



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

April 2019

From the Principal's Office



15th Annual Spectacular

Congratulations and thank you to this year's St. Sebastian Spectacular co-chairs, Natalie Griffin-Kinney, Danielle Petit and Carrie Pozsgay, for planning a very fun and successful event, which raised an incredible \$120,000 for our school! Thanks also to all the volunteers, donors and attendees who contributed to the success of the Spectacular. Your dedication and hard work on behalf of our students are deeply appreciated.

With Gratitude

While attending this year's St. Sebastian Spectacular, I was once again struck by how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful and supportive school community. Not only do people step up and support big events like Spectacular, but also every day, I see parents, teachers and staff pitching in and working together on behalf of our students. Thank you to all of our teachers, staff and volunteers who dedicate their time after school to provide such a wide variety of extracurricular activities. During the third quarter, these included: Maggie Blischak and Sally Weakland (Power of the Pen); Sharon Kastelic and Maggie Blischak (Books for Breakfast); Betty Indriolo and Megan Ritchie (Science Olympiad); Cara Nestor (Mathcounts); Kristin DeKatch, Mary Heffern, Michelle Pillar and Sue Vernon (Crazy 8s); Molly Karg, Michelle Pillar, Anne Riede, Carolyn Schmidlin and Jennifer Smee (Lego Club) and Kelly Gupta and Autumn Gaskins (Soap Box Derby Club). Thank you also to Scott Mason (band) and Jeff Beshore (music) for their efforts in developing the talents of our students through performances.

Registration

I am pleased to report that registration numbers for next year look healthy and that this year's online registration process went more smoothly than last year. About 90 percent of families chose to complete registration online versus on paper, and very few issues were reported to the office. If you have any feedback, please contact the office so we may continue to refine the process.

Plans for School's 90th Anniversary

Next year is the 90th anniversary of the founding of our school, which opened in November 1929, a year after the church was established. During the next school year, a variety of celebrations, activities and projects are being planned in honor of our 90th anniversary. One of the projects is a classroom improvements initiative, which is aimed at reinventing our learning environments for the 21st century. A portion of the profits from Spectacular have already been designated toward this initiative, and plans for the first phase of implementation are underway. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting effort! Other projects in the planning phase include a new website, exterior cleaning, new floors for the school building, replacement of the statue in the first floor hallway with one of our patron saint, St. Sebastian, and a new mural for the wall behind the statue.

Easter Blessings

During the Lenten season, our students have been preparing for Easter by attending Stations of the Cross on Fridays, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and contributing to their rice bowls. I wish all of our families a blessed Easter season. May you enjoy a peaceful and restful break and return to school with renewed energy as we close out another great school year.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr
Principal



Living Bread Radio Catholic Challenge

St. Sebastian once again welcomed the Living Bread Radio Network to our campus during Catholic Schools Week for the taping of the Catholic Challenge, a Catholic religion trivia contest. The network recorded two competitions, one between two seventh-grade teams, and one between two eighth-grade teams. Members of the seventh-grade teams were Leo Bates, Brooklyn Benton, Zoie Burnette and Jack Doucet. Members of the eighth-grade teams were: Lucas Cody, Gavin Jones, Olivia Kindbom and Elizabeth Saliga. Both competitions were aired on the radio and are archived on the network's website (livingbreadradio.com/catholic-challenge-4). The winning teams were presented with a \$500 check to go toward the charity of their choice.

Questions or Suggestions?

Please email Anne Dennée, Newsletter Editor, at Anne@DenneeFamily.com. Items for the May issue should be submitted by Thursday, April 18th.

From the STEM Coordinator



Happy spring, everyone! With the change of seasons upon us, we are happy to report that on April 18 our school will celebrate Holy Thursday by giving back to the Earth through our ongoing "Keep Akron Beautiful" initiative. On this day the eighth-graders, who designed our garden and calculated all the soil needed to fill the beds back in 2017, will see their vision come to fruition as they work together to rebuild 30 beds in our garden

area. These beds will be used to grow many different items, such as produce for the Good Samaritan Hunger Center and wildflowers to help pollinators thrive in our area. In addition, the sixth grade will be planting a daffodil garden as part of "The Daffodil Project," which aspires to build a living memorial worldwide to children who perished during the Holocaust. This section of the garden will be marked with a plaque indicating our involvement and support of the project.

We have so many different clubs in full swing right now, it is hard to know where to begin! Over 70 students in grades K-2 are enjoying Lego Club after school on Tuesdays. The club is a wildly successful program, and if you have any Legos hanging out around your house they could definitely use them. On Tuesdays our Soap Box Derby team is also working to build four new cars this year. We have three teams of sixth-graders and one team of veteran seventh-graders. They are just phenomenal workers, and are feverishly working to build our cars prior to our Gravity Racing Challenge on May 18.

On Wednesdays, Crazy 8s members meet in five different classrooms to solve puzzles and have fun while not at all realizing that they are building essential math and reasoning skills. The teachers who have volunteered to coach these teams are having as much fun as the kids at this point! The Science Olympiad team is also meeting Wednesdays, and having outperformed many other teams in their regional competition, is preparing for the state competition in April! These kids are just amazing, and Miss Ritchie has really poured her heart and soul into this. We couldn't be more proud!

To round out our clubs, the Genius Project, which meets Fridays, is ready for their first ever competition in April. This is another group of inquiring students with whom Miss Ritchie has been working for many weeks. Their results are outstanding. Finally, having wrapped up Chess Club, Mr. Rose has taken on another club, the Drone Club! These students have been tasked with a variety of challenges this year, culminating in a drone competition on our newly purchased drone challenge course. I, for one, cannot wait to see the results.

The drone challenge course will be one of the many STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math) activities on display at our school's Art and Innovation Night on May 16. Please plan to join us, you won't want to miss the fantastic showcase our students are preparing!

Yours With Christ,
Mrs. Kelly Gupta

Sports Wrap-Up

Sean Walter Selected for CYO Hall of Fame

In January, Sean Walter was named to the CYO Hall of Fame, which honors those who contribute to the CYO legacy over an extended period of time while demonstrating the CYO mission and values in action. Sean and his wife, Theresa, are parishioners and parents of two current students as well as three St. Sebastian alumni. Among his many contributions, Sean serves as the school's basketball commissioner and coordinates the annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament, and he has also coached countless Terriers teams in multiple sports. Thank you, Sean, for your tireless dedication to our student athletes and to our school's athletic program.

Free-Throw Contest Winners

Four Terriers athletes advanced to the regional competition in the annual free-throw contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. After winning the local contest sponsored by St. Sebastian's Knights Council #14255, Elaina Rooney (8th grade), Jason Walter (8th grade), Michael Walter (7th grade) and Bailey Huckabee (3rd grade) all won the second round of competition. Elaina's victory in this round was especially notable since she had to compete while wearing a boot-style cast due to a fracture above her ankle! Unfortunately, Elaina, Jason and Bailey were eliminated in the the third round (Michael did not compete due to a conflict with a basketball game). Congratulations to these students for advancing so far and for representing our school so well.

8th-Grade Basketball Wins Championship

Congratulations to the 8th-grade basketball team on winning the CYO Championship 59-27 in the John Abraham Tournament division. Team members, pictured here, are Paul Younker, David Armbrust, Andrew Jewell, Ethan Wyszynski, Coach Jack Leslie, Noah Meyer, Jason Walter, Joey LaTrashe, Shane Adamczyk, Johnny Grass and Coach Chris Beaven. Way to go, Terriers!



Students in the News



Power of the Pen

St. Sebastian's Power of the Pen teams brought home many awards from the regional competition held March 2 at Malone University. The seventh-grade team won first place! Also, the combined team (grades seven and eight) won the sweepstakes trophy for the highest score in the district and regional competitions. Wow! Congratulations, Terriers, on an amazing effort.

Congratulations also to the following students who won individual awards: Sydney Borges (2nd place, 2 Best of Best awards), Lilly Mendenhall (3rd place), Julia Pentasuglio (7th place), Clare Rothkopf (Best of Best), Mia Ross (6th place) and Elizabeth Schlueter (11th place). Good luck to the students who qualified to compete in the state competition at the end of May at the College of Wooster.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the following winners of our spelling school bee, which was held Feb. 1: Grades 1-3: 1st place – Joe Haller, 2nd place – Ryan Senko, and 3rd place – John Jopperi; Grades 4-5: 1st place – Susie Thomas, 2nd place – Jack Cook, 3rd place – Will Tober. Grades 6-8 (pictured right): 1st Place – Leo Bates, 2nd Place – Sydney Borges, 3rd Place – Anne Rea.



Leo Bates, our school spelling bee champion, competed at the Feb. 13 Summit County District Spelling Bee, where he placed in the top six spellers, thereby qualifying for the March 9 Regional Spelling Bee. Leo made it to the third round at the regional competition before being eliminated. Thank you, Leo, for representing St. Sebastian Parish School so well!

Science Fair

Three science projects entered by St. Sebastian students in the Feb. 11 Walsh Jesuit High School science fair earned awards: the team of Anne Rea and Anysia Reimund earned a first-place award, and Nick Grizer and Isabella Rinz each won a third-place award. All three projects earned superior status, qualifying for the District 5 Science Day at the University of Akron on March 16.



At the District 5 competition, the team of Anne Rea and Anysia Reimund earned excellent status, Nick Grizer earned excellent status and won a \$50 Best Project award sponsored by ACESS (Akron Council of Engineering & Scientific Societies), and Izzy Rinz earned superior status and qualified for the state competition in Columbus on May 11. Congratulations to these students for their impressive work, and thank you to junior high science teacher Megan Ritchie for coordinating our school science fair. Good luck to Izzy at states!

Respect for Life Essay Contest

Each year, the Knights of Columbus sponsors an essay/poetry contest for the seventh grade focusing on Respect for Life issues. This year's winner was Clare Rothkopf, who entered a poem in the competition.



Students in the News

Science Olympiad

Our Science Olympiad team qualified for the state competition with an outstanding performance at the regional competition March 9 at the University of Akron.

Congratulations to the following students who earned individual medals: Anne Rea and Elizabeth Schlueter (1st place, Anatomy & Physiology), Nick Grizer and Elizabeth Savitski (2nd place, Game On), Mia Petit and Taylor Foster (3rd place, Density Lab), Anne Rea and Sydney Borges (4th place, Heredity), Jack Doucet and Jimmy Bordenkircher (4th place, Thermodynamics), Nick Grizer and Jimmy Bordenkircher (6th place, Water Quality), Logan Hill and Mason Reiss (6th place, Meteorology), and Mia Petit and Anne Rea (6th place, Roller Coaster). Good luck at the April 27 competition in Columbus!



2019-20 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of scholarships for the 2019-20 school year! These students were honored at the March 28 Foundation Scholarship Mass.

Scholarships Funded Through the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation

Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Shilo Davenport, Phoebe Marshall, Kofi Powers

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Anna Zografakis

GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders): Peter deBoer, Isabelle Mastromatteo, Clare Rothkopf, Alexis Skovira

Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Lola Hall, Grace Mahaney

The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Mara Rizopoulos

Chess Club Champion

Congratulations to our school Chess Club Champion for 2019: fifth-grader Sebastian Blaser. Sebastian won the tournament out of a field of 28 players with the most wins and highest ladder rating at St. Sebastian Parish School. Thank you to Chess Club moderator Allyn Rose and volunteer Jeff Buchman for leading Chess Club again this year.



Scholarships Funded Through St. Sebastian Parish School/Parish Related Groups

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Taylor Foster, Jason Walter

The Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Reverend Terry Peacock Scholarship: Andrew Thomas, Sophia Walker

The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Ethan Wyszynski

The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: David Armbrust, Mia Ross



Isabella's Closet Service Project

During Catholic Schools Week, Student Council led a school-wide service project to collect socks, household cleaning supplies and personal care products for Isabella's Closet, which provides assistance to adults living with severe mental illness in Summit County. Thank you to all our staff, students and families who donated! School parent Janice Stahl, who created and manages Isabella's Closet, said the donations will help many people who fight daily challenges living with mental illness. "It's an honor to be connected with such an incredible and compassionate school community at St. Sebastian!" Janice said.



SPECTACULAR

Spectacular Success!

The 15th annual St. Sebastian Spectacular was a great success! It was truly a team effort, led by auction co-chairs Natalie Griffin-Kinney, Danielle Petit and Carrie Pozsgay, but with support from so many, including those who contributed gift cards, bought coupon books, donated auction items, bought a program advertisement, donated a sponsorship, helped with the student art projects, bought a package, attended the event, raised their paddle, signed up as table captains, or volunteered to help the night of the event. Thank you to everyone who supported the event!

This year the Spectacular moved from a September event to a March event, and the co-chairs chose a Mardi Gras theme, not only because the timing was right, but also because it was a perfectly fitting theme. Like Mardi Gras, the Spectacular is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate and support our fantastic school.

In keeping with the theme, the Spectacular featured delicious Cajun-inspired food prepared by Vaccaro's Trattoria, owned by parent Raphael Vaccaro. Prior to dinner, guests enjoyed browsing the silent auction items, listening to live music by SlapJazz and sampling the event's signature cocktail, a New Orleans-style Hurricane.

New this year was a "dessert dash," in which tables bid against each other to be the first in line to choose from the dessert table. The dessert table was laden with decadent desserts donated by local bakeries and restaurants as well as talented home bakers. The room was abuzz as the auctioneer called out table numbers and a "runner" from each table dashed to the dessert table to claim a coveted dessert before the next table number was called.

The silent auction included nearly 150 packages, with something for everyone, from sports tickets and birthday parties to home décor and gardening tools. The live auction featured fabulous vacations and unique VIP school and parish packages as well as dinners with Fr. Valencheck and Fr. Simone — which were very popular and drew much spirited bidding!



Thank you, co-chairs Natalie Griffin-Kinney, Danielle Petit, and Carrie Pozsgay, for planning a "spectacular" event!

During the live auction, attendees also had the chance to participate in "Heads or Tails," a coin-toss game in which the last person standing wins. This year's Heads or Tails game had a heartwarming touch since the necklaces that attendees purchased to participate were handmade by students from our Center for Early Learning. The winner of this year's Heads of Tails prize, an Amazon Echo Show, was school parent Scott Clymire.

This year's event was a sellout, and in appreciation for this fantastic support, at the end of the evening, the names of all those who purchased a ticket were put in a drawing for two premium Cleveland Cavaliers tickets, a night's stay at the Ritz-Carlton in downtown Cleveland and a one-day lease of a Lexus to drive during this weekend getaway! Congratulations to the happy winners, school parents Laura and Andy Chapin!

The 2018-19 Spectacular raised a remarkable \$120,000 for the school, which will be allocated to four areas: \$55,000 for classroom improvements; \$35,000 for tuition reduction for every student; \$15,000 to be invested in the school endowment fund; and \$15,000 for technology enhancements. The classroom improvements, which are aimed at reinventing our learning environments for the 21st century, are planned in honor of the school's 90th anniversary, which will be celebrated during the 2019-20 school year. These celebrations are off to a great start, thanks to everyone who supported the Spectacular! Mark your calendar for next year's Spectacular: February 22.



Attendees, like this group of school parents, enjoyed the Mardi Gras theme of the event, which raised \$120,000 for our school.



Zwisler Hall, pictured here before the capacity crowd arrived, looked beautiful decorated in elegant gold and black with touches of purple and green.

Summer Camps

Camp Invention: June 3-7

Camp Invention returns to St. Sebastian this summer. This nationally acclaimed program for students in K-6 explores connections between science, technology, engineering and innovation. St. Sebastian fourth-grade teacher Jennifer Smee is the director of our school's program, which is coordinated in partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame. This one week (M-F, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) summer adventure provides students with the opportunity to explore, discover and achieve while having fun. Visit www.invent.org/camp for registration information.



Vacation Bible School: July 29-August 2

Please mark your calendars for July 29-August 2 for Vacation Bible School at St. Sebastian! It will run from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday-Friday. VBS is for children ages 4 through entering fifth grade. Kids entering sixth grade and up can help as volunteers. The theme this year is Birthday Blast. We will learn how to celebrate each and every person's life! We will also be discovering what makes each one of us so special in the eyes of God, our Creator. There will be top-quality songs, exciting games, crafts, faith teachings, snacks and more. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. Children whose parents volunteer the whole week will go for free, and free babysitting is offered on-site for children of volunteers. Registration materials will soon be available on the parish website.



SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2019-2020 YEAR

- Welcome Back Open House
August 18
- First Day of School for 2019-20
August 21
- First Day for Kindergarten and Center for Early Learning
August 26
- Thanksgiving Break
November 27-December 2
- Christmas Break
December 23-January 3
- St. Sebastian Spectacular
February 22
- Easter Break
April 10-17
- Last Day of School for 2019-20
May 28

APRIL

- Easter Flower Sale Pickup, Zwislser Hall
- Father/Daughter Dance, Zwislser Hall
- Family Stations of the Cross

No School, Easter Break

- Race Around the Park

- Classes resume after Easter Break
- Clothing Swap, Zwislser Hall

MAY

- Talent Show
- 6th-Grade Trip to Camp Christopher
- Spring Flower Sale Pickup, Zwislser Hall
- First Communion
- Cinco de Mayo Social (8th grade)
- 8th-Grade Trip to D.C.
- HASA Board meeting, Zwislser Hall
- 5th-Grade Social, Hi-Lo Winery
- Kindergarten Art Social, Byrider Hall
- May Crowning Mass
- Art and Innovation Night
- Walkathon
- Band Concert, Zwislser Hall
- Crazy Hair/Hat Day (Coupon Book)
- Last Day of Preschool

No School, Memorial Day

- Last Day of School/Pass It On Mass
- 8th-Grade Awards Breakfast
- 8th-Grade Graduation

JUNE/JULY

- Camp Invention
- Jazz Festival
- Vacation Bible School

April 13 (Saturday), 8-11 a.m.

April 13 (Saturday), 6-8 p.m.

April 19 (Friday), noon

April 19-26

April 27 (Saturday)

Fun Run 8:30 a.m., 5k 9 a.m.

April 29 (Monday)

April 30 (Tuesday), 2:30-6:30 p.m.

May 1 (Wednesday), 12:45 p.m.

May 1-3 (Wednesday-Friday)

May 4 (Saturday), 8-11 a.m.

May 4 (Saturday), 11 a.m.

May 4 (Saturday)

May 8-10 (Wednesday-Friday)

May 9 (Thursday), 7 p.m.

May 11 (Saturday), 7-10 p.m.

May 11 (Saturday), 2-5 p.m.

May 16 (Thursday), 8:15 a.m.

May 16 (Thursday), 4-5:30 p.m.

May 17 (Friday)

May 21 (Tuesday), 7 p.m.

May 24 (Friday)

May 24 (Friday)

May 27 (Monday)

May 30 (Thursday), Mass 8:15 a.m.

May 30 (Thursday) 9:15-10:45 a.m.

May 30 (Thursday), 7 p.m.

June 3-7 (Monday-Friday)

July 18 (Thursday)

July 29-August 2 (Monday-Friday)