

Vol. 11
2.6.18

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Firstly, I wanted to thank all who came to our STEAM Night last week. We continue to produce events on campus with the hope of getting more parents involved. Students are responding well to this and it can be seen in the quality of their work. I also wanted to say how excited I am that our school was the special guest at the St. Augustine Rotary Club meeting yesterday. It gave us an opportunity to share our vision and get the community involved in our school.

Academically, our focus is still on writing. Our teachers are integrating a writing activity into every unit across the curriculum. Our Language Arts teachers are pleased with the growth shown on the school-wide writing prompts. Connect directly with your individual teacher for feedback as teachers are now in the process of preparing samples to send home. FSA Writing will take place the first week in March and all of our students should be confident as they are well prepared.

Finally, we are taking a Book Study into the community. We will meet at Growers Alliance Café on the first Wednesday of every month at 5pm. The session will last for an hour and we will discuss the book "Mindset" by Carol Dweck. Please plan on joining us when you can, as we learn from your questions as well.

Thanks as always for your support. GO EAGLES!

Wayne King, Principal

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Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Jay Barbour, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kelvin Pruitt, Dean of Students

Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8th / 7th A-L
Angela Fusco, Guidance Grade 6th / 7th M-Z

Important Dates:

February 6

Zaxby's Spirit Night: 5:00—8:00pm

February 8

*High School Academy application deadline:
5:00pm (8th graders only)*

February 9

3rd Quarter Interim Report Cards on HAC

February 12

Parent Book Club "Queen Bees and Wannabes": 4:00—5:00pm

February 12

*7th Grade Civics Field Trip to Tallahassee:
5:30am—8:30pm*

February 14

Box Tops Due! Happy Valentine's Day!

February 19

President's Day—Student/Teacher Holiday

February 22

*Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting:
8:30am*

February 27

SAC Meeting: 5:15pm; PTO Meeting: 6:00pm

Volunteer Test Proctors Needed!

As we head into testing season at SMS, please check your calendar and sign up to help proctor one or more testing dates! Volunteers are needed from **7:45—10:15am** on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 5

Friday, May 4

Thursday, May 3

Monday, May 7

Click [here](#) to sign up online or email Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Thank you in advance for your gift of time!



Sebastian Middle School is making excellent progress toward certification as a Florida STEM School! Working with a team of faculty from the UF Lastinger Center for Learning, SMS has a detailed plan in place to achieve 4 distinct benchmarks required for state certification:

- 1) Focus on a school-wide STEM Mission
- 2) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment that support the STEM education mission and vision
- 3) Teacher Selection, Development, and Retention to ensure teacher competence in the STEM mission
- 4) Strategic Alliances that involve key business, industry, and community partners to support the STEM mission and vision

At SMS, we also believe that the ARTS (music and visual arts) are fundamental to a quality education; hence the incorporation of the A into STEM, which gives us STEAM!



This philosophy was on display during the STEAM Family Night on January 30, where students and their families had the opportunity to learn about the science, history, math and yes, art, of Shibori, a Japanese technique of dying with indigo.

STEAM Career Fair Needs YOUR Expertise!

If your current or previous career was in a STEAM-related field, we invite you to share your experiences with our students! On **Wednesday, February 21, from 8:00—11:30am**, SMS students will have the opportunity to learn more about STEAM College and Career pathways. Our goal is to have our multipurpose room full of adults who are ready and willing to share about their field, as well as how they got there. Please contact Jessica Brown at Jessica.brown@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you can join us!



New Faculty Spotlight: Emily DeMerchant!

After interning at SMS in the fall of 2016, Ms. DeMerchant joined our faculty last August to teach 6th and 7th grade math. She graduated from Flagler College in December 2016 with a BA degree in elementary education and deaf education. She taught 5th grade math in Duval County until June 2017, but wanted to work at SMS because “I had a wonderful experience as an intern in the fall of last year working with Ms. Harvey. I was able to learn a lot from her and other teachers who were willing to help and support me during my internship.” Ms. DeMerchant grew up in Rhode Island and enjoys “camping” (in a camper!) in her free time.

“Queen Bees and Wannabes” Book Discussion Group for SMS Parents

Whether you have a son or a daughter at SMS, you might find yourself needing help at some point navigating the “Girl World” of texting, gossip, rumors and more! All interested parents are invited to join Angela Fusco, SMS Guidance Counselor and licensed Mental Health Counselor at Therapeutic Butterfly Effects, in an open book discussion group of Queenbees and Wannabes by Rosalind Wiseman. Meetings are held every other Monday at 4:00pm; **the next group will be meeting on Monday, February 12 at 4:00pm with a discussion of Chapter 1.** You can purchase the book on Amazon.com or your local bookstore, or borrow a book from us! Questions? Contact Ms. Fusco at angela.fusco@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



Attention 8th Grade Families SAVE THE DATES!

- 8th Grade Dance—April 27, 7:00pm
- GradVenture—May 11, 2:30pm
- 8th Grade Graduation—May 22, 5:30pm



Sports & Activities Calendar 2018

- ◆ Feb 6—Basketball vs. Swiss Point @ SMS, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 6—Spirit Night at Zaxby’s, 5:00—8:00pm
- ◆ Feb 6—Student Council Interest Meeting
- ◆ Feb 12—7th Grade Civics Field Trip to Tallahassee—5:30am—8:30pm
- ◆ Feb 12—Queen Bees and Wannabes Parent Book Club, 4:00pm

- ◆ Feb 13—Basketball vs. Landrum @ SMS, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 15—Basketball @ Liberty Pines, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 20—Basketball vs. Murray @ SMS, 5:30/6:30pm (8th Grade Night)
- ◆ Feb 21—STEAM Career Fair, 8:00—11:30am
- ◆ Feb 22—Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30am
- ◆ Feb 26—Queen Bees and Wannabes Parent Book Club, 4:00pm
- ◆ Feb 27—SAC Meeting 5:15pm; PTO Meeting 6:00pm

SMS Students Enter the Dali Museum's Student Surrealist Art Competition

Artistic works by 12 SMS students will be selected by Ms. Hagy and Ms. Colakaglu for entrance into this year's Dali Museum student art contest. Guided by the theme "The Marvelous, the Fantastic, and the Grotesque," students are being invited to explore ideas and visions similar to those held by Salvador Dali and the surrealists, who found early 20th century art stale and uninspiring. Instead of traditional landscapes, portraits and still life compositions, the surrealists sought to create a new standard of beauty that challenged reality, sometimes in a fantastical or grotesque way.

The Dali Museum will select a total of 100 student works for a special exhibit that will run through August. The deadline for submissions is March 23, and winning student entries will be notified by April 9. Good luck to our creative Eagles!

SMS Eaglettes to Perform in Jacksonville

Our SMS Eaglettes Dance Team will perform at the ABA Jacksonville Giants Basketball game on Saturday, February 17! The Jacksonville Giants are back to back ABA National Champions and are very exciting to watch. The game will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Arena in Jacksonville at 7pm. Tickets are on sale for \$20 from the Eaglettes dancers or Coach Esguerra. There will be contests for prizes and loads of entertainment at the event! Come out and see your Eaglettes Dance Team!



BOX TOPS are due **February 14!** Turn into the front office and note your student's homeroom teacher on the envelope. Home-room with most Box Tops wins a party!



Reward Reminders!



Just a reminder that there is still time left in the year for students to read SSYRA books and qualify for great programs and prizes!

2 Books = Charms and Cookie

3 Books=SSYRA Voting Party with snacks, prizes and fun!

6 Books=3D Printer Prize and Invite to the *Amazing Sebastian Lock-in* (Note: Lock-In will be held near the end of the school year!)

10 books=Battle of the Books T-Shirt and Invite to Battle of the Books Party; **Deadline February 22!**

13 books=Lego Surprise!

15 books=Librarian for a day AND entry into a drawing for a new bike!

Sequels count toward number of books read, so check out the SSYRA book list [here](#) and get to reading!

Be Heard at SMS!



All students interested in becoming a leader for the student body should plan to stay for an informational meeting on Tuesday, 2/6 from 2:00—3:00pm in Ms. Allen's room. Student Council membership is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with a passion for helping others and influencing their community. Our mission is to positively influence culture at Sebastian through club activities, community projects, school reform, and social events.

FEBRUARY ESE PARENT ADVISORY

SJCSD Exceptional Student Education Welcomes LISA D. BAILEY, PH.D.

Topic: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Date/Time: 2/6/18 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Fullerwood Training Center, 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084

GOAL: To provide parents of ESE, Gifted, and 504 students with information to increase their understanding of ADHD and manage related symptoms.

Calling All Photos for the SMS Yearbook!

If you or your student have any photos from an SMS event, please upload them to our yearbook website! Photos must be high resolution and uploaded to: <http://community.pictavo.com/>. You will need to create an account with your email to add photos. Parents of 8th Graders should submit baby photos of your 8th grader using the link above. Be sure to name the file with your student's first and last name. **Deadline for baby photos is February 14!** Finally, if you haven't yet pre-ordered your yearbook, do it now! Extra copies will not be available at the end of the year. Yearbooks are \$30.00; order online www.leonards.com/yearbooks using SMS code: C420764. You can also mail a check or cash to Leonard's: PO Box 1928, St. Augustine, FL 32095.