

Vol. 7
11.25.19

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

Many thanks to those of you who were able to join us for our STEAM Exhibition Event last Wednesday morning. Approximately 170 students presented their Inquiry Hour projects to 80 adults in our community, including Superintendent Tim Forson and members of his Executive Cabinet Brennan Asplen, Dawn Sapp, and Kathy Mittelstadt. Our students were excited to show what they learned, and our visitors were impressed with their presentations.

Planning ahead for next semester's Inquiry Hour, our faculty held a joint meeting with members of SAC and PTO last Wednesday as well to brainstorm topics and projects related to next semester's books: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen (6th grade), *Night* by Elie Wiesel (7th grade), and *Peak* by Roland Smith (8th grade). The group generated some incredible ideas, and we look forward to challenging our students. Many thanks to those in our community who came and brainstormed with us!

Congratulations are in order for a few special members of our Eagle Family this year: Cedric Wolfe is our School-Related Employee of the Year; Jennifer Stevenson is our Adult Volunteer of the Year; Lynda Eidson is our Senior Volunteer of the Year; and Kaiti Rossi is our Youth Volunteer of the Year. We are also pleased to recognize Ernesto Bustillo as our "Substitute of the Month" for October.

With the holidays upon us, we know this is an important time to connect with family. However, your student's attendance at school is equally important as we seek to finish the first semester strong. Superintendent Tim Forson visited SMS last week to recognize three teachers for perfect attendance last year: Kevin Hayes, Bernie Huffman, and Emily Ludwick. Nice job!

As our holiday break begins on Wednesday, I wish you and your family a joyful Thanksgiving. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your principal at Sebastian Middle School, and grateful for the opportunities we have to connect with one another.

With much appreciation,
Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

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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

November 27-29

Thanksgiving Break! Student/Teacher Holiday

December 5

Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30-9:30am. Topic: Career Academies & Academic Programs at SAHS & PMHS

December 10

Holiday Guitar Concert, 6:00pm

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 23-January 3

Winter Break

Winter Exam Schedule: 12/9-12

Midterm exams will be given in the following high school credit courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Physical Science and Spanish I. Final exams will be given in the following single semester courses: PE, STEAM, Exploratory Spanish, and Learning Strategies. Paper-based, district-created exams will be given by period as follows:

12/9: Periods 1 & 2

12/10: Periods 3 & 4

12/11: Period 5

12/12: Periods 6 & 7

Teachers may elect to give midterm exams in other courses, but are not required to do so. Please check with your student's teachers.



PTO News & Notes

Teachers Win Dodgeball Tournament!

With 14 teams participating in last Thursday's Dodgeball Tournament,

the competition was fierce! Ten student teams and four teacher teams competed simultaneously to play each other in the final round. Although the teachers emerged the victors this year, the students have already vowed to come back next year and win! Big fun was had by all.



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!



Adopt an Angel from the SMS Giving Tree

As a Title 1 school, we have 17 SMS student "angels" to support this year through our annual Giving Tree, which will be up in the Front Office starting Monday 12/2. Please stop by anytime to select an ornament with a gift idea on it to purchase for a deserving student. Please return your gift wrapped or in a holiday gift bag with your ornament attached **by Friday, December 13**. Thank you in advance for your help in making the holidays brighter for all students in our SMS family!



Reminders from the Front Office!

Fast Food/Drinks: Please note that SMS does not allow fast food, other special lunches or outside coffees/drinks to be delivered to students and eaten in the cafeteria. All outside drinks must be finished before entering school in the mornings.

Drop-Off Policy: To promote personal responsibility and minimize classroom disruptions, parents should only drop off keys, lunches, or athletic equipment needed that day. All other items should be kept at home and brought the following day.

Daily Announcements: Available on the SMS website at <http://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/daily-announcements/>. Check it every day to keep up with what's happening!



Spirit Day for the SMS Media Center!

Wednesday, 12/11, 9am-9pm

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



Winter Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Nov 25—Girls Soccer vs. Swiss Point @ Aberdeen Park
- ◆ Nov 26—Boys Soccer vs. Pacetti Bay @ TBA
- ◆ Nov 27-29—Thanksgiving Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Dec 2—Basketball Tryouts Begin
- ◆ Dec 5—Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30am, Topic: Career Academies & Academic Programs at SAHS/PMHS
- ◆ Dec 5—Girls Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park
- ◆ Dec 9—Girls Soccer vs. Palm Valley Academy @ Davis Park
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Dec 20—Early Release Day; school ends at 12:50pm
- ◆ 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.



Basketball Tryouts Begin 12/2

Tryouts for the Boys and Girls Basketball teams at SMS will be held as follows:

Girls Tryouts: 12/2 & 12/3, 2:00-3:30pm

Boys Tryouts: 12/3 (2:00-3:30pm), 12/4 (1:00-3:00pm), 12/5 (2:00-3:30pm)

All students wishing to tryout must turn a valid physical into Coach Razey or Coach Whittaker by 11/26. Students should be picked up in the front parking lot promptly at the end of each tryout session.

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:

Dec 5—Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am, SMS Multipurpose Room. Topic: Career Academies and IB/AICE Programs at SAHS and Pedro Menendez High School

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



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 Take Stock In Children 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, or a 3.25 overall GPA
- 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 Fri, 12/6**.



Students Present Projects in STEAM Exhibition

Working in groups of two or more, over 170 students presented their projects developed

during Inquiry Hour this fall to parent, grandparents, district staff, and community leaders during last Wednesday's STEAM Exhibition event. Students developed projects using science, technology, music, written and spoken word, and even movement! Save the date now for our Spring Exhibition on April 8, 4:00-7:00pm.



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.



Worm Day in the ESE Class!

Master Gardener and Senior Volunteer of the Year Lynda Eidson explains the value of earthworms to students in our ESE class.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA After-School Program Now Enrolling for 12/3—1/23

After an initial successful 6-week session, the YMCA invites all SMS students to join the fun! The second session begins 12/3 and runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until 4:30pm through 1/23 at a cost of \$60.00 for the session.

Students have 30 minutes of study hall and then participate in a variety of intramural sports, including basketball, flag football, soccer, dodgeball, kickball, and ultimate frisbee.

This program is open to all students of all athletic ability levels and is primarily designed to be FUN! Registration forms: [YMCA Revision Form](#) and [Intramural Registration Form](#). Contact Phil Tensley at PTensley@fcymca.org.