

Vol. 5
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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,

As I write, we have now entered the second quarter and teachers are finalizing grades, to be published this Friday. As most of our families use Home Access Center (HAC), the quarter grades should not be a surprise. It is also rewarding to see the students take ownership of their grades; many are aware of where they stand in their classes and how they should adjust their study habits accordingly. These grades are just a snapshot of work in progress, but it is a good time to have the conversation with your son or daughter about how they prepare for daily lessons. Also, it is important that students are reading and writing outside of the curriculum as it is that application of learning that's important as we move forward.

We host clubs and activities every Tuesday and Thursday. This gives us an opportunity to extend the learning experience and to provide students with tutoring if necessary. We have over one hundred students actively participating in after school activities which speaks to the culture of personalization we are striving for here at Sebastian.

Finally, a thank you to our PTO and our Business Partners. We cannot run our full scope of events without their help and participation, and the impact of their involvement is profound. The level of participation in Communication Cornerstone is also impressive and ultimately our students will reap the rewards of your involvement as parents. Thank you as always for your support.

Sincerely,

Wayne King, Principal

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Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

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

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

Important Dates:

October 17

*Yearbook Picture Re-takes
Football vs. Swiss Point, 7:00pm at Pomar Park,
1600 Masters Drive, St. Augustine*

October 18

Growth Mindset Parent Workshop, 6:00—7:00pm

October 19

Zombie Run, 5:30pm @ SMS

October 23-31

Red Ribbon Week!

October 23

*SAC Meeting, 2:15pm @ SMS
PTO Meeting, 5:45pm @ Growers Alliance Café,
322 Anastasia Blvd.*

October 27

6th Grade Super Saturday, 8:30—11:30am



Friendly Reminders from the SMS Front Office!

If you need to check your student out early for any reason, please do so prior to 1:30pm (12:30pm on Wednesdays). We do not allow check-outs between 1:30—2:00pm in order to preserve instructional time during 7th period each day.

Please note that SMS policy does not allow fast food or other special lunches to be delivered to students and eaten in the cafeteria. If parents wish to bring a special lunch for their students, students may join their parents in the front office during their lunch period for this meal.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and support in following these policies!

Run for Your Lives in the SMS Zombie Run!

Join the SMS PTO for an evening of Halloween fun!

Friday, October 19—5:30pm

2-Mile Fun Run on school grounds for all ages

\$10 registration fee (\$40 max per family)

Concessions available for purchase

DJ Darkside (Mike Hardee) spinning tunes

Zombie Makeover Station

Click [here](#) to watch a promotional video created by the WSMS News team and to download the registration form.

Sign up today! Don't miss out on the fun!



New Faculty Spotlight!

Emily Ludwick, English Language Arts

I moved to Jacksonville this past August, and this is my first year teaching, as well as my first year in St Johns County. I went to Bryn Mawr College, where I graduated with a major in English literature, a concentration in creative writing, and a minor in secondary education. I moved down to Florida to be with my boyfriend Wesley, and to start a life together! I enjoy books of all sorts, Dungeons and Dragons (D&D), a variety of music, and creating digital art. Joining Sebastian Middle School and becoming an Eagle was my absolute dream. I'm so excited to work with and learn from both students and staff! It's going to be a fantastic year.

News & Notes from the Media Center



Shout out to Mrs. Cullar and her 7th grade classes for a creative and technology-focused collaborative lesson with the Media Center on *The Outsiders*!

A huge thanks to St. Johns County Public Library representative, Mrs. Leslie Goode, for attending the

Book Fair last month and signing up families for public library cards. We also want to thank all of the parent volunteers who helped make the book fair a success. We sold over \$3,000 worth of inventory!!

Growth Mindset Parent Workshop & Book Study

Sponsored by the SMS PTO, all parents, guardians, and other caregivers are invited to join Mindset Works trainer Janna Peskett to learn how to help your student embrace challenges and develop resilience in the face of setbacks!

Thursday, October 18

6:00—7:00pm

SMS Multipurpose Room

RSVP to Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Book Study to follow on "The Parents We Mean to Be" by Richard Weissbourd: November 8, 15, 29, 5:30—6:30pm
Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Boulevard.

Next SMS Student Council Meeting

Tues, October 30, 2:00—3:00pm in E430 (Ms. Allen)

All Students Are Welcome to Join at This Time!



Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Oct 16—Volleyball vs. Murray @ MMS
- ◆ Oct 17—Cross Country @ Gamble Rogers, 4:00pm
- ◆ Oct 17—Football vs. Swiss Point @ Pomar Park, 7:00pm
- ◆ Oct 18—Growth Mindset Parent Workshop, 6:00—7:00pm @ SMS
- ◆ Oct 19—Zombie Run, 5:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Oct 23—SAC Meeting, 2:15pm @ SMS
- ◆ Oct 23—PTO Meeting, 5:45pm @ Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Blvd.
- ◆ Oct 24—First Quarter Report Cards Issued
- ◆ Oct 27—6th Grade Super Saturday, 8:30-11:30am
- ◆ Oct 31—BMX Trickstars Event @ SMS, 8:30am
- ◆ Nov 5—Sonny's BBQ Spirit Night, 5:00-8:00pm
- ◆ Nov 6—Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am
- ◆ Nov 8—Parenting Book Study, 5:30pm @ Growers Alliance
- ◆ Nov 12—Veterans Day: Teacher/Student Holiday
- ◆ 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 21-23—Thanksgiving Break
- ◆ Nov 28—Cross Country @ Bartram Trail High, 4:00pm
- ◆ Nov 29—Parenting Book Study, 5:30pm @ Growers Alliance
- ◆ Dec 5—8th Grade Career Day
- ◆ Dec 6-19—Final Exams (Single Semester Courses)
- ◆ Dec 11—Band Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 13—STEAM Exhibition Night, 5:30—7:00pm
- ◆ Dec 17-21—Mid-Term Exams (Full Semester 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

Eagle Football Team Soars!

Our SMS Eagle Football team is currently 3-4 and ranked 5th (out of 10) in the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association league. Since the top 6 teams will go to playoffs, a win this week would clinch a spot for SMS in the playoffs and leave us ranked 4th in the league.



Please come out for our last home game this **Wednesday, October 17, 7:00pm** at Pomar Park, 1600 Masters Drive, St. Augustine. Our 8th grade players will be honored started at 6:45pm. Go Eagles!!

SMS Participates in Make A Difference Day: Saturday, October 20

Sponsored by the St. Johns Housing Partnership, "Make a Difference Day" invites SMS students and parents to build handicapped ramps in our community on Saturday, October 20. The day will kick off with breakfast at 7:45am at the Evelyn Hamblen Center, 1 Christopher Street, before getting project assignments and departing to job sites.



This opportunity is part of the math-focused Eagle/Inquiry Hour session run by Mr. Huffman and Ms. Link. Students in their group have been working to

design scaled models of ramps for the past 4 Eagle/Inquiry Hour sessions. All SMS students who participate on Saturday will be eligible for a field trip in the near future to go out and actually design a ramp with staff from The St. Johns Housing Partnership.

Interested volunteers should email Bernie.Huffman@stjohns.k12.fl.us to RSVP. Thanks in advance for helping SMS make a difference in our community!



Calling All Dancers!

Ms. Burkhardt is looking for students to join her Dance Team! Auditions will be held Tuesday, October 23rd from 2:00-3:30pm. Please bring appropriate attire along with a signed permission slip (click [here](#) to download). Results will be emailed home and practice will begin the following Tuesday, October 30th from 2:00-3:30pm. Transportation via the Activities Bus is available on Tuesdays.

Making Memories one Picture at a Time

SEBASTIAN YEARBOOK NEEDS YOU!

Do you want to add your own photos to the yearbook?



Follow the link and upload your photos to be considered:
www.Pictavo.com
Click on "Parents"
Click "New Pictavo community" on the bottom right
Search for "Sebastian"
Start a free account!
(You need a valid email address to upload photos)

Anyone can do it!
Students, Parents, Friends!



To our SMS
Teacher of the Year

Jessica Brown

and

Rookie Teacher
of the Year

Emily Lavalee!!

NJHS Applications Now Being Accepted

The Fall induction for new National Junior Honor Society members will be Thursday, November 8th, 6:00 pm in the Sebastian Middle School auditorium. New member applications are being accepted through Friday October 26th. Applications may be obtained from Ms. Hagenbuch-Reese in room C515. According to national guidelines, the Fall induction is for 7th and 8th grade students only. Sixth grade students will be eligible for the Spring induction. All applicants must have a commitment to honor, scholarship, and service to the community with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.5. Please email Ms. Reese at Debbie.Hagenbuch-Reese@stjohns.k12.fl.us with any questions.

Red Ribbon Week: October 23—31

Red Ribbon Week is a national drug prevention campaign aimed at educating youth and families. This year's theme is "Life is a Journey: Travel Drug Free." SMS will celebrate with the following special events:

Tues, 10/23: National Guard Presentation to Students
Thurs, 10/25: Team Up Against Drugs and Bullying—Wear your favorite sports jersey!

Fri, 10/26: Twin Day—Dress up with a friend as Twins and sign a drug free pledge through SWAT!

Tues, 10/30: Sock it to Drugs Day—Wear your favorite socks!

Wed, 10/31: BMX Bike Show—Wear Red Day!

Charity Water Change Drive

Ms. Barnard's and Ms. Arnold's first period Gifted Elective class is raising money for CharityWater.org, a clean drinking water initiative for developing countries. Through last week's Change Drive, they've raised \$450 toward their goal of \$1000 so far! Congrats to the following homerooms who contributed the most to win a pizza party donated by Mellow Mushroom: 6th—Mr. Raimann; 7th—Ms. Ludwick; 8th—Ms. DeCastro.