



Newsletter

Spring 2015

Brick Parking Lot News

--exerpts from Fr. Valencheck's April 26, 2015 Church Bulletin



This past week, contracts were awarded for the construction of the new parking lot. This is a huge project since the existing parking lot is not much more than bricks sitting on dirt. Times have changed and that requires lots of infrastructure. Here is a breakout of the contracts awarded: Cavanaugh Building Co. for site cleaning, earthwork, and utilities; Perrin Asphalt Co. will provide site concrete (curbs & aprons); United Hardscapes will install the brick; The Cardinal Asphalt Co. has been contracted to paint the pavement markings (parking spaces, handicap markings, etc.); Wired Akron will handle the site electronics.

After a lot of research and debate, Finance Council, and our team, recommended, and I agreed, to use brick provided by the Belden Brick Company. These clay pavers (similar to ones that currently make up our lot and Mull Avenue and are well over 100 years old) are a little more expensive, but have proven to last and, in the long run, will need less maintenance. The parish's relationship with the Belden Brick Company goes back to 1929 with the building of the original church. They have produced all of the bricks used on our grounds with the exception of the ones used in the parking lot. If you climb the bell tower of the new church, occasionally you will see a brick stamped "Belden Brick Co."

Making our bricks began at the end of April. We had hoped to do a field trip like we did with the construction of the organ, but they started to make our brick immediately after we ordered them. Please visit http://clevelandpriest.blogspot.com/2015/04/monday-diary-almost-excruciatingly-true_27.html to see the quick trip a few of us were able to take to see the bricks being made.

Due to the large size of our parking lot, federal regulations demand that we increase our permeable surface. To help us meet regulations, we are removing the "U" drive on the Mull Avenue side of Zwisler Hall. It is hoped that this part of the project (tear up, landscaping) will be completed before the May 22nd Walk-a-thon.

People have been asking about the availability of the existing brick. As you can tell from walking the parking lot, much of it is unsalvageable. Even that which still looks intact, may not be.

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We have updated the alumni website!
The new and shorter URL is:
<http://alumni.stsebastian.org>
Please use this web address to access all information that relates to alumni!

Since there is no drainage currently, the bricks have been sitting in water for about 80 years and may crumble when moved, but we shall see. We will have a very short window in which we can try to make some brick available.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the project, so far, especially Mr. Tony Burgoyne, Mr. Jim Klein, Mr. Tom Walker of CACM Solutions, our many volunteers and staff members who have brought us to this point and thank you to all who have made the project possible through your generous donations.

Notes from the Foundation

Thank you, so sincerely, for continuing your relationship with St. Sebastian Parish School! It is so exciting when we hear updates from our over 5,000 proud Alum of where they have been, and are now, since their days here. One proud alum fondly recalls time spent running and scrapping knees on the “Red Brick Yard” and I am happy to report our original school brick parking lot is getting restored with all new bricks this summer. We are giving the next 100 or so years of students a new Red Brick Yard to play Red Rover on!



Have you had the chance to visit other Catholic Elementary Schools in NE Ohio? If you have, you notice St. Sebastian is unique because we maintain our original buildings and have glorious green grass everywhere! And the only way we are able to keep up with our 85 year old buildings is thru the generosity of our friends like you. Most people who support our school, church, programs and buildings wish to do so anonymously. Additionally, there are unlimited “named opportunities” available for friends who want to leave a lasting memorial here on our campus. As you may know, we offer Commemorative Bricks, School Athletic Lockers, Named Scholarships, Musical Anthem Tributes and periodically limited benches, statues and etc.

Recently, our Pastor, Fr. Valencheck, wanted 3 additional benches to grace our beautiful campus. We offered them on a Sunday, and they were sponsored within two days! For a donation of \$2,000, these beautiful cast iron benches offered our donors a wonderful way to celebrate their family and loved ones. I have included pictures for you to see for yourself. We now have 5 of these benches on our campus. If you would like to add your name to our waiting list for the next time we need benches sponsored, please simply email us at alumni@stsebastian.org.

If you would also like to add your name to our waiting list for sponsors to provide our school with a stunning and elegant Clock Tower on our new parking lot, an adoration chapel, new greenhouse, gazebo, or new statues on our school buildings, please also email us and we will contact you when these opportunities are available.

As always, thank you for your friendship, thank you for sharing with us any exciting news you may have, thank you for your prayers and thank you for your gifts that help us continue to care for our children and our campus. Never hesitate to contact me with any questions or needs you have, I am here to serve you.

God bless,
Jennifer Ciarlariello
Director of Development



Our Future Alumni

We recently polled the first graders and eighth graders at St. Sebastian Parish School.

Here are their responses to our questions:

Eighth Grade

What is your favorite memory of St. Sebastian?

The eighth grade class has many memories of their time at St. Sebastian. Their trip to Camp Christopher was a particularly fond memory for half of the students. The Last Hurrah of Junior High dance was also a great memory as well as the 8th grade football championship, Power of the Pen, field trips, and making and hanging out with friends.

Do you have a role model here at St. Sebastian?

The eighth grade class had many role models including fellow students who taught them to “keep positive.” Below is a compilation of their responses:

Ms. Thompson, Piano tutor, “who has taught me to express myself through music and art.”

Mr. Beebe, because “he showed me how to have a good work ethic while having fun,” and “you can always talk to him.”

Mrs. Slegus, “is very kind, funny, energetic and amazing woman.”

Deacon Terry and Mrs. Gupta, “very kind hearted and they care for all students.”

Deacon Terry because he “showed me how to be strong in faith,” “he is nice all the time and has done good in his life,” “he is a good example of a hardworking man and a good Catholic,” “very inspirational and religious,” and because “he is holy and his personality is awesome.”

Fr. Kovacina because he “inspired me to grow in faith,” and “is always trying to bring us to God.”

Fr. Valencheck who has “taught me about God and is nice.”

Mr. Rose because he is “a cool teacher and has great etiquette.”

Mr. Rohr because “he made me feel like I can do anything.”

What do you think you might be when you graduate from college?

Out of the 47 responses, we had 29 different ideas of what the students were thinking of making their career. The most popular were physical therapist (8), engineer (5), football, basketball or soccer player (7), medical field (5), teacher (3), realtor, (2), and six students are not sure yet. A few of the most unique responses were cultural anthropologist (2), game developer (2), a doctor in infectious diseases, animal rights lawyer, and millionaire.

What teacher has been your favorite during your time at St. Sebastian?

The overwhelming favorite teacher was Mr. McDonald, because as many students said he was “hilarious,

First Grade

What is your favorite subject?

Overwhelmingly the students selected math as their favorite subject with science as a close second. They also selected gym, reading and religion courses.

What activity have you enjoyed the most so far here at St. Sebastian?

The most popular activities mentioned were the Lego Club, Monster Mash, Father Daughter Dance, Halloween Parade, library, Mass, and the Walk-a-thon.

What do you think you might be when you grow up?

The typical responses were athlete (10), police officer (5), teacher (5), artist (3), doctor (2), veterinarian (2), and a soldier, fireman, construction worker. A few of the more unusual responses included game designer, fashion designer, paleontologist (5), spy, balloon maker, and WWE Wrestler (3).

What would you change at St. Sebastian if you were the Principal?

The most popular choices were wanting more recesses/gym classes and being able to wear nail polish and jewelry to school. Other ideas included being able to skateboard in school, candy lunches, video games instead of math, being allowed to bring toys to school, remodeling the girls restroom, fewer rules, and of course less homework.



Dr. Savitski working with 4th grade students.

*All the responses given by the 1st graders and 8th graders can be found at:
<http://alumni.stsebastian.org/newsletters>*

ous, outgoing, awesome and really nice.” Other teachers mentioned were Dr. Savitski, Miss Weakland, Mr. Beebe, Mr. Rohr, Mrs Indriolo, and Mrs. Owens.

Power of the Pen

Congratulations to the students who competed in the regional Power of the Pen Tournament! The Power of the Pen is a writing competition for middle school students. The team this year included 7th grade students Katie Horgan and Grace Hamilton, and 8th grade students Stephanie Altier, Brianna McCarron and Marina Hershberger. Stephanie won first place in the regional competition with Katie receiving 5th place and Grace placing 11th in the tournament.



The team is coached by Mrs. Maggie Blischak and Junior High Language Arts Teacher Miss Sally Weakland. Congratulations to all team members for representing St. Sebastian Parish School so well and **good luck the state competition in May!**

Happy Birthday Fr. Byrider!



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rev. Charles Byrider. Please consider a gift to the Fr. Charles Byrider Education Endowment in celebration by visiting <http://alumni.stsebastian.org/donate>

Grandparents Day!



8th grade student and Student Ambassador Cecelia Walter with her grandmothers, Mrs. Mary Kay Walter and Mrs. Kathy McDonald Seikel '52 on **Grandparents Day**. Over 350 guests attended and classrooms were overflowing with pride and grandparents!!!

Alumni Updates

CLASS OF 1969

Cathleen Labate is currently serving as a LTC in the US Army, serving in VA at Fort Lee. She has lived all over the world, serving in Iraq and Kosovo and hopefully will return in 2.5 years!

CLASS OF 1971

John Mellody reports that **Paula Pritchard** is moving back to Ohio from Florida. She feels Ohio is home and rejects those who say Florida is a better place to live. She would love to work at an Amish store.

Send Us Your "**Alumni Updates**"

We would love to hear from you! Please use the contact form online or email us your updates and stories to: alumni@stsebastian.org

Alumni Scholarship Endowment News

Thank you to everyone who gave to the “85 Gift” Campaign! You gave over \$10,000 to bring the **Alumni Scholarship Endowment balance to \$19,462**. We are over whelmed by your generosity to support St. Sebastian Parish School. **Thank you!**

This endowment will start to assist students with tuition this fall and every year following. Being able to have a fund that helps support our students and future alumni is important in keeping the parish and school strong.

If you would like to continue to build the Alumni Scholarship Endowment to help even more students, please send your tax deductible gift to:

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

Thank you to the alumni who recently have given to the alumni scholarship endowment:

Mary '53 and Ann '55 Loftus
in memory of Frances Messer

John and Julie '52 Randall

Below are the alumni who gave to the “85 gift” campaign after the publication of the winter newsletter. Every dollar that was donated has made a difference for all our students now and in the future!

Thank You!

1949

Suzanne Meadows Straits
in memory of Mrs. Meadows

1953

William Fanelly
in memory of Michael and Virginia Glenn Fanelly

1958

Edward Banker

1972

Anne Najeway Vainer

1995

Nathan Davis
in memory of Leone Schmidt



We Will Remember

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

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Charles Wolf, '32, January 1, 2015

Frances Zeno Messer, '36, February 5, 2015

James L. Beringer, Sr., '39, February 25, 2015

Raymond Stankard, '42, March 21, 2015

Michael J. Costello, '55, January 1, 2015

James Henaughan, '57, March 24, 2015

Carolyn Smith Connor, '61, January 23, 2015

Michael Cunningham, '71, March 7, 2015

Wendy Wolfman, '71, March 18, 2015

Marshall Wade, '91, March 22, 2015

2014 September Spectacular

It has been a special school year as St. Sebastian Parish School celebrates its 85th anniversary. The 2014 September Spectacular was able to profit over \$135,000 this past year because of the generosity of St. Sebastian parents, alumni and supporters of the school. Every Parish School student will receive a tuition credit of \$115 for the 2015-2016 school year. Also, over \$19,000 will be used for technology enhancements in our school. Donations to the Paddle Raise were over \$69,000 which will allow the new Technology Learning Lab to be ready this fall. A special thank you to Matt & Heidi Heinle who chaired the event and to Mary Pat Doorley, Danielle Edgar, the school & parish staff, and the 100 plus parent volunteers for making this event SPECTACULAR!



2015 September Spectacular

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is excited to announce that Executive Board Member Steve Wilt, together with his wife Holly, have accepted the honor to be the chair couple for the 2015 St. Sebastian September Spectacular. This dazzling event is the most important fundraiser for St. Sebastian Parish School because it helps reduce the cost of tuition for all students and supports demanding technology costs. The 2015 September Spectacular will take place in Zwisler Hall on **Saturday, September 19, 2015**. Advanced tickets are required to attend this worthy event.



Congratulations to our State Bound Science Olympiad Team!

This year's St. Sebastian's Science Olympiad Team came in 6th place among the 15 teams that competed at the Akron Regional Competition. This allows the team to advance to the State Tournament.

Congratulations to all the members of the team. Medal winners were:

Anatomy--1st place--Matt Dennee, Natalie Tobin

Bridge Building--6th place--Connor Beaven, Matt Dennee

Crave the Wave--3rd place--Bob Bordenkircher, Connor Beaven

Crime Busters--4th place--Ian Doucet, Jimmy Thomas

Disease Detectives--1st place--Dan Bordenkircher, Manny Rodriguez

Entomology--5th place--Ian Doucet, Jimmy Thomas

Green Generation--6th place--Josie Savitski, Zoe Zelch

Road Scholar--1st place--Matt Dennee, Natalie Tobin

Robo-Cross--5th place--Connor Magoolaghan, Manny Rodriguez