



Principal's Reminders 01/20/17

Mission

St. Sebastian Regional School is dedicated to serving a diverse group of students and their families. Our curriculum is centered on our Catholic faith and focused on achieving academic excellence. We continually modify our faith-based curriculum to prepare students to adapt to the academic and moral challenges of our ever-changing world and to encourage lifelong learning.

Programs

- **Theater Arts begins through Catholic Schools Week**



Students are shown using their iPads to research the Saint they will represent during Catholic Schools Week.

- **Second Grade Knows What Matters—they're having fun but must be exhausted!**



Second grade is sorting items from their desks/pencil cases to discover that **all matter** has properties (pictured to the left).



Pictured to the left is second grade modeling how to teach someone to tie his shoes. This was used to model the prewriting stage of the writing process to prepare to write "How to" paragraphs for winter.

The picture to the right shows Second Grade learning about lines. We have budding artists on their way!





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- **What's First Grade Doing?**

No, they're not on the phone. They're on the Phonics Phone. These simple devices funnel the child's voice directly to their ear. This intentional focus on hearing sounds helps the students acquire phonemic awareness, a critical element to developing necessary proficient reader phonologic processing pathways.

In addition, they compel the student to speak in a whisper or very quiet voice. In fact, if the student talks into the phone in a normal volume it is uncomfortably loud. By funneling their voice directly to the ear, the device itself dictates the student speak quietly.

- **½ Day 3-year old Preschool being extended to Full-day Ready to Begin**

If any of you are interested in your 3-year old attending PreSchool on Tuesdays/Thursdays full-time (8:30 am-2:30 pm), please contact Mrs. Coyne. The cost is the same for the second half of the day-- \$550 for the remainder of the year. We need five students to extend the pre-school; currently, we only have three.

Athletics

- **Girls Volleyball**

Last call for Girls Volleyball Sign-Ups! Pick up a form in the Office and submit it to the Office with the doctor's signature and payment by Thursday, January 26, 2017.

Fundraisers

- **Schoolstore.com**—on February 1st flyers will come home indicating how you can do your online shopping at the stores you normally shop at through Schoolstore.com. By logging into Schoolstore.com and entering the school's code (just like swiping your Giant Eagle or Shop 'N Save card), the school will receive a portion of your purchase price. Students who email their family members about shopping through this site receive small prizes. Watch for the flyer.
- **SCRIP Help Still Needed—Thank you for your help, to-date! There are only a few left.**
We have the following **Gift Cards** in **Inventory** and need to **deplete** the Inventory to assist with cash flow. If you shop at these retailers or are buying any of the following, please purchase them from us (they are the same price as anywhere else). Just send a check made out to **SSRS** or **cash** to the school for **Mrs. Kate Horensky**. If you normally purchase these online, please consider purchasing them directly from Kate until the supply is depleted.

Gift Card

Value

No. Available



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American Eagle Outfitters	\$25	2
Domino's	\$10	1
Dunkin Donuts	\$10	1
Foot Locker	\$25	1
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy	\$25	2
Great Clips	\$25	2
Kmart	\$25	4
Kohl's	\$25	2
Lands' End	\$25	4
Red Lobster/Olive Garden	\$25	1
Red Robin	\$25	2
Staples	\$25	6
The Children's Place	\$25	2

If you accept **tuition credit for next year**, you will receive it on these purchases. Thank you ALL for your assistance. Only \$720 worth left to sell!

CLARIFICATION/INFORMATION

- **When is School Delayed or Closed due to Weather?**

Watch **KDKA, WTAE, and/or WPXI** for two-hour delays—students must be in their homerooms **no later than 10:30 AM but not in the building before 10:00 AM.**

This schedule applies to car riders, walkers, and bus riders from all of our sending school districts. Please do not drop your child off before 10:00 AM, as we may not be here.

If there is a 2-hr. delay on a noon dismissal day, dismissal will be at **12:30 pm.**

School Closure Make-Up Days, if necessary (in this Order) Feb. 20; Apr. 18; Apr. 13; Apr. 17

- **Parent Meetings—What's the Difference?**

School Action Committee—At the beginning of the year, you had to complete an application, be approved by the Bishop, meet at least four times per year to:

- Review and make recommendations to the **three- to five-year strategic plan** prepared at the direction of the Principal. **(We need to form a Strategic Planning Committee.)**
- Review and make recommendations relative to **the annual operating budget, periodic financial reports and end of year (June 30) financial statement as prepared at the direction of the Principal.**
- In cooperation with and under the direction of the Principal, assist in the **development and implementation of comprehensive fundraising, marketing, constituent relations, and enrollment management program plans.** **(We need a Development Position.)**



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- In cooperation with and under the direction of the Principal, assist with **communicating effectively the mission, philosophy, operations (through reports), programs, and plans of the School to families, alumni, faculty and staff, associated parishes and pastors, and the surrounding community.** (Need assistance with website and communications review.)

Sub-committees are being formed to help with this work. Volunteer now!

Parent Advisory Council—meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, ALL are welcome

- Share ideas, concerns, recommendations
- Hear more detail on plans and occurrences

Parent Teacher Guild (PTG)—meet the 1st Tuesday of each month, 3:30 pm, ALL are welcome

- Assist with the planning of upcoming events
- Analyze past events for improvement to or consideration for next year
- Hear additional needs of the School and respond
- Volunteer to assist at/with events and projects

• **What is my child permitted to wear to school?**

Thank you for reviewing the 2016-17 Dress Code from the Student Handbook. A staff member pointed out that although the handbook has said for years the students in grades 4-8 bring their PE uniform to school, practice has been that students in grades 6-8 bring their PE uniforms to school to change and that students in grades 4-5 wear their PE uniforms. We will change the written dress code to align with the practice.

Thank you to Student Council for reviewing the Dress Code and suggesting changes for the 2017-18 School Year. One recommendation from parents and students, alike, is a more formal uniform for 8th grade when they represent the school at outside events (e.g., Diocesan Masses, Forensics, PJAS, . . .) We are looking at the blazers in the School Belles catalog. Thoughts?

PTG

- *Consider joining us the first Tuesday of each month—3:30 pm--to meet and plan great things for our kiddos*
 - Playground Renovation—groundbreaking to begin June 2, 2017
 - Safety Equipment
 - Alabaster Assemblies (i.e., “Proud to be an American” and “Resurrection”)
 - Spirit Wear sales and Jackets for 8th graders
 - Catholic Schools Week activities and Family Fun Night (Saturday, February 4th)
 - And much, much more . . .
- Please register your **Shop ‘N Save** card and designate St. Sebastian as the recipient of award points toward Science Center programs.



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Catholic Schools Week—Plans

Open House will be a time to register for next year and bring others to see the school and consider registering, as well. The 2017 Open House will occur on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 from 6-8:00 PM (see flyer on Monday).

Sunday, Select students will read about our Catholic School at each mass in our four sending parishes and others if students are willing.

Monday, Students will create the Canvas Art Project

Tuesday, A Living Wax Museum of Students as Saints will be open to All students to explore.

Students will package the Jeremiah Project collections (see flyer sent home earlier in the week for donations)

Wednesday, 9:30 am School Mass and **1:30 pm** sharing Catholic Schools with the Legislators (please let me know if you, as a voter, would like to attend the Legislative Presentation). **6-8:00 pm** Open House—Living Wax Museum, PTA Info and Refreshments, Registration for 2017-18 School Year, Meet next year's teachers/see rooms.

Thursday, 9:30 am Vocations Assembly; **9:50 am** Priests read bible stories to K-5 and continue vocations discussion with 6-8. **Game Day**, Minute-to-Win It games for students during the day with students

Friday, Family Brunch/Creating crosses for Nursing Homes from 10:15-11:15 students/parents (guests) with A-Ma last names will eat, while families with last names Mc-Z will make crosses for nursing homes; from 11:20-11:50 am both groups will switch places. Lunch will be the regular price for all family members. Registration forms were sent home this week. If no one can be there for your child, s/he will be paired with another family.

Saturday, Family Fun Night, 6-10 pm; St. Spyridon Hellenic Center. If you haven't sent in your response, please do so by Monday, January 23, 2017. Your child's t-shirt is free; if you would like to order one, they are \$7 each. (copy attached)

Need donations for prizes for CSW games and Family Fun Night baskets—check with local businesses.

Date Reminders

- January 2017
 - 27—Breathe PA—second visit for students with asthma/allergies
 - 29—Catholic Schools Week begins!
- February
 - 1—School Mass, 9:30 am; bring PE uniforms if you have PE today
 - 1--Legislators present; 1:30 pm (let me know if you'd like to attend),
 - 1—Open House—6-8:00 pm



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- 3—Family Brunch and noon dismissal; appropriate dress down day
- 4—Family Fun Night, St. Spyridon Hall, 6:00 pm
- 6—Safety Walk-thru by the Diocese
- 7—PTG meeting, 3:30 pm
- 9— “Proud to be an American”—9:00 am
- 14—Parent Advisory Council, 6:30 pm (all welcome)
- 20—Presidents’ Day—NO SCHOOL
- 24—SSRS Middle School Dance; 6:15-8:30 pm
- 28—Parent/Student/Teacher Conference—No Classes this day
- March
 - 1—Ash Wednesday Prayer Service—children only
 - 3/6-3/10—Book Fair
 - 7—PTG Meeting, 3:30 pm
 - 8--School Mass, 9:30 am; bring PE uniforms if you have PE today
 - 14—Parent Advisory Council; 6:30 pm
 - 15—FACTS Grant and Aid Applications Due to FACTS
 - 16—School Advisory Council; 6:30 pm
 - 23—Inservice—NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS
 - 24—End of 3rd Nine Weeks Grading Period
 - 29—WTAE Project Bundle-up Weather Assembly
 - 31—3rd Nine Weeks Report Card
- April
 - 3rd and 4th Spring Pictures
 - 4—PTG Meeting; 3:30 pm
 - 5--School Mass, 9:30 am; bring PE uniforms if you have PE today
 - 5--Alabaster Production, “Resurrection,” 1:00 PM, in St. Sebastian Church
 - 7—Noon dismissal, appropriate dress down
 - 11—Parent Advisory Council; 6:30 pm
 - 12—noon dismissal; begin Easter break
 - 13-18—Easter Break (assuming no snow make-up days)
- **Sympathy**
 - SSRS extends its sincerest sympathy to Fr. Vince Gigliotti and his family for the recent passing of his father, Mr. James Gigliotti. Fr. Vince is the pastor at St. Anne’s Parish, in Rostraver Township and a member of SSRS Board of Trust Administrators.
- **Thank You’s**
 - Mrs. Maglet for an awesome t-shirt design for Family Fun Night. Make sure you send in your reservations.
 - PTG for purchasing the St. Theresa bracelets for Catholic Schools Week. We will hand them out to students and send yours home on Monday morning, January 31, 2017.
 - The Todd Family for a \$100 donation toward the Trouts in the Classroom grade 4 Project for next year. We need a 55-gallon fish tank and will use this to purchase a used one. Thank you so much!



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- **Help Needed**

- We've lost a couple of cafeteria volunteers due to illness or surgery; we could use your help!
- We could use help cooking the Brunch on February 3. If you can cook/clean-up the opposite brunch from your family's last name, please let me know.