



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

# BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

February 2019

## From the Principal's Office



### Many Thanks!

As we begin 2019, several after-school activities are swinging into action, including some new ones. Thank you to the many teachers, staff and volunteers who dedicate their time after school to

provide our students with these great opportunities for extended learning: Maggie Blischak and Sally Weakland (Power of the Pen); Betty Indriolo and Megan Ritchie (Science Olympiad); Megan Ritchie (The Genius Project); Cara Nestor and Monica Ward (Mathcounts), Kristin DeKatch, Mary Heffern and Michelle Pillar (Crazy 8s); and Allyn Rose and Jeff Buchman (Chess Club). Thanks also to all our parents whose efforts make our school such a great place to be, including HASA (Baby Jesus Blessing, Family Game Night and Santa Shop), Socials (Celebrity Night, Ladies Christmas Luncheon and the Christmas Caroling Social), and parent volunteers (monthly teacher lunches, Christmas party help, St. Sebastian Spectacular organizers and much more). And finally thanks to Jeff Beshore and Scott Mason for showcasing our students' talents at the Christmas program and the band and choir performances.

### MAP Testing Results Indicate High Achievement

I am very pleased to report that our students are performing very well on their MAP (measures of academic progress) tests. Two key factors we look at in analyzing our results are levels of achievement and levels of growth. Our school's results from last year, which was the first full year that our students took the MAP tests, fell into the high achievement category in all four core subjects: math, reading, language usage and science. Our school's results also indicated high growth in three areas (reading, language usage and science) and average growth in math — and the chart included here shows that we just narrowly missed the mark for high growth in math. A point of pride from looking at the data is that St. Sebastian has a clear strength in language learning, with our language usage scores placing us in the top five schools in the diocese for this category.

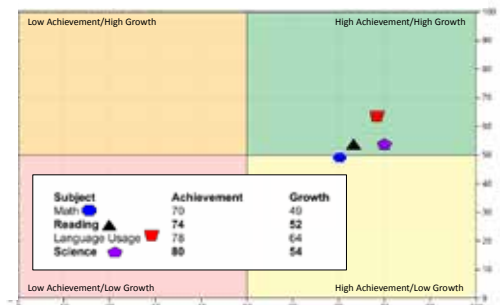
These are fantastic results, and our students and teachers should be proud. Please note that the school has decreased the amount of MAP testing slightly this year. Instead of taking tests in all four subjects three times a year (fall, winter, spring), this winter the students only took the math and reading tests. We feel that we can still collect sufficient data with this schedule while reducing the amount of classroom time spent taking standardized tests. Please join me for the State of the School Address on February 7 for further details on MAP tests.

### Timken Field Trip

In December, our eighth-grade students visited The Timken Co. World Headquarters in North Canton, where they toured the engineering offices, the prototype and metrology lab, and the showcase room. The overall theme was how engineers design and create ideas and turn them into products to support all types of equipment. In the written reflections below, it is evident that this was an eye-opening and inspirational field trip for many. Thank you to parent Scott Mickel for helping to organize this meaningful experience for our students.

"I got to see interesting things around the building. I was fascinated by the Rover Mission to Mars. Timken works with so many different projects ... Everything taught me about trial and error and that practice makes perfect, at Timken and in the real world. I was already thinking of becoming an engineer, but after seeing Timken, I know that engineering is the right path for me." Olivia Kindbom

"The field trip taught us it is never too early, or too late, to learn something new. While at Timken we explored bearings and how they are used in the real world. We learned that the average bearing for wind turbines is about 2.5 meters and without bearings the construction all around us would cease to exist." Mary Hanlon



"What I saw at Timken that made me curious was all of the materials and oils that they tested ... to see if they help machines to function properly. When I explored Timken, I saw how STEM is really involved with world-wide businesses ... Timken created materials that help everyone every day and for so many other big projects such as planes and jets." Olivia Ovall

### St. Sebastian Spectacular: March 2

I hope to see you all at the St. Sebastian Spectacular on March 2. The committee has been working hard to create great packages for the live and silent auctions and to provide an enjoyable event for our school community. This event is not only fun, it is also our school's largest annual fundraiser, so I encourage everyone to come out and support it.

Yours in Christ,

*Anthony Rohr*  
Anthony Rohr  
Principal

### Questions or Suggestions?

Questions or suggestions for the newsletter? Please email Anne Dennée, Newsletter Editor, at [Anne@DenneeFamily.com](mailto:Anne@DenneeFamily.com).

## From the STEM Coordinator



After a seemingly quiet fall, we are ready to STREAM into a very busy winter and spring of 2019. Christmastime brought many different learning opportunities for our students throughout all grade levels. In Mrs. Myers' kindergarten class, students learned about the story of Creation and then re-created it using Lego building blocks. In computer classes, Miss

Riede worked on programming Bee Bots, small robots designed for use by younger students, with preschool and kindergarten students. (Miss Riede won a Rooted in Faith grant last year to purchase a set of Bee Bots for our school.) Our preschool and kindergarten students explored programming processes while working with a partner, eventually creating their own miniature programs. Students then added recycled items to create challenges and uses for the bees when paired with other equipment. Finally, students created their own obstacle courses and maneuvered the Bee Bots through the courses by problem-solving and working with their classmates.

In fifth grade, students learned about the solar system and then used their problem-solving skills to build a "Europa Explorer" using recycled items coupled with pipe cleaners and tape. The Explorers had to follow very specific guidelines and, when dropped from the balcony in Zwislser Hall, had to remain intact and ready for exploration. Students had a blast with their spacecraft! In sixth grade, the students created "cell cities" to illustrate the different working parts of a cell in a creative way. The seventh-graders completed their Christmas baking project using ratios, complex fractions and proportions.

The eighth grade once again visited The Timken Co. and completed a STEM activity during their field trip.

The Science Fair was a highlight of our fall. The seventh- and eighth- graders worked hard and created impressive presentations involving more than 40 different topics. The science teachers from our Akron-area high schools who came to judge the competition were amazed at the students' insights and problem-solving skills!

This spring we are looking forward to many clubs and activities beginning, including some new ones! The Science Olympiad team, which began meeting in the fall, will be competing at the University of Akron in March. Crazy 8s is a new math club for grades 2-4 that is being led by Miss Heffern and Mrs. DeKatch. They began meeting in January, and the students are thrilled with the unique activities they have completed so far. The Mathcounts team will kick off February with a competition at the University of Akron. Our sixth-grade Soap Box Derby teams will begin meeting in February, as will The Genius Project for grades 6-8, which is a new club this year. Lego Club for first-through third-graders will soon follow! Details will be coming home soon!

Finally, please save the date of Thursday, May 16, when we will hold our third annual Art and Innovation Night! We have a great deal planned already, and all of your children's talents will be on display that evening. You won't want to miss it!

Yours with Christ,  
Mrs. Kelly Gupta



St. Sebastian Parish School

# SPECTACULAR

MARCH 2, 2019

### Nearly \$1 Million Raised Over 14 Years

The St. Sebastian Spectacular, previously known as the September Spectacular, has raised close to \$1 million over the last 14 years for our school and students, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, school families and neighborhood businesses.

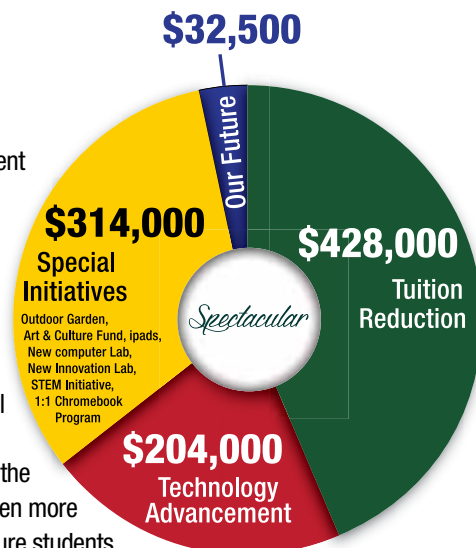
As the chart here shows, proceeds from the event have been used to

- 1) reduce tuition for every student
- 2) support the school with technology upgrades and maintenance
- 3) invest in special initiatives
- 4) contribute to an endowment fund to provide financial stability for our parish school.

### Don't Miss Out!

The 15th annual St. Sebastian Spectacular on March 2 is going to be a great time! The committee has put together an amazing variety of live and silent auction items, from creative student art projects to fabulous vacations. The night will also feature live music as well as delicious food and a signature cocktail with New Orleans flair. Send in your RSVP or register online by clicking on the link on the school's website under "The Spectacular" tab. We hope to see everyone there!

The proceeds for this year's event will again be allocated to these four efforts. This year's investment in special initiatives will be focused on fostering harmonious and organized classroom environments. We hope you will be able to join us at this year's Spectacular as we try to break the \$1 million mark and provide even more benefits for our current and future students.





## Students in the News



### Science Fair

Congratulations to the following students, pictured here, whose science projects took top honors at our Nov. 13 Science Fair. All seventh- and eighth-grade students were required to present their findings from an eight-week-long scientific investigation of their choosing. First place: Anne Rea and Anysia Reimund, "A Dairy Big Surprise," an investigation of different types of milk and the casein they produce; second place: Nick Grizer, "The Effect of Acid on Construction Materials," a test of how substances withstand acidity; and third place: Elizabeth Savitski and Elizabeth Saliga, "The Secret to a Better Snack," an examination of which brand of microwavable popcorn pops the most kernels per bag.

### High School Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to all of our eighth-grade students who earned academic scholarships for high school. Julia Pentasuglio, Elizabeth Saliga, Elizabeth Schlueter and Ethan Wyszynski earned placement test scholarship awards from Archbishop Hoban High School. Shane Adamczyk, Kathryn Kastelic and Elizabeth Schlueter qualified as Arrupe Scholars at Walsh Jesuit High School. Zack Zahoranski qualified as an Ignatian Scholar at St. Ignatius High School. Emma Doucet, Millie Ciarlariello, Kathryn Kastelic, Elizabeth Saliga, Faith Sturm-Poth and Ella Thomas earned scholarships from Our Lady of the Elms. St. Sebastian students earned an impressive 11 of the 35 placement test scholarships offered by St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. Winners are Shane Adamczyk, David Armbrust, Kathryn Kastelic, Olivia Kindbom, Noah Meyer, Julia Pentasuglio, J.P. Rybka, Elizabeth Saliga, Elizabeth Schlueter, Andy Thomas and Ethan Wyszynski. Way to go, Terrier scholars!

### All Saints Model UN

Congratulations to the All Saints Model United Nations (UN) Team for winning the Cleveland Council on World Affairs (CCWA) Middle School Model UN competition Jan. 9-10 at John Carroll University. The All Saints Model UN Team is composed of 15 students from Akron-area Catholic elementary schools in grades six through eight. St. Sebastian Parish School was well represented with 11 students on the team!



This is the third year in a row that the All Saints Model UN Team took first place at the CCWA conference, where they competed against other middle schools from all over Northeast Ohio. For the competition, students submit research papers and participate in simulated UN sessions wherein they take on the viewpoints of specific countries on global issues. The All Saints team has been meeting every Monday night since September to prepare for the competition. The team is hosted by St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and coached by STVM students who are on the high school's nationally ranked Model UN team.

Three St. Sebastian team members earned the prestigious Best Delegate/Gavel awards: Noah Meyer, J.P. Rybka and Elizabeth Schlueter. Other team members include Sydney Borges, Zoie Burnette, Tori DeKatch (Superior Delegate award), Jack Hanchin, Abbey Monaghan (Excellent Delegate award), Mia Petit (Superior Delegate award), Mason Reiss and Clare Rothkopf.

### Geography Bee

Congratulations to Josh Skovira, a sixth-grade student, for winning our school's National Geographic Bee. Josh answered every question correctly through all seven rounds of questions to earn first place. This year, 21 students participated in our Geography Bee club. Josh will take an online test to try to qualify for the state competition in Columbus in March.



### Power of the Pen

St. Sebastian's Power of the Pen team won top honors in the district tournament Jan. 11 at the University of Mount Union. The seventh-grade team won first place, and the eighth-grade team placed fourth. Individual awards were won by Elizabeth Schlueter (3rd place), Sydney Borges (4th place, Best of Round and Director's Choice), Mia Ross (11th place) Clare Rothkopf (12th place and Best of Round) and Julia Pentasuglio (Best of Round). Congratulations to these terrific Terriers, and good luck at the regional competition in March!



# News and Notes

## Service Spotlight

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the school's recent service projects! Our canned food drive, led by Student Council in November, yielded 847 canned goods and nonperishables to benefit the Good Samaritan Hunger Center. Student Council also spearheaded our Toy Drive during Advent, collecting an amazing 259 donations. The toys were donated to Summit County Children Services, whose employees were so thankful. The pre-K students in Kathy Cardarelli's class collected shoes for children in Haiti. The class became aware of the need after Mrs. Cardarelli's daughter, Joanna, traveled to Haiti and noticed so many young people without shoes. Our students were eager to help out! Joanna will be taking the shoes back to Haiti on her next trip.

Thanks also to our music teacher Jeff Beshore and our choir students who traveled to the local senior citizen communities of Rockynol and Francesca Residence to sing Christmas carols for their residents. The residents enjoyed the performance so much that several people joined in to sing along with our students, and one resident was so touched that he was brought to tears. When some of our choir members saw his emotional response, they too started to tear up, and after the performance they all gathered around and gave him a big hug. Principal Rohr notes how proud he is that our school offers students service learning opportunities like this that extend students' experiences beyond the classroom in ways that demonstrate the positive impact they can have as examples of Christ's love in the world.



# SCHOOL CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

## FEBRUARY

Catholic Schools Week	January 27-February 2
International Festival	February 2 (Saturday) 4-8 p.m.
State of the School Address, Zwislser Hall	February 7 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
First Reconciliation	February 9 (Saturday), 11 a.m.
<b>No School, Presidents Day</b>	<b>February 18 (Monday)</b>
Confirmation Retreat	February 22-23 (Friday-Saturday)
Mardis Gras Day (Coupon Book)	February 27 (Wednesday)

## MARCH

Giftcardpalooza Participant Dress Down	March 1 (Friday)
Sebastian Spectacular	March 2 (Saturday)
Ash Wednesday Mass	March 6 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.
<b>No School, Teacher Professional Day</b>	<b>March 8 (Friday)</b>
3-on-3 Tournament	March 8-10 (Friday-Sunday)
Wear Green Day (Coupon Book)	March 13 (Tuesday)
HASA Meeting, Zwislser Hall	March 14 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
Scholastic Book Fair, Zwislser Hall	March 17-22 (Sunday-Friday)
End of Third Quarter	March 22 (Friday)
8th-Grade Confirmation	March 22 (Friday), 7 p.m.
Foundation Scholarship Mass	March 28 (Thursday), 8:15 a.m.
Report Cards Go Home	March 28 (Thursday)
Spring Music Program	March 28 (Thursday)
<b>No School, Teacher Professional Day</b>	<b>March 29 (Friday)</b>

## SAVE THE DATE

Grandparents Day	April 4
Kindergarten Screening	April 8-9
Father/Daughter Dance	April 13
Easter Break	April 19-26
Race Around the Park	April 27
6th-Grade Trip to Camp Chris.	May 1-3
First Communion	May 4
8th-Grade Trip to D.C.	May 8-10
May Crowning Mass	May 16
Art & Innovation Night	May 16
Walkathon	May 17
Last Day of Preschool	May 24
No School, Memorial Day	May 27
Last Day of School	May 30
Pass It On Mass/Graduation	May 30
Vacation Bible School	July 29-Aug. 2