

Vol. 14
3.20.18

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 want to wish all a safe and peaceful Spring Break. It's an important family time and provides all with a time to recharge before we launch into our testing season. Our students and teachers have worked hard and I see the examinations as just a way for them to reflect their progress. It is important to note that our vision this year is for every student to make progress, which also needs to be communicated from you as parents. This will help students concentrate for longer periods of time during exams.

We will release our School Advisory Council (SAC) Needs Assessment Surveys in early April. Please take the time to complete and seek input from your son or daughter. We are still developing our culture here but parent involvement is a key indicator of our success. With this in mind, please take the time to attend any of our SAC meetings or our Communication Cornerstone sessions. These meetings are venues to both share information and also seek input from you as stakeholders in our school.

We are also still in need of mentors or guest speakers as we move forward. We have worked hard to bring speakers to our STEAM Lab but would like to expand on this vision. If you have ideas on speakers with a motivational and inspirational message, please let us know.

Congratulations to Mrs. Heather Dempsey who represents SMS as our Employee of the Year. Heather's knowledge of books and her capacity to connect with our students through Reading is incredible and we are so proud of her work. I also want to congratulate Mia Synder on winning our Tropicana Speech Competition. She will represent SMS at the District level in April. She is a wonderful example of a creative mind.

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 22

Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting:
1:00—2:00pm, Topic: School Safety and
Science Strategies at SMS

March 20-23

Goodwill Donation Drive, deadline Fri 8:30am

March 23

Spring Fling: 12:30—2:00pm

March 26-30

Spring Break

April 2

Classes Resume

April 4

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

April 10

Spirit Night at Sonny's BBQ, 5:00—8:00pm

April 12

SMS Theater Club Showcase, 6:00pm

Spring Fling is Friday 3/23!

All-You-Can-Play Wristbands (which includes 3 food tickets!) are on sale for \$10 each through Wednesday 3/21. Turn cash or checks payable to SMS into your homeroom teacher. VIP Wristbands cost \$20 and allow early admission to Spring Fling at 11:40am; only 150 are available and must be purchased directly from Ms. Chassity Johnson. Individual tickets will cost 25 cents each and will be available for purchase at the Spring Fling on Friday.

Parent Volunteers are needed from 11:00am—2:00pm to help with Spring Fling! Please email Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you are available to join us for the fun!

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. Students are welcome to bring copies of her books to school to be signed by the author during her visit!



Pi Day Fun at SMS!

Mr. Hayes was one of 5 brave teachers who were voted by students to take a pie in the face to celebrate Pi Day on 3/14 at SMS. Ms. Brown, Ms. Cullar, Ms. Ducote and Ms. DeMerchant also got "pied" by Mr. King.

Students also had the opportunity to purchase slices of pie using LiveSchool points to enjoy during lunch on Pi Day. Our grateful thanks to The Village Inn for their generous donation of 15 delicious pies to help us celebrate Pi Day at SMS!

News From Coach Lightsey

Fun things are happening in PE! We just finished up a modified team handball game unit, which the students really enjoyed. It was great to see them working as a team with great sportsmanship. As we enter the 4th Quarter, we will use review type games to prepare our students for their Final PE Exam.

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.



Sports & Activities Calendar 2018

- ◆ March 20—Baseball vs. Landrum @ Cornerstone Field, 3:45pm
- ◆ March 20—Softball vs. Fruit Cove @ Treaty Park, 3:45pm
- ◆ March 22—Communication Cornerstone, 1:00pm
- ◆ March 22—Tennis vs. Pacetti Bay @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ March 22—Baseball vs. Fruit Cove @ Mills Field, 1805 Racetrack Road, 3:45pm
- ◆ March 22—Softball vs. Murray @ Treaty Park, 3:45pm
- ◆ March 23—"Bag It Up" Goodwill Donation Drive Ends, 8:30am
- ◆ March 23—Spring Fling, 12:30-2:00pm
- ◆ March 26-30—Spring Break for Teachers/Students
- ◆ April 2—Softball vs. Pacetti Bay @ Treaty, 3:45pm
- ◆ April 3—Baseball vs. Swiss Point @ Kehoe Field, 777 Greenbriar Rd, Fruit Cove, 3:45pm
- ◆ April 5—Softball vs. Swiss Point @ Treaty, 3:45pm
- ◆ April 5—Baseball vs. Patriot Oaks @ Mills, 3:45pm
- ◆ April 5—Tennis vs. Murray @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ April 9—Softball vs. Gamble Rogers @ Treaty, 3:45pm
- ◆ April 10—Baseball vs. Liberty Pines @ Waler Field, 1300 Duval Street, St. Augustine, 3:45pm
- ◆ April 12—Tennis vs. CPS @ Marsh Creek, 4:00pm
- ◆ April 12—Baseball vs. Gamble Rogers @ Waler Field, 3:45pm



New Faculty Spotlight:

Lauren Link, Math Teacher

I grew up in New York where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Math Education and Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. However, I just moved to the NE Florida area about a year ago when I came from San Diego, CA. In San Diego, I taught high school math for a year and enjoyed the perfect weather! I have been an athlete all of my life and played college field hockey. I enjoy the outdoors and traveling as much as I can. I am so happy to have become a part of the SMS family, as I feel like this school has such a great culture and is full of hard working individuals who want to make a difference!

Important Reminder from the Front Office!

Attention parents! Following a student's absence from school, please send excuse notes directly to Ms. Willey in the Front Office and make sure your student's first and last name is on the note. Also, after a total of 15 absences (excused or unexcused), a Doctor's Note is required for any additional absence. Thank you!

Goodwill Donation Drive Ends Friday, 3/23

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 and 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!

Spring Testing Calendar

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!

APRIL ESE PARENT ADVISORY

SJCSD Exceptional Student Education Welcomes
EDWARD C. TAYLOR, PH.D.

Child and Adolescent Psychologist and International
Dyslexia Association Board of Directors 2011-2017

**Topic: RAISING STRUGGLING LEARNERS TO BE
SUCCESSFUL, DURABLE, AND RESILIENT**

Date/Time: 4/3/18 from 6:00 – 7:30pm

Location: Fullerwood Training Center, 10 Hildreth Drive

ESE Field Trip to Anastasia State Park



Mr. Barber and his students got out of the classroom and into nature last week at our local Anastasia State Park. They explored what is unique about our region—like coquina rock—and enjoyed the beautiful weather!

Empowering Eagles Program

In partnership with Hugs Across the County, SMS is excited to announce this new program that will work with selected female students to “empower” them to make a difference. Students will be notified through guidance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Angela Fusco, Guidance Counselor.

String Orchestra and Guitar Students Perform at SJCSD School Board Meeting



Students from Advanced String Orchestra and Advanced Guitar were invited to perform as special guests at the last St. Johns County School Board meeting on

Tuesday, March 13. The students played beautifully and made us all proud! Way to go!

Semi-Formal Wear Exchange

Sebastian is sponsoring a Semi-Formal Wear Exchange to help students get a gently used outfit for the 8th Grade Dance being held at St. Augustine High School on April 27, from 7-9pm in the SAHS Gymnasium. We are requesting donations of:

Party dresses (not evening gowns)

Shirts, Ties, and Dress Pants

Students can select or exchange a semi-formal outfit of their choice with parent permission; permission forms are available in Guidance. The Formal Wear Exchange will take place on Tuesday, April 10 for dresses and Thursday, April 12 for shirts, ties, and dress pants in the Mirror Room after school. **Please bring your donations of semi-formal wear to SMS by end of day on Friday, April 6.** Thank you for helping to make this event special for all of our 8th graders!

SUMMER MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAM SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

The Summer Marine Science Program has extended the application process, as we still have some open sessions available! Calling all current fifth through seventh graders who love to be outdoors! Applications can still be downloaded at any time from the website 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. Return the completed pre application to your child's science teacher who will turn it into the program. Once accepted, a final application will be mailed home within two weeks. Upon payment deposit and final application returned a confirmation of session letter will be mailed. The dates for the three sessions this summer will be May 29—June 7th, June 11—June 21, and June 25—July 6. Small classes of 12-14 students are separated by grade level. All instructors in the program are St. Johns County School District teachers. For more information, email marinescienceprogram@stjohns.k12.fl.us.