

Vol. 7  
12.11.19

# The Eagle Eye

## Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

### Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

There is lots happening here at Sebastian for all our families and students! As we approach the end of our first semester, exams as well as formative assessments are being given this week in select classes. Students have an opportunity to show what they've learned so far this year, and teachers can assess what their priorities will be for the second half of the year.

Parents have multiple chances to visit and support your students over the next two weeks—participate in a PTO or SAC meeting, attend a holiday music concert, or volunteer to help with our Holiday Shop for students. Your involvement as parents is important and highly valued by all of us at Sebastian.

I have a couple of special recognitions to share. We are extraordinarily proud of 8th grader Mia Snyder, who represented SMS in the district-wide Spelling Bee last week. Mia faced tough competition but still came in 3rd place—way to go Mia! I am also pleased to announce that our "Substitute of the Month" for November is Ms. Terry Cohen, who has been working in a variety of classes, including US History. We are happy to have Ms. Cohen as part of our Eagle Family!

I am also thrilled and impressed by our students' performances in the District 1 Florida Jr. Thespians Festival this past weekend. As you will read in the article in this newsletter, we had 11 students medal in 13 events in our first event of this kind in 15 years. Kudos to Ms. Trosclair for preparing our students so well!

As we look toward winter break, I wish you and your family a restful and joyful holiday season. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities we have to learn together in the new year.

With much appreciation,  
Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

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



Phone: 904.547.3840  
Fax: 904.547.3845  
[www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal  
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

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

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

### Important Dates

#### December 11

*Barnes & Noble Spirit Day, 9:00am-9:00pm, 1930  
US 1 South, St. Augustine*

#### December 12

*Holiday String Orchestra Concert, 6:00pm*

#### December 17

*SAC Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm  
Holiday Band Concert, 6:00pm*

#### December 20

*SMS Musicians Nights of Lights performance,  
6:00pm, VIC, 10 San Marco Ave*

#### December 23-January 3

*Winter Break*

**BARNES  
& NOBLE**

#### Media Center Spirit Day!

**Wednesday, 12/11, 9am-9pm**

Shop in-store (mention SMS at checkout!) or online at [BN.com/bookfairs](http://BN.com/bookfairs) using code: 12578704.



### Adopt an Angel from the SMS Giving Tree

As a Title 1 school, we have 21 SMS student "angels" to support this year through our annual Giving Tree which is now up in the Front Office. Please stop by anytime to select an ornament with a gift idea on it to purchase for a deserving student. **As of today, there are approximately 20 gifts remaining to be purchased.** Please return your gift wrapped or in a holiday gift bag with your ornament attached **by end of day Friday, December 13.** Thank you in advance for your help in making the holidays brighter for every student in our SMS family!

## PTO News & Notes

### Shop Amazon Smile this Holiday

AmazonSmile offers the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com, but when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice! To support SMS, visit <https://smile.amazon.com/> and sign up to support "Sebastian Middle School Pto Inc." Remember to always begin each shopping "trip" at smile.Amazon.com to support SMS this holiday season!



### SMS Holiday Shop Open 12/16-20

As the holidays approach, our PTO-run Eagle Store transforms into a Holiday Shop, with gifts to purchase for family, friends and teachers. Open during all three lunches the week of 12/16-20, students may purchase one gift each using PBIS points, and then bring cash to purchase additional gifts for either \$3 or \$5. One available \$5 gift is a framed "photo booth" photo of your student, which would make a great gift for grandma! **The PTO needs your help to staff the Holiday Shop, assisting students with gift selection and check-out.** No experience necessary! Click [here](#) to view the dates and times needed, and to sign up. Email [PTOSebastian@gmail.com](mailto:PTOSebastian@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Teacher/Staff Holiday Appreciation

SMS teachers and staff will celebrate the holidays during a luncheon Wednesday, 12/18. To make it extra special, the PTO asks parents to donate homemade desserts and/or gifts or gift cards to be used in a drawing. No time to shop or bake this holiday season? Donate cash instead! Click [here](#) to view the sign-up genius for desserts, gifts, & cash.



## New Eagle Spotlight: Morgan Miller, 8th Grade Language Arts

I am originally from Georgia, but grew up in St. Johns County and graduated from Nease High School. I just moved back here from Orlando, after graduating from UCF and then backpacking abroad for a few years. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching; I've also taught English in Indonesia and Cambodia. Before teaching, I worked in communications and event-planning in both nonprofit and private companies.

My husband and I have 4 pets, we love to travel, and be active outdoors. In particular, I SCUBA whenever I can! I'm not only elated to be back in St. Johns County, but have heard wonderful things about the SMS culture, student demographics, and team. I'm also excited to be at a STEAM school and begin inquiry projects! Go Eagles!



### Vote for our SMS Tree to Win \$1K!

Old Town Trolley Tours and INK! (Investing in Kids!) are presenting the second annual holiday tree decorating contest in which schools from across the county decorate a tree and compete to win votes for cash! Voting begins on Thursday, 12/12 at 12:01am and runs through Monday, 12/16 at 11:59pm. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 12/18 at 12:00pm on INK's Facebook Live.

To vote, go to: [trolleytours.com/holidaytreecontest](http://trolleytours.com/holidaytreecontest) and click on the photo of the SMS tree. The tree with the most votes wins \$1000 for its school! Second place wins \$500 and third place wins \$250. You can vote as many times as you want, even in a single day, so happy voting and thank you!



## Winter Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Dec 11—Barnes & Noble Spirit Day, 9am-9pm
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Dec 20—Early Release Day; school ends at 12:50pm
- ◆ Dec 20—SMS Musicians Performance, 6:00pm, VIC, 10 San Marco
- ◆ Dec 23-Jan 2—Winter Break/Student & Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Jan 3—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Jan 6—Classes Resume
- ◆ Jan 14—Basketball vs. Freedom Crossing @ SMS
- ◆ Jan 16—Basketball vs. Swiss Point @ SPMS
- ◆ Jan 17—Second Quarter Report Cards in HAC
- ◆ Jan 20—Martin Luther King Day/Student & Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Jan 23—Moe's Spirit Night, 5:00-9:00pm

- ◆ Jan 23—Basketball vs. Gamble Rogers @ SMS
- ◆ Jan 30—Basketball vs. Pacetti Bay @ PBMS
- ◆ Jan 31—Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Feb 4—Basketball vs. Patriot Oaks @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 5—SJMSAA Tennis Tryouts, 4:30pm, Marsh Creek Country Club, 169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine Beach
- ◆ Feb 6—Basketball vs. Landrum @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 6—Third Quarter Interim Report Cards in HAC
- ◆ Feb 11—Basketball vs. Fruit Cove @ FCMS
- ◆ Feb 13—Basketball vs. Liberty Pines Academy @ LPA
- ◆ Feb 17—Presidents Day/Student & Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Feb 20—Basketball vs. Murray @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 25—Basketball vs. Valley Ridge @ VRA
- ◆ Feb 27—Basketball vs. Mill Creek Academy @ SMS
- ◆ Mar 3—Basketball vs. Palm Valley @ PVA

*Note: All Girls Basketball games begin at 5:30pm, followed by Boys Basketball games at 6:30pm.*

## Attention 8th Grade Parents!

### High School Academy Registration Begins 1/9

Parents of 8th grade students should mark their calendars now for the following dates:

**Jan 9**—High School Academy Showcase at World Golf Village Convention Center, 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Jan 9**—Online Application opens in HAC at 8:00 a.m. for newly applying 8th and 9th grade students.

**Jan 16-30**—Academy Nights (6:00-7:30pm unless noted)

1/16: Allen D. Nease High                      1/21: Ponte Vedra High

1/23: St. Johns Technical, 5:30-6:30pm

1/23: St. Augustine High   1/27: Bartram Trail High

1/28: Creekside High                      1/30: Pedro Menendez

**Jan 31**—Auditions for the Center for the Arts at SAHS

**Feb 3**—Registration Deadline! Online Registration will be closed at 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Please contact 8th Grade Guidance Counselor Leanne Fortune at [Leanne.Fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Leanne.Fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us).



## SMS Jr. Thespians Earn Top Honors in “Thestival”

For the first time in 15 years, a total of 18 members of the SMS Jr. Thespians Society participated in the District 1 Florida Jr. Thespians Festival (AKA “Thestival”) at Lake Asbury Jr. High School in Green Cove Springs on Saturday December 7. Students performed in 13 different events, and 11 of our performances were judged as “Superior” (2) or “Excellent” (9). Superior performances automatically qualify for the State Festival held in Orlando in February, and SMS will send 4 of the 9 excellent performances to States as well.

As a new after-school club this year at SMS, our Jr. Thespians Society was competing against 21 other schools, most of which offer drama as an elective class. Kudos and thanks to Ms. Ralin Trosclair for her excellent work in sponsoring Jr. Thespians at SMS this year and preparing our students so well in a short amount of time. Good luck at States in February!

## 8th Grade Yearbook Ads On Sale Now!!

Looking for a special way to honor your student as they complete middle school? Purchase an ad in this year’s SMS yearbook! Ads are available in four sizes and prices:

1/8 page—\$25

1/2 page—\$60

1/4 page—\$40

Full page—\$100

**Ads will be due by noon on January 15.** Click [here](#) to download the order form with additional details.



## Calling All Thespians!

Auditions for the Spring Performance will be held after school on the following days:

**Monday, December 16 and Tuesday, December, 17th**

Choose a day and sign up outside Mrs Trosclair's room, A 715. Don't forget to pick up an audition packet as well!



## STEAM in Action—Ozobot Art!

On November 25-26, art classes collaborated with the Media Center to create Ozobot Art. Ozobots are robots that use colors as commands to perform different tasks.

Mrs. Hagy’s and Mrs. King’s 6<sup>th</sup> grade art classes were given the task to create an art piece that connected with their classmates piece and continued throughout the connections. Students did an amazing job of integrating art with technology!



Learn. Explore. Create.

## Inside the SMS Media Center



The SMS Media Center offers unique opportunities for collaboration between students and across disciplines. In addition to the Ozobot Art, which was also enjoyed by our ESE students in Mr. Barber’s, Ms. Brewster’s and Ms. Bradshaw’s classes, our 7th grade ELA classes participated in an extension classes activity for *The Outsiders*. Students worked together to solve clues throughout the Media Center so they could open the lockboxes.

**Computer Science Education Week** is December 9-15.

The Media Center will have activities throughout the month of December to support a program called **Hour of Code**. Students who participate will be entered into a drawing to SPIN THE WHEEL! Learn more about Hour of Code at <https://hourofcode.com/us>.

**SSYRA Author Eric Walters** will visit SMS on January 28 during Literacy Week. Students who have read his book, *Elephant Secret*, will be invited to attend a special lunch and presentation by the author. This is a great book to read over the break!!

## Squiggles from the Art Room

Thanks to the support of the SMS PTO, Art teachers Mrs. Hagy and Mrs. King attended the Florida Art Education Association Conference this fall in Ponte Vedra. Mrs. Hagy and Mrs. King taught two classes to fellow art teachers: “To Bee or Not to Bee: Traditional Batik and Beyond” and “Scribblebots: A STEAM Lesson for Art-Drawing Robots.” Click [here](#) for a video of their work!