number of compliments for their level of maturity and respect, which we are always proud to hear of our kids!
- **6th grade** experienced an ELA "Escape Room," where they had to crack the code in small groups and solve a puzzle, all pertaining to what they are learning in Language Arts. Multiple staff wanted to join in as well, but will have to wait for another time! Students participated in some awesome team work and sounded to have a lot of fun along the way!
- **5th grade** is busy preparing for their trip to Junior Achievement Business Town, quickly approaching. They are learning the ins-and-outs of managing city businesses and are very excited to soon be running the town!
- **4th grade** is getting excited for their trip to our state capitol, as they prepare to tour Madison next week!
- **3rd grade** was one of our grades showcasing their Morning Meeting to our visitors from the Archdiocese recently. They modeled how they have "Math talks," ask questions to their peers on one another's well-being, and most impressive, how to give a good, firm handshake! Our guests absolutely loved it.
- **2nd grade** prepares to make the Sacrament of their First Holy Communion, quickly approaching. They will participate in a May Crowning Mass on Grandparents / Special Guest day, Wednesday, May 2nd if you are able to join us. This is a truly special moment in their lives, receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time!
- **1st grade, K5, & K4** were all recently filmed on WISN's "School Shout Outs" at St. Seb's! Look for our smiling students to greet you in the morning on channel 12 on the days listed later in the Newsletter. There is also one class (K5) featured on our school Facebook page.

Last, but certainly not least, we are very PROUD to share with you that we learned earlier than expected - St. Sebastian School WON the Archdiocesan "Exemplary Award" we applied for, affirming the work of past and present staff and supports provided to our students in how we are effectively "**Educating the Whole Child**". This is a five-year award. This exciting update was shared with the staff of St. Sebastian and St. Coletta yesterday after school, and the students learned of this today. Needless to say, we are all very excited and hope you are as well!

When the Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Dr. Kathleen Cepelka, shared the award winners in a room full of the principals throughout the Archdiocese, she began with the first two categories and listed the names of the winners. When she arrived to the third and final category, "Educating the Whole Child," she listed the first two or three schools and came to the final school recipient. She paused and said, *"I probably shouldn't say this....but I'm going to anyway. This last and final award goes to a school that our team of judges and myself feel if there was an "Exemplary to the Exemplary Award" to be given, this school deserves it. The winner of our final award is St. Sebastian Catholic School in Milwaukee."* While we are confident in the work we do, it was a great joy to share with staff that others recognize our collective efforts and teamwork as well. At the event, former principal Paul Hohl was present, and I was able to publically acknowledge his many years building a school culture that focused on educating the whole child. I also shared the news with former teacher and Assistant Principal, Cheryl Warner, who advocated for a number of student support services throughout her time at St. Sebastian. All staff, past and present, shares in this recognition.

The visiting team provided the following feedback as to why we won this award, if you are curious:

"For me, St. Sebastian's is addressing needs of the whole student in a very holistic way. Again just speaking for myself, what we saw with respect to the incorporation of faith into all areas regardless of the identity of your student population; the embedded infusion of services like speech path and OT: the partnerships with St Coletta, Mount Mary, etc.; mindfulness practices such as morning meetings to address emotional language; student choice around electives; recognition of new ways to look at parent engagement; and of course the success you are seeing in the academic realm (including lessening the achievement gap you are experiencing) were some of the things we took away from our visit and discussions that just felt like you have all worked to create a school culture sensitive to the many and varying needs of all students and that it's being done with a serious sense of cultural humility."
(Jennifer S. Maney, PhD, Institutional Coordinator, Greater Milwaukee Catholic Education Consortium)

"I would just add, in addition to what Jen has identified, what jumped out to me was: The very visible "Not Yet" in all rooms (promoting and reinforcing a growth mindset mentality), the Middle School electives, Budget support for the whole child... (as) the positions staffed beyond the 'regular' classroom teacher make a statement about what St. Seb's values, and the partnership with St. Coletta. All of their students and your students are as much a part of the school community as anyone else." (Bruce Varick, Associate Superintendent, Archdiocese of Milwaukee)

With that, though the year is beginning to wind down, our excitement continues to grow and build towards a promising spring. There is much we look back on and reflect upon the ways we have grown this year, while enthusiasm builds in all that is yet to be realized ahead!

God bless you always,
Ms. Grams

YAC SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT - *TOMORROW* THURSDAY APRIL 26th 7:00pm

Students in grades 5-8 who participated in St Sebastian volleyball or basketball this year will be recognized at the 2017-18 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 sports they participated in, as well as an honors pin if they made honors this year. Light refreshments will be served. Please, no jeans or sweat pants at this event. The grade with the highest number of athletes in attendance will earn a free dress day on Friday, April 27th!

FRIDAY PICK UP – Please be aware that a large dumpster will be delivered to the playground on Friday afternoon in preparation for the Scrap Drive on Saturday. Please use caution when parking and driving on the playground.

CHANNEL 12 SHOUT OUT - WISN channel 12 visited our school to film some of our students. These tapings will be used during their School Shout Out segments on the following schedule:

Thursday April 26 Mrs. Hentges
Monday May 7 Mrs. Kozina
Thursday May 10 Ms. Thayer
Monday May 14 Mrs. Schlater

The morning newscast is from 4:30 - 7:00 AM. Shout Outs typically air in the 5:00 - 6:00 AM half hours. Occasionally, newscast elements are moved within the show. (For example, Mrs. Behling's Shout Out aired at 6:50 AM)

After each segment has been aired, you can find the Shout Out on their website: www.wisn.com

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

Completing the letter "R" in reading:
K4 - Bridget Watry
Completing the letter "A" in reading:
K4 - Evie Evangeline
Completing the letter "I" in reading:
K4 - Maren O'Brien

Great job everyone. Keep on reading!!

ALUMNI NEWS - Last night, April 24th, seven St. Sebastian graduates were inducted into the MUHS Jesuit Honor Society. The students are chosen after a lengthy application process and their willingness to be tutors in the Academic Success Center. Members are also expected to exemplify the five graduate-at-graduation qualities which are being Intellectually Excellent, Open to Growth, Loving, Religious, and Committed to Justice. Congratulations to alumni Gabe Bohlmann, Ethan Wright, Hunter Brame, Ryan Walsh, Adam DeFalico, Leo Pruhs, and John Cayen. They join another Sebs graduate and current member, senior Sean Runnoe. Former Sebs teacher and assistant principal, Mrs. Warner, is the moderator for the organization.

STORY TIME AT ST. SEBASTIAN - Families with children ages 2-4 years old are invited to Story Time With Stacey! Please gather in the school library on Wednesday, April 25th, from 8:30-9:00am for stories, songs, and a craft project. Please contact our school librarian, Stacey Rebholz at srebholz@saintsebs.org or our Home and School chair, Molly Ambrose at mambrose@saintsebs.org.

GRANDPARENT/SPECIAL GUEST DAY - St. Sebastian's annual Grandparent/VIP day is on May 2nd. Home and School mailed invitations to all addresses that had been provided. If you have not returned your grandparent form yet, or if a grandparent is not able to attend, and you would like an invitation sent to a "Special Guest" for your child, please send a name and address to the Home and School Chair, Molly Ambrose at mambrose@saintsebs.org.

SCRAP METAL DRIVE - The annual scrap metal drive is April 28. Please contact Corina Gencuski at c_gencuski@yahoo.com with any questions. Any middle school students planning to volunteer at this event, are asked to contact Corina as well. Stay tuned for more details.

FIELD DAY - Field Day is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 7th. If you are interested in helping with the planning or volunteering for Field Day, please contact Lindsey Mahn at lindseymahn@gmail.com.

SPRING CONCERT - Please see the attached flyer for details regarding our Spring Concert on the evening of May 15th. All students will be performing.