



Principal's Reminders 01/13/17

Programs

- **Sustained Silent Reading**



As the second semester approaches, we are placing greater emphasis on reading. The entire staff and students set aside 15 minutes each day for Sustained Silent Reading (SSR); otherwise known as Drop Everything and Read (DEAR). We are experimenting with the best time of the day. Shown in the picture is 2nd grade reading in PE class before class begins.

- **So What Were those 3rd Graders doing on the iPad?**



In this lesson, Ms. Plevel's objective was to develop vocabulary. She gave them a winter word (e.g., frosty, snow, blizzard, etc.), students then used each letter in the winter word to discover a new vocabulary word related to winter that began with that letter. Now they have a self-created vocabulary list.

- **K-8 Health Curriculum Reality Tour—Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program for Grades 7-8**



St. Sebastian's Drug and Alcohol Unit for health class was offered through the Reality Tour program. This is not a public school or non-public school program; it is Reality. Because we did not have a written D&A Unit in the curriculum, we instituted a flipped classroom experience to teach the unit. Students had three opportunities—November, December, and January to complete the homework for this unit by attending one Reality Tour session with one or more of their parents. A list of all the students who attended Reality Tour has been given to Mr. Ryan as a passing grade for the Drug and Alcohol Unit this 9-weeks; thank you for your cooperation. Those who were not able to attend will have an "I" (incomplete).

Mr. Ryan is writing the health curriculum K-8 now. Some units will include work with outside agencies.



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- **½ Day 3-year old Preschool being extended to Full-day beginning January 19, 2016**

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.

Grants

- **Middle School Equipment Grant**—Congratulations to Ms. Gigliotti for writing and receiving the above referenced grant. She was able to obtain wind turbine kits for the STREAM classes. Our children are studying alternative energy sources.
- **Farm to Table Grant**—Unfortunately, we did not receive funding for the organic garden through the Farm to Table Grant. Mrs. Reilly, our Master Gardener, had conducted a soil sample test just before the holidays and discovered that the clay soil is not suitable for planting. We are considering raised beds and are compiling a list of necessary materials. If any of you have contact with local agencies and/or businesses that would be willing to donate seeds, fertilizer, topsoil, etc., please let us know.

Donations

- **Remembered in Death**—With the permission of the donors, I am sharing this story about an individual who passed away this past week and a donation given to the school in his honor.

George, a Belle Vernon resident, was our grandmother's neighbor. George was like an uncle to me and my sister and like a son-in-law to Gram. George walked with Jesus Christ. He was protective of our whole neighborhood. He always helped people who needed help. He never waited for someone to ask for help; he was just there, and the help was already accomplished. The most entertaining way to get a rise out of George was to offer him a bit of money as thanks; he always refused, and became highly insulted and feisty: "I don't do this for MONEY." At Christmas-time, he would grudgingly accept an Eat-n-Park gift card, but we literally had to grab his shirt and shove it into his shirt pocket, with George glaring at us; he wouldn't touch it.

George was a man of honor, a man with a gigantic heart, a man who wanted a safe and peaceful world for his loved ones. You have perhaps seen, on a grave stone, the phrase "Jesus picked a flower". That is how we feel about George. Christ wanted George for company, and why would He not? We should not be surprised that George left us quickly and peacefully; that was George's reward for the way he lived his life. In the meantime, we – George's loved ones – howl with sorrow.

So... sorry, old friend: here is some money. Not for you, but so a child can benefit from your leaving us. I sure hope they teach the child to be like you.



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George was truly a man who lived the Beatitudes that Jesus gave us during his Sermon on the Mount. Wouldn't you love for those you leave behind to think of you in this way—truly someone who walked with Jesus. Join us in using this example with your children, as we will in the classroom. Let us all remember why we are on this earth — to love, live the Word, and expect His rewards in heaven, not on earth.

- **Holy Name Society donates \$1500**—Many thanks to the Holy Name Society for recently remembering St. Sebastian Regional School in their holiday donation list. The Society is based out of St. Anne's and offers assistance to a number of community organizations—food bank, Catholic Charities, etc. We are so grateful to them for including us in their work.

Fundraisers

- **Sarris Candy Bar Sale** ended on December 31, 2016. Thank you for your support!
- **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** or **meet her on Friday afternoons at 3:00 pm in the Fine and Performing Arts Center**. If you normally purchase these online, please consider purchasing them directly from Kate until the supply is depleted.

Gift Card	Value	No. Available
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



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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!

Lost & Found

- If you or someone you know lost a Fitbit, please see Mrs. Simboli.

Parent Meetings

I offer multiple venues to discuss your vision for SSRS, as well as your thoughts and ideas for improvement. The School Action Committee met on January 12, 2017, at 6:30 PM to review current assessments of the facility, safety, finance, curriculum, technology, and Middle States Accreditation. It needs a **subcommittee to develop a 3-Year Strategic Plan**. Please contact me if you are interested in serving.

Only seven parents attended the Principal's Advisory Council (open to any of you) on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. If you were not able to attend and have questions/comments you desire to discuss, please stop in and see me.

CLARIFICATION/INFORMATION

Why can't I send in candy, cupcakes, cookies, etc., except for birthdays, and then they must be peanut-free? We have students with severe allergies. This restriction is not limited to your child's classroom, but the entire school. The only outside food that should be in the building is that which your child brings in his/her lunch. We appreciate your generosity; let's consider other celebration items to send in. Thank you for respecting the health and safety of all students.

Why are the cones in the driveway in the morning?

Although our K-8 families should be in their homerooms by 8:30 am; pre-school families are entering at that time. Individuals running late have been parking in the lot and speeding through it. The cones are the dividing line between drop-off and the pathway into the school. Please do not park in the upper church lot.

When is School Delayed or Closed due to Weather?

St. Sebastian Regional School follows the Belle Vernon Area School District's weather delays and cancellations. 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.



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- **A Rare Situation occurred January 6, 2017**--On a scheduled half-day with a noon dismissal, we experienced a 2-hr. delay. While the school day was further shortened, please note that the delay does not affect whether school is still in session. Report on the regular 2-hr. delay schedule, **BUT**, dismissal will be moved to **12:30 pm**, instead of 12:00 pm, if a 2-hr delay occurs on an early dismissal day.

What is my child permitted to wear to school?

Below is the 2016-17 Dress Code from the handbook. Please note that the 8th grade jackets are NOT part of their uniform. They may be worn to school, but if they need warmth, it must be their navy sweater.

DRESS CODE

Students in grades four through grade eight must enter and leave school in uniform. Students in kindergarten through grade three must wear their gym uniform to and from school on physical education days. Please note the personal appearance addendum to the dress code that will be coming home the first week of school. Issues addressed will be makeup, jewelry, hair and nails among others.

2016-2017 SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE

- Hair feathers or coloring are not permitted to be worn.
- Spandex/yoga pants are not permitted to be worn. This includes dress-down days as well as gym days.
- The first Friday of each month is always designated as an appropriate "free" dress-down day.

GIRLS – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

- Uniform plaid jumper with choice of short or long sleeve plain white pique uniform style polo shirt (no scalloped edging, piping, pockets, or designer style)
- Uniform plaid culotte with flap with choice of short or long sleeve plain white pique uniform style polo shirt (no scalloped edging, piping, pockets, or designer style) or short or long sleeve plain white uniform style oxford shirt (no designer style)
- Uniform style khaki walking shorts or khaki uniform style pants with plain navy blue short or long sleeve pique polo shirt (no scalloped edging, piping, pockets, or designer style); cargo shorts/pants are not permitted
- Navy or white knee socks or navy or white tights; white, navy, or khaki anklets; no athletic socks; no low cut, no show style socks
- The length of all jumpers, culottes, and shorts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee. This policy applies when a student is in uniform and also on designated dress-down days.
(Khaki items are not the light colored khaki, but the darker colored khaki)

BOYS – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

- Uniform style khaki walking shorts or uniform style khaki pants with plain navy blue short or long sleeve pique uniform style polo shirt (designer style shirts are not permitted); cargo shorts/pants are not permitted
- Navy, black, or khaki socks; no athletic socks; no low cut, no show style socks
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GIRLS – GRADES 4 TO 8

- Uniform plaid double kick pleat skirt; uniform plaid kilt skirt; or uniform plaid culotte with flap with choice of short or long sleeve plain white pique shirt (no scalloped edging, piping, pockets, or designer style) or short or long sleeve uniform style plain white oxford shirt (no designer style)
- Uniform style khaki walking shorts or uniform style khaki pants with short or long sleeve plain navy blue pique polo shirt (no scalloped edging, piping, pockets, or designer style)
- Navy or white knee socks or navy or white tights; white, navy, or khaki anklets; no athletic socks; no low cut, no show style socks
- The length of all skirts, kilt shirts, culottes, and shorts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee. This policy applies when a student is in uniform and also on designated dress-down days.
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BOYS – GRADES 4 TO 8

- Uniform style khaki walking shorts or uniform style khaki pants with short or long sleeve plain navy blue pique polo shirt (designer style shirts are not permitted); cargo style shorts or pants are not permitted
- Navy, black, or khaki socks; no athletic socks; no low cut, no show style socks
(Khaki items are not the light colored khaki, but the darker colored khaki)

FOOTWEAR – ALL STUDENTS – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

- Students in grades kindergarten through grade eight are expected to wear appropriate school type shoes—NO tennis shoes, boots of any type, clogs, sandals, flip flops, heels higher than two inches, or Heelies are permitted to be worn in school. Snow boots are permitted during the winter months, but must be removed once the student arrives at school (change of shoes should be sent to school for the student to change in to).

SWEATERS – ALL STUDENTS – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

- Sweaters are an option. However, if a child chooses to wear a sweater, it must be a plain navy blue cardigan style sweater purchased from Schoolbelles Uniform Company or a store that offers the plain navy blue cardigan.
 - Grades Kindergarten to Grade 8: Hoodies, sweatshirts, or any other style sweaters are not permitted to be worn on uniform days.

GYM UNIFORM – ALL STUDENTS – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8

- Students are expected to dress in a PE uniform for physical education class. The uniforms may be purchased from our school's line of spirit wear (sheet enclosed) or a plain white or red tee shirt (during the warmer months) or a plain white or red sweatshirt (during colder months) and plain red or black gym shorts (warmer months) or plain red or plain black sweatpants (colder months) may be worn. Students are also permitted to wear shirts promoting St. Sebastian Regional School (such as cheerleading, club shirts, our sports teams, etc.).

Short shorts "are not permitted" to be worn for gym class. All shorts must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.

Tennis shoes and white athletic socks are required as part of the gym uniform.



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THE INFRACTION POLICY WILL APPLY FOR STUDENTS NOT ADHERING TO THE DRESS CODE POLICY.

On dress down days, the student must be in appropriate attire. No spaghetti straps, tank tops, mid-riff showing or sleeveless shirts; open-toed or backless shoes; or jeans with slits/holes are permitted.

Children may be excused from physical education either by a doctor's note or a note from a parent or guardian for good cause. These notes are given to the homeroom teacher, routed to the school office, and on to the physical education teacher. This is an excused absence. Prolonged absences from PE will result in a modified PE class or research.

Children out of uniform may not participate in physical education classes. This is an unexcused absence. After **three unexcused absences, children will report to the principal, and their grade will be affected.**

At any time a teacher may not retain a child during physical educational class to make up work or to participate in other activities. Physical education is an integral part of the school curriculum.

Addendum

Hair PreK-8

Natural in color; no highlights or streaks

Boys' hair length is to be no longer than the top of their shirt collar.

Nails

K-5--No polish, fake, or press-on nails

6-8—Clear or light shades, no fake or press-on nails

Jewelry

Girls may wear stud earrings, no hoops/dangling earrings

Watches and religious necklaces are acceptable (note it does not say pins on their sweater or uniform top)

Boys may wear watches and religious necklaces

Make-up for Girls

Modestly applied (not distracting) and natural in color

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



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- 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.

Catholic Schools Week—plans still tentative

We wanted to have an Open House for you to register for next year and bring others to see the school and consider registering. The Social Hall is booked on January 29 with a Blood Drive; some felt their kiddos might not want to be around that. The Social Hall is open on February 5, but that is Super Bowl Sunday—will you come out from 12:00-2:00 pm? We also thought about Saturday, February 4th from 2:00-4:00, moving right into St. Sebastian's for mass, and then onto Family Fun Night. **Any thoughts on the right day?**

Sunday, 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 and a Wax Museum of students representing saints will be run.

Tuesday, Students will work on a community service project--packaging collections for the Jeremiah Project

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).

Thursday, Game Day, during the day with students

Friday, Family Brunch/Creating crosses for Nursing Homes from 10:15-11:15 students/parents 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 will be sent home next week.

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

Date Reminders

- January 2017
 - 16—No School, Martin Luther King Day
 - 17 and 19 —Blackburn Presentations on Safety
 - 27—Breathe PA—second visit for students with asthma/allergies
 - 29—Catholic Schools Week begins!



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- February
 - 1—School Mass, 9:30 am; Legislators present, 1:30 pm; bring PE uniforms if you have PE today (let me know if you'd like to attend)
 - 4—Family Fun Night, St. Spyridon Hall, 6:00 pm
 - 14—Parent Advisory Council, 6:30 pm (all welcome)
 - 6—Safety Walk-thru by the Diocese
 - 9— "Proud to be an American"—9:00 am
- March
 - 1—Ash Wednesday Prayer Service—children only
 - 1—PTG Meeting, 3:30 pm
 - 8--School Mass, 9:30 am; bring PE uniforms if you have PE today
 - 29—WTAE Project Bundle-up Weather Assembly
- April
 - 3rd and 4th Spring Pictures
 - 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—1/2 Day, appropriate dress down
 - 12-18—Easter Break

Thank You's

- Abby Peden for assisting as an altar server for Father Patrick J. O'Connor's funeral.
- PTG for ordering Mother Teresa bracelets for each of us for Catholic Schools Week
- Mrs. Dunn for designing and printing posters for Catholic Schools Week
- Mrs. Dunn for donating books to the SSR program
- Mr. & Mrs. Croftcheck for their generous donation to the school.
- PTG for presenting each 8th grader with a school jacket



Help Needed

- We've lost a couple of cafeteria volunteers due to illness or surgery; we could use your help!