

Vol. 7  
11.13.18

# 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 highlight our partnership with Flagler College that sees several practicum/intern students on our campus on a daily basis. It is rewarding for many reasons, but importantly we can see different ways to help with our vision to implement technology. It also gives us the opportunity to get students working in groups, a skill that will be so profoundly important for them moving forward into high school.

Secondly, from a curriculum viewpoint, we have received approval from our district to move forward with the construction of a greenhouse on our campus. This will give us a pathway for our students to study the idea of sustainability and agri-food. If you feel you can be of assistance in either area, please be sure to connect...as the saying goes, "it takes a village!"

Finally, the state has launched the FortifyFL app. As its name suggests, it is designed to help keep a strong focus on safety and security in our schools. You can access this app on the SMS home page or by clicking [here](#).

Thank you as always for your support. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the holiday season at our many upcoming student events.

Sincerely,

Wayne King, Principal

### Text Reminders from SMS

Are you getting text alert reminders from SMS about parent meetings and events? If not, please click [here](#) to manage your preferences for text alerts in the School Messenger system. Thanks for staying involved at Sebastian Middle School!

Sebastian Middle School  
2955 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, FL  
32084

Phone: 904.547.3840  
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[www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us)



Wayne King, Principal  
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Pam Cooper, Instructional Literacy Coach  
Kelvin Pruitt, Dean of Students

Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8 / 7 M-Z  
Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Grade 6 / 7 A-L

### Important Dates:

#### November 15

Parent Book Study/Discussion Group, 5:30-6:30pm@Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Bl.

#### November 16

2nd Quarter Interim Report Cards Issued in HAC

#### November 21-23

Thanksgiving Break—Teacher/Student Holiday

#### November 27

SAC Meeting, 2:15pm@SMS

MentaLIFE Parent Workshop, 6:00-7:00pm@SMS

#### November 29

Parent Book Study/Discussion Group, 5:30-6:30pm@Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Bl.

#### December 3

SMS Spirit Night@Bojangles, 2095 SR 16, 5:00-9:00pm. Mention SMS at checkout!

#### December 4

Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am@SMS  
Topic: AICE and IB High School Programs

#### December 6

8th Grade Science Fair Night, 5:30-7:00pm

#### December 11

PTO Meeting, 5:45pm@Villa Victor, 42 San Marco  
Band Holiday Concert, 6:00pm@SMS

#### December 13

STEAM Exhibition Night, 5:30-7:00pm

#### December 18

Guitar Holiday Concert, 6:00pm

#### December 20

String Orchestra Holiday Concert, 6:00pm

#### December 24—January 3

Winter Break—Happy Holidays!



## Middle Schoolers...

Staying Ahead of Your Student's Development

Tuesday, November 27, 2018  
6pm-7pm

Sebastian Middle School  
Multi-purpose Room

2955 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, FL



Kelvin Pruitt, Founder & CEO  
Leslie Allen, VP of Operations

MentaLIFE is a growth and development lifestyle that focuses heavily on mental health. Our current goal is to inform and educate parents on the importance of leading their student's growth and development by staying involved and proactive. We will provide insight on assessing students' mental health and ways parents can improve both their own mental health and their student's mental health simultaneously.

## Donations of Gently-Used Items Needed!

Cleaning out closets in preparation for the holidays? SMS will gladly accept your donations of the following new or gently used items:

- PE Department (Attn: Coach Razey) needs men's athletic shoes in all sizes
- ESE Department (Attn: Ms. Bradshaw) needs sensory items for her self-contained classroom. Examples include hand held objects that light up, Leap Readers, legos, smart-tech devices with letters, numbers, etc.

Thank you for your support of our students!!



## New Faculty Spotlight! Ryan Sirak, Testing Coordinator & Math/Science Coach

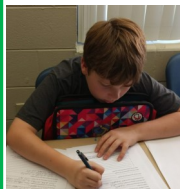
I am from Land O'Lakes, FL, spent 8 years in Tallahassee and then moved to St. Augustine in the summer of 2014. I graduated from FSU with a degree in biology and am currently working towards a masters in educational leadership from the American College of Education. I began my teaching career as an associate professor at FSU for 2 years in the Biology department, before moving to a private school in Tallahassee where I taught 6th-8th grade science. Upon moving to St. Augustine, I taught Biology and middle/high school sciences at St. Johns Technical High School before joining SMS this year. I am married with 3 boys all under the age of 8. I am excited to be an Eagle, as I get to grow in a different aspect of education while still focusing on helping students to learn and achieve. I have already learned so much here and truly appreciate being a part of the SMS family.

## Parent Book Study & Discussion Group

Hosted by Principal Wayne King, parents are invited to participate in the remaining 2 sessions of a Book Study and discussion group on:

**"The Parents We Mean to Be" by R. Weissbourd**  
**Thursdays, November 15 & 29, 5:30—6:30pm**  
**Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Boulevard**

Reading the book is helpful but not mandatory. Join us for one or both of the remaining sessions!



## SMS Student Council Invites Members!

Join students like Tristan Taylor (pictured here) to make your school a better place! Next meeting is Tuesday, 11/27, 2:00—3:00pm in Ms. Allen's room. All are welcome!



## Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Nov 14—Boys Basketball Tryouts, 1:15—3:00pm
- ◆ Nov 14—Cross Country @ Fruit Cove, 4:00pm
- ◆ Nov 15—Parenting Book Study, 5:30pm @ Growers Alliance

- ◆ Nov 16—2nd Quarter Interims Issued in HAC
- ◆ Nov 16—Soccer vs. Swiss Point @ SMS, 4:15pm
- ◆ Nov 21-23—Thanksgiving Break
- ◆ Nov 27—SAC, 2:15 @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 27—Soccer vs. Gamble Rogers @ SMS, 4:15pm
- ◆ Nov 27—MentaLIFE Parent Workshop: "Staying Ahead of Your Student's Development", 6:00-7:00pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 28—Cross Country @ Bartram Trail High, 4:00pm
- ◆ Nov 29—Parent Book Study, 5:30pm @ Growers Alliance
- ◆ Nov 30—Soccer vs. Patriot Oaks @ SMS, 4:15pm
- ◆ Dec 4—Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am

- ◆ Dec 4—Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park, 4:15pm
- ◆ Dec 5—8th Grade Career Day
- ◆ Dec 6—8th Grade Science Fair Night, 5:30-7:00pm
- ◆ Dec 6-19—Final Exams (Single Semester Courses)
- ◆ Dec 11—Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ SMS, 4:15pm
- ◆ Dec 11—PTO Meeting, 5:45pm, Villa Victor, 42 San Marco
- ◆ Dec 11—Band Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 13—STEAM Exhibition Night, 5:30—7:00pm
- ◆ Dec 14—Holiday Faire at the Colonial Quarter, Performance by SMS Guitar and String Orchestra students, 6:30pm, 33 St. George Street
- ◆ Dec 17-21—Mid-Term Exams (Year-long Courses)
- ◆ Dec 18—Guitar Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 20—String Orchestra Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 21—Second Quarter Ends
- ◆ Dec 24-Jan 3—Winter Break

## NJHS Inducts New Members



On November 8, National Jr. Honor Society inducted 17 new students, bringing our SMS chapter membership to 29 total. Congratulations students!

## SMS Socks & Spirit Wear On Sale Now!

Shopping for fun and inexpensive holiday gifts for your students? Shop from the PTO for SMS Spirit Wear including hoodie sweatshirts, zippered long-sleeve jackets, t-shirts, beanies, caps, and new this fall, SMS socks!



Socks are only \$15/pair and are available in Medium (fits ladies 3-8, men 4-9) and Large (fits ladies 9-12, men 10-13). Click [here](#) to download a Spirit Wear order form and pick up your items before the holiday break!



For all the latest news from SMS, be sure to check out WSMS, our student-run television news club. Click [here](#) to visit the WSMS home page and watch the first 2 episodes!



## Take Stock in Children College Scholarship & Mentoring Program

Students in 7th and 8th grade at SMS who meet the following requirements are invited to apply to be part of the TSIC Program:

- Student must have a U.S. social security number
- Family must meet financial eligibility requirements
- Student must have 1st quarter grades of C or higher
- Student must have earned 3 or higher on prior year's FSA/EOC exams

If accepted into the program, students must sign a pledge to remain drug and crime free, maintain a 2.5 or better GPA and meet with a mentor once a week. Applications are available from Ms. Leanne Fortune in the SMS Guidance Department and are **due by Mon, 11/26**.

## The Sebastian Giving Tree

During the holiday season, Sebastian has a tradition of anonymously giving gifts to students whose families are in need. This year, we will provide shoes from Rack Room Shoes, and hoodies, backpacks, and other items that staff, parents, and members of the community donate. We invite families with a hardship to apply by filling out the form below and **returning this application by Tuesday, November 20** to the Front Office. We will select qualified families on a first-come, first-served basis. A letter will be sent to the address on file if your son or daughter has been chosen. The gifts will be available for pick up by parents on Tuesday, December 18.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shoe Size (Please specify Adult or Child) \_\_\_\_\_

Hoodie Size (Please specify Adult or Youth) \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Color \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Sport or Hobby \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Civics Celebrates Veteran's Day with K-9 Officers

Seventh grade Civics students at SMS had a visit last week from 3 Officers, one of whom was also a veteran, about Veteran's Day and students' rights. Students had a chance to hold a bullet-proof vest and pet the police dogs.

## News From the STEAM Room

Seventh grade students held a VEX IQ Robotics competition during school with Northrop Grumman employees as judges. Our Robotics Teams will compete again on 12/15 in Lake Mary. Go Eagles!



Sixth grade students recently presented their projects on solutions for patients with disabilities to graduate students from the Univ. of St. Augustine.