

Vol. 8
1.15.20

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

Reflecting on my first semester as your Principal, I am extraordinarily impressed by and grateful for the hard work and resulting accomplishments of everyone at SMS—students, teachers, staff, and parents. I am particularly proud of the Arts in our STEAM school, which are as important as our intense focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Our parents and grandparents continue to overwhelm me with their generosity and support, helping to make the holidays brighter for 25 deserving “Angel” students this year. I also want to extend a grateful thanks to the PTO and all of the volunteers who came out during the last busy week of school in December to staff our Holiday Shop, which allowed every student to purchase one gift using PBIS points.

This second semester brings new challenges and opportunities to deepen our learning and apply our skills. We began the first week back at school with a re-emphasis on Single School Culture, reminding students of the expectations and procedures that are in place to create a positive learning environment. I encourage you as parents to also review the Single School Culture document with your children; a link to this document can be found [here](#).

Continuing our focus on project-based learning, Inquiry Hour will kick off on February 4 and culminate in a **Spring Exhibition Event on April 7, 5:30-7:30pm**. Please mark your calendars now to attend!

Many of our 8th grade students are beginning their final semester at SMS with the much-anticipated week-long trip to Washington, DC, January 12-17. This opportunity to take learning about history and government out of the classroom and into our nation's capital is unparalleled. We wish them safe travels and look forward to their return on Friday.

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

January 17

Report Cards available in HAC

January 20

Martin Luther King Day—Student/Teacher Holiday

January 21

*SAC Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm, Multipurpose Room
All SMS parents/guardians are invited!*

January 23

*Spirit Night at Moe's, 5:00-9:00pm, 1685 US 1
South, St. Augustine. Must show flyer!
Home Basketball vs. Gamble Rogers, 5:30pm Girls &
6:30pm Boys*

January 27-30

Literacy Week at SMS! Themed Dress Up Days!

January 29

Rising 6th Grade Night, 6:00-7:30pm, Auditorium

January 31

Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday

Donations of Recyclables Needed!

The following teachers/departments are gathering supplies for Inquiry Hour and other project-based learning this semester. Donations may be dropped off to the Front Office or to teachers directly. Thank you for your support!

- Paper towel/toilet paper/gift wrap rolls—Media Center Makerspace
- 3-ring binders—ESE/Ms. Marimpietri
- 2-liter plastic bottles/other large plastic containers (e.g., ice cream/coffee)—Ms. Nall
- Magazines, especially featuring photos of animals—Ms. Pardo/Ms. Torboli
- Magazines and plastic bags—Ms. King/Ms. Hagy



News from the Media Center

Literacy Week: January 27-30

Celebrate the joy of reading and earn PBIS points by participating in the following "Dress Up Days":

- 1/27 – Hunt for a Good Book** (wear camouflage)
- 1/28 – Hats Off to Authors** (wear your favorite hat in honor of our Visiting Author Eric Walters)
- 1/29 – Tacky Tourist Day** (wear tourist attire to reflect "Oh the places you'll go" by Dr. Suess)
- 1/30 – Favorite Literary Character** (dress like a character from your favorite book)

In addition, each day a mystery reader will read a quote during the morning announcements. Students will be invited to bring answers (title of book and name of mystery reader) to the Media Center for prizes.

SSYRA Author Eric Walters Visit: 1/28

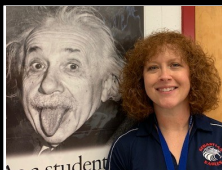
All students who have read the book "Elephant Secret" by Eric Walters and completed the corresponding quiz in the Media Center prior to 1/28 will be invited to a special luncheon with the author. Don't miss out!

Scholastic Book Fair: 2/3-7

The Media Center needs volunteers to make its Spring Book Fair a success. Click [here](#) to view slots and sign up. The Book Fair will also be open from 5-7pm during Home Basketball games on 2/4 and 2/6!

SSYRA Breakfast of Champions: 2/19

All students who have read at least 7 of this year's SSYRA books by 2/14 will be invited to a special breakfast with Ms. Gabaldon on 2/19. A list of this year's SSYRA books can be found [here](#). Chick-fil-A minis will be served!!



New Eagle Spotlight: Amy Ridilla, Science Teacher

I am from North Carolina and moved to St. Augustine last summer. I have a B.S. in Social Work and was a social worker for three years after college. I transitioned into a career in business for the next 20 years before making the switch to education. This is my 4th year of teaching middle school.

My parents still live in Asheville, NC and I have a younger sister who is a judge in Tennessee, so I get to visit the mountains. My hobbies includes reading, volunteering, going to the beach, and boating with my husband.

I am excited to be an Eagle to help students reach their next step in their educational journey!

NASA Field Study

On Friday, Jan. 10, 40 SMS students in the gifted elective classes traveled to Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, FL to learn about the challenges and opportunities for living in space. Students participated in ATX, an astronaut training experience (pictured above, in a shuttle simulator) and worked on problems like growing food and



creating a power supply for life on a planet other than Earth. Pictured left, students worked with robots to clean solar panels to generate enough electricity to keep our crew alive!



Spirit Night on Thursday 1/23

5:00-9:00pm

40% of your purchase to SMS but you must show flyer!



Winter Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ 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 21—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Jan 21 & 23—Softball Tryouts, 3:00-4:30pm
- ◆ Jan 23—Moe's Spirit Night, 5:00-9:00pm
- ◆ Jan 23—Basketball vs. Gamble Rogers @ SMS
- ◆ Jan 27-30—Literacy Week at SMS
- ◆ Jan 28—Visit by SSYRA Author Eric Walters
- ◆ Jan 29—Rising 6th Grade Night, 6:00-7:30pm
- ◆ Jan 30—Basketball vs. Pacetti Bay @ PBMS
- ◆ Jan 31—Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Feb 1—Character Counts 6K/3K Walk/Run, 9:00am, Palencia Elementary
- ◆ Feb 3-7—Scholastic Book Fair in the SMS Media Center
- ◆ 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—Parent Communication Cornerstone Meeting, 8:30am
- ◆ 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 14—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am
- ◆ Feb 17—Presidents Day/Student & Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Feb 18—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Mar 10—PTO Meeting, 6:00pm (offsite location TBD)
- ◆ Mar 12—Spring Fling, 12:30-1:50pm

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

Attention 8th Grade Parents!

High School Academy Registration Now Open! Deadline is 2/3

8th grade students and their families are invited to attend Academy Nights at each of the high schools in St. Johns County to learn more about their Career Academies and Programs of Choice. Dates are as follows (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; click [here](#) for more information or to register for auditions.

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

8th Grade Yearbook Ads Deadline Extended to 1/31!!

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 31. Click [here](#) to download the order form with additional details, or visit <https://commpe.pictavo.com/> to pay for and design your ad online. Please contact Katie Lay at sklay723@comcast.net with any questions.

SMS Art Teachers in the News!

Our visual arts teachers at SMS are being recognized both locally and statewide for their creativity and expertise! Heather Hagy's article "To Bee or Not to Bee: Batik & Beyond" was published in the Winter 2020 edition of "Fresh Paint," the FAEA (Florida Arts Education Association) Magazine. Click [here](#) to read! And Kelly King was featured in the January 2020 issue of Narrow Magazine, a Music & Arts publication. Click [here](#) to read (p. 14)! These two put the A in STEAM!



SWAT is Open to New Members!

Students Working Against Tobacco meets the last Tuesday of each month, after school from 2:00-3:00pm. SWAT provides educational and leadership opportunities for its members. Interested students should see Ms. Fortune for more information.

PTO Corner

Happy New Year! If one of your resolutions this year is to get more involved in your child's school, we have just the opportunity for you!

Eagle Store Volunteers Needed on Fridays

Volunteers are needed during all three lunches (9:45am-12:15pm) to staff the Eagle Store, which allows students to shop for school supplies and other trinkets using their PBIS points. Click [here](#) to view available dates and sign up. No time to volunteer? Donate to the Eagle Store by purchasing items on our [Amazon wishlist!](#)

Basketball Concession Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to sell concessions during all home basketball games this season. Click [here](#) to view dates and sign up. Go Eagles!

Teacher Appreciation Souper Bowl on 1/30

To show our teachers how much we appreciate their hard work, we invite parents to make a pot of your favorite soup (or salad or dessert!) to be served to teachers on Thursday, January 30. Sign up [here](#) to contribute food or money to this event.

Spring Fling on 3/12

The Spring Fling is a carnival style event featuring booths and games of all sorts. It will take place during school, from 12:30-1:50pm on Thursday, 3/12. Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee and to work booths the day of the event. If you can help in either capacity, please email PTOSebastian@gmail.com for more information.

We also want to extend a grateful thanks to our newest Business Partner in Education—

Global Maritek Systems/Vessel



Maintenance Division. We invite businesses to join us as partners anytime through the year. Click [here](#) for more information. Thank you!!

Registration for SJMSAA Sports Now Open!

Registration is now open for Softball, Baseball, Tennis and Golf, which are organized by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. Visit the SJMSAA website for more information and to register prior to tryouts at <https://www.sjmsaa.com/>.

Girls Softball will be coached by SMS

Teacher Morgan Miller and tryouts will be held 1/21 and 1/23 from 3:00-4:30pm. Students trying out may stay after school for study hall until 3:00pm in Ms. Miller's room. **Boys Baseball needs a volunteer coach.** If you are interested in coaching, or have any questions about SJMSAA sports, please contact SMS Athletic Director Chad Razey at Chad.Razey@stjohns.k12.fl.us.