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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:

I want to thank all of you who attended the parent sessions we ran over the last two weeks on the topic of "Communicating with your Student" led by Guidance Counselor Angela Fusco. The discussion provided insight into how our students receive our feedback and some of the impacts associated with social media. We will continue to provide sessions for both students and parents here and encourage you to attend whenever possible.

As we get ready for the testing season, I'm confident that we have prepared our students well. FSA Writing begins this week and we have placed an enormous emphasis on writing here at Sebastian to ensure improvement from last year. We are also hoping to see a strong correlation between the writing and our literacy scores. It is an exciting time of year.

Finally, our Growth Mindset training continues this week in the community. We will meet at Growers Alliance Café located at 322 Anastasia Boulevard on Wednesday at 5:00pm and hope to see you there.

As always, thank you 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:

March 6

FSA Writing Exams: 7:45—10:15am

March 7

Growth Mindset Discussion Group: 5:00—6:00pm, Growers Alliance Café

March 8

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night: 5:30—7:30pm

March 12

"Queen Bees & Wannabes" Book Discussion Group: 1:00—2:00pm

March 13

SMS Guitar & String Orchestra Performance at SJCSO School Board meeting: 11:30am

March 14

Pi Day! Celebrate 3.14!

March 16

Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday

March 22

Communication Cornerstone: 1:00—2:00pm

March 23

Goodwill Donation Drive: 7:30—8:30am

March 23

Spring Fling: 12:30—2:00pm

State-wide Testing Season is Here!

Please check the testing calendar on page 3 of this newsletter for dates that your student will be taking exams. On testing days, exams will be administered promptly at 8:00 a.m. Parents should ensure that your students arrive to school on testing days on time, well-rested, and having eaten a nutritious breakfast. Remember, proteins like nuts, eggs, and even bacon are brain food! Thank you for your help!

Spring Testing Calendar

3/6	FSA Writing Exams	All grades
3/8-9	FSA Writing Make-Ups	
4/16-17	FSA ELA	6th grade
4/19-20	FSA ELA	7th grade
4/23-24	FSA ELA	8th grade
4/26-27	FSA Math	6th grade
4/30-5/1	FSA Math	7th grade
5/3	NGSSS Science	8th grade
5/3-4	Biology EOC	8th grade
5/7-8	FSA Math	8th grade
5/7-8	Algebra/Geometry EOC	7th/8th
5/9	FSA/EOC Make-Ups	All grades
5/10	Civics EOC	7th grade
5/11, 14-15	FSA/EOC Make-Ups	All grades
5/16	Period 1 Final Exam	All grades
5/17	Periods 2/3 Final Exams	All grades
5/18	Periods 4/5 Final Exams	All grades
5/21	Periods 6/7 Final Exams	All grades
5/22-24	Final Exam Make-Ups	All grades

Note: 7th and 8th grade students taking Algebra/Geometry EOC exams do NOT take FSA Math.

Volunteer test proctors are needed for many of these exam dates, especially May 3, 7, and 8, from 7:45—10:15am. Click [here](#) to sign up online or email Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Thank you for your gift of time!

PI (3.14) Day is 3/14!

Parents are invited to help SMS students celebrate Pi Day on Wednesday 3/14 by donating pre-packaged pies (ingredients must be listed) that we can bake and serve to students during lunch. Students will pre-purchase slices of pie with Live School points. Please drop pies off in the front office by 8:00 a.m. on 3/14! Thank you!

Spirit Night to Benefit SMS!

Thursday, March 8, 5:30—7:30pm
Eat-In or Drive-Thru!



SMS Girls Basketball

Congratulations to our Girls Basketball team for their 8-1 winning season this year! SMS was one of 4 schools to play in the District Tournament on 2/24, where they played hard and lost a nail-biter in overtime by only 2 points. Many

thanks to coaches Steve Conroy and Matt Robinson for their passion for the sport and dedication to SMS!

Tropicana Speech Contest Winners



Congratulations to 6th graders Mia Snyder, Addison Born and Abbie Nickel (pictured left to right) who placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in our SMS Tropicana Speech Contest held last week in

Ms. Romano and Ms. Arnold's Gifted Elective class. Mia will represent SMS in the county-wide competition in April. Good luck Mia!



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Beginning Tuesday, March 6, the SMS Student Council will meet on the **first Tuesday of each month from 2:00-3:00pm** in Ms. Allen's room, E430.

Students interested in taking on a leadership role within the SMS student body should see Ms. Allen to sign up prior to attending the meeting. New members are welcome to join the SMS Student Council at any time.

4th Quarter Eagle Hour Clubs

Begins Wednesday 3/7 and runs through May 2! Ask your student which club they are signing up for!

NEW this Quarter!

Algebra EOC Prep
Bingo
ELA Grade Recovery
Geometry EOC Prep
High Intensity Interval Training
Science Chef
SMS Kindness Rocks
Social Skills and Coping Skills
Softball

Drum Line
Exploration Station
Film Study
Flag Football
Gamestar Mechanic and App Creation
Internet Cafe
Kickball
Knitting/Sewing Club
Makerspace
Painting: A Brush with Nature
Photography

Back by Popular Demand

Basketball
Battle of the Books
Board Games
Brain Games
Builder's Club
Card Games/Card Tricks
Creative Eagles
Credit Recovery

Robotics
Screen Printing
Salsa Dancing
Stock Market 101
String Orchestra
Study Hall
Weightlifting - Advanced
Yoga

News from the Media Center

SSYRA Author to visit SMS on 3/23

Christina Diaz Gonzalez, author of the Sunshine State Young Readers Award-winning book, *Moving Target*, will visit SMS the morning of Friday, March 23 to talk with students about her writing process. She will also visit our Spanish 1 class to discuss her novel *Red Umbrella* which delves into the history and culture of Cuba.

SMS Battle of the Books Team

Congratulations to Ellie Johnson (captain), Christian McGlothren, Hyde Kenney, Megan Lay and Mia Snyder for earning a spot on the final Sebastian Battle of the Books Competing Team. The team members each excelled on a test of quotes from the fifteen SSYRA books this year. Each team member read 10 or more of the books individually. They will represent SMS in the district competition on March 23. Good luck Eagles!



New Faculty Spotlight: Toni Alfiero!

Toni Alfiero joined the SMS faculty in August 2017 as our Media Specialist. She is from Connecticut and moved to Saint Augustine to attend Flagler College where she majored in English and minored in Creative Writing and Psychology. She went on to get her Masters in Creative Writing with a focus in poetry from Ashland University in Ohio. Mrs. Alfiero reads daily and serves on the SSYRA committee for the state. When not at school, she spends time hiking nature trails, experimenting in photography, and spending time with family.

Growth Mindset Parent Discussion Group

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!



History Fair Winner

Addison Smith, a 7th grade student in Ms. Lydigsen's class, won 2nd place in the Jr. Individual Exhibit category at the District History Fair for her project *The Space Race*. She will move on to compete at the Florida History

Day competition in Tallahassee from May 6-8. Good luck Addi—we are proud of you!

WEB Applications Due March 23

The WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Program at SMS is accepting applications from current 7th graders through March 23. Applications are available from guidance and the front office. The WEB Program is a leadership/mentoring program pairing 8th grade students with 6th graders as mentors for the school year.

Goodwill Donation Drive—Friday, March 23

Start your spring cleaning and help SMS raise \$1,000 and get a new computer! Students should bring in gently used items (clothes, shoes, books, toys, and household items—no food please) and turn into their homeroom teacher by 3/23. SMS needs 60% of students to participate; every student who donates is entered to win a Family 4 Pack to Disney World amongst other amazing prizes!! There will also be a contest amongst homerooms for 100% participation: 1st place wins a pizza party, 2nd place wins an ice cream social, and 3rd place wins a doughnut party! All students need to bring in just 1 item to participate!



Sports & Activities Calendar 2018

- ◆ March 6—FSA Writing Exams
- ◆ March 8—Tennis vs. Pacetti Bay @ Marsh Creek Country Club, 4:00pm
- ◆ 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 13—String Orchestra & Guitar Performance at SJCS School Board meeting, 11:30am
- ◆ March 14—Pi Day at SMS!
- ◆ March 15—3rd Quarter Ends
- ◆ March 15—Tennis vs. Gamble Rogers @ Treaty Park, 5:00pm
- ◆ March 16—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ March 20—SAC Meeting, 2:15pm
- ◆ March 22—Communication Cornerstone, 1:00pm
- ◆ March 22—Tennis vs. Pacetti Bay @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ March 23—"Bag It Up" Goodwill Donation Drive
- ◆ March 23—Spring Fling, 12:30-2:00pm
- ◆ March 26-30—Spring Break for Teachers/Students
- ◆ April 5—Tennis vs. Murray @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ April 12—Tennis vs. CPS @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ April 19—Tennis vs. Pacetti Bay @ Palencia, 4:00pm
- ◆ April 26—Tennis vs. Murray @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ May 10—SJMSAA Tennis Championships, time and location TBD