



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

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Character Education Quote of the Week:

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." – Aristotle

YEARBOOK – Order blanks were sent home today with all mail carriers. There is also an order form attached to today's online newsletter. These orders are due in the school office by January 25th.

HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13 6:30 PM FACULTY ROOM

1. Prayer and snack – Melanie McCauley
2. Welcome and Introductions – Patty Walsh
3. Review of December minutes – Patty Walsh
4. Treasurer's Report – Shelly DePalma
5. Principal's Report – Paul Hohl
6. Chair Reports –
 - Time & Talent – Dana Biasi
 - Fun & Fellowship – Lorinda Smrz
 - Faith & Academics – Tracey Weigel
 - Loaves & Fishes – Cara Bidwell
 - Fish Fry – Rachel Lustig
7. Chair Reports – Patty Walsh

Upcoming events: January 26 – Market Day
January 31 – February 5 – Catholic Schools Week
January 31 – Open House
February 5 – Fish Fry/Masquerade Dance

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 10 – Prayer and snack – Lorinda Smrz

ATTENTION "WANNA-BE" PARENT JUDGES – There will be training for all "wannabe" parents that want to be locked in as a forensic judge for the St. Sebastian forensic team. The training will take place on Wednesday, January 27 or Monday, February 1 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in the Learning Center. You must attend ONE of the training sessions before you can judge at a tournament. This training is vital to your success as a judge and volunteer judges are VITAL to our forensic program, so plan to attend either on Wednesday or on Monday. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Kirkpatrick at 414-774-6963. Thank you in advance for volunteering. Your help is greatly appreciated.

IT'S OPEN HOUSE TIME – Join us on Sunday, January 31st from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM as we open our school to new and current families. Come visit your child's classroom, meet next year's teachers and enjoy refreshments with family and friends. Invite your neighbors! Spread the word! See you on the 31st!

GREEN TEAM START-UP – Attention parents – If you would be interested in joining our St. Sebastian Green Team, please contact Tracey Weigel by email at traceyweigel@gmail.com or by phone at 302-0801. Help us become more environmentally friendly! Thank you.

MARKET DAY – Our January sale is on the 26th. Online or paper orders will be due by Friday, the 22nd. Order forms were sent with all mail carriers on January 6th and a form is attached to today's online newsletter.. We have made \$1,325 so far this year. Please place an order and help us reach our 2009-2010 goal of \$3,700.

FIRST EUCHARIST The welcoming & commitment ceremony will take place on January 17th at the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM liturgies. If you have any questions, contact Joan Plumley at 453-7150 or jplumley@saintsebs.org.

CONE PATROL – Room 210 is on duty next week.

6TH GRADE OUTDOOR EDUCATION – The Outdoor Education packet is available on the newsletters. All parents must return the volunteer form and infraction form today.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Will resume with rehearsal on Monday, January 25. Again, grades 2-5 are welcome – no auditions needed. We rehearse in church from 3:00 – 3:30pm. All are welcome (back!)
Mike Kamenski 414-453-1928.

FINANCES – Report cards will be sent home soon. All financial obligations must be up to date or your child's report card will not be released. Please be sure your payments to the school, the parish and PAL are current. This includes the 2010 Pledge Card for parish members.

WINTERFEST – The Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park invites everyone to a free Winterfest event on Saturday, January 30 from 12:00 – 4:00. There will be outdoor and indoor activities and takes place in and around their building in the park. Come and enjoy ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, cross country skiing, ice fishing, music and dancing, games, crafts and a clothing swap.

NO SCHOOL – There is no school on Monday, January 18, due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Make your child care plans now. PAL will be open and available. Call them with your reservation at 453-8944.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR AFTERNOON PICK-UP –

These are some errors that have occurred in the past that you should be aware of:

- Pulling into the parking lot too fast.
- Cell phone in use. We need your full attention.
- Parking in the Student "Safe Zone" near the school.
- Stopping your car in the driving lane waiting for your child. This blocks traffic for everyone! Pull through and go around the block if your child is not right there.
- Stopping your car in the driving lane of 54th St. waiting for your child.
- Entering the parking lot off of 54th St. – Please enter from 55th St.

Especially important, if you send a substitute pick-up person, make sure he/she is aware of the procedure. We have had grandparent's, relatives & friends making the parking lot unsafe after school.

POPCORN SALE- Freshly made popcorn will be sold on Friday, January 15, 22 and 29 and February 5 after school. The cost is 50 cents a bag. The proceeds will be used for the 6th grade Outdoor Education camping trip in February.

ACADEMIC UPGRADES – Dr. Cintron, in his role as Curriculum Coordinator, is working with grades 1-5 on student writing. From Dr. Cintron:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am very excited to inform you about our *Six Traits + 1 Writing* emphasis which is now underway in our elementary grades. I am working very closely with teachers and students by modeling lessons, reviewing students' writing, and providing a language for describing the qualities that are important in good writing. Each writing assignment from me will be scored using a rubric that consists of a set of criteria that describe what expectations are being assessed/evaluated. It also includes descriptions of levels of quality used to evaluate students' work or to guide students to desired performance levels. Please continue to encourage your child to complete their assigned writing prompts in a timely manner.

Tips for Parents to Encourage Student Writing

- Coach – don't write – for your child. Question, listen, and talk about writing together. Students need to do their own drafting, revising, and editing with you at the sidelines.
- Look first for what is done well in the writing and offer praise. Writing is a challenging task. Children need encouragement to be successful.
- When working with your child, focus on ideas and content first. Save editing until the ideas are clear, complete, and focused.
- Listen attentively as your child reads writing to you.
- Encourage even the youngest writers to "read" their writing aloud whether it is scribbles, drawings, or strings of letters. Talk about the story.
- Read aloud to your children – no matter the age. Discuss good examples of writing from newspapers, magazines, poetry, descriptions from travel brochures, and instructions on toys, games. Read from fiction and non-fiction.
- Let your child SEE you write.
- Share your own writing with your children.
- Turn off the TV.
- Visit the library.
- Read, read, read! Better readers make better writers!

Thank you for your support!

The Math computation plan is up & running. The first part is the Math Achiever Club, earned by students working on math computation software at school. Students earning Math Achiever Club will be announced next week. The next contest will be a Valentines contest in February. Thanks to Wall of Fame helpers Leah Zaffiro and Diana Kokalis.

Second, the following students earned their spot on the Math Wall of Fame for performing well on the December math computation contest: 8th graders Sam Cappon, Tyler Ogorek & Elizabeth Sealey; 7th graders Leo Bohlmann, Maggie Klein, Alyssa Rodriguez & Henry Utschig; 6th graders Connor Baudhuin, Zack Gratz, William Macheel & Sebastian Pruhs; 5th graders Maggie Burzynski, FranChesca Riley, Matthew Shelledy & Charlotte Utschig; 4th graders Christopher Park, Nate Pruhs, Mitchell Weigel & Andy Zeidler; 3rd graders Haydn Berg, Gabe Bohlmann, Michael Crain & Ethan Wright; 2nd graders Abby Kayser, Grace Kozina, Dominic Marseo & Ameera Pearsall; 1st graders Reed Burzynski & Lydia Pruhs. Way to Go!

The January test will take place soon to add new wall members. Thanks to test graders Turquoise Welch-Loera, Tara Zalewski, Beth Anne Crain, Mary Jo Kreuser, and Mary Madigan.

Finally, students must complete their time on the math computation websites forms by Wednesday, January 20th. The form is attached to the bottom of the newsletter or may be printed from the website under math computation.

ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI – The District 12 regional celebrations of welcome for our new Archbishop will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at Christ King Parish, Wauwatosa. The event will provide all Catholics in southeastern Wisconsin the opportunity to meet, pray and celebrate with their new archbishop. All of these celebrations are open to the public. Each liturgy will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a reception.

MARQUETTE BASKETBALL TICKET ORDERS – Orders for the Marquette – DePaul game are due tomorrow. This is a Catholic Schools Week event that our Middle School Choir will sing the national anthem. Game time is 6:00 p.m. and includes a 400 level game ticket and a Marquette/Dwyane Wade drawstring bag for only \$11. The order form is on the website. Get your order in by Thursday!

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO OIL THE ALTAR - Once a month, our Church Altar, Ambo, Credence tables and Baptismal Font platform need to be cleaned and polished with lemon oil. It takes about 45 minutes to oil and buff these areas of the Church. This would be a great after school project.

I am looking for teams of two students or student/parents to volunteer for one of the following months: January, February, April, August, or October, 2010. Your time volunteering would satisfy one service hour requirement. Training is provided. Please call Julia Galligan at 453-1061, ext. 117 to volunteer.

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

Completing the letter "E" in R-E-A-D-I-N-G:

K4- T.J. Bingham-Tyson

K4- Nevan Kearney

K5 – Meghan Hardy

Completing the letter "D":

K5- Eddie Poggenburg

Great job to all and keep reading!

Student Website Work – At Home Verification Form

My child, _____, worked on the math website for 4 hours / 2 hours (grades 1-2) as directed in the St. Sebastian Math Computation Improvement Plan.

Parent Signature _____

Return to classroom teacher by Jan. 20.