



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

April 2020

From the Principal's Office



Hello, Terrier families! You all have been constantly in my thoughts and in my daily prayers as we respond to the pandemic and the many hardships and constant adjustments it has required. Please know that the faculty and staff are deeply dedicated to educating our

students — mind, body and soul — and we are all working hard for the best possible outcomes. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and thank you to everyone who has pitched in to help keep things running. Our school is lucky to have such strong support!

Online Newsletter

Most of the content for this Brick Lot Bulletin newsletter was written before the pandemic hit, but we paused production while the school worked on switching to online learning. I'm pleased to now present this online only version of the newsletter. I am happy to have a chance to thank and celebrate all the wonderful things about this school. I hope the newsletter brings a smile to your face as well as a resolve to come back and be better than ever.

Many Thanks

Thank you to all the groups that held events and activities for our school community before the pandemic, especially the extremely dedicated volunteers of HASA, the Socials Committee, and the Spectacular Committee. The support of these groups is so important to our school, I don't know what we'd do without them! Thank you also to the many moderators of all the after-school activities that took place this winter and spring, including Sally Weakland and Maggie Blischak (Power of the Pen), Megan Ritchie and Betty Indriolo (Science Olympiad), Megan Ritchie, Debra Landis, and Robert Dedinsky (MathCounts), Sue Vernon, Kristin DeKatch, Michelle Antochow, Mary Heffern (Crazy 8s), Sue Vernon, Kristin DeKatch, Michelle Antochow, Mary Heffern, Molly Karg, Carolyn Schmidlin, Margaret Myers, Jennifer Bradley, Jennifer Smee, and Olivia Wilde (Lego Club), Robert Dedinsky, Autumn Gaskins, Linda Hubbell, Annie Bordenkircher, Colleen de Boer, John

Kastelic, Tim Sullivan, and Jimmy Bordenkircher (Soap Box Derby Club), Anne Riede and Dr. Sheila King (Robotics Programming Club), and Jeff Beshore, Jennifer Slegus and Jennifer Smee (school musical, *Annie, Jr.*). Thank you also to Scott Mason (band) and Jeff Beshore (music, choir). We are sorry that many of these activities were cancelled before they were finished, and we are truly looking forward to filling the school with students and activities once again.

Updates on Safety Plan, Accreditation

Two major projects that have been underway for some time were completed during the stay-at-home order. First, our school safety plan, which had been thoroughly reviewed and updated, was approved for the next three years. This plan addresses all hazards and threats as well as protocols for responding to them. This was a collaborative effort, so I would like to thank all of the parents, safety officials, teachers and our facilities manager who worked with me on this safety plan. As always, the safety of our students and teachers is our top priority, so I am very happy to have completed this update. Second, our school's final accreditation materials were officially submitted after a final site visit was completed in February. This was the culmination of a two-year-long accreditation renewal process. The goals developed, based on data and feedback from stakeholders, will guide our school over the next four years as we maintain continuous improvement of student performance. I am very thankful to everyone who worked on this process, and I look forward to sharing the feedback we will receive from our Accreditation Committee.

Classroom Improvement Initiative

Another positive note is that the school is able to move forward with some parts of the classroom improvement/renovation projects planned for this summer. As Fr. Valencheck stated in one of his daily letters to the parish, the funds raised for the Classroom Improvement Initiative were raised specifically for this project and cannot be spent in any other manner. While some might think these funds should be saved or used for immediate needs, since the funds were donated for a specified project, to spend the money otherwise would be a serious violation of the law. So, the school is planning to continue with those aspects that can be covered by

the restricted funds, but we will slightly delay some purchases since the balance of project cost was to be covered by parish savings.

As we look forward to upgrading every classroom, our administration, finance council and facilities manager realized that, since many of the new desk options do not include large storage space (thus making them easier to move around in a variety of configurations), before we buy new desks and chairs, the classroom storage issue must be addressed — for the students' items as well as the teachers' items and classroom materials. New classroom storage and lockers are being purchased now, and although the current coronavirus situation has caused us to slightly delay the final decision on our desk and chair options, we hope to order these items soon as well. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me or Milissa Smith, the parish business manager.

The Terrier Way

If you're like me, four weeks ago, when the stay-at-home orders took effect, seems like four months ago. I know we are all looking forward to being together again. In the meantime, continue to do things the Terrier Way: with kindness, intelligence, determination, compassion and faith in God. Make sure to see the silver linings in this situation, such as more time with family and a new appreciation of how blessed we are to be members of this supportive, faith-filled community.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Rohr
Principal

Questions or Suggestions?

Please email Anne Dennée, Newsletter Editor, at Anne@DenneeFamily.com. Items for the August, 2020 issue should be submitted by Friday, July 3rd.

From the STEM Coordinators

Grades K-2, by Susan Vernon

Here's a quick look at some of the STEM activities our K-2 students enjoyed before the school moved to online instruction. Valentine's Day was filled with STEM activities, including constructing paper sculptures with hearts, practicing graphing skills with Skittles and candy hearts, and completing building challenges involving towers and walls!

Of course, any time is a great time for kindergarteners to make marshmallow and toothpick structures!



Grades 3-5, by Jennifer Slegus

The students in grades 3-5 were busy these past nine weeks learning and completing many STEM-based projects. The students in 3rd grade are still collecting markers for their Crayola Colorcycle Project to help with the environment. This program is currently on hold because of the COVID-19 crisis. However, families may continue to collect these materials and we will ship them for recycling at the appropriate time. The 3rd-graders also attended a field trip to *A Bug's World*, where they were able to eat bugs and participate in live science experiments at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. The 4th-grade students were busy learning about the Revolutionary War in social studies class, completing projects, making timelines, and learning about the famous patriots who helped to form a new nation. With this base of knowledge, the students completed a cross-curricular project involving the book *Class Dismissed*, which is about kids their age learning about the Revolutionary War in school. After reading the book, students broke off into groups, wrote their own scripts/plays, created costumes, learned patriotic songs, and performed for an audience. The 5th-grade students worked on their mini Soap Box Derby cars while learning about energy and motion in their science classrooms. They are also learning about different ways to take notes and proper ways to study.



The Crazy 8s after school-math club ended in March with a fun measuring activity! Who knew we would need that toilet paper NOW?



Grades 6-8, by Megan Ritchie

Our 6th-grade students participated in the Stock Market Game. Each group of four to five students started with a virtual \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Teams had to figure out how they wanted to invest the money to try to make a profit. The results of the Stock Market Game (profits and losses) were based on the actual stock market numbers during that time. Our 7th-grade students created print ads and video commercials while completing their unit on advertising. Many groups enjoyed using the school's green screen to get creative with their background images.

Students in 8th grade studied the laws of heredity and genetics and made their own genetic children using a given set of alleles, or variant forms of a gene. Laura Mason, a graduate student at Ohio State studying soil microbiology, talked to the students about DNA and assisted them as they completed their own strawberry DNA extraction. The 8th-graders also completed a variety of activities demonstrating the laws of natural selection. In the science lab, our 8th-graders completed labs dealing with the properties of Newton's laws and learned to calculate force, velocity and acceleration. In English class, students wrote scripts and created videos explaining major persuasive techniques to be used in future instruction.

Students in the News



2020 Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our 2020 school spelling bee winners: Grades 1-3: Simon Borges — first place, Evan Rea — second place, Avery Leffler — third place; Grades 4-5: Frances Knauer — first place, Henry Thomas — second place, Julia Rea — third place; Grades 6-8: Sydney Borges — first place, Lily Hanchin — second place, Leo Bates — third place. Sydney moved on to compete at the District II Spelling Bee, where she correctly spelled every word during the competition! Sydney qualified for the Regional Spelling Bee on March 7, where she competed well but did not advance. Way to go, Sydney!



Power of the Pen

Our Power of the Pen team had a great showing at the Feb. 29 regional tournament at Kent State University. Sydney Borges won first place overall, receiving the highest ranking on all three pieces of her writing. Leo Bates won a Best of Round award and a Best of Best award for his writing. Clare Rothkopf was awarded a special recommendation letter from Kent State University. Additional awards include Sophia Magee (3 Honors and 2 Merit rankings), Sydney Borges (4 Superiors and 1 Honor ranking), Mia Ross (1 Superior and 4 Honors rankings), Leo Bates (1 Superior, 3 Honors and 1 Merit ranking), and Clare Rothkopf (5 Honors). Many thanks to Power of the Pen moderators Sally Weakland and Maggie Blischak, and congratulations to all on a job well done!



Pro-Life Essay Contest

Seventh-grade student Estella Cianciola won the annual Pro-Life Essay Contest sponsored by our Knights of Columbus St. Sebastian Council #14255. Estella was honored at the Jan. 30 school Mass, and her essay was published in the parish bulletin. Congratulations, Estella!

Scholarship Winners for 2020-2021

Congratulations to the following winners of scholarships for the 2020-21 school year!

Scholarships Funded Through the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation:

- The Mary Ley Burke Scholarship: Suzana Borges, Luca Hall, Frances Knauer, Phoebe Marshall
- The Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Amara Avalos, Chloe Gary
- The Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship: Maddy Burgoyne
- The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Sydney Borges, Dominick Calleri, Logan Hill, Jack Stahl, Raymond Thompson
- GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders): Claire Kinkelaar, Julia Rea, Elena Salisbury, Ryan Senko
- Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Isabella Incorvia, Isabelle Mastromatteo
- The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Mia Ross

Scholarships Funded Through St. Sebastian Parish School/Parish Related Groups:

- HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Jimmy Bordenkircher, Anne Rea
- The Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Reverend Terry Peacock Scholarship: Maddy Burgoyne, Kofi Powers
- The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Tori DeKatch
- The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: Lydia Chivers, Jimmy Bordenkircher

Students in the News



Jacob Dennée - Chess Club Winner



Zachary and Sebastian Blaser

Chess Club

Congratulations to Jacob Dennée, the school's 2020 Chess Club Champion. Out of a bracket competition of 28 Chess Club participants, Jacob and fellow 7th-grader Josh Skovira advanced to the championship. They battled it out through two matches before Jacob was able to secure the win. Thank you to junior high teacher Allyn Rose for supervising this fun after-school club.

Chess Champs

Sebastian Blaser (6th grade) and Zachary Blaser (3rd grade) continue to earn awards at local chess tournaments. At the Feb. 1 Canton Scholastic Chess League Tournament, Sebastian won all four of his matches in the K-12, U-1000 section to take second place, and as a team representing St. Sebastian Parish School, Sebastian and Zachary took third place. At the Feb. 29 Canton Scholastic Chess League Tournament, Sebastian won three of his four matches to take fourth place in the 6-12 Middle School Championship, and Zachary won three of his four matches to take fifth place in the K-5 Elementary School Championship. Congratulations, Blaser boys!

Science Fair

St. Sebastian Parish School was well represented at the local science fair held at Walsh Jesuit High School on Feb. 8. More than 12 schools participated with 70 projects exploring various science topics. All of St. Sebastian's students earned a score of Excellent or Superior. The following students won top honors: Anne Rea and Anysia Reimund — first place, Biochemistry Category; Jackson Vesco — third place, Math and Physics Category; and Nick Grizer — second place, Environmental Category. Students who earned a Superior qualified to move on to compete at the District 5 Science Day. Thank you to junior high science teacher Megan Ritchie for coordinating our science fair activities.





2020 SPECTACULAR

A Roaring Good Time



The 16th annual Sebastian Spectacular was a great success, raising an incredible \$95,000 to benefit our students and our school. The sold-out event, which was held Feb. 22, featured a “Roaring ’20s” theme in honor of our school’s 90th anniversary. Many of the 200-plus guests celebrated the theme by wearing ’20s-style fashion, which added a fun touch to the night as guests admired each other’s outfits while browsing the auction items and enjoying the live music provided by Slap Jazz.

Zwisler Hall sparkled with sleek black, white and gold decorations as well as beautiful flower arrangements provided by Pink Petals Florist, owned by St. Sebastian parishioner Gina Milan. Guests began the evening with appetizers, cocktails, and a special martini station, where they enjoyed choosing their own gourmet garnish for their customized cocktails. A fantastic sit-down dinner was provided by Vaccaro’s Trattoria, owned by parishioners and school parents Raphael Vaccaro and his wife, Fabiola.



During the Dessert Dash after dinner, each table of guests bid against each other to “dash” to the dessert table to get their first choice of dessert. There were no losers in this event, though, since the dessert table was laden with enough decadent and delicious desserts (generously donated by local bakeries, restaurants, and home bakers) for each table to enjoy.

Highlights of the evening included the live auction, which featured special dinners with our parish priests and fabulous vacation packages, and the silent auction, which included heartwarming student art and a vast variety of dining, shopping and entertainment packages. The wine pull table was also

popular, with guests winning bottles of wine to take home, including a few superb vintages.

The winner of the always-fun “Heads or Tails” activity was parishioner and alumni parent Chris Eitman, who took home a 65-inch TV. In honor of the school’s 90th anniversary this year, tuition raffle tickets were sold for \$90 each, with the winner taking home free tuition (valued at \$4,150) for next year. Congratulations to the Tober family for winning this fantastic anniversary prize!



Thank you to our returning team of event co-chairs, Natalie Griffin-Kinney, Danielle Petit and Carrie Pozsgay, for creating a wonderful and successful event. Your commitment and generosity are greatly appreciated. Thank you also to everyone who supported the event, including parents who purchased coupon books, contributed gift cards, helped with the student art projects, and/or bought a raffle ticket. Thanks also to everyone who donated an item, contributed a sponsorship donation, bought an ad for the program, raised their paddle for a donation, or purchased an auction item. The success of this event would not be possible without the support of so many. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE!
Diamonds & Denim
 Saturday, February 13, 2021

Catholic Schools Week Highlights

Service Projects

Catholic Schools Week featured a wide range of service projects, including students baking cookies, preparing sandwiches and packing lunches for those in need. The junior high students walked to Julie Billiart School to make and pack lunches with the JB students. Janice Stahl, housing services manager at North Coast Community Homes and a current parent, delivered these lunches to people getting help through Community Support Services. Also during Catholic Schools Week, the school collected donations for Akron Snow Angels, which helps the most vulnerable in our community by providing basic essentials and by fostering community connection and compassion.



Terrier Trivia

During Catholic Schools Week, St. Sebastian held its third annual Terrier Trivia event. This Catholic trivia contest featured students from kindergarten to grade 8 who competed as defenders of the faith. Each winning group was able to donate \$60 to a charity of their choice, thanks to generous donations by the teachers. The winning team for grades K-2 (2nd-graders Ellie Tober, Gabby Deagan, Connor Whitney, and Simon Borges) chose to donate to One of a Kind Pets; the winners for grades 3-5 (5th-graders Lydia Chivers, Julia Rea, Isaac Sullivan, and Peter Zografakis) chose Haven of Rest; and the winners from grades 6-8 (8th-graders Sydney Borges, Clare Rothkopf, Jack Doucet, and Kofi Powers) chose Isabella's Closet.



Pictured above: Ellie Tober, Gabby Deagan, Connor Whitney, and Simon Borges



Pictured above: Lydia Chivers, Julia Rea, Isaac Sullivan, and Peter Zografakis



Pictured above: Sydney Borges, Clare Rothkopf, Jack Doucet, and Kofi Powers



On Monday of Catholic Schools Week, our students, teachers and families joined together to pray the Living Rosary

PRAYER TO ST. SEBASTIAN

O Glorious St. Sebastian, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands and implore your powerful intercession in obtaining, from God the Father, all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, and for protection against contagious diseases. O, special guardian from diseases and accidents, we are confident that your intercession on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

