



ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL'S

BRICK LOT *Bulletin*

March 2026



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

As I reflect on this season of school life, I'm filled with gratitude for the many people who quietly (and not-so-quietly!) pour their time and talent into making St. Sebastian Parish School such a joyful, faith-filled place to learn and grow.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our HASA volunteers for keeping our community strong and vibrant, from the Read-a-Thon to Catholic Schools Week; Theresa Wilgus and her "team of elves" for the magic of the Santa Shop; our HASA lunch coordinators and contributors; and our Socials Committee for creating meaningful moments of connection through the Five Days of Christmas, Ladies Luncheon, and grade-level socials. To our Booster Club and coaches, thank you for investing in our students through CYO sports and forming teamwork, leadership, and perseverance. And to the Knights of Columbus and Tim Sullivan, thank you for leading the Keep Christ in Christmas contest and helping our students remember the true meaning of the season. We are also grateful for the adults who help students discover gifts and passions beyond the classroom: Scott Mason and Jeff Beshore (band and choir), Allyn Rose, Will Ress, and Alanna Data (Geography Club), Maggie Blischak and Jennifer Smee (Power of the Pen), and Katie Pirie, Scott Mason, and our Book Fair volunteers for nurturing a love of reading. Thank you to Megan Sanford, Debra Landis, and our volunteer judges for supporting students through the Junior High Science Fair, and to Megan Sanford, Debra Landis, and Robert Dedinsky for guiding our MathCOUNTS students. Finally, thank you to Jennifer Smee and Carrie Rea for leading our Theatrical Terriers Drama Club, and to Will Ress, Molly Burns and the many volunteers for the countless hours behind our musical production—what a gift to our students and community!

THE SPECTACULAR & THIS YEAR'S PADDLE RAISE

Please save the date for our 2026 Spectacular on Saturday, April 25, an evening that brings our community together to support what matters most: our students at St. Sebastian Parish School. This year's theme is "In Bloom," and we're grateful to share that we already have exciting packages lined up for both our live and silent auctions, along with two crowd-favorites: the tuition raffle and our bourbon basket raffle.

The Spectacular strengthens three essential areas of our school's future: technology, competitive compensation for staff, and our school endowment. This year, our Paddle Raise Initiative will focus on something our students use every day: replacing and updating our playground, which has reached the end of its serviceable life. This investment supports safety, student well-being, and the kind of active play that helps children thrive.



ANNOUNCING THE HELEN HAMLIN MARSHALL ACTIVITY CENTER

We are excited to share plans for a new multipurpose facility: The Helen Hamlin Marshall Activity Center, to be built adjacent to Zwisler Hall. This new space is designed to meet real, present needs for our students and school community, including a dedicated physical education space, a permanent home for our aftercare program, and additional meeting spaces to support the many ways our parish and school gather and grow.

One of the most significant benefits is student safety: the new center will eliminate the need for our students to cross the street for physical education, an increasing concern due to changing traffic patterns and exposure to public walkways and streets.

Yours in Christ,
Anthony Rohr
Principal

FROM THE STEM COORDINATORS

Grades K-3, by Mary Heffern

Our Kindergarten classes had days filled with hands-on learning and discovery. One highlight was a tooth decay egg experiment, where students observed how different liquids affect an eggshell, which represents tooth enamel. Through this engaging activity, students learned how acids in certain drinks can weaken and damage the enamel of our teeth.

First-grade students combined creativity and math by designing unique snowmen using geometric shapes. After completing their masterpieces, they analyzed their creations by graphing the shapes and colors used. As part of their 100th Day of School celebration, students were challenged to transform the digits 1, 0, and 0 into an everyday object. Their imaginative designs included butterflies, people with glasses, wagons, and many other creative ideas.

Second-grade students explored space by designing their very own planets to add to our solar system. Each student illustrated a planet and wrote interesting facts about it. They also created special Lenten lapbooks to help guide them through the Lenten season. As part of this reflection, students designed crosses displaying what they plan to give up or take on during Lent, showing their commitment to growing closer to God.

Third-grade students participated in an engaging classroom debate on an important question: Should everyone have unlimited access to enjoy our national parks, or should entry be limited to help preserve them? Students created signs and shared thoughtful reasoning to support their viewpoints. Each side held a rally where they presented points and counterpoints, learning the value of respectful discussion and critical thinking. In addition, students completed their first solar system research projects and Google Slides presentations. Each student selected two or more objects from our solar system and presented five facts about each. They confidently shared their presentations with the class and then created a 3-D model using at least one recycled object. The results were truly out of this world!

Grades 4-6, by Jen Slegus

The fourth-grade students were busy with many STEM-based activities. The students learned about the California Gold Rush while designing a map based on John Sutter's Mill in Sacramento, California during 1848. While creating the map they explored lines, shapes, area, and perimeter. They also completed an integrated Native American unit, learning about Ohio Indians in social studies class and reading the book *The Sign of the Beaver*. They constructed different projects such as replica artifacts and scale model homes. Fourth graders also recently completed a hands-on lab rotating through six stations while learning about the effects of weathering and erosion on the earth's surface.

After investigating decomposers within a food web, the fifth-grade students were able to estimate decomposition rates by measuring the change in balloon inflation from the release of CO₂ by yeast activity. The students also built an amusement park ride called Bumper Coasters when learning about energy and motion. They investigated the ride's safety by determining if the riders would end up in an alligator pit nearby!

The sixth-grade students performed a mineral identification lab where they learned about different ways to test minerals, then actually performed those tests to determine the identity of a variety of minerals. They also completed a similar activity with rocks where they looked at the characteristics of a rock and identified rocks based on those characteristics. In social studies, while studying diverse cultures, religions, and languages, the students were tasked with trying to decipher the meaning of hieroglyphs to gain a basic understanding of the language. With the knowledge gained, the students then attempted to decode a hieroglyph phrase. Working together, the students were able to successfully translate an entire passage!

Grades 7-8, by Megan Sanford

Seventh-grade students started out this term learning about the earth's atmosphere and human impact on our atmosphere. They learned about the layers of the atmosphere and how they are defined by differences in composition and physical properties, how energy moves through the earth's systems, and the different components of weather (temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, precipitation, visibility and air pressure) and how to measure them. They have also been learning about predictions and how to connect evidence, explanations, and observations to make logical analysis. Seventh graders also studied the Earth, moon and sun system. March will be a busy month as our seventh graders participate in a project-based learning program, "Planting Science." They will explore scientific inquiry through germination experiments designed by the students themselves. Through asynchronous online conversations with their mentor (plant scientist), students will be provided with support and encouragement as they design and carry out their plant-focused scientific investigation in their classroom. As a culminating activity, the students will create posters using Canva to showcase their Planting Science projects for our upcoming Innovation Night.

Our eighth-grade students explored the dynamic processes that shape our planet. They studied plate tectonics, seismic activity, and the Earth's geologic time scale through engaging, hands-on experiences. Students created density columns to model the Earth's layers and made metallic slime to simulate subduction. To apply their understanding of earthquake-resistant engineering, they designed and built towers capable of withstanding simulated earthquakes. To better visualize Earth's vast history, students constructed scaled models of the geologic timeline. They also created and cast their own fossils using plaster and clay, and practiced carbon dating techniques using M&M candies in a fun and interactive lab activity. Eighth-grade students then transitioned into life science. They built detailed cell models and conducted a lab extracting DNA from strawberries. To explore genetics firsthand, students used PTC test strips to determine whether they are "tasters" or "non-tasters," gaining insight into inherited traits.



CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

During the first week of February (due to an abundance of snow days), our St. Sebastian Parish School community spent time celebrating Catholic education and what makes our school so special! We joined together in so many fun and meaningful activities, here are just some highlights from our faith-filled week of fellowship and learning:

- Mass led by our student body and a school-wide Living Rosary
- A visit from Matt Fafarak who led us in song and worship sessions
- Pastries with Parents sponsored by the Foundation
- A special teacher luncheon sponsored by HASA
- Buddy Activities including making birthday parties to-go for kids in need and packing snack bags for the homeless
- Fourth grade attending the Bishop's Mass at St. John's Cathedral
- Annual Spelling Bee, Terrier Trivia, and School-Wide Bingo

We are so blessed to have the opportunity to be partners in faith AND education!



Artistic Awards

Congratulations to the following students for winning the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus:

- Amelia Wyatt (Grade 3)
- Macsen Whitney (Grade 4)
- Dominic Dagnall (Grade 6)

Congratulations also to the following students for winning our second annual Advent Art Contest. These students had their artwork used on the cover of our church bulletins during the Advent season:

- Sophia Fraire-Musgrave (Grade 1)
- Genevieve Gibson (Grade 4)
- Macsen Whitney (Grade 4)
- Emma Smee (Grade 6)



CYO Basketball Season Wrap-Up

Our Terrier Nation Teams, grades 3-8, posted awesome seasons and played their hearts out, winning on (and off) the court. With all of our playoff-eligible teams qualifying for the postseason, a few highlights include:

Our sixth-grade girls charging strong into playoffs, losing in their match-up after double overtime; our sixth- and seventh-grade boys losing well-fought games; and our legendary eighth-grade boys hitting the court hard, but ultimately falling just short of the championship.

A huge congratulations to all of our teams, and the coaches and families that supported them! Go, Terriers!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Geography Club

The 5th–6th-grade and 7th–8th-grade students spent several weeks after school, studying maps and playing games to grow their understanding of the world. They put their knowledge to the test during the final competitions. Congratulations to Aubrey Coates (grade 8) for taking first place!



Junior High Science Fair

Our annual Science Fair took place on Thursday, December 11, and our seventh- and eighth-grade students truly shined! Each student selected a topic of personal interest and created a project to demonstrate their understanding of the scientific method. The Science Fair provides a wonderful opportunity for students to go beyond the standard curriculum, allowing them to independently investigate an idea, design an experiment, and communicate their findings. Through this process, they build valuable life skills such as inquiry, problem-solving, time management, and presentation.

8th-Grade Students Earning Superior:

Teagan Taffi, Grant Coleman, Parker Chapin, Jack Clymire, Alex Frank, Aubrey Coates, Reagan Schumacher

8th-Grade Winners:

1st place: Grant Coleman: The Winner Is Clear
2nd place: Aubrey Coates, Reagan Schumacher: Plump It Up
3rd place: Tegan Taffi: Good Vibrations

7th-Grade Students Earning Superior:

William Kinney, Nikolai Burke, Peter Kindbom, Bryce Large, Cecilia Vaccaro, Miles Soper, Bella Wisberger, Michael Rothkopf, Anastasia Wittler

7th-Grade Winners:

1st place: Miles Soper: Batter Up
2nd place: William Kinney: Swinging Science
3rd place: Nikolai Burke: Make Wind Work for You



Model UN

The All-Saints Team is thrilled to share that each member earned a Superior Delegate Award at the Model United Nations Conference. This is truly a tremendous accomplishment! Congratulations to these students for their hard work, leadership, and preparation. We are excited to witness all the incredible achievements they will accomplish in the future!

MATHCOUNTS

A huge congratulations to our St. Sebastian Mathletes: Grant Coleman, Connor Whitney, Alex Frank, Sammy Malik, Simon Borges, Jack Clymire, Ben Gerstenmaier, and Peter Kindbom, for multiplying their efforts and subtracting the competition at the MathCOUNTS tournament at The University of Akron on Saturday, February 7!

Our team added up an awesome performance with a 7th-place overall finish, and St. Sebastian came out ahead with a free year of MATHCOUNTS OPLET access. A special shoutout to Grant Coleman for being our school's high-score variable of the day!



Power of the Pen

The St. Sebastian Power of the Pen team competed in its district tournament on January 10th, at Brunswick Middle School. Congratulations to the St. Sebastian Power of the Pen teams! Seventh graders Tenley Bills, Ben Gerstenmaier, Will Kinney, Angela Marino, Michael Rothkopf, and Anya Wittler brought home 3rd place! Eighth graders Simon Borges, Ava Burgoyne, Grant Coleman, Avery Leffler, Sammy Malik, and Connor Whitney won 1st place! Individual awards were won by Sammy Malik–10th place, Anya Wittler–6th place, and Avery Leffler–3rd place. A special thank you to Aubrey Coates and Amelia Kilker for their roles as tournament runners and team supporters. Congratulations, Terriers, on a job well done!



NEWS AND NOTES

Thank You, St. Sebastian Socials Committee!



The Socials Committee treated the faculty and staff to "Five Days of Christmas" during the holiday season! They generously provided beautiful handmade cookies, gift cards, a delicious lunch catered by D'Agnese's, baskets of snacks galore, and coffee! The

week ended with the committee members visiting each faculty and staff member to gift them a token of appreciation! Thank you to the Socials committee for organizing this special week, and thank you to all that support the Socials in their mission to truly make us feel appreciated and special!

Weller's World



Hi, Terrier Families! It's me, Weller, your golden retriever therapy dog and resident tail-wagger. I was so excited to help pass out the 3rd edition of my Weller bookmark! Seeing students light up when they get one never gets old. I'm pretty sure bookmarks are the best kind of "paw-sitive reinforcement"... especially when they come with a big smile and maybe a scratch behind the ears.

With the warmer weather, I'm extra happy to be outside with the students. Last week I even got to play on the preschool playground with our 3-year-old learners and, let me tell you, I had a blast running through the tunnels and hopping down the slides!

And speaking of playgrounds, my dad says you humans are planning a fundraiser to replace and update the playground equipment for our students. That makes my tail wag! I hope everyone will support the 2026 Paddle Raise so our Terriers can play, climb, and laugh for years to come.

READ-A-THON TAKES FUNDRAISING TO A NEW LEVEL!

A huge THANK YOU for your incredible support of our Read-a-Thon! We raised over \$35,000, a record-breaking achievement! Your generosity is helping us move closer to our goal of rebuilding our end-of-service-life playground.

This year, students received their 3rd edition Weller bookmarks for logging minutes! Students also earned a dress down day, pajama day, special lunches, spirit wear baskets, and...due to our school community surpassing our goal (and our wildest dreams)... a school-wide movie/popcorn day, school-wide extra recess, and (a fan favorite) a week of sneakers!

The students spent two weeks reading in and out of the classrooms, listening to mystery readers, and even receiving a visit from a published, acclaimed author! What a truly remarkable way for our school community to celebrate the gift of books! See more below for some highlights!

Adjectives! Adverbs! Alliteration! Oh My!

In February, St. Sebastian Parish School was honored to welcome author Brian P. Cleary to our school. He has written more than 80 books that have sold more than 3 million copies. Mr. Cleary not only gave a presentation to all students, but also held teacher talks and some writing workshops for students. Thank you so much, HASA, for sponsoring this fun event!



Mystery Readers Revealed!

During our Read-a-Thon, family and friends "dropped in" to read to our students, with a new surprise reader each day. Our classrooms were filled with literary love and abounding joy for the stories shared. Thank you to all of our Mystery Readers who helped bring school and home together, page by page. When families and community members show up to share stories, it sends a powerful message: reading matters, relationships matter, and every minute read helps our students grow.





MARCH

- 12 Spring Music Program 7:00 P.M.
- 18 Living Stations 1:05 P.M.
- 19 End of Third Quarter
- 20 No School/ Teacher Professional Day
- 22 Student-Led Mass (grades K,8) 9:00 A.M.
- 26 Scholarship Mass
- 31 No School/Chrism Mass

APRIL

- 3 No School/ Good Friday
- 6-10 No School/ Easter Break
- 19 Student-Led Mass (grades 2,6) 9:00 A.M.
- 25 Spectacular

MAY

- 2 First Communion
- 7 May Crowning 8:05 A.M.
- 14 Innovation Night 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.
- 17 Student-Led Mass (grades 3,7) 9:00 A.M.
- 19 Band/Choir Concert 7:00 P.M.
- 21 Pass It On Mass 8:05 A.M.
- 22 Last Day of Preschool
- 25 No School/Memorial Day
- 27 Eighth Grade Clap-Out 11:00 A.M.
- 28 Eighth Grade Graduation 6:00 P.M.
- 28 Last Day of School K-7



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Sebastian Parish School is dedicated to Christ and committed to excellence in education. We honor the Catholic traditions of the past, work to develop our talents today and prepare for Christian service in the future.

Save the Date: St. Sebastian Spectacular, April 25

Our 2026 Spectacular, "An Evening in Bloom," on Saturday, April 25 is truly blossoming into a beautiful night for our school community! This year's paddle raise will support our new playground while the event continues to fund important school needs including technology maintenance and upgrades, competitive teacher compensation, and our school endowment. Tickets now on sale by scanning the QR code below!

There are many ways to participate before the big night. Our Tuition Raffle offers one lucky winner \$1,000 toward 2026–27 tuition. The Bourbon Raffle, valued at more than \$900, features a collection of hard-to-find favorites and standout bottles perfect for any bourbon enthusiast. Raffle tickets can be purchased now through BidPal by scanning the QR code.

Our Gift Card Palooza is also underway! Gift cards are still being accepted through April 17. Students who donate will receive a dress down day on April 24. Families may also donate through the BidPal link and our team will purchase gift cards on your behalf.

The auction is shaping up to be incredible, with live auction experiences including trips to St. Croix and Myrtle Beach, a cabin getaway in Pennsylvania, dinner with Fr. Marcelli, a garden party with Fr. Valencheck, a gelato-making experience at Sal's Gelato, Guardians Carnegie Club tickets with a stay at the Hyatt Regency at the Arcade, and the always-popular Principal for a Day with Mr. Rohr (and Weller!).

Our silent auction continues to grow with family experiences, memberships, date-night packages, entertainment, and wellness opportunities.



Thank you for your continued support of our biggest fundraiser. Every donation, ticket purchased, and auction item won, directly supports our mission and helps us continue serving our students in a supportive, faith-filled environment. We are so grateful for your generosity! We hope you will join us for this special evening as we celebrate and support our school.

Spectacular Co-Chairs,
Kelsey Casano & Emily Boarman