



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

November 2019

From the Principal's Office



We are off to a great start for the 2019-2020 school year! The building is full of activity, day and night, and our students are growing intellectually, spiritually and socially in so many ways thanks to the work and support of our fantastic school community.

Many Thanks!

Much thanks to all the parents who have helped out with the many fall events and activities. From our welcome back open house, the new family welcome picnic, and fall sports, to the Monster Mash, the welcome back coffee, and all the Socials, we could not do it without you! We are also grateful to all the teachers and other volunteers who are moderating our extracurricular activities, including Maggie Blischak and Autumn Gaskins (Books for Breakfast), Sally Weakland and Maggie Blischak (Power of the Pen), Betty Indriolo and Megan Ritchie (Science Olympiad), Allyn Rose (Geography Bee), and Robert Dedinsky, Debra Landis, and Megan Ritchie (MathCOUNTS). Thank you also to Scott Mason and his crew of helpers for a successful Scholastic Book Fair. Please note, the school will host a second Christian-themed book fair again this year, in January during Catholic Schools week.

Academic and Intervention Team

This year we have reorganized the teacher leadership roles for STEM activities and discipline matters. Our new Academic and Intervention Team is composed of three teachers who will oversee STEM activities as well as address discipline issues for specific grade groups. These teachers are Sue Vernon (K-2), Jennifer Slegus (3-5) and Megan Ritchie (6-8). Please see the STEM article in this issue to hear from these team members about the many STEM activities in which our students have been engaged so far this year.

School Accolades

Although it has been announced previously, I wanted to note how wonderful it is to have earned state-level recognition for excellence in STEM education. St. Sebastian was one of 54 Ohio schools to receive the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for our accomplishments during the 2018-2019 school year. Eleven of our teachers were also recognized individually with this award. This distinction is something to take pride in and a testament to the great work being done every day here at St. Sebastian Parish School.

Another fantastic distinction announced recently is the school's high scores on the MAP Growth Tests. Our scores from two years ago (2017-18), indicated High Achievement in all four subjects tested (math, reading, language usage, and science) and High Growth in reading, language usage, and science, with Average Growth in math. Results from last year (2018-19), indicate **High Achievement and High Growth** in all subjects across the board! We are pleased to see our math scores move from the Average Growth to the High Growth category. We are so proud of our students and teachers for this impressive academic growth, and we congratulate our school as a whole for ranking among the highest-achieving schools in the Diocese of Cleveland, especially in language usage and science.

Flight 93 Memorial Field Trip

For the second year in a row, our 8th-grade students traveled to Shanksville, Pa., to participate in the annual commemoration of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It is a remarkable privilege for our students to share in this remembrance with the families who lost so much that day. Here are some reflections from our students that demonstrate what they learned from their visit about working together for the greater good, the symbolism of the memorial's design, and the power of prayer.

"The passengers came together to achieve one goal. They voted, using the American way, and they all believed that they needed to do their duty. They weren't soldiers, but civilians. Not victims, but heroes. They took control, and the world stayed safer because of it ... What stuck with me was that they knew it was scary, but they did it. They didn't know if things would turn out okay, or if their plan would even work. They just knew that they weren't going down without a fight." Clare Rothkopf

"Everything at the memorial has a place and a reason for the way it is designed. The park shows the flight path of the plane until it crashed. The Tower of Voices is 93 feet tall, for the flight number, with 40 chimes that each have a different pitch. I think the faith of these people was very great. Even throughout the last seconds until the crash, some passengers prayed. When Todd Beamer said the Lord's Prayer with the passengers and people on the other side of the phone, he showed that he had faith and trusted God ... [The passengers] were true heroes that I honor and respect, and I hope that I may have the same amount of courage and trust in God as they did." Anne Rea

"I took away that prayer is the one most important thing. Prayer was definitely the most important thing in the last seconds of the passengers' lives. From watching the movie, and then actually being at the site, I need to be grateful for everything I have, and I need to make sure that I remember prayer is the key point in our lives." Anysia Reimund

The visit made an impact on our students, as you can see, and it serves as a powerful reminder to all of us of our many blessings here at St. Sebastian Parish School. May we continue to develop intelligent and compassionate students with the strength of faith to make a positive impact on the world.

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 6th.

From the STEM Coordinators

Grades K-2, by Susan Vernon

This past summer 60 students were involved in Camp Invention, a weeklong program designed to stimulate hands-on problem solving with creativity. Four teachers, Kelly Gupta, Mary Heffern, Molly Karg, and Jen Smee, led the “Super Hero Engineers” in sustainability projects. There were ships constructed to withstand the elements, as well as robots and other prototypes. Our budding engineers had a productive, educational experience!

The autumn season provided the perfect opportunity for students in K-2 to explore the delights of the season! All students celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day with many apple activities: investigations, dissections, tastings, and even art! Currently, pumpkins are in the curriculum, as students learn about life cycles and Halloween customs. The 1st-grade students loved their visit to Nickajack Farms, where they were thrilled to meet farm animals and understand a little more about agriculture. A fun hayride gave them a great overview of rural life!

Grades 3-5, by Jennifer Slegus

Students in the 4th and 5th grades are participating in a program titled “Destination Imagination.” This program, which was founded in 1999, engages students in project-based challenges that build confidence and develop extraordinary creativity, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills. Destination Imagination is designed to involve students in exploring STEM/STEAM concepts in a hands-on environment, learning how to think (not what to think), and taking ownership of all decisions, creations, and results. The 4th- and 5th grade students will be breaking off into teams with a different design challenge of their choice. The teams will design or research their challenge and build their invention or other established requirements. They will then create a story or play to coordinate with their research. Students will also be in charge of costumes, designing, and building of the scenery. The teams will present and perform these in an actual regional tournament with the possibility of progressing on to other tournaments. One thing that sets Destination Imagination apart from other programs is that the teachers and parents are not permitted to help the students with these challenges. This is



Fourth grade students completed a fun STEM project with pumpkins in which they used math and science to measure and learn more about their pumpkin, and then they wrote creative stories featuring their decorated pumpkin.

completely a student-based challenge. Our students are getting started on this amazing learning experience, and we are very excited to see what great ideas the students will create.

Grades 6-8, by Megan Ritchie

In reading class, 6th-grade students have been using technology to bring literature to life by creating group presentations that relate stories to their own lives and experiences. In social studies, students used technology to connect to real-life survivors of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Then each student attended an interactive tour to over 200 9/11 monuments all over the world and wrote about their three favorite memorials. In social studies and science classes, 6th-graders have been working on the Traveling T-Shirt Company project, in which students work in teams to create and sell a T-shirt to benefit a charity. The groups research and choose a nonprofit organization, meet with vendors to review costs and artwork, and meet with marketing advisers to understand how to attract interested buyers. Students then create a proposal and pitch their ideas to a panel of judges during interviews that are done digitally via Google Hangouts. In science, 6th-grade students completed a lab that taught them how to measure using a graduated cylinder and how to use the metric system to measure volume of liquids. Students used a variety of tools to complete the lab, including pipettes, graduated cylinders, and beakers. Students also applied lab-safety techniques discussed in class.

Students in 7th grade have been analyzing technology and identifying the benefits of using specific technology in certain scientific investigations. They have been measuring the distance from one side of the classroom to the other using scientific measurements as well as other tools of measurement (ex. 16 “Reids” or 62 buckets). Students have also been analyzing and interpreting the risks and benefits of electric transportation.

Our 7th- and 8th-grade students have been exploring the scientific method and are hard at work on their science projects. The science fair is an opportunity for students to apply the scientific method to conduct independent research. The results of each student’s research will be presented at the St. Sebastian School Science Fair on Nov. 20 in Zwisler Hall. Students who are judged to have used the scientific method properly and who have demonstrated thoroughness in their studies and effort are awarded prizes and may advance to compete in regional, state, and even national fairs.

Celebrate the School’s 90th at The Spectacular on Feb. 22



This year the St. Sebastian Spectacular, our school’s largest annual fundraiser, features a Roaring ‘20s theme that will take you back to 1929, our school’s inaugural year. The event is shaping up as a fabulous and fun way to celebrate our school’s 90th anniversary while supporting our school and students.

We hope all parents will join us for this special evening! Your ticket includes appetizers, a delicious sit-down dinner, festive beverages, impressive live and silent auctions, and the popular dessert dash. Invitations will be sent out to all our parish school families in early January. If you would like to be a sponsor, donate an item or get involved, please email our event coordinator Logan Rice at gatheringsolution@gmail.com.

Your support of this event is invaluable and much appreciated. In the last 15 years, The Spectacular has raised over \$1.1 million to support the students at St. Sebastian Parish School. These dollars are used to help keep tuition affordable for every student as well as pay for investments in school technology and special projects. We are looking forward to another successful event with your continued support. Thank you!

Welcome, New Teachers!



Jennifer Bradley 5th Grade: Language Arts, Social Studies

Education: Miami University: B.S. in Elementary Education

First Impressions of St. Sebastian: My first impression is one of awe! It feels like “home” and is a welcoming, faith-filled community! Our mission statement is not just words on paper, but visible throughout each school day: Students striving to be their best, while cooperating with others; teachers going above and beyond to provide

engaging lessons; alumni sharing the tradition with their children, or stopping by to explore, reminisce, and share their story; and everyone working on integrating new technologies while looking forward to what the future holds! I am beyond blessed to be a part of this amazing community and grateful God led me here!



Robert Dedinsky 6th Grade: Math, Science, Religion, Health

Education: University of Akron, B.S. in Middle Level Math & Science (grades 4-9)

First Impressions of St. Sebastian: My first impressions about St. Sebastian are that everyone is so helpful, and the atmosphere is great. I love coming to work every day to see the smiles on everyone’s faces, and the eagerness to learn is amazing too!



Christina Friedl 5th Grade: Math, Science, Religion

Education: University of Akron, M.A. Biology and M.A. Education as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow with a focus on STEM education.

First Impressions of St. Sebastian: My first impression of the St. Sebastian community was that of unity. The teachers and staff have gone over and above helping me

feel welcome here. The families of our students have also welcomed me with open arms and have offered to help in any way needed. I feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful family!



Debra Landis 7th Grade: Math, Science, Health

Education: Ohio University, B.S. Elementary Education with a concentration in Mathematics; Walsh University, Reading Endorsement

First Impressions of St. Sebastian: My first impression of St. Sebastian Parish School is that of the students wanting to learn. A day has not gone by without a student asking “why” about something to learn more about it! ... They care about their grades and their learning. A second impression I have had is that of the compassion of the staff. My dad passed away 10 days before school started, and staff that I hadn’t even met yet reached out to me. Everyone was so caring after the funeral. Another first impression is that everyone goes above and beyond because they enjoy working at and being a part of St. Sebastian School.



Olivia Wilde 1st Grade

Education: Kent State University, B.S. Early Childhood Education.

First Impressions of St. Sebastian: What stands out to me about St. Sebastian is the warm, supportive, and welcoming community. Ever since I chose to become a teacher, my dream was to come back to St. Sebastian, where I went to school. I wanted to give students the same amazing experience I had. I am so honored to be a part of this faculty and parish. The faculty, parents, and especially the students help me to be the teacher I have always wanted to be!

News and Notes

Art Teacher Honored with “30 for the Future” Award

Art teacher Elizabeth Aronhalt was honored as one of 30 Akron-area young professionals to earn the “30 for the Future” award for 2019 from the Greater Akron Chamber. The “30 for the Future” award honors members of the community ages 25-39 who are making a difference in their workplaces and in the region. Congratulations, Miss Aronhalt!

Scholarship Created in Memory of Denise Finley

A new scholarship has been created in memory of beloved teacher Denise Maroon Finley '65, who passed away Aug. 13, 2019. Denise taught at St. Sebastian Parish School for 23 years and was a graduate of St. Sebastian. Denise’s family chose for donations made in her memory to be used to create the Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship, which will cover a portion

of tuition expenses for a current 8th-grade student who will attend Archbishop Hoban High School next year. Initial plans are for this to be a one-time award, however, donations are still being accepted with the hope of generating enough support to create an endowed fund to provide annual awards. If you would like to support the Finley scholarship or any of the other high school scholarships offered by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, please contact Kathy Holaday (Holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 x 113). Additional scholarship information and links for making online donations may be found at: stsebastian.org/foundation/funds-and-endowments.



Students in the News



STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to student council for the 2019-2020 school year. Jimmy Bordenkircher (President), Leo Bates (Vice President); Lola Hall (Secretary); Jacob Dennée (Treasurer); and Alex Hayes, Reid Armstead, Anne Rea, Victoria DeKatch and Mia Ross (Room Representatives). When asked about student council's plans for the year, President Jimmy reported that he is looking forward to leading annual activities, such as the food drive, toy drive and collection for Isabella's Closet. Jimmy added, "I'm trying to see if we can do a fun movie night . . . and I'd like to do a book drive."

In September, several of these new student council members traveled to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton to listen to a talk by Andre Tippett. An All-Pro linebacker who played for the NFL from 1982-1993, Tippett was speaking as part of the "Heart of a Hall of Famer" series. Student council VP Leo Bates said, "Andre Tippett spoke about the importance of not bullying and never giving up. . . . Andre talked about how he was bullied and how he stood up to the adversity that was against him. Andre told us that we must stand up to the problems in our lives if we want to reach our goals." Leo said he thought the field trip was very valuable for student council.

Student Ambassadors

Congratulations to the following 7th-graders who were chosen to be new Student Ambassadors for our school: Jacob Dennée, Lola Hall, Alexander Hayes, Payton Kidder, Luke Kindbom, Matthew Large, Angelo Puglia, Luke Saus, Joshua Skovira and Jackson Vesco. These students, along with our current 8th-grade ambassadors, will represent our school at open houses, Grandparents Day and other special school events.

Trunk or Treat

The St. Sebastian Parish School community came out in force for the third annual Trunk or Treat Social on October 18. Over 200 students (150 families) participated this year, with a creative selection of 40 trunks to visit. This Social raised \$1,925 for the Teacher Appreciation and Wellness Fund. Congratulations to the Lawson and Hagenbush families, winners of the "best trunk" crown for their tailgate-themed setup, which offered up hotdogs, bratwurst and other tailgate food for the crowd. Thank you to the Knauer family for sponsoring this event and to our junior high student volunteers for helping out. Thanks also to Anita Calleri for donating the water and payment for the DJ.



Fall Sports Wrap-Up

Cross Country Team Takes Top Honors

Our cross country team wrapped up another record-setting year with the girls grades 6-8 team being named season champions for the Blue Division, winning all but one of their meets and recording two first-place individual finishes by Anne Rea and Scarlett Powell. The girls grades 3-5 team won four of their seven meets and took second place in the remaining three meets. The boys grades 6-8 team took 3rd place for the season, and the boys grades 3-5 team, although small in number, finished in 3rd or 4th place in every meet in which they had enough runners to compete as a team.



At the Oct. 13 diocesan championship at Cleveland's Edgewater Park, the girls grades 6-8 grade team won second place, which is the highest finish ever achieved by our school since we began competing in 2009 and the only time a team from Summit County has earned a medal in the championship! Anne Rea was our top runner, finishing 5th out of a field of 187. Other members of the team included Nadia Edgar, Isabelle Mastromatteo, Arden Powell, Scarlett Powell, Anysia Reimund, and Trinity Villarreal. The boys grades 6-8 team finished 10th, with John Paul Villarreal taking an impressive 15th place out of 265 runners.

At the state middle school meet on Oct. 20, St. Sebastian won the state runner-up trophy for the second year in a row in the girls Division 3 race. Our team's top five runners finished in the top 25: Anne Rea (7th), Julia Rea (16th), Anysia Reimund (17th), Scarlett Powell (18th), and Nadia Edgar (24th) out of 126 runners. Way to go, Terrier athletes, and many thanks to our dedicated coaches!

Football

Several of our students played on the 6th-grade CYO Saints football team that won both of its playoff games to earn a spot in the Oct. 27 championship game, where they lost a close game 13-6. St. Sebastian players on the team included Jay Brewer, Robert Butler, Andrew Cook, Matthew Dietrich, Jackson Rodeman, Everett Salisbury, Max Sinsley and Nate Sparhawk. Many other students played for Saints teams including three flag football teams (grades K-3), and a tackle football team (4th grade).

Soccer

The soccer program fielded five teams, two for boys (3rd grade and 4th grade) and three for girls (3rd-4th grade, 5th-6th grade, and 7th-8th grade). Two of the girls teams made it to the playoffs (5th-6th and 7th-8th), and the 4th-grade boys finished with an impressive 6-2 record.

Volleyball

The girls volleyball program fielded two teams, 6th grade and 8th grade, with 16 athletes participating. Thank you to all the fall sports coaches for volunteering your time to help our students grow and learn.

News and Notes



Our students stand by the Wall of Names, a memorial of 40 white, marble panels aligned along the flight path of Flight 93 that are inscribed with the names of the passengers and crew.



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

Annual Trip to the Flight 93 Memorial

This fall, our 8th-grade class traveled to Shanksville, Pa., to attend the 18th annual September 11 Observance held at the Flight 93 National Memorial. This is the second year in a row that our school has participated in the ceremony, and this year was just as memorable.

Our students watched the movie *Flight 93* on the early-morning bus ride to Shanksville, which helped them understand what the passengers experienced on that fateful day.



Deacon Terry led our students in prayer at the base of the Tower of Voices, a 93-foot-tall memorial that holds 40 unique wind chimes that represent the voices of each of the victims.

Our group arrived in time to listen to the morning ceremony's featured speakers, which included Vice President Mike Pence; U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt; and Gordon Felt, president of the Families of Flight 93 organization. Mr. Felt, whose brother was one of the heroes on board Flight 93, took some time later in the day to talk to our students one-on-one after the ceremony in an area near the impact site. He spoke to our students about his brother and the other ordinary people on the flight, explaining how these heroes sacrificed everything, putting aside

their differences for the greater good of many and even voting before putting their plan of action in motion.

"Gordy Felt is an amazing speaker," said Principal Anthony Rohr, who accompanied our students on the trip along with Deacon Terry Peacock, several teachers and parent volunteers. "Our students were really lucky to have personal interaction with someone directly affected by a major historical event," Mr. Rohr said.

The students later toured the Flight 93 Memorial Museum, where one of the exhibits features very moving recordings of the last phone calls from the passengers and crew to their loved ones. Our group also stopped at the Tower of Voices, a 93-foot-tall memorial that holds 40 unique wind chimes, representing the voices of each of the victims. Deacon Terry led our group in prayer at the base of the tower as they remembered and prayed for these 40 heroes.

Mr. Rohr noted that St. Sebastian Parish School was the only school to attend the observance this year. "We are proud to provide this experience of a lifetime for our students," said Mr. Rohr, "and we plan to continue this meaningful tradition for future 8th-grade classes."

2019 Wings of Charity Gala

Several students from St. Sebastian were featured speakers at the HALO Foundation of Akron's annual Wings of Charity Gala on Sept. 5. The HALO Foundation exists to develop students as servant leaders by recognizing specific overlooked needs in the community and illuminating the selfless example of the heroes of Flight 93. Shane Adamczyk (Class of 2019), Noah Meyer (Class of 2019), Anne Rea (8th grade), and Elizabeth Schlueter (Class of 2019, not pictured) spoke to an audience of 300 about the impact of their participation in the September 11 Observance at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., that they attended through St. Sebastian Parish School. Thank you to these students and alumni for being such wonderful representatives of our school!



Scholarships for 2020-2021

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 2020-21 school year, listed here, are available for students currently in grades K-7 (to be applied to next year's tuition at St. Sebastian) as well as 8th-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 school's website at stsebastian.org/school/scholarships.

The application deadline is **Jan. 24, 2020**. Completed applications must be submitted to the Foundation or the school office with all of the required materials on or before Jan. 24. 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) up to two available, need based
- Denise Maroon Finley Scholarship – (grade 8) up to 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 or more available, merit based
- Frances L. Sharp Scholarship – (grades 4-7) up to 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

International Festival - January 11
 MAP Testing - January 6-24
 Family Game Night - January 17
 No School, MLK Day - January 20
 Open House - January 26
 Catholic Schools Week - January 26-Feb 1
 Night at the Races - February 1
 First Reconciliation - February 8
 Confirmation Retreat - February 14-15
 No School - February 17
 Sebastian Spectacular - February 22
 Confirmation - March 6
 No School - March 6
 Spring Music Program - March 12
 3-on-3 Tournament - March 14-15
 Scholarship Mass - March 19
 Father/Daughter Dance - March 21
 No School - March 27

NOVEMBER

Explorer Day (tours for families of prospective students)	November 8 (Friday), 8:15-10 a.m.
HASA meeting	November 14 (Thursday), Zwisler Hall, 7 p.m.
Ladies Christmas Boutique & Luncheon Social	November 17 (Sunday), Portage Country Club, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Science Fair	November 20 (Wednesday)
Celebrity Night Social	November 21 (Thursday), The Bistro at Tangier, 7-10 p.m.
Confirmation Meeting (8th grade)	November 25 (Monday), St. Sebastian Church, 7-8 p.m.
Come Home for the 90th	November 29 (Friday), Zwisler Hall, 7 p.m.
No School, Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 27-Dec 2. (Wednesday-Monday)

DECEMBER

Christmas Music Program (Grades 1, 3, 5, 7)	December 5 (Thursday), Zwisler Hall, 7 p.m.
Terrier Madness (Team Night for CYO Basketball)	December 6 (Friday), Byrider Hall, 8 p.m.
Geography Bee	December 11 (Wednesday), 2:45 p.m.
Christmas Tea, sponsored by Sanctuary Society	December 11 (Wednesday), Zwisler Hall, 7 p.m.
Baby Jesus Blessing	December 15 (Sunday), 12-2 p.m.
Santa Shop	December 16-19 (Monday-Thursday)
No School, Christmas Break	December 23-Jan. 3



Merry Christmas!