

Vol. 10  
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# 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 attended the Wizards Game last week. It is a powerful event designed to engage with all of our elementary feeder schools and I'm so appreciative of the support from the community. Our PTO works incredibly hard to set the event up and I feel it was a tremendous success. We will vision a different event next year but with the same community connectivity as our goal.

Semester grades were released just last week and I encourage you to check through Home Access Center (HAC) for updates. I also think it is important to ask your son/daughter for updates on their writing. We've spent a good deal of time on the writing process this year and I'm encouraged with the progress and the depth of the approach from our students and teachers. Writing is a powerful way to see how well a student is progressing and you should know as a parent where they stand to date.

Finally, our Basketball teams have just started their season and their pre-season hard work is paying off. I'm encouraged with their teamwork and their strong work ethic, and I invite all students and parents to join us for a home game at SMS sometime this season. Similarly, two of our Robotics teams have qualified for the Regional Tournament and those students, parents and coaches deserve much praise.

Our next school-wide event is our STEAM Family Night scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for the fun.

Thank you as always for your support.

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:

**January 22—26**  
*Literacy Week at SMS*

**January 29**  
*Teacher In-service Day/Student Holiday*  
*Queen Bees & Wannabes Parent Book*  
*Club—4:00pm*

**January 30—Feb 1**  
*Softball Tryouts at SMS*

**January 30**  
*SAC Meeting—2:15pm*

**January 30**  
*STEAM Family Fun Night—5:30-7:00pm*

**February 3**  
*SJC Character Counts! 6K/3K Run/Walk—*  
*9:00am, Palencia Elementary School*

**February 6**  
*Zaxby's Spirit Night—5:00—8:00pm*

### Helpful Reminders from the Front Office

Students being dropped off at SMS in the mornings between 7:25—7:45am or picked up in the afternoons between 2:00—2:20pm (1:00-1:20pm on Wednesdays) should be dropped off or picked up using the loop in front of the school. **Please do not park in the school's front parking lot** and have your child meet you there, as crossing a busy parking lot is not safe for our students.

Thank you so much for your help!



## SMS Reads!

### Literacy Week: January 22-26

The Media Center and our ELA Department are encouraging all students to celebrate Literacy Week by offering a fun theme each day for this week:

**Monday** - Dress Up as your favorite book Character

**Tuesday** - Knock your socks off with a good book! Put on crazy, wacky socks

**Wednesday** - Let your Spirits Soar for a good book. Don your favorite spirit wear

**Thursday** - Reading Counts! Wear a shirt with words and/or numbers

**Friday** - Celebrate Homonym Awareness Day! Two people dress as TWINS

### SSYRA Author Visits SMS



On January 17, sixty students, including Ms. Romano's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Gifted Elective, met with Taryn Souders to Kick off Literacy Week at SMS. Souders is the author of the Sunshine

State Young Readers Award-winning Book, "How to Almost Ruin Your Summer." The Creative Eagles Writing Group also met with Ms. Souders during Eagle Hour to discuss the in's and out's of writing and publishing with the author.

### Book Discussion Group for SMS Parents

Calling all parents who need help navigating the girl world of texting, gossip, rumors and more! Join Angela Fusco, School Counselor and Mental Health Counselor Intern at Therapeutic Butterfly Effects, in her book discussion group of Queenbees and Wannabes by Rosalind Wiseman. Meetings will be held every other Monday at 4:00pm beginning January 29<sup>th</sup> at Sebastian Middle School. All interested parents and guardians please email: [angela.fusco@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:angela.fusco@stjohns.k12.fl.us). The first meeting, we will be reading the Introduction and Chapter 1. You can purchase the book on Amazon.com or your local bookstore, or borrow a book from us!

## Full STEAM Ahead at SMS

### STEAM Family Fun Night: January 30, 5:30-7:00pm

Students and their families are invited to join us next Tuesday for an evening of hands-on STEAM fun! Following a brief presentation/update on the STEAM program at SMS in the auditorium at 5:30, families will have the opportunity to participate in a Tie-Dye activity, which will include concepts from Social Studies, Math, Science, Language Arts and of course, Art. STEAM at SMS is not simply an elective course, but a cross-disciplinary approach to learning at SMS. Please join us next Tuesday evening to see STEAM in action!

### Lego Robotics Teams Advance to Regional Tournament on February 3

The SMS Bodacious Sango-Tumelos team and the SMS No Mercy team both won awards (for Robot Design and Core Values, respectively) in the First Lego League Qualifier Competition on January 4, and will advance to the Regional Tournament at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on Saturday, February 3. These students and their coaches (Ms. Brown and Ms. Harvey) have worked so hard preparing for this competition. Congratulations and good luck!!

## News from the Science Lab

Mrs. Watson's 6th grade class recently went on an exploration of the school courtyard grounds to find evidence of weathering and erosion to reinforce our Big Idea #6 in science that humans continue to explore the composition and structure of the surface of the Earth. We are currently learning the importance of empirical evidence and recording our discoveries in student journals.



Spirit Night at Zaxby's!  
Tuesday, February 6, 5:00—8:00pm  
1107 N. Ponce de Leon Boulevard



## Sports & Activities Calendar 2018

- ◆ Jan 22-26—Literacy Week at SMS
- ◆ Jan 23—Basketball vs. Patriot Oaks @ SMS, 5:30pm Girls; 6:30pm Boys
- ◆ Jan 25—Basketball vs. Gamble Rogers @ SMS, 5:30pm Girls; 6:30pm Boys
- ◆ Jan 29—Queen Bees & Wannabe's Book Club, 4:00pm
- ◆ Jan 30—SAC Meeting, 2:15pm

- ◆ Jan 30—STEAM Family Night, 5:30-7:00pm
- ◆ Jan 30—Basketball @ Fruit Cove, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 1—Basketball @ Valley Ridge, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 3—SJC Character Counts! 6K/3K Run/Walk, 9:00am@Palencia Elementary School
- ◆ Feb 6—Basketball vs. Swiss Point @ SMS, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 13—Basketball vs. Landrum @ SMS, 5:30/6:30pm
- ◆ Feb 15—Basketball @ Liberty Pines, 5:30/6:30pm

## Harlem Wizards vs. St. Augustine Strongs



On January 18, the Harlem Wizards took on our home team of teachers and staff from SMS, Ketterlinus, R.B.

Hunt and Crookshank in a fun-filled game of trick hoops and alley-oops! Thanks to everyone who came out to the event that night, and a special thanks to our Sponsors for their generous support: **Coastal Foot & Ankle Wellness Center, Diane's Natural Market, Villa Victor Hotel, Tijuana Flats Restaurant, and The Ryan Agency, Brightway Insurance.**



The PTO would also like to give a shout-out to our Strong Squad Cheerleaders for their enthusiasm! Go Team!!

## Eagle Softball Tryouts

Attention all SMS girls! Registration is now open at [www.sjmsaa.com](http://www.sjmsaa.com) for Softball. Tryouts will be held after school on Tuesday 1/30 until 3:30pm, Wednesday 1/31 until 3:00pm, and Thursday 2/1 until 3:30pm. Scholarships are available to help with the cost of registration. Please contact Coach Lightsey for more information.

## SMS Art will Doodle 4 Google

SMS art students will be competing in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Doodle4Google contest, using this year's theme "What inspires me" and expressing that inspiration through a creative, uplifting doodle. Any medium is acceptable: from crayons to wood to Legos to wooden Lego crayons (why not?!). The contest runs from January 8th – March 2nd (that's only 8 weeks)!

Five finalists will be flown to Google's Mountain View headquarters, and one winning student will receive:

- ◆ A \$30,000 college scholarship
- ◆ A \$50,000 Google for Education technology package for their school
- ◆ A behind the scenes experience with the Google Doodle team to transform their doodle into an interactive experience that will launch by the end of 2018

Check out [doodle4google.com](http://doodle4google.com) for more details or follow us on social media (#doodle4google) for exciting updates along the way. Let the doodling commence!

## Attention 8th Grade Families

High School is just around the corner! St. Johns County offers specialized academies at all high schools. To explore your options, plan to attend School Academy Nights at 6:00pm as follows:

Jan. 22: Bartram Trail    Feb. 01: Pedro Menendez  
Jan. 23: St. Johns Tech    Feb. 05: Creekside  
Jan. 23: St. Augustine    Feb. 06 : Ponte Vedra  
Jan. 30: Nease

Students may apply to a High School Academy between 1/18 and 2/8 (5:00pm deadline) through the student's HAC account. Auditions for those applying to the SJC Center for the Arts at St. Augustine High will be Monday, January 29. Visit [www.sjcca.org](http://www.sjcca.org) for more info.



## SAVE THE DATES!

8th Grade Dance—April 27

GradVenture—May 11

8th Grade Graduation—May 22

## Eagle Soccer Soars!

Our Sebastian Boys Soccer Team had a great season finishing in the top half of the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association (SJMSAA) standings. Although they were



knocked out in the first round during the End of Season Tournament, they finished strong, beating Patriot Oaks by 2 - 1 in the last minute of their

final game. With ten 8th graders moving on to high-school next year, there will be plenty of room for new talent in the coming year!

## Character Counts Spotlight!



Sixth grade SMS student Emma Winckler spent a day of her holiday break at the Ronald McDonald House in Orlando preparing a meal for families staying there. As Emma reports, "This experience shows you to be

thankful for the little things in life such as walking or even breathing without an oxygen tube." We are proud of you Emma for being so caring!