



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

May 2023

From the Principal's Office



The third quarter was full of activity, and on behalf of the school, I would like to extend many thanks to our faculty, staff, and families who contributed their time and talents during

these busy months. Thank you to Mr. Mason (band, St. Patrick's Day parade), Mr. Beshore (spring music program), Socials Committee (end-of-the-quarter teacher/staff appreciation), Jennifer Bradley, Autumn Gaskins, and Jennifer Smee (Literature at Lunch), Debra Landis and Megan Sanford (Genius Project), Maggi Blischak, Jennifer Smee, and Sally Weakland (Power of the Pen), Allyn Rose (Drone Club), Anne Riede (Recycling Club), Robert Dedinsky (Soap Box Derby Club), Robert Dedinsky, Debra Landis, and Megan Sanford (MathCounts), Booster Club and coaches (CYO sports), and HASA (field trip expenses and the upcoming Father/Daughter Dance).

2023 St. Sebastian Spectacular

Thank you for your support of the 2023 St. Sebastian Spectacular, which made a mark as one of the school's most successful Spectacular events! I would like to thank everyone who supported the school's largest fundraiser, from donating gift cards, auction items, or raffle basket funds, to helping with the class projects or volunteering at any time to help with this event, including the night of the Spectacular. An event like this takes a lot to be successful, and this event was truly an evening to remember that will benefit the school community for years to come. Last but not least, I would like to thank our co-chairs, Erica Gerstenmaier and Colleen Tate, for their tireless efforts in planning this wonderful event, including transforming Zwisler Hall into a Paris-themed venue. For more details, please see page 5.

Weller is an Official Therapy Dog!

I am proud to announce that our school now "employs" an official therapy dog. In March, Weller completed his final test through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs certifying Weller and myself as a Pet Therapy Team. Students first met Weller over a year ago, in January of 2022, when Weller visited classes as an 8-week-old puppy. In February of 2022, Weller began his therapy dog training with many classes, completing two American Kennel Club programs along the way: the STAR (Socialization, Training, Activity and Responsibility) Puppy program and the Canine Good Citizen class. Thank you to all who have supported Weller! Weller's interactions with our students and families helped him develop and strengthen his skills, from greeting students in the morning, going on field trips, and playing soccer, to sitting with students who were having a rough day or needed a little extra love. I hope he will continue to bring love, comfort, and joy to all our students, just as he does to me and my family. To mark this milestone for Weller, I collected some reflections on him and his impact on our community, and I am happy to share a few of them:

Mikey Beck (1st grade) – When I'm in the car and I get out and see Weller, it always brightens my day and I feel like I'm gonna have a good day all day.

Alyvia Severns (7th grade) – Whenever I see him in the morning or see him in the school, he always brings a light to me and he always makes me smile because I feel very loved when he comes up to me.

Henry Thomas (7th grade) – I feel like he's a good uniting force for the student body because no matter what you are struggling with or what's going on in your life there's always Weller, he's always there.



Ava Burgoyne (5th grade) – Sometimes I have stress over school because of all the work; it's just so calming to see him here. It's so nice because I have someone to pet and just love on.

Sally Weakland (Junior high teacher) – Weller is a wonderful addition to the school. He is so calm and well behaved, and the students love him. I have seen students having a rough day be calmed and restored to normal after a small interaction with him.

Jen Smee (4th-grade teacher) – You can't help but look at him and smile. He fills your heart with joy because he's innocent and pure, sweet and loving.

Knauer Family – Even though he isn't technically a "Terrier," he's close enough for us! Seeing Weller on the curb for morning drop off always brings a smile to us! Our hearts well up for Weller! We say it every morning, "Weller loves to be loved!"

Easter Blessings

As we welcome spring and approach the final celebrations of Easter, I remain as always thankful for this community and its many blessings. I hope all of our families enjoy a peaceful and prayerful Easter Break.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr
Principal

From the STEM Coordinators

Grades K-3, by Susan Vernon

During the third quarter, our 2nd-grade students used the holiday theme of leprechauns as a springboard for STEM activities. The children investigated folklore and other literature to determine whether or not leprechauns do exist. Even after determining FACT from OPINION, most believed these little green men exist! Mrs. DeKatch's class wrote up plans and set amazing traps to catch leprechauns. They used real engineering skills with traps that involved pulleys, secret doors, and other clever devices.



Mrs. Vernon's class focused on the rainbow, with a science video and an activity in which students created a reproduction of the color spectrum with Skittles candy. There was no gold at the rainbow's end, but there was a yummy treat! The students also experimented with creating a special, edible graph using Lucky Charms cereal. And finally, the 2nd-graders used their knowledge of the color spectrum to make Lego creations.

The primary grades often use manipulatives as well as edible snacks to give students a hands-on and visual learning experience. Graphing, sorting, and designing activities are some of the ways that math, science, and engineering are integrated into the daily lessons. A technology piece is added whenever students use their Chromebooks for research and investigation. From "Readers Theater" and class plays to reading projects and beyond, STEM education is alive and enhances cross-curriculum classes at St. Sebastian Parish School! We look forward to our revived Innovation Night event, which will take place Wednesday, May 17, from 5:30-7 p.m. Please plan to join us!

Grades 4-6, by Jennifer Slegus

The 4th-grade students were busy with many STEM-based activities during the third quarter. While learning about weathering and erosion, our students learned a song and a dance that helped them learn and remember the processes. While learning about catastrophic events, students worked in groups to design, build, and then erupt their volcanoes, while also learning about chemical reactions in the process. Our 4th-graders were also busy learning about the Revolutionary War, completing projects, making timelines, and learning about the famous patriots who helped form a new nation. They then completed a cross-curricular project for which they read the book "Class Dismissed," which is about kids learning about the Revolutionary War in school. Our students created a play with costumes and performed it for an audience of parents and peers. They concluded the performance by singing famous patriotic songs. This project culminated in an "escape room," focusing on the causes of the American Revolution. Students

solved ciphers, cryptograms, and other clues and puzzles. They used math problem-solving skills, reading comprehension, and primary sources to solve the final clue.



Our 5th-grade classes have been busy as well, learning about electricity, circuits, and current. They learned how to complete a circuit to light up a mini LED bulb, as well as how to create a working switch to turn the light on and off. Students worked in pairs to research a European explorer, then they created slideshows that included timelines, pictures, and travel routes, along with fun and interesting facts.

The 6th-graders participated in the stock market game, a simulated version of the stock market, but with real-time gains and losses. They researched companies and investments to determine if they wanted to use the virtual money they were allocated to invest in given companies. Our 6th-grade students also participated in a "Pi Day" activity for which they learned about pi and calculated the circumference of various circles. This tied in nicely with their lesson about substituting values for variables. The 6th grade also enjoyed a visit from members of the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School Rocket Team, who taught them rocketry concepts. Then our students designed, built, and launched their rockets through the air using an air compressor.

Grades 7-8, by Megan Sanford

Junior high students celebrated "Pi Day" on March 14, learning about the irrational number pi through hands-on learning activities, including calculating the circumference of some circular treats. On March 18, the Western Reserve District 5 Science Fair was held at the University of Akron, marking the first time since 2019 this event was held in person. All of our participating junior high students (Abigail Coleman, Owen Lawson, Jane Porter, Julia Rea, and Isaac Sullivan) earned an "excellent" rating or higher, and Abigail and Owen earned "superior" scores and are moving on to the State Science Day.



The 7th-grade classes spent the third nine weeks of school learning about weather and climate. Students also studied the Earth, moon, and sun system and completed a hands-on lab on the phases of the moon. They also identified freshwater organisms in four different pond water samples, using microscopes and freshwater microorganisms ID packets, as a culminating science lab to their aquatic ecosystem unit. In math classes, students spent the third quarter learning about rational numbers, linear and two-step equations, and applying everything they learned to real-life situations.

The Drone Club has been meeting for flying sessions that provide students with the opportunity to fly different types of drones to develop their skill levels. The last session consists of a timed contest with an obstacle course in the gymnasium. The winning drone pilot must record the quickest time with the fewest penalties.

The 8th-grade students have been exploring cells and cell division. Using microscopes, students examined chromosomes and their own cheek cells. Our 8th-graders have been studying the laws of heredity and genetics, and they made genetic children using a given set of alleles. They also explored their own genetic makeup using PTC strips to see if they were "tasters" or "non-tasters." Students completed virtual simulations and hands-on activities demonstrating the laws of natural selection and adaptations. In one activity, students used tools to represent different types of bird beaks and competed to see which beak was best adapted to gather the most food.

Students in the News

Spelling Bee

As is tradition, the school spelling bee took place during Catholic Schools Week. The competitions were divided into three groups. In the group for grades 1-3, the winners were Max Hickey (first place), Gianna Wilgus (second place), and Mary Tyrrell (third place). In grades 4-6, the winners were Evan Rea (first place), Alana Chapman (second place), and Peyton Jennings (third place). In grades 7-8, the winners were Julia Rea (first place), Will Tober (second place), and Frances Knauer (third place). Congratulations to all of our spelling bee participants! As the school champion, Julia Rea represented St. Sebastian Parish School at the Akron Beacon Journal Regional Spelling Bee on March 11. Julia progressed through seven rounds, finishing with 7th place overall. Congratulations to this terrific Terrier!



Power of The Pen Team Excels at Regionals

Congratulations to our Power of the Pen Team, which had a great showing at the regional competition at Kent State University on Feb. 25. Winning individual honors were Louisa Dennée, who placed 5th overall for 8th-graders, and Noelle Keso, who placed 12th overall for 7th-graders. In individual rounds in the 8th-grade competition, Lydia Chivers received a superior ranking, an honors ranking, and a merit ranking; Louisa Dennée received two superior rankings and one honors ranking; and Julia Rea received one superior and two honors rankings. In the 7th-grade competition, Sadie Borges, Abigail Coleman, and Frances Knauer each received three honors rankings; Noelle Keso received one superior, one honors, and one merit ranking; and Henry Thomas received two honors and one merit ranking. Abigail Coleman earned a Best of the Round Award for her writing at the district competition. Congratulations to Abigail, Noelle, Louisa, and Julia for qualifying to compete in the statewide tournament in May. Way to go, Terriers!

7th-Grade Girls Basketball Championship

The 7th-grade girls basketball team is the CYO champion after defeating Sacred Heart in the Feb. 19 championship game with a score of 41-25. Congratulations to the team members Helena Buehner, Sloane Bossart (St. Hilary), Bailey Huckabee, Grace Keso, Noelle Keso, Daphne Kindbom, Phoebe Setzekorn (St. Hilary), and June Taray. The team was coached by Steve Grosklos, an alumni parent, along with Sarah Minear, a 2014 St. Sebastian graduate. Way to bring home the championship trophy, Terriers!



Junior High Science Fairs

Grades 5-6 School Science Fair: This year St. Sebastian Parish School added a science fair for grades 5-6. The students created a wide variety of projects, which they displayed in the Innovation Lab while talking to our teachers/staff who served as judges. Congratulations to the following students for earning science fair honors. For 5th grade, the award winners were Simon Borges and Grant Coleman (first place), Emma Gilbride and Amelia Kilker (second place), and Alex Frank and Collin Enright (third place). For the 6th grade, award winners were Evan Rea (first place), Adeline Trenor (second place), and Zack Blaser and Nathaniel Chuba (third place). Great job, young Terrier scientists!

Local Science Fair: Congratulations to our students who participated in the local science fair at Walsh Jesuit High School on Feb. 11. Eight students earned awards for their projects.

Biomedical/Health Sciences

- Jordan Large, Grade 7 (Insulin, Food and Blood Sugar, Oh My), Excellent Rating

Biochemistry/Chemistry

- Jane Porter, Grade 8 (Leaven Heaven), Superior Rating, 1st place in category

Engineering Mechanics

- John Jopperi/Christian Trenor, Grade 7 (Magnet Levitation Train), Good Rating
- Owen Lawson, Grade 7 (How Far Can You Fly), Excellent Rating, 3rd place in category
- Jonathan Schnurr, Grade 7 (Building the Future), Excellent Rating
- Isaac Sullivan, Grade 8 (Gone With the Wind), Superior Rating, 1st place in category

Environmental Sciences/Plant Sciences

- Abigail Coleman, Grade 7 (Hydroponics, The Best Growing Medium), Excellent Rating, 3rd place in category
- Julia Rea, Grade 8 (To Be or Not To Be Organic), Excellent Rating, 2nd place in category

Regional Science Fair: The Western Reserve District 5 Science Fair was held at the University of Akron on March 18. Congratulations to all of our students who participated. Five of our students (pictured at right) earned awards: Excellent Rating: Jane Porter, Julia Rea, and Isaac Sullivan; Superior Rating: Abigail Coleman and Owen Lawson. Special congratulations to Abigail and Owen, who qualified for the state science fair!



MathCounts

Congratulations to Julia Rea, Marcus Chuba, Owen Ziemann, Isaac Sullivan, Sadie Borges, John Jopperi, Henry Thomas, and Adriana Wilkerson for participating in the Regional MathCounts Competition at the University of Akron on Feb. 4.

News and Notes

2023-24 Scholarships

Congratulations to the following winners of scholarships for the 2023-24 school year! Many thanks to all the students who submitted applications and to the many generous donors and organizations who made these scholarships possible. Students receiving scholarships were recognized at the Annual Foundation Scholarship Mass on March 30.

SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED THROUGH THE ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH FOUNDATION

- The Mary Ley Burke Scholarship: Nevaeh Brunson, Abigail Coleman, Jackson Edgar, Luca Hall, Frances Knauer, Finn Rafferty, Connor Whitney
- The Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship: Louisa Dennée
- The Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Trisha Dakhore
- The Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship: Greysen Mickel
- The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Andrew Gerstenmaier, Peter Zografakis
- GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders): Sadie Borges, Aubrey Coates, Angelina Gerbick, Gemma Griffin, Ben Hagenbush, Daphne Kindbom, Ellen Rothkopf, Adeline Trenor
- The Hanlon Family Scholarship: Parker Chapin, Joe MacDougall, Zoe Obringer, Nate Pirie
- The Karg Family Scholarship: Emerson Kavulic
- The Tom and Jeanne LaRose Family Memorial Scholarship: Helena Buehner, Shilo Davenport, Levi Dunn, Abigail Gilbride, Lincoln Lawson, Harlyn Nordberg, Everly Phillips, Myra Singh, Miles Soper, June Taray
- The William and Mildred Loftus Memorial Scholarship: Ellie Salisbury
- The Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Sophia Brdarski, Jordan Large, Jonathan Schnurr
- The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Marcus Chuba, Giovanni Nonno

SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED THROUGH ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL/PARISH-RELATED GROUPS

- HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Noah Madonia, Julia Rea
- The Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Reverend Terry Peacock Scholarship: Isaac Sullivan, Julia Rea
- The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Julia Rea
- The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: George Knauer, Isaac Sullivan



Catholic Schools Week 2023

St. Sebastian was full of activity during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4), with celebrations, prayer, service, fun, and fellowship. Students enjoyed wearing crazy hats and socks, spirit wear, and mismatched outfits. The school community gathered for open house, all-school Mass, and the Living Rosary. School families were treated to breakfast goodies at "Pastries with Parents," thanks to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, and teachers and staff enjoyed a wonderful lunch on Wednesday courtesy of HASA. All week, the school collected items for the Akron Snow Angels, a service organization that helps people who are unhoused. Students participated in lively worship sessions with staff from Camp Damascus, and they met with their grade-level buddies for fun activities. Student council had the privilege of attending the diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass with Bishop Malesic at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland.

The school spelling bee (see results on the previous page) was held on Thursday, and on Friday, the whole school gathered again in Zwisler Hall for the Terrier Trivia competition, which features questions on our Catholic faith. Winners, pictured here, were: the 2nd-grade team of Marty Bray, Emerson Kavulic, Nolan Taray, and Malanii Wooldridge; the 6th-grade team of Talen Bills, Ellen Rothkopf, Ryan Senko, and Adeline Trenor; and the 8th-grade team of Andrew Gerstenmaier, Greyson McKeon, Julia Rea, and Isaac Sullivan. Congratulations to all of our students who competed, and thank you to all our families for joining us in celebrating Catholic Schools Week!



Calendar Notes

June 1 – Last Day of School Cookout: The school will once again hold a family cookout on June 1, the last day of school. Students will be dismissed at 11:45, and we hope you will join us after dismissal from 12 noon-1:30 p.m. for hot dogs and treats for the whole family. More information to come.

September – Grandparents Day: Grandparents Day is back for next year! We are planning to hold it in early September. The date is TBD, but we are looking forward to welcoming our grandparents back on campus for Mass and classroom visits.

School Advisory Committee

Our School Advisory Committee (SAC) is looking for 2-4 new members to serve beginning in June and nominations are open. For more information on nominations for those willing to take an active role in the school, please send an email to sac@students.stsebastian.org or call the office at 330-836-9107.

A Spectacular Evening in Paris

The 2023 St. Sebastian Spectacular was très fantastique! More than 175 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and fun that brought in an amazing **profit of over \$131,000 for the benefit of our students and our school!**

The theme for the February 11 event was "A Spectacular Evening in Paris," and Zwisler Hall was decorated with French flair, featuring a classic black and white color palette with splashes of pink. In addition to the lovely décor, highlights of the evening included a delicious sit-down dinner prepared by Trattoria Vaccaro. The French-inspired meal included beef bourguignon, salmon velouté, eggplant timbale, family-style side dishes, and creme brûlée for dessert. Guests also enjoyed live music by Slap Jazz while browsing the auction items and sampling the signature drink for the evening, which was the French 75, a champagne cocktail.

This year's silent and live auctions featured a wide variety of great items, everything from airplane tours and a vacation to the south of France, to reserved parking spots and the opportunity for students to spend an afternoon with Principal Rohr's dog, Weller. Before the start of the live auction, the winners of the raffle prize drawings were announced. Congratulations to the Tober family, who won the full-tuition raffle, and to the Carro and Schnurr families, who each won a half-tuition prize. Congratulations also to Jeff Erath, who won the bourbon basket, and Paula Welch, who won this year's "heads-or-tails" prize of an Xbox Series X gaming system.

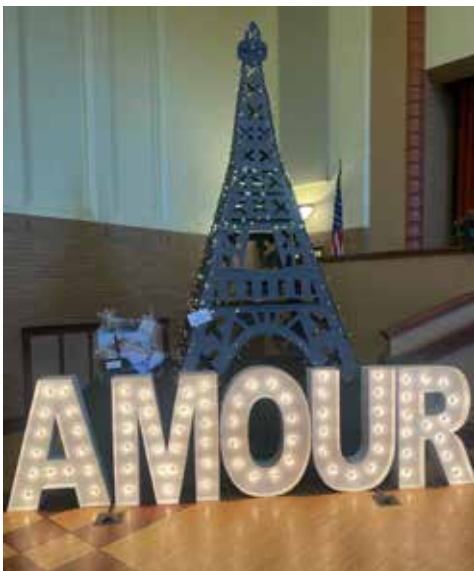
This paddle raise portion of this year's live auction brought in an amazing \$61,675 in funding for the school's library project. Thanks to this fantastic support, this project is fully funded! Stay tuned as our library is transformed with an updated layout, new tables/seating areas, improved teacher space, and a smart board/screen for presentations. These upgrades will make the best use of our library by expanding its capacity to be not only a place for quiet reading but also a customizable and collaborative space where every student, from preschool



through junior high, can learn and explore. The remaining proceeds from the event were allocated in the following ways: \$40,000 will be used for tuition reduction for each and every student, \$19,584 for technology equipment and maintenance, and \$10,000 for the school endowment.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, including those who bought coupon books or raffle tickets, donated gift cards or auction items, provided sponsorships, bought auction items, attended the event, or volunteered to help in any way. Special thanks to Katie Pirie for coordinating our fantastic student art projects, Gina Milan of Pink Petals Florist for creating the beautiful floral accents, and Natalie Griffin-Kinney and Lois Gerstenmaier for their help in packaging the auction items for display. And enormous thanks to co-chairs Erica Gerstenmaier and Colleen Tate, pictured above, for their amazing dedication and countless hours of work to make this event both fabulously fun and super successful.

Since its inception in 2004, the Spectacular, which is the school's largest annual fundraiser, has raised over \$1.48 million for our school! We are forever indebted to the hard work, creativity and incredible generosity of those who chose to dedicate their time and treasure to this event. Thank you!



Camp Invention June 5-9

Camp Invention returns to St. Sebastian this summer. This is a nationally acclaimed program for students in K-6. This year's "Wonder" program includes all-new, hands-on challenges to spark students' curiosity and build their confidence as they jump into STEM fun with opportunities to imagine, plan, experiment, and create. St. Sebastian 4th-grade teacher Jennifer Smee is director of our school's program, which is coordinated in partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame. This is a one-week camp (M-F, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.). Visit www.invent.org/camp for registration information.



afternoon, they will utilize those skills to rehearse scenes from classic books, plays, and films, culminating in a final performance on the last day. The "Great Big Acting Camp" is for ages 8-14 and runs 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with drop-off as early as 8 a.m. and pickup as late as 5 p.m. More information at magicaltheatre.org/drama-camps.

Vacation Bible School June 26-30

Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this summer at St. Sebastian! It runs from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday-Friday for children ages 4 through entering 5th grade. The theme is "Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive." Attendees will learn about saints, Eucharistic miracles, prayer, and more through skits, games, and other activities. The cost is \$15 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. There is no charge for children whose parents volunteer the whole week, and on-site babysitting is available for free for children of volunteers. Volunteer forms are available on the parish website at www.stsebastian.org/church/vacation-bible-school; registration forms will be available once enough adult volunteers have signed up. Questions? Contact Hannah Kasper at 330-396-1798 or stsebastianvbs@gmail.com.



Drama Camp June 12-16



Magical Theatre Company will take up residence in Zwisler Hall and present a fabulous week of creative excitement! Students will build their great big acting skills with high-energy morning sessions focusing on character, movement, voice, creative dramatics, and improv. In the

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

SAVE THE DATE

Junior High Summer Camp ~ July 24-27
 New Family Picnic ~ August 17
 Welcome Back Open House ~ August 20
 First Day of School 2023-24 ~ August 22
 Celebrity Night Social ~ September 14
 Preschool/Kindergarten Dinner ~ Oct. 6
 Trunk or Treat ~ October 13
 Ladies Luncheon Social ~ November 12
 Christmas Break ~ Dec. 20-Jan. 2
 (classes resume Jan. 3)
 Easter Break ~ March 29-April 5
 Last Day of School 2023-24 ~ May 30

APRIL

Easter Break April 7-14
 Father/Daughter Dance @Zwisler Hall April 22 (Saturday), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

MAY

8th-Grade Trip May 3-5 (Wednesday-Friday)
 First Communion May 6 (Saturday), 11 a.m.
 No School, Reserve Calamity Day May 8 (Monday)
 May Crowning Mass May 11 (Thursday), 9:30 a.m.
 Band/Choir Concert May 16 (Tuesday), 7 p.m.
 Innovation Night May 17 (Wednesday), 5:30-7 p.m.
 Pass It On Mass May 25 (Thursday), 9:30 a.m.
 Last Day of Preschool May 26 (Friday)
 No School, Memorial Day May 29 (Monday)
 8th-Grade Last Day, CLAP OUT @ 11 a.m. May 31 (Wednesday)

JUNE/JULY

Last Day of School (K-7), Last All-School Mass June 1 (Thursday)
END-OF-THE-YEAR PICNIC for students and families, 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
 8th-Grade Graduation June 1 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
 Camp Invention June 5-9 (Monday-Friday)
 Magical Theatre Drama Camp June 12-16 (Monday-Friday)
 Vacation Bible School June 26-30 (Monday-Friday)
 Brick Street Jazz & Wine Festival June 29 (Thursday)
 8th-Grade (Class of 2024) Swim Social August 14 (Monday)

Questions or Suggestions?

Please email Anne Dennée, newsletter editor, at Anne@DenneeFamily.com