

Vol. 12
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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:

Working to ensure that we maintain the safety and security of our students is our number one priority here at Sebastian. It has been an emotional week as our students try to process the shooting in South Florida. Our guidance department in conjunction with our district have met with student groups and will continue to do so as necessary. As Principal, I am carefully reviewing all safety features here at Sebastian to ensure that our school is secure. We have just completed an update to our camera system designed to simultaneously view all access points. All exterior doors remain locked during the school day and we are in the process of moving from keyed entry to a card access system. We have a full-time police officer on our campus who monitors our cameras and actively patrols the perimeter daily. As we move forward, I will continue to work with our district on ways to improve as we conduct drills and learn from law enforcement. As always, I stress the importance of community involvement and I value your input and communication. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

We hosted STEAM Career Day yesterday for our students and the feedback has been positive. Our students were prepared with excellent questions and it was so rewarding to see that many of the presenters were also SMS parents. Building these solid school-to-home connections is vitally important to the culture here at Sebastian, and I greatly appreciate all the parents and other professional presenters who spent their morning with us here yesterday.

Finally, I want to congratulate both our Girls and Boys basketball programs. The regular season ended this week, and I've been so impressed with the level of dedication and sportsmanship. Both programs finished with winning records and the support from the community has also been incredible. Our Girls team continues to the playoffs this weekend and we wish them the best.

Thanks 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:

February 24

Girls Basketball District Tournament: SMS vs. Landrum, 8:00am at Fruit Cove Middle School; Winner will play in Championship Game at 1:00pm

February 26

Parent Book Club "Queen Bees and Wannabes": 1:00—2:00pm (Note New Time!)

February 27

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

March 6

FSA Writing Exams: 7:45—10:15am

March 7

Growth Mindset Book Study: 5:00—6:00pm, Growers Alliance Café

March 8

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night: 5:30—7:30pm

March 16

Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday

March 23

Spring Fling: 12:30—2:00pm

March 26-30

Spring Break—Student/Teacher Holiday

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 6

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!

STEAM Sebastian

A collaborative team of faculty from across our core and elective disciplines hosted Sebastian's first STEAM Career Day on February 21, from 8-11am. Students were introduced to over 20 careers that relate to STEAM. Our goal was to instill an appreciation for the many different pathways available to the variety careers offered in STEAM-related fields of work.



Peter Kenney, SMS Parent and Owner/Chef at Purple Olive, explains the art and science of cooking and provides sample to hungry students.

NASCAR Driver and SMS Parent Tim Pugh shares the excitement of driving and the technology behind a high performance vehicle.



Many thanks to the following professionals and organizations for spending their morning inspiring our students!

Pete Arnold—AIA Solar Contracting
 Olivier Berdoyes—Non-Destructive Aquatic Testing Officer
 Dee Brown—St. Augustine Police Department
 Aubrey Cannata—Behavioral Health Specialist
 Julie Dickover—Crisp Ellert Art Museum, Flagler College
 Bruce Hallett—Matanzas GeoSciences, Inc.
 Susan Johnson—Quality Assurance, Next Science
 Peter Kenney—Purple Olive Restaurant
 Michael LeGrand—Photographer
 Chuck Meide—Maritime Archaeologist, St. Aug. Lighthouse
 Annie Otto—Ecologist
 Tim Pugh—SLR Racing, NASCAR
 Heath Rauschenberger—Florida Fish & Wildlife
 Jennifer Ray-Hampton—St. Johns County Fire Rescue
 Mark Rusinack—Creative Director, Florida Blue
 Jack Schmidt—Veterinarian, St. Augustine Animal Clinic
 Steve Sipprell—Pilot, Allegiant Airlines
 Cam Thompson—USA Boxing
 Lisa Urban—Leonard's Studios
 Amanda Warford Videll—FBI Jacksonville



New Faculty Spotlight: Leslie Allen!

My name is Leslie Allen and I teach Civics at SMS. I am originally from south-east Georgia and completed my Bachelor's Degree at Georgia Southern University. For the past four years, I lived and worked in Orlando, Florida. I am so excited to continue my life and career here at Sebastian! When I am not at school, I love to travel (especially to island destinations), watch football (Go Pack Go!) and visit my family. I am a lifetime learner, and I am currently teaching myself to play the guitar. My favorite part of being an educator is seeing the light in every child, especially those that don't yet see it themselves, and bringing it out to an even brighter and truer brilliance.

"Queen Bees and Wannabes" Book Discussion Group for SMS Parents

Note New Time: 1:00-2:00pm on Mondays

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 1:00pm; **the next group will be meeting on Monday, February 26 at 1:00pm.** Even if you missed our first two meetings and haven't read the book, you can jump into this group at any time!

Growth Mindset Book Study

Want to help your student embrace new challenges and develop persistence in the face of failure? As part of Sebastian's commitment to learning with a growth mindset, Mr. King is hosting a parent discussion group based on the book "Mindset" by Carol Dweck. Meetings will be held on the **first Wednesday of March—May from 5:00-6:00pm at Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Boulevard.** Mark your calendars for 3/7, 4/4, and 5/2 to join us!



Sports & Activities Calendar 2018

- ◆ Feb 24—Girls Basketball District Playoffs vs. Landrum, 8:00am @ Fruit Cove. Winner plays championship game at 1:00pm.
- ◆ Feb 26—Queen Bees and Wannabes Parent Book Club, 1:00-2:00pm
- ◆ Feb 27—SAC Meeting 5:15pm; PTO Meeting 6:00pm
- ◆ March 6—FSA Writing Exams
- ◆ March 8—Chick-fil-A Spirit night, 5:30-7:30pm
- ◆ March 12—Queen Bees and Wannabes Parent Book Club, 1:00-2:00pm
- ◆ March 12—"Bag It Up" Goodwill Donation Drive
- ◆ March 15—3rd Quarter Ends
- ◆ March 16—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ March 22—Communication Cornerstone, 1:00pm
- ◆ March 23—Spring Fling, 12:30-2:00pm



NEW Club at SMS!

Check out Campus Life for a fun time of hanging out with friends and getting to know some

awesome people who are here for you! Here you will find a high-energy environment filled with games, activities and food. It's more than a club, it's a one of a kind experience that you won't want to miss!

When: Thursday afternoons starting February 15th

What Time: 2:15-3pm

Who: Yourself and friends!

Cost: **FREE!!!**

Questions? See Ms. C. Johnson or Ms. Allen

No judgment. no cliques. no drama. just fun!

"CHOCOLATE AND BEYOND"

A SWEET WAY TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Chocolate and Beyond, an exciting celebration of chocolate, desserts, and other culinary sensations, is coming up Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 2 – 4 p.m. at First Coast Technical College, 2980 Collins Avenue in St. Augustine. Guests will sample chocolate and other delicious creations from some of the area's finest restaurants and specialty shops, while enjoying contests and a silent auction. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the event!

Samples of chocolates, desserts, and savory fare will be available from some of the area's finest culinary artisans. Guests will also cast their vote for the People's Choice Award winner. Great items such as restaurant gift certificates and tickets to fun attractions will be available for bid at the silent auction.

This event is hosted by RSVP of St. Johns County, and proceeds assist the program in recruiting, placing and recognizing volunteers 55 years and older as they mentor and tutor students in the St. Johns County School District, and as they assist in pre-school reading in the Head Start program and local child care centers. Last year over 600 students received assistance from volunteers.

Tickets for Chocolate and Beyond are \$20 per person (\$10 for children under 12), and can be purchased online (www.rsvpstjohns.com) or at Whetstone Chocolates (139 King Street, St. Augustine, FL, 32084, and 13 Anastasia Blvd, St. Augustine, FL, 32080). Tickets will also be available at the door.

Deadline for 8th Grade Baby Photos Extended to 2/23!

Parents of 8th Graders should submit baby photos using this link: <http://community.pictavo.com/>. You will need to create an account with your email to add photos. Be sure to name the file with your student's first and last name. Also, 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.

SUMMER MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAM

Applications for the SJCS Summer Marine Science Program are due back to science teachers by February 28th. Applications can still be downloaded at any time from the website prior to April 15th at <http://www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/> and click on the Marine Science link. The link also will have a complete day by day curriculum for each grade level, parent information, and a video from last year's program.

This summer program is available to all students currently in grades five through seven and has been sponsored by the school district since 1982. Three eight day sessions are held at Gamble Rogers Middle School with bus transportation provided. The dates for the three sessions this summer will be May 29th through June 7th, June 11th through June 21st, and June 25th through July 6th. Small classes of 12-14 students are separated by grade level. All instructors in the program are St. Johns County School District teachers.

The Marine Science Program is a carefully designed experience for responsible students who are interested in learning about our local marine environments. Learning is "hands on" in the field with students kayaking, canoeing, boating, hiking, snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing, surfing, SUP, (stand up paddleboarding), etc. Specific grade level activities and curriculum are attached to the applications and are also available from the website. More information about the program can be had by emailing marinescience@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

MARCH
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ATLAS
PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS MEDICINE, INC.

FIRST ANNUAL FREE BASEBALL CAMP FOR KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Greenland Park

11808 Foyal Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32258

9am-12pm

Join Eric Hurley Baseball, Family Integrity Program, Atlas Physical Therapy and the surrounding baseball community for a morning of baseball fun as we celebrate kids in our community. Camp will include fundamentals of baseball instruction for children ages 8-17. There will also be activities for younger siblings. No baseball experience necessary. EHB will provide a snack and drink for all campers and siblings.

RSVP:

ERICHURLEYBASEBALL@YAHOO.COM