



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

November 2018

From the Principal's Office



Teacher Spotlight

We published our August newsletter before I was able to formally welcome one of our new teachers, Monica Ward, to the St. Sebastian community. Miss Ward is teaching fifth- and sixth-grade math and

fifth-grade social studies. Also joining us recently is student teacher Erin Hageman, who will be doing observations and student teaching in Kerry Meyer's first-grade class. Welcome to St. Sebastian, Monica and Erin! Please see inside for short bios and pictures of all this year's new teachers.

Thank you to the group of teachers and staff who gave of their time to volunteer together as part of Operation Orange for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. In the very early hours of one Saturday morning in September, our group sorted and bagged over 12,000 pounds of potatoes! Thank you also to all of our teachers and staff who serve as moderators for the many extracurricular clubs meeting this fall: Power of the Pen (Maggie Blischak, Sally Weakland), Science Olympiad (Megan Ritchie, Betty Indriolo), MathCOUNTS (Cara Nestor, Monica Ward), Books for Breakfast (Sharon Kastelic, Maggie Blischak), choir (Jeff Beshore), band (Scott Mason) and Geography Bee (Allyn Rose).

During their October inservice day, our teachers participated in a training called "A Bigger and Better Future: A Transformative School Experience." This fantastic program was developed for Catholic schools based on Matthew Kelly's best-selling book *The Dream Manager*. The program focused on teaching as a fulfilling vocation and turning teaching dreams into realities. Our teachers really enjoyed this program, and I am pleased that they had the opportunity to re-energize their minds and spirits as we approach the close of the first quarter.

Book Fairs

While the school will still host the Scholastic Book Fair this winter, this year we added a new book fair in the fall. The Good News! Book Fair provided a great chance for our families to purchase Christian-themed books and other fun titles. Thank you to Scott Mason, our school librarian, for coordinating the book fair along with the help of our great parent volunteers. Thanks also to those parents whose input helped bring this book fair to St. Sebastian. The company that runs the Good News! Book Fair is based out of Florida, and this year was the first time it expanded into Ohio. St. Sebastian was fortunate to be one of only three schools in Ohio to host the Good News! Book Fair this fall.

Flight 93 Memorial

This September, our eighth-grade students and seventh-grade student council members had the incredible opportunity to attend the first memorial ceremony held at the Flight 93 National Memorial on September 11 since the Tower of Voices landmark was completed. I am extremely proud of our students for their role in helping to raise funds for this memorial and for the way they grew and learned from the experience of visiting the site. Inside this newsletter is a story with more details on the trip. Below I have included some student reflections on the experience.

"While we were there, I noticed that a lot of the families knew each other and helped each other. It seemed that the families became friends because of the experience that they now shared. When we went up to the museum, I listened to some of the last phone calls, and they were all very heart wrenching. From this experience, I have learned that I need to value the things and people around me while they are still here." Elizabeth Saliga

"I believe that it was very important that everyone came together. Everyone came together as we come



One of the highlights of the Good News! Book Fair was the Sept. 30 visit by Richard Cowdrey, author of *Fiona the Hippo*, who signed books and discussed his book with our students.

together every week at Mass. They came together as one." Olivia Kindbom

They were heroes for coming together and making a selfless decision that is best for the country and everyone in it. I took away from it that you need to stay close to your loved ones and cherish them because you never know when something can happen." Francesca Vaccaro

"Something that stood out to me was all the names on the wall. These names were important because they will forever be immortalized for preventing something even worse ... It also felt like a church service at times, with all the people praying and giving a moment of silence." Joey Latrashe

As you can tell, the visit to the memorial had quite an impact on all of us who were fortunate to make the trip. It was a powerful reminder of how blessed we are at St. Sebastian Parish School. We have fantastic students and families, and it is a true blessing to have a role in helping our students grow both intellectually and spiritually. Thank you, parents, for sharing your children with us!

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr
Principal

Questions or Suggestions?

Please email Anne Dennée, Newsletter Editor, at Anne@DenneeFamily.com. Items for the Jan.-Feb. issue should be submitted by Friday, December 7th.

From the STEM Coordinator



We are off to a productive start this year and are full-STREAM ahead from now on! We are entering our second full year as a STEM-accredited school, and our ideas and efforts are bigger and better than ever.

Camp Christopher Partnership

Seventh- and eighth-graders will be visiting Camp Christopher to continue working on an erosion problem

they began to evaluate in sixth grade. They will also be learning about biomimicry while they are there. This partnership with Camp Christopher has become a critical element of our STEM accreditation.

Traveling T-Shirt Company

In September, the sixth-graders completed a Traveling T-Shirt Company project. Students were placed in teams and charged with designing a T-shirt, creating a budget, and marketing the T-shirt to a targeted audience. The students had to interview for different positions in their companies such as treasurer, art director, and CEO, then bring their ideas to life while working together as a group. Professors at the University of Cincinnati worked with our students hand in hand all month long until the final presentations were made and a winner was announced. The winning team has designed a T-shirt highlighting Project Outrun, and all proceeds from the sale of the shirts will benefit this charity. Congratulations to Matthew Large, Heidi Vereecken, Gianna Pillitiere, Xavier Bartilson, and Estella Cianciola on their winning efforts!

Global Cardboard Challenge

In October, fifth-graders once again participated in the Global Cardboard Challenge. After collecting cardboard for about two months, the fifth-graders transformed this cardboard and other recyclables into workable games for the first-graders to play during our Global Day of Play on October 19. A fun time was had by all, and the first-graders voted the air hockey game as the winning design. The students will create presentations analyzing the problems they had and how they were solved. Teamwork is essential for success throughout the project!

STEM Learning in Grades 1-4

Fourth-grade teachers attended the Ohio STEM Learning Network's annual convening in mid-October to learn about their Food Security Design Challenge in which our fourth-graders will be participating throughout this school year. This is a wonderful opportunity presented by Battelle to all STEM-designated schools in the state of Ohio. Good luck fourth-graders! The third grade has made a commitment to recycling and will be participating in the Crayola Color Cycle throughout the year. Details will be coming soon regarding how you can help them recycle as many markers as possible. The first grade has also committed to "going green" this year and focusing their learning on helping others and being good stewards of our Earth through recycling and taking care of the environment.

We have many, many more learning opportunities that will be highlighted in the coming months, such as Science Olympiad, Lego Club, and The Genius Project. In addition, all of your children are participating in a wide variety of STEM learning opportunities on a weekly basis in their classrooms. If you're not sure what they're doing, ask them. I'm sure they'd be happy to tell you about them!

Yours With Christ,
Mrs. Kelly Gupta



On October 15, seventh-graders went to Camp Christopher, where they not only learned about invasive species, they also took the fields and worked to remove some of the invasive plants growing at the camp.

Spectacular Event Planned for March 2



SPECTACULAR

Mark your calendars for this year's St. Sebastian Spectacular: March 2, 2019. This year's theme is Mardi Gras, and the crew working on the event is excited to bring you an evening of friends and fun. Spectacular is the largest and most important annual fundraiser for the school as well as a fabulous and festive chance to come together as a community to celebrate our faith and friendship. This year's event, which is being co-chaired by Natalie Griffin-Kinney, Danielle Petit, and Carrie Pozsgay, will feature delicious Louisiana-inspired food, signature drinks, and live music in a relaxed atmosphere. Please plan to join us!

Students in the News



Trunk or Treat

The second annual Trunk or Treat Social on Oct. 12 was a great success! The brick parking lot was full of costumed children and parents (many also in costume) having a great time together trick-or-treating through the lineup of creatively decorated trunks. Congrats to the Deagan family, who won the “best trunk” prize for their split-theme trunk: half Wizard of Oz and half football. Thank you to the sponsors, the Knauer and Petit families, and to all the families who attended. This social raised a phenomenal \$1,750 for our teachers!

Fall Sports Wrap-Up

Cross Country: The grades 6-8 girls team were blue division season champions, coming in first or second place at every meet this season! This team won third place overall at the Oct. 14 diocesan-wide championship meet, where Olivia Kindbom (8th grade) finished in the top 10 for the second year in a row. The grades 6-8 boys team placed 10th out of 32 teams in the championship meet, and they finished the regular season in third place for the blue division. The grades 3-5 girls team, pictured here, recorded an incredible undefeated season, the first for any cross country team at St. Sebastian. Several of our runners, pictured here with Coach Jim Wilkins, traveled to Columbus on Oct. 20 to compete at the state middle school championship. Our boys team earned 2nd place in the silver division, with two runners earning individual medals: Brennan Chivers (11th place) and Andy Thomas (14th place). The girls team also won 2nd place in their division, with Olivia claiming 6th place in the state for the second year in a row! Way to go, Terriers!

Football: The 5th-grade West Side Saints recorded an undefeated season earning them the title of division champions! Congratulations to the following students from St. Sebastian who were members of the team: Louie Catalano, Joey Danzy, Nate Sparhawk and Max Sinsley. The team was coached by parents Pat Clark, Joe Danzy, Todd Sinsley and Rich Sparhawk. The West Side Saints flag football team with students from both St. Sebastian and St. Vincent DePaul also notched an undefeated season this year. Students from St. Sebastian were Seth Armstead, James Stallings, Brady Whitney, and Logan Zagar.

STUDENT COUNCIL



Student Council Officers

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to Student Council for 2018-19:

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|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| President – Noah Meyer | Vice President – Julia Pentasuglio |
| Treasurer – Jimmy Bordenkircher | Secretary – Mia Petit |
| Eighth-Grade Room Reps – Elaina Rooney and Andy Thomas | |
| Seventh-Grade Room Reps – Victoria DeKatch and Anne Rea | |



Soccer/Volleyball: There were three Terrier CYO volleyball teams this year, one for the 5th-6th grade, one for 7th-8th grade, and one 8th-grade only team. CYO soccer fielded five teams this fall, two each at the 3rd-4th-grade level (for both boys and girls) and a 5th-6th-grade girls team, which made it to the diocesan playoffs. Our younger players formed five DD teams (1st-2nd grade) and eight Soccer Stars teams (pre-K and K). Many thanks to all the coaches, parents and players who make these programs such a wonderful part of our parish community.

Students in the News



Students listen to Gordon Felt, president of Families of Flight 93, who spoke about his brother Edward, who was one of the heroes on Flight 93.



Students visited the newly dedicated Tower of Voices landmark.

School Trip to Flight 93 National Memorial

On September 11, 2018, our eighth-grade students and seventh-grade student council members, along with parents, teachers and Principal Rohr, traveled to Shanksville, Pa., on the 17th anniversary of the crash of Flight 93. Our students were well-prepared for their visit. Last year, student council led a school-wide dress down day fundraiser that raised nearly \$500 for the Flight 93 National Memorial. The money was given to the HALO (Hope Always Lives On) Foundation, an Akron-based nonprofit that has been a major fundraiser for the memorial. HALO was founded by St. Sebastian parishioner Sharon Deitrick, who visited our school before the trip to explain to students how the memorial developed and how their donations helped to build it. She also told students some of the heroic stories of the people on the plane.

Our group boarded buses in the very early hours on Sept. 11, but when they arrived at the memorial, they were prevented from watching the morning ceremony in person, due to a combination of rainy weather that made the parking fields unusable and extra traffic and security due to President Donald Trump's presence. So, they watched on phones and tablets and then spent the rest of the day touring the grounds and the museum. Despite the morning's disappointment, students and chaperones were deeply touched by the visit. Many students noted that the museum's depiction of the Flight 93 story, especially the recordings of the victim's last phone calls to their loved ones, was emotional and powerful.

In the distance, the group could see and hear the newly dedicated Tower of Voices, a 93-foot-tall "living memorial" holding 40 wind chimes representing the ongoing voices of each of the victims. The students visited the grounds of the memorial, where they walked along the Wall of Names, following the path of Flight 93 to the crash site, which is marked by a huge boulder. Thanks to the HALO Foundation, our group was able to observe from nearby a special ceremony for Flight 93 families held on the "sacred ground" of the crash site that is reserved for survivors' family members.

Especially meaningful was hearing from Gordon Felt, whose brother Edward was one of the heroes on Flight 93. Mr. Felt, who is the president of Families of Flight 93, talked about his brother and the importance of

doing what is right, not just what is the easy. He also talked about how the 40 strangers on the plane came together despite their differences and sacrificed their lives for the greater good.

A week before the trip, several of our students attended the Wings of Charity Gala for the HALO Foundation. These students were invited to the gala because they had participated in a youth leadership conference over the summer that was hosted by the HALO Foundation. Before the gala, our student leaders made 300 beaded bracelets, which they sold at the gala to raise \$725 for the HALO Foundation. With fundraising for the Flight 93 memorial completed, donations to HALO will now support disaster relief in honor of the selfless courage of the Flight 93 heroes.

During the week of the gala and the trip to PA, our students were interviewed by both local and national media, including a large story in the Akron Beacon Journal and camera interviews with a PBS filmmaker working on a documentary. Thank you to our students and families for your generosity and for representing St. Sebastian Parish School so well, and thank you to the HALO Foundation for providing our students with this powerful learning experience.

Catholic Challenge Live

Teams of our seventh- and eighth-grade students had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the *Catholic Challenge Live Quiz Show* on Oct. 23. This trivia style contest was recorded live in Zwisler Hall with a student body audience by Living Bread Radio for broadcast in November. Our teams had fun and represented our school well, and the winners also earned \$500 in prize money that will give to the charity to be chosen by the students. Nice work, Terriers!



Welcome, New Teachers!



Ms. Erin Hageman
Student Teacher, First-Grade

Education: pursuing B.A. in Early Childhood Education at Kent State University

Why I Like Teaching: What I enjoy most about teaching is helping each student to realize their potential and seeing their face light up when they have been working hard on a problem and it suddenly makes sense. I am planning on working toward my Reading Endorsement after I graduate this spring.



Ms. Michelle Pillar
Third-Grade Teacher

Education: Wheeling Jesuit University, B.A. Psychology and B.A. Elementary Education; began teaching in 2001.

Why I Like Teaching: The best part of teaching is helping my students reach their potential!



Ms. Megan Ritchie
Junior High Teacher, Science

Education: Kent State University: B.S. in Education, 4-9 Math and Science; began teaching in 2013.

Why I Like Teaching: I love teaching because I have a passion for learning. I hope to inspire my students to believe in themselves and become lifelong learners. It is incredibly rewarding to watch the students grow and achieve their potential. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of their educational journey.



Miss Monica Ward
Fifth & Sixth-Grade Math,
Fifth-Grade Social Studies Teacher

Education: University of Dayton, B.S. Middle Childhood Education, Math and Social Studies specialties; began teaching in 2017.

Why I Like Teaching: I love having the opportunity to have a positive impact on the life of a child and to share my love of learning. I am looking forward to be able to share my faith with my students and build a classroom community!

Math Program Update

Dear Parents,

Now that the new school year is underway, Mr. Rohr and I would like to take a moment to explain the exciting opportunities and changes in our math program at St. Sebastian Parish School. In spring of 2018, we implemented a new option allowing a few students with exceptional math skills to test out of a grade level in math, beginning at the end of fifth grade. This option only affects math class and should not be considered the norm for students. This opportunity requires them to meet the math enrichment score of the grade level beyond the one they are entering by the end of the year (i.e. a fifth-grader should have a score at or above the seventh-grade enrichment level). Other factors are also considered for these children to help determine whether they are prepared for this responsibility. The summer work for these students will be rigorous and the expectations will be high to account for skipping sixth-grade content. These students will be on track to complete geometry/trigonometry or algebra II as eighth-graders. This is not to be confused with differentiation and/or leveling within each grade level.

The seventh-grade curriculum is based on pre-algebra, and the eighth-grade curriculum is based on algebra, with students taking either basic algebra or advanced algebra. In the past, eighth-grade students from both of these classes have tested into algebra II or geometry/trigonometry as freshmen in high



school. Advanced algebra is taught at the pace of a ninth-grade-level course, and those students should aim to test out in high school. This is considered ahead of the norm. The students who test into seventh-grade math by the end of fifth grade will be satisfying sophomore year content as eighth-graders.

High schools are grateful for a solid background in pre-algebra, and we are proud to say our students often perform well on the placement tests and are prepared for algebra or beyond as freshmen. We look forward to continuing to improve the standards at St. Sebastian Parish School and are excited to help each student grow at the pace that is best for him/her!

Blessings,

Miss Nestor, Math Chair

Mr. Rohr, Principal

Parish School Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of our school and parish community, there are several opportunities for St. Sebastian Parish School students to earn scholarships for next year. Scholarships for the 2019-20 school year, listed below, are available for students currently in grades K-7 (to be applied to next year's tuition at St. Sebastian) as well as eighth-grade students (to be applied to high school tuition). The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, which acts as a clearinghouse of information for all these scholarships, has posted applications and additional information on the Foundation's webpage at <http://stsebastian.org/scholarships>. The application deadline is **January 25, 2019**. Completed applications must be submitted to the Foundation or the school office with all of the required materials (essay, grades, etc.) on or before January 25. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Each application is unique, so please read each application for specific details, and please make any records requests from the school office in advance of the deadline. If you have questions, please contact Anne Dennée at scholarships@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 x119.

Scholarships Funded Through the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation

Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship – (grades pre-K-7) two available, need based
 Lynn Frey-Steward Scholarship – (grades K-7) one available, merit based
 The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship – (grade 8) one available, merit based
 GOAL Scholarship – (grades 2-7) three available, merit based
 Frances L. Sharp Scholarship – (grades 4-7) two available, need based
 John A. Trecaso Scholarship – (grade 8) one available, need based

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

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship – (grade 8), two available, merit based
 Reverend Terry Peacock Scholarship – (grade 8) two available, merit based
 Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship – (grades 5-8) one available, merit based
 St. Irene Scholarship – (grades 1-7, grade 8) two available, merit based

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

SAVE THE DATE

Family Game Night – January 18
 No School, MLK Day – January 21
 Open House – January 27
 Catholic Schools Week –
 January 28 – February 2
 International Festival – February 2
 First Reconciliation – February 9
 No School – February 18
 Confirmation Retreat – February 22-23
 Sebastian Spectacular – March 2
 No School – March 8
 3-on-3 Tournament – March 9-11
 Confirmation – March 22
 Spring Music Program – March 28
 No School – March 29
 Father/Daughter Dance – April 13

NOVEMBER

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|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Science Fair | November 13 (Tuesday) |
| Ladies Christmas Boutique & Luncheon Social | November 18 (Sunday), Portage Country Club, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. |
| Confirmation Meeting (8th-grade) | November 19 (Monday), St. Sebastian Church, 7-8 p.m. |
| Celebrity Night Social | November 29 (Thursday), The Bistro at Tangier, 7-10 p.m. |
| No School, Thanksgiving Break | November 21-26 (Wednesday-Monday) |
| Terrier Madness (Team Night for CYO Basketball) | November 30 (Friday), Byrider Hall, 8 p.m. |

DECEMBER

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|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Christmas Tea, sponsored by Sanctuary Society | December 5 (Wednesday), Zwisler Hall, 6:30 p.m. |
| Christmas Music Program (Grades 1, 3, 5, 7) | December 6 (Thursday), Zwisler Hall, 7 p.m. |
| Santa Shop | December 10-13 (Monday-Thursday) |
| Geography Bee | December 12 (Wednesday), 2:45 p.m. |
| Baby Jesus Blessing | TBD |
| No School, Christmas Break | December 24-Jan. 4 |



Merry Christmas!