



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

February 2020

From the Principal's Office



Happy New Year!

As we count our school's many blessings, first among them is the tremendous support the school has from so many groups and individuals. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this

fantastic community, including the recent support of the Socials Committee (Celebrity Night, Ladies Christmas Luncheon), the Student Ambassadors (Come Home for the 90th, Explorer Day), HASA (Santa Shop, Baby Jesus Blessing, Family Game Night), our parents (teacher lunches, classroom Christmas parties, field trip chaperones), and our many winter sports coaches. Special thanks to all the families who joined us at the school's 90th Anniversary Mass and the Living Rosary. It was wonderful to gather in prayer as a learning community grounded in our shared faith.

Thanks also to our teachers and staff for the many activities they have coordinated recently, including Megan Ritchie and Debra Landis (Science Fair), and Kristin DeKatch, Mary Heffern, Michelle Antochow, and Sue Vernon (Crazy 8s). Thank you to Scott Mason (band and choir) and Jeffrey Beshore (music) for putting together wonderful Christmas performances to showcase our talented students.

St. Sebastian Spectacular: Feb. 22

I hope you plan to join in the fun at this year's Spectacular on Saturday, Feb. 22. This is the school's largest annual fundraiser and is a great way to come together to support our school in our 90th anniversary year. The event will feature great auction items, delicious food and a fun Roaring '20s theme in honor of the school's founding year of 1929.

Youngstown Business Incubator Field Trip

Our 8th-grade students visited the Youngstown Business Incubator in December, where they toured the facility and learned how 3D printing is used in various real-world applications. They were able to get a close look at a unique ceramic 3D printer, which is one of only two in the entire world. The students were able to see new startup companies as well as old industrial companies using new technology in the additive manufacturing process. Thank you to parent Scott Mickel for helping to organize this fantastic learning opportunity for our students. As evident in the student reflections included below, this field trip made an impact.

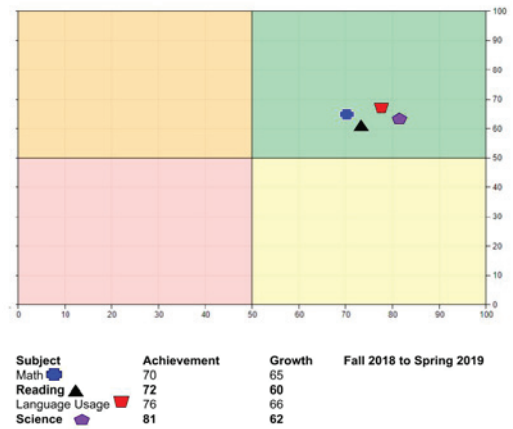
"I found it was interesting to see a majority of the businesses flourishing through the 3D printing business. I never knew that there were so many types of printing and all of the real-world applications." Anne Rea

"I thought it was really cool that they made stuff for the Air Force. It was really fascinating ... the tools would usually take six months, but instead they made them in a couple of days." Emily Wentz

"What really interested me was the company that made 3D glasses frames. It amazed me ... I would love to get my glasses from them." Anyisia Reimund.

"[One application idea I have for 3D printing is] I would love to customize and print phone cases with my own designs on them." Mia Ross

"I thought the puppet they created was the most memorable. I want to be an orthopedic surgeon when I get older, so I most likely would be using 3D printing with medicine." Zoie Burnette



MAP Testing Analysis

In November's newsletter, I shared the news that our MAP scores for last year (2018-2019, the second full year of MAP testing), were very impressive. Since then, I have received additional information that provides further insight to our results. **Our students' scores indicated High Achievement and High Growth in all four subjects tested (math, reading, language usage, and science), which is not only improvement from last year, but also a benchmark that not very many schools in the diocese could match.** Out of approximately 90 schools in the diocese, St. Sebastian averaged top eight overall scores for math, top 10 overall in language usage, and top 15 overall for reading. And while not all schools take the science portion, of those that did, St. Sebastian tied for the highest achievement in science. Way to go, Terriers!!

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr
Principal

Questions or Suggestions?

Questions or suggestions for the newsletter? Please email Anne Dennée, newsletter editor, at Anne@Denneefamily.com

From the STEM Coordinators

Grades K-2, by Susan Vernon

The Monday before Thanksgiving was a STEM Day for grades 1-3. In the afternoon, all students participated in STEM activities that allowed them to work cooperatively across the grade levels! They enjoyed a video story, then proceeded to make turkey traps with their group. The STEM projects were on display in Zwisler Hall for all students to enjoy. The afternoon ended with a Thanksgiving movie and a "Friendsgiving Buffet"! We were grateful for the bounty of healthy snacks that was served. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, each teacher for grades 1-3 assembled a special 30-minute lesson and activity that highlighted her favorite children's book. Then students traveled to each classroom to enjoy these activities, and along the way they collected a bag full of fun mini-projects! Our primary-grade classes welcomed the New Year with studies of winter, as students explored penguins, weather, magnets, and more! Many of these wonderful projects and student work were on display for our Jan. 26 Open House. I hope you visited our classrooms and saw these examples of just how exciting learning can be!



This team of 5th-graders show off the "penny boat" they created as part of a Destination Imagination "instant challenge" in which students had to build a boat that floats using only a piece of foil, then test it to see how many pennies they could load into the boat before it sunk.

👏 157 pennies 👏

Grades 3-5, by Jennifer Slegus

Students in grades 4-5 are continuing their STEM program titled Destination Imagination. The students have broken off into the team challenge of their choice in many different fields of study including engineering, scientific, technical, fine arts, and improvisational. The teams are designing and researching their challenge and beginning to build their invention or other established requirement. They will soon be creating a story or play to coordinate with their research, and they will also be responsible for creating costumes and for designing and building the scenery. The teams are working toward a culminating presentation this spring.

During Thanksgiving, 4th-grade students were busy creating balloons for their very own Thanksgiving Day parade! The students read the book *Balloons Over Broadway*, which details how inventor Tony Sarg was commissioned to create the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons. The students were given the conundrum that there was a shortage of helium, but the parade must still go on!

They were tasked with creating not only a balloon, but also a device for holding the balloon "afloat" during the parade. After much planning, collaborating, and creating, the students paraded around the building, showing off their amazing creations! These students have also been busy in a cross-curricular (social studies and geometry) STEM activity in which they learned about the California Gold Rush and then created an accurate gold-mining map using geometry terms and skills they have learned.

Our 5th-graders completed STEM-based labs while learning a science unit on motion and force. While creating hovercrafts out of CDs and balloons, they investigated ways to reduce friction and allow the hovercraft to move freely over a smooth surface. In addition to friction, the students tackled the force of gravity when redesigning their hovercraft using the engineering design process to improve their model. Students in social studies learned about ancient civilizations (Mayan, Inca, Aztec, and Mississippian) and how geography affected their way of life. The students then worked in groups to create their own unique civilization, encompassing the major cultural aspects learned throughout the unit.

Grades 6-8, by Megan Ritchie

Our 6th-grade students collaborated with the 5th-graders on an open-ended PBL (project-based learning) activity in which they designed an experiment around Hot Wheels cars. This required students to ask a question, form a hypothesis, and test their variable. This was part of the energy unit the students were studying. In 7th grade, our English classes completed advertising activities including creating print ads and video commercials. Students wrote scripts and then acted and recorded scenes. Many groups used the green screen to incorporate more graphic elements. Students then edited the video for clarity and to incorporate additional graphics. Students also had to write an explanation indicating the common advertising techniques they used.

In English class, our 8th-grade students completed a logic project involving classic suspense literature that required them to create an activity using logic. Some students created a Google Slides escape room, others wrote logic stories, and some created mazes and board games. In science class, students studied plate tectonics and seismic activity. Students looked for patterns in earthquakes on the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) website and attempted to predict the next big disaster. Students also applied earthquake-resistant building techniques to design and build their own structures to be able to withstand an earthquake. On Dec. 13, our 8th-graders took a field trip to the Youngstown Business Incubator to learn about several startup tech companies and the equipment they use, and in November, all of our junior high students displayed their science projects at our school science fair. The students created an impressive and interesting variety of projects, and they did a wonderful job explaining their projects to our judges. Good luck to the nine students who will move on to compete in Science Day at Walsh Jesuit High School in February!

Don't Miss Out! The 16th Annual Spectacular will be a great time!

The event will feature a delicious sit-down dinner, followed by the hugely popular dessert dash. Our team has put together so many amazing auction items, including special dinners hosted by our priests, reserved parking spots for school events, unique birthday parties, a Cleveland getaway including Hamilton tickets, VIP wine dinners, fantastic sports outings, adorable student art projects, and so much more!! Proceeds from the event will go toward tuition reduction for all students, technology upgrades/maintenance, endowment funds, and the school's classroom improvement initiative. Come out and enjoy the fun as we support our school in its 90th year! Send in your RSVP card or register online at www.BidPal.net/SebastianSpectacular.



Students in the News

Power of the Pen

Our Power of the Pen team competed in the Jan. 11 district tournament at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. The 8th-grade team won first place, with two students earning individual awards: Clare Rothkopf (second place overall) and Sydney Borges (fifth place overall). Sydney also received a rare score of 100% on one of her stories! Scores for our 8th-grade team members were: Leo Bates (2 superiors, 1 honor), Jimmy Bordenkircher (2 honors, 1 merit), Sydney Borges (1 superior, 2 honors), Tori DeKatch (3 honors), Mia Ross (2 superiors, 1 honor), Clare Rothkopf (3 superiors). Special thanks to 8th-grade shadow writers Abbey Monaghan, Mason Reiss and Emily Wentz. The 7th-grade team had a solid showing with members earning a combined 2 superiors, 14 honors, and 1 merit. Members are Claire Kinkelaar, Matthew Langen, Sophia Magee, Isabelle Mastromatteo, Gianna Pillitiere, and Clarice Regan. Congratulations to all writers for representing our school so well, and good luck at the regional competition in February! Thank you to Sally Weakland and Maggie Blischak, our fantastic Power of the Pen moderators, for guiding this great group.



All Saints Model UN

Five of our students took home honors at the junior Model United Nations conference held at John Carroll University Jan. 8-9. Tori DeKatch earned a gavel award as “Best Delegate,” the highest possible award. Tori, along with teammate Mason Reiss, represented France in a Disarmament and International Security Committee session, debating the use of UAV (drones). The team of Suzanna Borges and Jacob Dennée earned “Superior Delegation” honors representing Russia in a UNESCO Committee session on the topic of internet universality. The team of Alex Krohn and Josh Skovira also earned “Superior Delegation” honors representing China in a Refugee Committee session on improving conditions in refugee camps. Other St. Sebastian students who participated in the conference are Sophia Burgoyne, Sydney Borges, Claire Kinklaar, and Susie Thomas. The All Saints Model UN team, which includes students from several area Catholic grade schools, is hosted by St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and coached by their nationally ranked Model UN team. Congratulations to our students for representing St. Sebastian Parish School so well!



High School Scholarship Winners

Fourteen of our 8th-graders earned high school scholarships by achieving top scores on the scholarship/placement tests offered by our local Catholic high schools. Congratulations to these students for this outstanding achievement! **Archbishop Hoban:** Leo Bates, Jimmy Bordenkircher, Brennan Chivers, Jack Doucet, Arabelle Loyed, Lily Mendenhall, Anne Rea, and Clare Rothkopf. Jack Doucet was one of two students to receive the highest award given by Hoban, the Monsignor Richard A. Dowed Award. **Our Lady of the Elms:** Zoie Burnette and Clare Rothkopf; **St. Vincent-St. Mary:** Jimmy Bordenkircher, Jack Doucet, Lily Mendenhall, Anne Rea, Mason Reiss, and Ray Thompson; and **Walsh Jesuit:** Sydney Borges, Jack Doucet, Logan Hill, Arabelle Loyed, Maria Petit, Anne Rea, and Ray Thompson.



Geography Bee

Jacob Dennée won the school's annual Geography Bee competition in December. Out of a field of 19 competitors, Jacob was the only one to answer all of his questions correctly in seven rounds. He will complete an online test this winter to attempt to qualify for the state tournament in March. Good luck, Jacob! Thank you to junior high teacher Allyn Rose for moderating this popular extracurricular.



Junior High Science Fair

St. Sebastian's junior high students completed an impressive array of science projects this fall, making it hard for the judges to pick just three award winners for each grade. Congratulations to the students listed below who earned top honors this year, and many thanks to our junior high science teachers, Megan Ritchie and Debra Landis, for all of their hard work in guiding our students and hosting our families on science fair night in November.

7th Grade: First place: “Full Speed Ahead” by Sam Zayed; second place: “Magnetic Polar Express” by Luke Kindbom and Josh Skovira; and third place: “The Helmet Test” by Jackson Vesco.

8th Grade: First place: “The Effect of Everyday Objects on Radioactive Particles” by Nick Grizer; second place: “Get the Lead Out” by Jimmy Bordenkircher and Kofi Powers; and third place: “Coloring Calmness” by Clare Rothkopf.

Nine of our students (Anne Rea, Anysia Reimund, Jimmy Bordenkircher, Kofi Powers, Nick Grizer, Sam Zayed, Luke Kindbom, Josh Skovira, and Jackson Vesco) will be going on to compete in the Feb. 8 Science Day at Walsh Jesuit High School.

News and Notes

Service Spotlight

Our students and families spread good cheer and generosity throughout the school and greater community over the holidays. In November, our student council led a canned food drive to benefit Good Samaritan Hunger Center. The center's executive director, Michele Smith (a St. Sebastian graduate, Class of 1980) wrote a letter of gratitude for the more than 1,200 items our school contributed to help the center feed the hungry over the winter months. In December, the student council held a Toy Drive to benefit children in the care of Summit County Children Services. More than 230 toys were collected to help provide a brighter Christmas for children in need.



This year's Baby Jesus Blessing event, sponsored by HASA, featured a collection of donations of baby items for the Embrace Pregnancy Center as well as craft stations where children made festive ornaments, crafts and cards for the residents of Ohio Living/Rockynol and Francesca Hall. Members of our school choir also visited Ohio Living/Rockynol and Francesca Hall to sing Christmas songs for the residents. Fr. William Karg, retired pastor of St. Sebastian Parish, was one of those who sang along and enjoyed the holiday cheer. And, in the spirit of the Advent season, the 4th-grade classes made fleece blankets for the children living at/being served by the ACCESS shelter in Akron. These blankets were delivered along with a monetary gift that our families donated! Thank you to all our teachers, students and families for their generosity and desire to help others in need.

St. Sebastian Statue Dedication

On Nov. 1, exactly 90 years after St. Sebastian Parish School was established in 1929, our school held a special all-school Mass during which a statue of St. Sebastian was displayed. After Mass, 8th-graders Jasper Liggins and Victoria Dekatch carried the early-19th-century statue to Zwisler Hall followed by a procession of our school community and accompanied by the school band playing school music. Once everyone was gathered, Fr. Valencheck blessed the statue, which was later moved to its permanent display on the first floor of the school. As part of the dedication ceremony, three students were selected to read prayers they wrote to St. Sebastian: Abigail Gillbride (2nd grade), Abigail Coleman (4th grade), and Lilly Mendenhall (8th grade). After walking past the newly placed statue, students were treated to doughnuts featuring yellow and green sprinkles. (Thank you to Diane Haller, Diana McGee, and Terri Schleier for coordinating the treats!) The wall where the statue now resides was also recently updated with the proper school colors by our very own art teacher, Lizzi Aronhalt. Special thanks to Ian Kelly, a seminarian intern staying with St. Sebastian Parish, for organizing this special 90th-anniversary event.



SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

SAVE THE DATE

- Easter Break – April 10-17
- School Play “Annie” – April 24-25
- Grandparents Day – April 30
- First Communion – May 2
- 6th-Grade Trip to Camp Chris. – May 6-8
- 8th-Grade Trip to D.C. – May 6-8
- May Crowning Mass – May 14
- Walkathon – May 15
- Last Day of Preschool – May 22
- No School, Memorial Day – May 25
- Pass It On Mass – May 27
- Last Day of School/Graduation – May 28
- Camp Invention – June 1-5
- Vacation Bible School – July 27-31

FEBRUARY

- Night at the Races
- First Reconciliation
- Confirmation Retreat
- No School, Presidents Day
- Giftcardpalooza Participant Dress Down
- St. Sebastian Spectacular
- Mardi Gras Day (Coupon Book)
- Ash Wednesday Mass

- February 1, (Saturday), 6 p.m.
- February 8 (Saturday), 9:30-11 a.m.
- February 14-15 (Friday-Saturday)
- February 17 (Monday)
- February 21 (Friday)
- February 22 (Saturday)
- February 25 (Tuesday)
- February 26 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.

MARCH

- No School, Teacher Professional Day
- 8th-Grade Confirmation
- Spring Music Program
- 3-on-3 Tournament
- Foundation Scholarship Mass
- HASA Meeting/State of the School Address
- End of Third Quarter
- Father/Daughter Dance
- No School, Teacher Professional Day
- Kindergarten Screening

- March 6 (Friday)
- March 6 (Friday), 7 p.m.
- March 12 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
- March 14-15 (Saturday-Sunday)
- March 19 (Thursday), 8:15 a.m.
- March 19 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
- March 20 (Friday)
- March 21 (Saturday)
- March 27 (Friday)
- March 30-31 (Monday-Tuesday)

