

Vol. 4
10.8.19

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

As our first quarter comes to a close this Friday, I am excited by the engagement and the learning I see happening across our school. From Inquiry Hour to afterschool clubs and sports, students are enthusiastic about their experiences at SMS. Setting expectations for behavior from the very first day of school using our Single School Culture philosophy has resulted in fewer referrals and fewer suspensions during the first quarter. All students want to succeed; our job as teachers and administrators is to give them both the tools and a framework to achieve success. I encourage you to sit down with your student this week to review both their Schoology account for missing assignments, and their HAC account for grades. Any Summative grade less than an 85% may be retaken for a score up to an 85%. Please contact your child's teachers directly with any questions or problems. Teachers are available before and after school by appointment for conferences with parents, and we encourage your involvement in your child's education.

I am exceptionally pleased to announce that this year's Character Counts representative is 8th grader Jane Rolandelli. Jane shines in her role as a WEB leader, quietly displaying the pillars of Character Counts every day, as she is welcoming and sensitive to the needs of others.

I am equally pleased to report that this year's Teacher of the Year is Darren Tagliarini (Guidance Counselor) and Rookie Teacher of the Year is Emily Ludwick (7th Grade ELA). Mr. Tagliarini and Ms. Ludwick both exhibit the kind of energy, creativity, and commitment which enables them to build positive relationships with students and makes them great teachers. We are proud to have them both representing the best of the best at SMS this year!

Sincerely,

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

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Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Matt Hodges, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kevin Hayes, Dean of Students

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

Important Dates

October 11

First Quarter Ends

October 14

Hurricane Make-up Day; School is OPEN

October 15

SAC Meeting/School Improvement Plan Presentation, 2:00pm, MPR

October 16

Tropical Smoothie Spirit Night, 4:00-6:00pm, 112 Seagrove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach

October 18

*Yearbook Picture Make-Up/Re-Take Day
Box Tops Due to SMS!*

October 28—November 1

Red Ribbon Week (Themed Dress Up Days TBA!)

October 29

First Quarter Report Cards posted in HAC

2019-20 School Improvement Plan

All parents, guardians, business partners and other stakeholders in our community are invited to attend a presentation of the 2019-20 SMS School Improvement Plan on:

Tuesday, October 15

2:00—3:00pm

SMS Multipurpose Room

Ms. Gabaldon will provide an overview of this year's goals at SMS and the strategies in place to achieve those goals. Students are always welcome to join parents for this and any SAC meeting. Please join us!



Supply Drive for the Bahamas extended through 10/11!

Students in Ms. Torboli's Learning Strategies class are spearheading a collection to meet the most critical needs in the Bahamas. Please send in one or more of the following by this Friday, October 11:

- Cleaning supplies
- Clothing (new socks and underwear in particular)
- Jugs of water
- Baby food
- Canned food

Students should bring donations to their homeroom class (1st period). Thank you for your generosity!

PTO News & Notes

Highlights from our meeting on 10/8:

Alternative Fundraiser—Thanks to your support, we've raised a total of \$1,820 and it's not too late to help the PTO reach its goal of \$2,000 to avoid catalog sales! You can send cash or a check made payable to the SMS PTO in with your student anytime to drop off in the Front Office. Gifts of any amount are welcomed!

Dodgeball Tournament—November 21, 5:30-8:00pm
Putting the "fun" back into fundraising, the PTO is hosting the first ever SMS Dodgeball Tournament this fall! Mark your calendars and look for registration forms soon. A total of 20 5-member teams (4 adult teams and 16 student teams) will compete to be the Dodgeball Champion of SMS. Participation on a team costs only \$10 per player (\$50 per team) and event spectators will pay a \$1/entrance fee. Player registrations are due by November 8. This event will fill up quickly, so get your team together today!



New Eagle Spotlight: Josh Gray, 7th Grade ELA and XC Coach

I have lived in the North Florida area for ten years. My wife and I were married here in St. Augustine in 2015. I earned my bachelors degree in history from the University of Florida (Go Gators!) and my masters degree in educational leadership from UNF. This is my tenth year teaching. I previously taught fourth grade language arts. My wife Celeste and I have two kids—Charlotte (3) and Tino (17). I love to travel, read, and surf. I am excited to be an Eagle because I love the positive energy I have felt since arriving. The school culture is amazing, faculty and staff are helpful and welcoming, and the students are the best group of young people I have taught in my ten years.

Thanks to our Generous Business Partners in Education!

The PTO extends a heartfelt thanks to the following businesses who have joined SMS in the past two weeks as Partners in Education:

Principal's Partner (\$1,000+)

B.R. Fox & Associates
Rack Room Shoes

Eagle Partner (\$500+)

Family Kia

Red Partner (\$100+)

Color Street Stylist, Kim Rossi

If you own, work for, or frequent a local business and would like to see them added to this list, please click [here](#) to download a registration form and additional info!



Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Oct 8—PTO Meeting, 7:45am @ SMS
- ◆ Oct 8—Volleyball vs. Liberty Pines Academy @ LPA
- ◆ Oct 9—Football vs. Valley Ridge, 5:00pm @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Oct 9—Cross Country Meet, 5:00pm @ Gamble Rogers
- ◆ Oct 10—Volleyball vs. Murray @ SMS
- ◆ Oct 11—First Quarter Ends
- ◆ **Oct 14—Hurricane Make-Up Day/School OPEN**
- ◆ Oct 15—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Oct 15—Volleyball vs. Valley Ridge Academy @ VRA
- ◆ Oct 16—Tropical Smoothie Spirit Day, 4:00-6:00pm
- ◆ Oct 16—Football vs. Patriot Oaks, 5:00pm @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Oct 17—Volleyball vs. Mill Creek Academy @ SMS
- ◆ Oct 18—Picture Make-Up Day/Box Tops Due!
- ◆ Oct 22—Volleyball vs. Palm Valley Academy @ PVA
- ◆ Oct 29—First Quarter Report Cards posted in HAC
- ◆ Oct 29—Cross Country Meet, 5:00pm @ Fruit Cove
- ◆ Nov 6—Moe's Southwest Grill Spirit Night, time TBD

- ◆ Nov 7—Growth Mindset Parent Training, 6:00-7:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 11—Veteran's Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Nov 15—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 15—Cross Country Meet, 5:00pm @ Treaty Park
- ◆ Nov 15—Second Quarter Interims posted in HAC
- ◆ Nov 20—Exhibition Event, 8:00-11:00am @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 21—PTO Dodgeball Tournament, 5:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 27-29—Thanksgiving Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Dec 2—Basketball Tryouts Begin
- ◆ Dec 5—Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30am, Topic: High School Career Academies
- ◆ Dec 10—Holiday Guitar Concert, 6:00pm, SMS Auditorium
- ◆ Dec 11—Barnes & Noble Spirit Day, time TBD
- ◆ Dec 12—Holiday String Orchestra Concert, 6:00pm, Auditorium
- ◆ Dec 16-20—PTO Holiday Shop @ SMS
- ◆ Dec 17—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Dec 17—Holiday Band Concert, 6:00pm, Auditorium

Note: All Volleyball Games begin at 5:30pm Girls; 6:30pm Boys



Ms. Ludwick dubs thee...Knight of Kindness!

An important part of Single School Culture at SMS is treating others with kindness. Ms. Ludwick (7th grade ELA teacher) has taken this a step further by starting a kindness initiative in her classes, telling her students from the very first day of school that she wants to catch them doing something good. Last week, her students put their ELA skills to use by writing notes of kindness and gratitude to other students, staff members, and teachers throughout the school. Cards were delivered to recipients first thing Monday morning, which surely brightened up an otherwise rainy Monday. Participating students were dubbed "Knights of Kindness" for spreading love throughout SMS. Thank you Ms. Ludwick for leading this effort!

Got ? Become a Foster Parent!

Staff from The Family Integrity Program, St. Johns County's Community Based Care Program, made a presentation on October 8 to attendees at the SMS PTO meeting about foster parenting in St. Johns County. There is a continuous critical need for licensed foster parents for ages 0-17 and extended foster care for 18-23 year olds, especially in our area of the county. If you are interested in more information on how to become a foster parent, please contact Sherri McCammon at (904) 209-6131 or smccammon@sjcfl.us.



Team Sebastian Pinks Up the Pace!

On Saturday, October 5, over 30 SMS students, parents, faculty and staff participated in the Pink

Up the Pace 5K run to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer. Members of the SMS cross country team are pictured here helping a woman who was pushing herself in a wheelchair. The SMS Culture of Kindness extends beyond our school and into the community!




FREE Pop-Up Flu Shot Clinics


October 16, 9am-1pm
Moultrie Baptist Church
3699 US 1, St. Augustine

October 23, 9am-1pm
SJC Library, Hastings
6195 S. Main St, Hastings

Don't miss 5 days of work or school this winter! Get a FREE flu shot for yourself and your student(s) this month!



Say **BOO** TO THE FLU!



Free Child & Adult Flu Shots!

DOH-Saint Johns County
Friday, October 26th 3:00PM—7:00PM
200 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine FL, 32084
904-209-3250
For more information, please visit our website at:
<http://sjcfl.us/floridhealth>

SchoolPay[®] Music T-Shirts & More!

The SMS School Pay site now has Music Program t-shirts available for purchase! Please click [here](#) to log into School Pay. In addition, you may still purchase PE uniforms, pay your Music Program Fair Share fee, and add funds to your student's cafeteria account. PTO spirit wear items are coming soon!



Yearbook Photos Needed!

Parents who are attending club or athletic events with their students are invited to take photos and submit them for inclusion in the SMS Yearbook this year! You can upload pictures to Pictavo Community by clicking [here](#). Once you find our school, create an account and verify it (check your junk folder for the email), and then upload your photos! Please be sure to tag the kids involved and put your pictures into the proper folder. Questions? Please contact yearbook editor Emily.Ludwick@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

