



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

# BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

August 2023

## From the Principal's Office



Welcome to the new school year! Welcome back to our returning families and staff, and a special welcome to the new members of our school community. We have one new teacher this year, Patricia Curley (6th

grade), and a new school psychologist, Kathy Murphy. Betty Indriolo, our retired junior high teacher who was with us for over a decade, is returning to us with invaluable experience in the STEM field and will be a STEM coach for our teachers and students. We have also added two new members to the School Advisory Council: Jennifer Rogers-Dagnall and Emily Fernandez. I am excited to get the school year started. It's going to be a great year!

### EdChoice/Angel Scholarship Fund/Jon Peterson Scholarship

Recent developments have enabled our school and families to access additional state funding.

**EDCHOICE:** The school held an information meeting Aug. 10 about the expansion of the EdChoice scholarships. The school and parish are continuing to work hard to navigate all the steps required to take full advantage of this program. Please know that 1) almost all families will see a reduction in tuition, with no families paying more tuition than they would have otherwise, and 2) we are firmly committed to maintaining the school's mission and values as well as our strong academic and behavioral standards. In fact, the increased options for funding will only help our school continue to excel as a high achievement, high growth educational environment.

**ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** Families are encouraged to continue to take advantage of the Angel Scholarship Fund program, which allows Ohio taxpayers to receive an income tax credit that can be "spent" on tuition assistance funding that can be designated to our school ([catholiccommunity.org/ways-to-give/donate/angel-scholarship-fund](http://catholiccommunity.org/ways-to-give/donate/angel-scholarship-fund)). Thank you to everyone who has supported the school through this fund. It is making a huge difference, especially when combined with the additional EdChoice funding! Your support of the Angel Scholarship Fund is still needed, and the school will be providing more information soon on this easy way to make a big impact on our school's tuition assistance program.

**JON PETERSON:** Our school is also in the process of becoming a private provider of Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarships offered by the state. This funding will help our school better meet the needs of students who need extra support by providing funding for additional resources, such as an intervention specialist and/or designated aides. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions on these programs by calling the school office (330-836-9107) or by email at [RohrA@stsebastian.org](mailto:RohrA@stsebastian.org).

### Unleash the Power of Holy Moments!

This school year, we're doing something we've never done before. We're on a mission to unleash the power of Holy Moments in our community, and that includes you! Every single one of you has so much to offer – whether you're young or decades have passed since your classroom days – whether you make friends easily or are working on putting yourself out there – whether you have a clear dream for your future or are still figuring it all out. It's time to discover just what you have to offer. It's time to discover how much good you can create in the world. It's time to discover your full potential. And the best way to do that is through Holy Moments.



**Weller Update:** Weller had a busy summer and enjoyed different types of water as often as possible, including his first ocean trip. He continues to take classes for fun and com-

peted in his first Rodeo Dog competition, where he finished first place three times out of four qualifying runs and earned second place in a team relay race. He enjoyed seeing the students at the various summer camps and very much is looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school!

### What is a Holy Moment?

A Holy Moment is a single moment in which you open yourself to God. You make yourself available to Him. You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is calling you to do. As a school, we will be focusing on Holy Moments this year, and we ask you to join us and pay attention to this idea. It might just change your life! We'll feature inspiring Holy Moments that happened in our school community throughout the year, and we want to hear about the amazing ways you and your family are collaborating with God as well! More to come as we begin to unleash the power of Holy Moments as we start the new school year together.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr  
Principal

### Questions or Suggestions?

Please email Anne Dennée, newsletter editor, at [Anne@DenneeFamily.com](mailto:Anne@DenneeFamily.com)

# News & Notes

In case you missed it, here are a few highlights from spring/summer.

## Power of the Pen

Congratulations to Abigail Coleman, Louisa Dennée, Noelle Keso, and Julia Rea, who competed in the state Power of the Pen tournament at Ashland University in late May. Each of these students participated in three rounds of writing, and Julia advanced to the final "power round" as one of the top 54 8th-grade writers in the state! Julia also received a Director's Choice award for her story "A Light of Hope."



## Track & Field

Congratulations to all the members of the Track & Field team for a great season! In the last sectional meets of the season May 20-21, the 7th-grade girls team finished in 2nd place overall, while both the 6th-grade boys and 7th-grade boys teams earned 1st-place finishes. At the 8th-grade CYO Championship Meet, our 8th-grade girls team finished the season in 2nd place



overall out of 16 teams, and the 8th-grade boys team finished in 1st place overall out of 20 schools! Many individual awards were also earned by these impressive athletes. Way to go, Terriers!

## Summer Projects

Thank you to our summer maintenance crew for getting everything in tip-top shape! Projects included the painting of the hallways, junior high classrooms, and 2nd-floor bathrooms. The junior high halls have new lights, the playground has new mulch, and school crests were installed where they were missing. New Clevertouch units (interactive display panels) were installed, three in the Center for Early Learning and one in the library, thanks to proceeds from the 2023 Spectacular paddle raise and state funding. New carpet was installed in three classrooms (Smee, Bradley, Friedl) as well as the lower level of the Center for Early Learning. The junior high boys bathroom has a new toilet, and all the toilets/urinals are up and running. There have also been many updates at Byrider Hall. The new classroom furniture purchased with funds from the #WeGIVECATHOLIC campaign and a state grant arrived this summer as well. This new furniture includes new tables and chairs for every classroom in the Center for Early Learning.

## Soap Box Derby Club

Sixth-grade students in the Soap Box Derby Club worked hard to construct their super stock derby cars last spring. In May, each student got to race down the historical Derby



Downs hill during their team visit. The team returned the next day to race against 14 other schools at the May 13 Gravity Racing Challenge STEM Team Competition. While the team raced well on a soggy day, they did not bring home any awards – but they certainly will remember the "thrill of the hill" for many years to come!

## Stock Market Challenge

Last year, students in Mr. Dedinsky's 6th-grade class participated in the Stock Market Game hosted by the Economics Center at the University of Cincinnati. This is a game in which students



are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in companies over a 10-week period. The students conduct research about stock market trends as well as different companies to figure out if they should invest in those companies. The results of the game are determined by real-time stock market numbers. Congratulations to the team of Zachary Blaser, Ian Porter, Luca Hall, and Nathan Johnson, who finished in first place in the middle school division for Ohio, qualifying for the statewide "Portfolio Challenge" at the University of Cincinnati in May. Our students presented what they learned and the strategies they used to judges from Huntington National Bank, then enjoyed a campus tour, lunch, and an awards ceremony in the suite level at Nippert Stadium. Great work, team!

## Lego Club

Our Lego Club had a great run this year, finishing up with their last after-school session in May. Our kindergarten and 1st-grade students loved coming together and building with their friends. Many thanks to Lego Club moderators, teachers Kathy Cardarelli, Giana D'Andrea, Michele Kellner, Lesley Starcher, and Mary Weitzel, as well as parent volunteer Katie Pirie, for providing this hands-on STEM activity that not only fosters the budding design and engineering talents of our students but also encourages creativity and collaboration!



## 8th-Grade Trip to Washington, DC

The Class of 2023 packed in a lot of activities during their May 3-5 trip to Washington, DC! They started with a visit to Gettysburg, where they took in sights and sounds that brought their history curriculum of the U.S. Civil War to life. After arriving in DC, the group enjoyed evening visits to the MLK, FDR and Jefferson memorials. The second day began with a tour of Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. Next up was a trip to Arlington National Cemetery, where they witnessed the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In the afternoon, the group toured the Capitol Building, followed by stops at the WWII, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials. The second night concluded with an evening of bowling, food, and fun! On the final day, students toured the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and celebrated Mass in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel. The last two stops of the trip included the Saint John Paul II National Shrine and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The students saw and learned so much in these three jam-packed days, taking over 40,000 steps and walking nearly

17 miles during their trip! THANK YOU to everyone who supported the plant sales and other 8th-grade fundraisers throughout the year to make this trip very affordable and memorable for our students.



# *Congratulations, Class of 2023!*



## 2022-2023 Academic Achievement & Scholarship Recipients

### **ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL**

Irish "Top 5" Academic Scholarship: Julia Rea  
Irish Academic Scholarship: Louisa Dennée, Giovanni Nonno, William Tober, Owen Zieman  
Wheeler Family Green & Gold Scholarship: Marcus Chuba, Giovanni Nonno, Owen Zieman  
Nick and Eileen Antonino Family Scholarship: Marcus Chuba, Jane Porter  
Louis Perry and Joan Byron Perry Scholarship: Brady Kidder  
Ralph C. Wheeler Scholarship: Jane Porter, Julia Rea  
Henkel Family Scholarship: Allison Raita, Julia Rea  
Thomas and Margaret Antonino Family Scholarship: Isaac Sullivan  
Lynch Family Scholarship: Elena Salisbury  
Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship: Louisa Dennée  
John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Marcus Chuba, Giovanni Nonno  
William and Mildred Loftus Memorial Scholarship: Elena Salisbury  
The Hanlon Scholarship: Nicholas Paxton  
Christine Clark Scholarship: Nicholas Paxton  
Northeast Ohio Italian American (NOIA) Foundation Scholarship: Giovanni Nonno

***Best wishes to the Class of 2023 as they continue their education at the following high schools: Akron Early College, Archbishop Hoban, Copley, Gilmour Academy, Revere, St. Vincent-St. Mary, Walsh Jesuit, and Woodridge.***

### **ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Alumni Legacy Scholarship: Noah Madonia, Kaeden Wadlington  
Frank Comunale and Philip Maynard Scholarship: Noah Madonia  
Knight Award: Charlotte Gilbert, Greysen Mickel, Sophie Walker  
Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship: Greysen Mickel

### **WALSH JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL**

The Michael R. Beck III Memorial Scholarship: Andrew Gerstenmaier, Ethan Marshall-Wack, Peter Zografakis  
St. Jean de Brebeuf, S.J. Merit Scholarship: Peter Zografakis  
The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Andrew Gerstenmaier, Peter Zografakis

### **ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Deacon Terry Peacock Knights of Columbus Scholarship: Julia Rea, Isaac Sullivan  
HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Noah Madonia, Julia Rea  
St. Sebastian Sanctuary Society Scholarship: Julia Rea  
St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: Isaac Sullivan  
Father Byrider Award: Julia Rea, Isaac Sullivan  
Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award: Lydia Chivers, Louisa Dennée, Nicole Krohn, Nicholas Paxton, Allison Raita, Peter Zografakis  
Booster Club Athlete of Character Award: Julia Rea, William Tober  
Christian Student Athlete Award: Marcus Chuba, Jane Porter

## Save the Date: April 20 St. Sebastian Spectacular

This year's St. Sebastian Spectacular will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Co-chairs Missy Knauer and Zorie Brdarski are already working hard to plan another great event! The evening will feature live and silent auctions, a fabulous sit-down meal, an open bar with a signature cocktail, and live music. This event is our school's largest annual fundraiser, and it is always a fun and a wonderful chance to support our SPECTACULAR SCHOOL!

### Get Involved!

There are many ways you can support this event, including attending the event, volunteering your time, becoming a sponsor, placing an ad in the program, or donating to the live and silent auctions. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact Missy at [mknauer@att.net](mailto:mknauer@att.net) or Zorie at [zore\\_n\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:zore_n_2000@yahoo.com). Your support is truly appreciated!

## Welcome To Our New 6th-Grade Teacher!

**Patricia Curley**, 6th-Grade Teacher

Education: Adelphi University (N.Y.), B.A. liberal arts and education K-6; Notre Dame College, ELA certification 7-12; pursuing master's in educational administration at Ursuline College.

Years Teaching: Over 20 years in both New York and Ohio at various grade levels and institutions, but concentrated on Catholic education.

Why I Like Teaching: I love teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sharing God's love for us with my students.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

### SAVE THE DATE

Explorer Day ~ Nov. 3  
Readathon ~ Nov. 6-17  
Parent/Teacher Conferences ~ Nov. 7, 9  
No School ~ Nov. 10  
Night at the Races ~ Nov. 10  
Ladies Christmas Boutique ~ Nov. 12  
Thanksgiving Break ~ Nov. 22-27  
HASA Meeting ~ Nov. 30  
Ladies Christmas Tea ~ Dec. 6  
Christmas Music Program ~ Dec. 7  
Christmas Band/Choir Concert ~ Dec. 12  
Baby Jesus Blessing ~ Dec. 16-17  
Christmas Break ~ Dec. 20-Jan. 2  
(classes resume Jan. 3)  
International Festival ~ Feb. 3  
Innovation Night ~ Feb. 8  
St. Sebastian Spectacular ~ April 20

### AUGUST

New Family Picnic  
2nd-Grade Field Day Social  
Booster Club Night @RubberDucks  
"Backpack Blessing" Mass  
Open House  
First Day of School (Grades 1-8)  
Kindergarten Orientation Sessions  
Preschool Orientation Sessions  
Kindergarten Half Day  
Welcome Back Coffee @ School Courtyard  
First Full Day: Preschool & K  
Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)  
Parent Prep Night

August 17 (Thursday), 5:30-7 p.m.  
August 19 (Saturday), 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
August 19 (Saturday), 7:05 p.m.  
August 20 (Sunday), 9 a.m.  
August 20 (Sunday), 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
August 22 (Tuesday)  
August 22, 23, 24 (Tues.-Thurs.), 8-9 a.m.  
Aug. 22, 24, 25 (Tues., Thurs., Fri.), 9-10 a.m.  
August 25 (Friday), 7:55-11 a.m.  
August 28 (Monday), 7:30 a.m.  
August 28 (Monday)  
August 28 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.  
August 31 (Thursday), 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

No School – Labor Day  
Grandparents Day  
Celebrity Night Social @ Akronym  
Confirmation Retreat (8th Grade)  
HASA Meeting, Zwisler Hall  
Mum Sale Pick Up  
Early Dismissal (1 p.m.) & No Aftercare  
HASA Family Game Night

September 4 (Monday)  
September 7 (Thursday), 8:05-10:45 a.m.  
September 14 (Thursday), 7-10 p.m.  
September 15-17 (Friday-Sunday)  
September 21 (Thursday), 7 p.m.  
September 23 (Saturday), 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
September 28 (Thursday), 1 p.m.  
September 29 (Friday), time TBA

### OCTOBER

Preschool/Kindergarten Parent Dinner  
Trunk or Treat Social  
End of First Quarter  
Monster Mash  
No School, Teacher Professional Day  
Confirmation Meeting (8th Grade)  
Halloween Parade

October 6 (Friday), 6-7:30 p.m.  
October 13 (Friday)  
October 19 (Thursday)  
October 19 (Thursday)  
October 20 (Friday)  
October 23 (Monday), 7-8 p.m.  
October 27 (Friday)