



Newsletter

Spring 2014



Q & A with Principal Isabella

Recently Mrs. Isabella set aside some time to share her thoughts on her time at St. Sebastian so far and let the community know what's on the horizon. Below are excerpts from a Q & A session between Mrs. Isabella and current parent Anne Dennee '85.

Q: What is your impression of the St. Sebastian community now that you've gotten to know everyone?

A: I think there's a new energy here. I think the kids are happy, the teachers are happy ... All of our [enrollment] numbers, including kindergarten and preschool, are ahead of last year ... It's really been a group effort, with Michelle Traverse Huber '78 [the parish's marketing and PR coordinator] getting the word out, parents talking about their positive experiences, and Fr. Valencheck's support.

Q: You must get asked this all the time, how do you answer when people ask, "How's it going at St. Sebastian?"

A: I love it. I'm so happy here – truly. I was approached and asked to consider the position, and when I came to the interview, it felt like home. When I met Fr. Valencheck, we had the same vision ... we want it to be the best school in Akron... I feel like everything aligned. I wanted a challenge: I knew the good reputation of the school, and I want to take it to the next level.

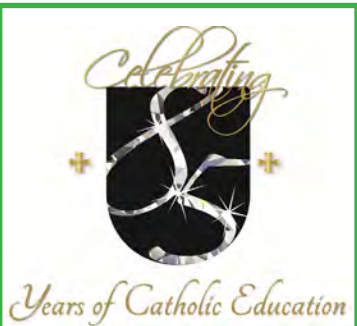
Q: What major projects have been completed since the start of school?

A: One major project was the wireless internet upgrades. We have a cart of iPads that wasn't usable until December because the wireless connection was so poor. It was a \$50,000 upgrade ... we had to examine the infrastructure piece by piece and then look at upgrading it as a whole.

I also got funding from different sources to purchase iPads for all of the teachers. I



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The St. Sebastian Parish School is celebrating their 85th year!

Celebrate this historic anniversary at the September Spectacular event which is the school's most important fundraiser! **Save the Date of Saturday, September 20, 2014.** Reserve your tickets now so you will not miss a moment of excitement as we celebrate 85 years of excellence in Catholic education.

<http://www.stsebastian.org/school/sept-spectacular.html>

Q & A (con't)

didn't think it made sense to have carts of iPads available if the teachers didn't have experience with them.

Accreditation was also a big thing this year. If your school is not accredited, you don't have a school. The school is required to go through accreditation every six years. It is a two-year process, involving a self-study, a visit from the superintendent, 2-day interviews, the crafting of a plan, and so on. We won't know our official results until May, although I am 99% sure we are good.* The two areas we have identified for improvement are in mathematics -- computation and problem solving -- and in religion -- Catholic history and terminology.



A big project this summer will be the replacement of the interior doors throughout the school. The 85-year-old doors need to be replaced with doors that are safe, do not stick, and have locks. The project will involve re-keying all the interior doors. All of the exterior doors were recently replaced too in an effort to improve student safety. Student safety is paramount.

Another big project involves the curriculum rollouts. We follow the State of Ohio curriculum, but we go beyond the state minimums. As the Diocese rolls out new curriculum, we have spent time evaluating what materials and supplies we will need.

Q: What is on deck for the remainder of the year?

A: We have created a technology team, which has just begun meeting. The team wants to create a five-year blueprint for technology before we spend another dime [on technology]. In the past the school has been reactive its technology purchases, but we want to be proactive. We will have a plan in place before school starts next year.

This is the time of year when we are getting everything set for staffing for next year. I also hope to re-establish the garden this spring. We have a parent who has volunteered to take the lead on the garden, and I have asked the teachers to submit their feedback to me on what projects they would like to pursue in the garden.

Q: How about next year? Anything new and exciting?

A: Well, in addition to the enrichment program, I am working on other curriculum-based programs. Right now the school has no formal process for identifying kids who need intervention or remediation. So, I am putting together an intervention team. Also, the school's guidance counselor is retiring, and I hope to hire a school psychologist to come in three days a week.

I would like to have more iPad carts and expand technology-based learning. The paddle raise for the September Spectacular will focus on technology again. I would love to gut the computer room and turn it into a media room ... I think it's exciting, there are lots of options.



Q: What is your favorite St. Sebastian tradition?

A: I haven't experienced all of the traditions yet, but I love the idea of weekly Mass, praying together as a community. I also love the Halloween parade, it's a fun community event. And I enjoy when Fr. Valencheck comes over to the school and passes out chocolate arrows on the Feast of St. Sebastian. There is so much tradition, I'm trying to be a good steward. I'm updating things but trying to keep the traditions that are here. There's also the school's tradition of academic excellence, the sports, the band, Power of the Pen, and a new chess club. There's such initiative here, a lot of initiative to grow.

* The Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association granted St. Sebastian Parish School "Full Accreditation" as this was going to press.

Leave a Legacy

Scholarships 101

Creating a legacy is easier than you might think. While it may seem a lofty goal, creating a scholarship to impact future generations is much easier and often less expensive than you may think.

Step 1: Scholarship Options

Create a new Endowed Scholarship

- * Permanent and perpetual.
- * Start with any dollar amount and when it reaches \$7,500 it will begin paying out. To reach this amount you can make annual payments or leave a gift in your will.

Contribute to an Existing Scholarship

- * Contribute any amount to help an established fund aid more students.

Step 2: Establish Scholarship Criteria

Donors are able to decide how the scholarship recipient will be selected with new scholarship. Examples include Financial Need, Academic Achievement, Merit, or Areas of Interest to name a few.

Step 3: Watch your Legacy Grow

Donors are notified each year of the recipient of their scholarship. They have the opportunity to meet the student at the annual Awards Mass in the spring.

Honor family, a friend or a beloved teacher today and help ensure learning really does live forever by contributing to future St. Sebastian Parish students today. Thank you. For more information, please email foundation@stsebastian.org.

Thank you for getting us over half way there!

The new *St. Sebastian Alumni Scholarship Endowment* balance is currently \$4,392. The scholarship will be endowed when the amount reaches \$7,500 at which time the distribution of funds will begin. The funds you are so generously giving will be used to reduce the tuition for all the children who attend St. Sebastian Parish School.

Again, thank you to all alumni who recently gave to the Alumni Scholarship Endowment! Below is everyone who gave January - May 2014.

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1941 | Patricia Ulrich Wright |
| 1943 | Charles Kincaid |
| 1952 | John Goodman |
| 1953 | Mary Loftus |
| 1958 | Katherine Bender Walsh |
| 1962 | Virginia Bader McGuckin |
| 1969 | Maureen Aylward Barcic |
| 1981 | Brigid Beringer Constance |
| 1981 | Tricia Marks Marshel |

Thank You!

If you would like to contribute to this worthy endowment, please send your tax deductible gift to:

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation
Alumni Association
476 Mull Avenue
Akron, OH 44320



Help Us Find Our Missing Alumni

If you know any of the alumni below, please give us their contact information by email at alumni@stsebastian.org or call 330.836.2233 x119. A special THANK YOU goes out to **Ed Livers, Barbara Helmick '68, Susan Traub Carter '66, Eileen Placanica Clark '65, Phyllis Behrle West '54, Emily Butler Petrarca '53, Anne Dennee '85, and James T. Melert '61**, for their help with updates.

Thank you for your help!

1972

Katy Foley
Pamela Giles
George Heintz
Karen Kline
Robert Ross
Mary Smith
Thomas Ward

1973

Janice (Hunt) Campailla
Frances Cheatham
Michael DeShon
Donald Foley
Maureen (Linehan) Jones
Kevin Kline
Keith Kline
Thomas Kraft
Debra (Louthan) Meador
Laura O'Connell
Pamela Pritchard
Charles Smith
Susan (Mariani) Taylor
John Widmer

1974

David Davis
Joseph Riccardi
Michael Schumacher
Teresa (Hider) Williams

1975

David Bray
Paul Carlson
Henry Jack
Kelly (Conlin) Johnson
Michael Kirn
Stephen McWilliams
Mary (Raines) Moore
Kevin Murray
Gerard Quinn
Therese (Schumacher) Simpson
Angela (D'Attoma) Springer
Kevin Sullivan
Paul Sullivan
David Zuendel

1976

Michael Bar
Daniel Bowman
Edward Flood
Mark Mascolo
Tracy Miller
Katherine (Kelley) Murphy

Brian Oakes
Pamela (Rucker) Parker

1977

Mary Amer
Daniel Boykin
Troy Brown
Kevin Ford
John Forster
John Gorman
John Halter
Herman Jack
Michael Oakes
Edward Pratt
Debra Pratt
Daniel Quinn
Christopher Spring
Colleen Sullivan
Michael Wozniak

1978

Michael Butler
Kathleen Sheets
Matthew Sheets

1979

Kathleen Albert
Terrence Butler
Michael Gill
Mary Hill
Beth (Magno) Kane
Jeanna (Brantley) May
Jeffrey Miller
Elizabeth Pepe
Christopher Petras
Kathleen Sullivan
Michele (Masa) Young

1980

Mary (Roush) Coyne
Patrick Forester
Kathleen Giffels
Richard Kraemer
Margaret (Adams) Maguire
Elizabeth McCann
Lorraine Pepe
Peter Williams
Matthew Williams
Amanda Woods

1981

Maria Cardarelli
Michelle Gill
Raymond Pantea

Timothy Sullivan

1982

Eure Benson
Carolyn Fenn
Shelley Hale
Kristine Hartz
Heather (Fihn) Jones
Jennifer Murphy
Lisa Murty
Jeana (Woll) Rountree
Lisa Smith
James Snyder

1983

Michael Cefaratti
Jeffrey Conway
Connie Hale
Thomas Jackson
Aileen Kuska
John McCann
William O'Neil
Nicole Seabold
Kimberly (Averill) Sparks
Patricia Sullivan

1984

Margaret (Sullivan) Martin
Michael Mehler
Megan Miller
Teresa (Bachmann) Taylor
Joseph Woods

1985

Natisha Kilmire
Jacqueline Lineberry
Paula Zmurk

1986

David Carey
Benjamin Cummings
Aingeal (Coyne) Groom
Stephanie Kovatch
Theresa Krill
Matthew Miller

1987

Jessica (Lineberry) Jones
Kimberly Lucas
Stephanie Micucci
Michael O'Neil

1988

William Carey
Gian Gomez

John James Kovatch
Suzanne McCaffrey

1989

Carrie Kelley
Mellissa Miller

1990

Andrew Cooper
Michelle Fisher
Matthew Green
Julie Mullin
Laura Sullivan
Pamela Tarshis

1991

Christopher Bachmann
Tim Flynn
Patricia O'Brien
Brenda Patton

1992

Daniel Mullin
Sara (Sturm) Padro
Michelle Robertson
Maureen Sullivan

1993

Michael Hamad

1994

Paul Fox

1995

Sarah Seaman

2003

Spencer Gaston

2005

Joshua Hamilton

2006

Alexandra Gaston

2007

Amy Stewart

We are still looking for **Class Contacts!** It does not take much time and we supply the contact information. If you are interested please email alumni@stsebastian.org.
Thank You!

We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those alumni who have passed. The following notices are from February 2014 to May 2014. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian Alumni, please contact us by phone 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Kathleen Hamlin, '39, May 5, 2014
Charles Bauer, '42, February 2, 2014
Gail Edwards, '52, March 22, 2014
Robert Bachmann '53, April 9, 2014
Robert Klein, '54, February 13, 2014
Patricia Parkins, '65, February 11, 2014
Marie McNeill, '76, March 6, 2014

Alumni Updates

CLASS OF 1939

Edward Gemind has recently returned to Ohio after 25 years of living in Florida. Prior to his retirement in 1987 he worked for the Akron Beacon Journal for 41 years.

CLASS OF 1948

The St. Sebastian Class of 1948 just enjoyed their spring get-together luncheon at Papa Joe's in the Valley reported **Sally Delagrang Longville**. They also meet up in the fall. She stated that they usually have 18 or so in attendance.

CLASS OF 1952

Stephanie Ann Schmida Dumstorf reports that she is currently living in Florida and works as an adjunct Faculty for Eastern Florida State College and is also a part-time caregiver for Seniors helping Seniors. She also has been a member of the Small Christian Community group for over 12 years!

The Class of 1952 celebrated the 50th Ordination of three classmates, **Fr. William Karg**, **Fr. Joseph Kraker** and **Fr. David McCafferty**, on Saturday May 24 at a concelebrated Mass at St. Sebastian. The priests gave special recognition to their deceased classmate, **Fr. Frank LaRocca**. A festive reception on the lawn followed.

We are looking for "Alumni Updates." Please let us know about marriages, births, deaths, name changes, new addresses and other events in your life. Please use the contact form online or email us your updates at alumni@stsebastian.org.

CLASS OF 1958

Katherine Bender Walsh is a retired M.D. and is still teaching at Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine. She keeps busy with plenty of volunteer activities.

CLASS OF 1986

Dr. Christopher S. Gearhart, Esq., PhD is a retired Navy (Special Warfare) and served 3 tours in Iraq. He currently is working as an attorney in Fairlawn, Ohio doing Real Estate/Probate. He earned a B.S. in Nuclear Engineer at San Diego State University, CA and a law degree at Saratoga University School of Law.



More images online of the 50th Ordination at:
<http://foundation.stsebastian.org/alumni/events.html>

School Notes

Sponsor a Locker at Byrider... and Support Our Daughters

Are your best memories related to our sports program? The new stadium lockers in the boys locker room located in Byrider Hall offer 30 donors a unique and special way to leave a lasting memorial here at St. Sebastian Parish School. Donors will receive an individualized name plate inside their selected locker. Lockers, numbered 1 – 30, are just \$500 and *all proceeds will support the purchase of new, and very much needed, stadium lockers for the girls locker room.*



Please visit <http://foundation.stsebastian.org/lockers.html> or contact the Foundation office today at 330.836.2233 x113, or foundation@stsebastian.org, to secure your named locker and *help our girls get new lockers.*



Grandparents Day Was a Huge Success! We had over 400 visitors that morning from as far away as Texas and Iowa. It was so exciting to see the joy on our students' faces when their grandparents or special person walked into their classroom. Grandparents attended Mass with their grandchildren, enjoyed a light breakfast with our principal and Fr. Valencheck, and visited their grandchild's classroom.

ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL 4TH ANNUAL ALL CLASS REUNION

Save the Date
Saturday, November 1, 2014

Help us celebrate 85 years of excellence in Catholic Education!

We are so happy to celebrate this historic year with you and hope you can make it! This will be our last All Class Reunion for the next several years. Starting in 2015, we will celebrate unique alumni groups and years.

We would love your input in planning the November reunion. Please contact us at alumni@stsebastian.org if you would like to help us plan another exciting event.

If you have access to early photographs or memorabilia, we would love a copy to share with all our friends.