

# Sebastian Sentinel



## Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

Each year, we spend the month of March registering students: Eighth graders to various high schools; Fifth graders from various elementary schools; and of course, our very own current 6th and 7th graders. It is exciting to hold discussions with families and students as they look to the opportunity to explore some of our many elective classes. Our Eighth graders have explored the worlds of Arts and Engineering for the past three years and are able to make decisions about which academy aligns with their passion and strength. Middle school is a time to explore different subjects, and, as always, I am grateful to you as parents and guardians for supporting your student in their endeavors – be they scholastic, artistic, or athletic.

We have a lot to look forward to as we enter our final Quarter of the year. This year's play, music concerts, Spring Fling, and celebrations for our Eighth Graders are all upcoming. Please continue to review our weekly emails for important and updated information on these events and more. If you haven't visited our website recently, be sure to take a look. You can view student projects, life in the Greenhouse, updates on the Media Center, and learn all about composting. Videos of student life are updated frequently online and just like at school, there is always something to explore!

Kirstie Gabaldon  
Principal

If you aren't on our mailing list, please check out Ms. Gabaldon's weekly updates by clicking on the Principal's Message on the Sebastian Website.



\*Please watch for our next newsletter in May 2023, and bi-weekly electronic news updates.

## Sebastian Middle School

2955 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

**904-547-3840**

**Kirstie Gabaldon**  
*Principal*

**Jennifer Gamble**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Alexandra Pillay**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Kevin Hayes**  
*Dean*

**Recia Smith**  
*Instructional Literacy Coach*

**Frankie Portelos**  
*STEM Coach*

**Ellen Morfit**  
*Testing Coordinator*

### **Vision**

At Sebastian Middle School, all students will achieve personal success in their learning and become responsible and productive citizens.

### **Mission**

In order to prepare our students to live in and contribute to a changing world, Sebastian will provide a balanced, varied school curriculum designed to meet the academic, cultural and social needs of individuals from the diverse backgrounds of our community.

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Issue 2

## Sebastian Middle School Website

The SMS website has up to date information that is important to stay informed about all activities at Sebastian.

It can be found at:

<https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>



HAC



Calendar



Payments

Search this website



## National Junior Honor Society

We had our National Junior Honor Society inductions ceremony on February 21st. The following students were honored. Bianca Allie, Leah Balasundram, Kaylee Brown, Hannah Connoley, Charles Daniels, Stella Goble, Honora Held, Scout LaPrees, Arya Patel, Prem Patel and Maris Taylor.



The St Augustine Rotary Club is supporting NJHS with community volunteer opportunities and PTO graciously provided the cake and refreshments. Congratulations to all inductees!

## STEM

On February 11th some of our STEM students participated in the First Lego League competition. Although the Sebastian Robotics team did not progress to the finals, they worked very hard and had some very innovative designs. They're looking to learn and grow and be a powerhouse team next year. For the remainder of this year, they will work on increasing their skills and building on their teamwork and having fun while doing it.



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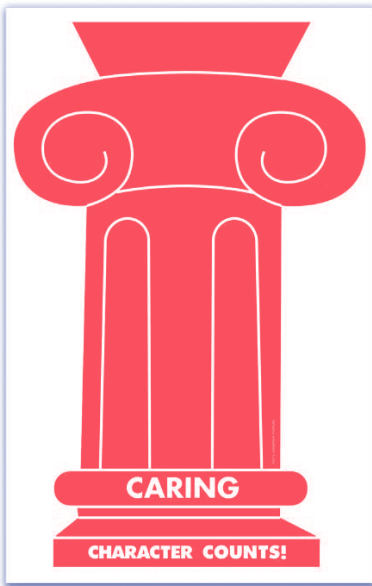


Patrick T. Canan



# Pillars of Character Caring

The following students were awarded the Character Counts honor for February. They were honored with a Chick-Fil-A breakfast and celebration in the Eagle's nest on Tuesday February 27th. Recipients were: Bianca Allie, Cristian Andreescu, Sylvell Blue, Giana Cameron, Michaela Garvin, Fabrizio Germino, Hallie Johnson, Bailey Krull, Celina Lopez, Prem Patel, Rudra Patel, Megan Rosario, Haidyn Rouse, Sydnee Wescott.



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## It's Not A Yolk

EGG-traordinary things are happening in the ESE ACCESS points department. The students held their annual Super Bowl Egg Drop. This STEM activity was an EGG-cellent way of encouraging children to use logic, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Each grade level decided what materials they wanted to use to keep their egg from EGG-sploding. The 6th graders constructed two contraptions, one team wrapped their egg in balloons and the other team made a parachute out of a garbage bag. The 7th grade team protected their egg with marshmallows. Eighth graders packed their egg in popped popcorn and shaving cream. The teachers climbed up to the roof and threw the eggs off. The students were EGG-cited to see their creations and crossed their fingers theirs would not crack. They all get EGG-tra points on this engineering-based project because not one broke.



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## PTO Corner

Spring Fling is the third quarterly celebration for our students this year! We are filled with gratitude for the parent volunteers, faculty and staff at Sebastian, and the generosity of so many families who have made these events possible. We have several special sponsors for Spring Fling who have helped make this possible:

Perry Unwalla, State Farm Insurance  
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## Media Center

### Author Visit

On February 16th, author Taryn Souders visited the students of Sebastian Middle School to talk about her writing process, answer questions from the budding writers, and autograph copies of her novels: *Coop Knows the Scoop*, *How to Almost Ruin Your Summer*, and *Dead Possums are Fair Game*. Students won the opportunity to meet the author through several activities, including participating in Literacy Week, playing Genre Bingo, or reading and taking the quizzes for the Sunshine State Young Readers Award books. Additionally, Ms. Geraghty's Access Unit math classes created projects based on the math fair in the novel, *Dead Possums*, and were able to present them to the author. Ms. Souders was very excited to see their work. Afterwards, students played Murder Bingo and enjoyed a Chick-fil-A lunch provided from a grant from the PTO. Ms. Souders also has a new novel, entitled *ARC of the Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle* coming out later this year and she was able to preview some of it to the students. Ms. Souders visit was provided by a grant from the School Advisory Council. The Media Center is always busy...for their latest update. Please click on <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/literary-week-23.pdf>.

**Perry D. Unwalla, Supporting Students, Staff and the Community of Sebastian Middle School.**

*Go Sebastian  
Eagles!*



**PERRY D. UNWALLA  
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## Dungeons and Dragons Club

Austin Stevens has been running the Dungeons and Dragons club for the past 3 semesters. Club shirts were printed recently. This group is having a lot of fun!





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## Drama Class/Club

SMS students are busy preparing for the spring play "The Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery" a comedy that will also keep you guessing who-done-it!



In addition to performing in the show, students have been busy designing the sets and costumes and soon will be building and painting to get things ready for opening night.

Ticket information will be sent out in the Weekly Update starting in April! Performances will be Thursday, April 20 and Friday, April 21st at 6pm. We hope to see you there!



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