

Vol. 5  
10.22.19

# The Eagle Eye

## Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

### Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

Thank you to those who were able to join us for our School Improvement Plan presentation last week. As always, our goals are to continue helping students to make the kinds of learning gains necessary to succeed not only on the FSA, but in all areas of life. Instead of "teaching to the test," our emphasis on project-based learning provides opportunities for critical thinking and problem-solving, essential skills for success both in school and in any career. I am especially pleased to report that our implementation of Single School Culture and positive behavior reinforcement has resulted in fewer referrals and suspensions so far this year. Be sure to ask your students how many PBIS points they've earned so far, and what they purchased in the Eagle Store with those points last Friday! Many thanks to the PTO for staffing and stocking our Eagle Store.

We continue to expand on our status as a STEAM school, with the recent addition of a Greenhouse on our campus and our VEX Robotics club up and running. In addition to our visual arts and music programs (including the only middle school orchestra in the district!), we have added an after-school Junior Thespians Club, with over 20 students who are now busy preparing to compete in the district thespian festival this fall.

Finally, we were pleased to relaunch Defined STEM at SMS last week, a wonderful software program which provides engaging, authentic lessons built around standards-based projects. Teachers can use cross-curricular projects to supplement their lessons, allowing students to apply their knowledge to real world scenarios.

Inquiry Hour continues on Wednesdays, and students are getting excited to present their projects at Exhibition on November 20. Please mark your calendars to join us!

Sincerely,

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

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Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal  
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Matt Hodges, Instructional Literacy Coach  
Kevin Hayes, Dean of Students

Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8 / 7 A-L  
Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Grade 6 / 7 M-Z

### Important Dates

**October 23**

*Last Chance to Turn in Box Tops!*

**October 25**

*NJHS Applications due to Ms. Hagenbuch-Reese*

**October 28—November 1**

*Red Ribbon Week (See below for more info!)*

**October 29**

*Basketball Pre-season Meeting for Parents & Players, 5:00pm, SMS Auditorium  
First Quarter Report Cards posted in HAC*

**November 7**

*Growth Mindset Parent Workshop, 6:00-7:30pm,  
SMS Multipurpose Room*

**November 11**

*Veteran's Day: Student/Teacher Holiday*

**November 15**

*STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am, MPR  
Second Quarter Interims Issued in HAC*



**Red Ribbon Week: 10/28-11/1**

Red Ribbon Week is a nationally organized anti-drug campaign celebrated annually at schools across the country. At SMS, we will celebrate staying drug free with the following themed days:  
**Monday:** Jersey Day—Team up against drugs and bullying  
**Tuesday:** 80's Day—Too bright for drugs  
**Wednesday:** Crazy Socks and Hats Day—Take care of yourself from head to toe  
**Thurs:** Twin Day—Stand together against drugs  
**Friday:** Eagles SOAR with Class Spirit Day—6<sup>th</sup> wears White, 7<sup>th</sup> wears Blue, 8<sup>th</sup> wears Red

## PTO News & Notes

Dodgeball Tournament—November 21, 5:30-8:00pm

Registration forms will be sent home with all students on Monday, 10/28. A total of 20 5-member teams (4 adult and 16 student teams) will compete to be the Dodgeball Champion of SMS. Participation on a team costs only \$10 per player (\$50 per team) and event spectators will pay a \$1/entrance fee. Player registrations are due by 11/8. This event will fill up quickly, so get your team together today!

Eagle Store Volunteers and Donations Needed!

The PTO opens the Eagle Store once a month to give students a chance to spend their hard-earned PBIS reward points. We need your help to staff the store and stock it with fun prizes! You can click [here](#) to view the Eagle Store Wishlist on Amazon and ship items directly to SMS. In addition to your donations, the PTO needs parent volunteers to staff the store on the days when it's open. Click [here](#) to open Sign-Up Genius to select your date(s) to volunteer. As always, thank you for your generous support of this great program!



## New Eagle Spotlight:

### Sarah Edwards, 6th Grade ELA

Sarah Edwards grew up in Palm Valley and attended St. Johns County schools in her youth, where she was inspired to become a teacher herself. She attended the University of Florida, earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Education with a specialization in Reading. During college, she took a brief hiatus and moved to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon where she fell in love with the West. After college, Ms. Edwards moved back to the area and taught at PVPV Rawlings Elementary, Ruth Upson Elementary in Duval County, and most recently at Palencia Elementary. After six years in fifth grade, she was ready for the jump to middle school and is thrilled to be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts at Sebastian. Ms. Edwards and her husband have three children, ages 14, 11, and 1! Ms. Edwards loves going to the beach, going to church, reading, spending time outside, and playing and listening to good music.



## Box Tops Last Chance 10/23!

The Box Tops Collection Crew of Jamie and Jack Parkey (pictured left) will be at SMS on the morning of 10/23 collecting box tops from your car window! Also, if you haven't yet added the Box Tops App to your phone, it's free so do it today and start scanning your grocery receipts to donate Box Tops to SMS!



## Florida DOE Wants Your Input!

Leaders from the FL Dept. of Education are gathering input from teachers, parents, and other stakeholders before revising our state's grade level standards in 2020 for reading and math. To submit comments, please visit [www.fldoe.org/standardsreview](http://www.fldoe.org/standardsreview), email StandardsReview@fldoe.org, or call (805) 245-0423. Make your voice heard!



## Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Oct 22—Volleyball vs. Palm Valley Academy @ PVA
- ◆ Oct 22—Dance Team Tryouts, 2:00-3:00pm
- ◆ Oct 22—Boys Soccer vs. Gamble Rogers @ GRMS
- ◆ Oct 24—Girls Soccer vs. Pacetti Bay @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Oct 25—Boys Soccer vs. Liberty Pines @ Aberdeen
- ◆ Oct 25—NJHS Applications Due
- ◆ Oct 28-Nov 1—Red Ribbon Week
- ◆ Oct 28—Girls Soccer vs. Swiss Point @ Plantation Park
- ◆ Oct 29—First Quarter Report Cards posted in HAC
- ◆ Oct 29—Basketball Pre-Season Meeting, 5:00pm
- ◆ Oct 29—Cross Country Meet, 5:00pm @ Fruit Cove
- ◆ Nov 1—Boys Soccer vs. Swiss Point @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 4—Girls Soccer vs. Palm Valley Academy @ Veterans
- ◆ Nov 5—Boys Soccer vs. Patriot Oaks @ TBD
- ◆ Nov 7—Girls Soccer vs. Mill Creek Academy @ Pomar
- ◆ Nov 7—Growth Mindset Parent Training, 6:00-7:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 8—Boys Soccer vs. Landrum @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 11—Veteran's Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Nov 12—Boys Soccer vs. Pacetti Bay @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 15—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 15—Cross Country Meet, 5:00pm @ Treaty Park
- ◆ Nov 15—Boys Soccer vs. Valley Ridge @ Davis Park

- ◆ Nov 15—Second Quarter Interims posted in HAC
- ◆ Nov 18—Girls Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park
- ◆ Nov 19—Boys Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 20—Exhibition Event, 8:00-11:00am @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 21—Girls Soccer vs. Landrum @ Davis Park
- ◆ Nov 21—PTO Dodgeball Tournament, 5:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 22—Boys Soccer vs. Gamble Rogers @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 25—Girls Soccer vs. Swiss Point @ Aberdeen Park
- ◆ Nov 26—Boys Soccer vs. Pacetti Bay @ TBA
- ◆ Nov 27-29—Thanksgiving Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Dec 2—Basketball Tryouts Begin
- ◆ Dec 5—Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30am, Topic: High School Career Academies
- ◆ Dec 5—Girls Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park
- ◆ Dec 9—Girls Soccer vs. Palm Valley Academy @ Davis Park
- ◆ Dec 10—Holiday Guitar Concert, 6:00pm, SMS Auditorium
- ◆ Dec 11—Barnes & Noble Spirit Day, time TBD
- ◆ Dec 12—Holiday String Orchestra Concert, 6:00pm, Auditorium
- ◆ Dec 16-20—PTO Holiday Shop @ SMS
- ◆ Dec 17—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Dec 17—Holiday Band Concert, 6:00pm, Auditorium

*Note: All Boys and Girls Soccer Games begin at 4:00pm. The SMS home field is Pomar Park, 1600 Masters Drive.*

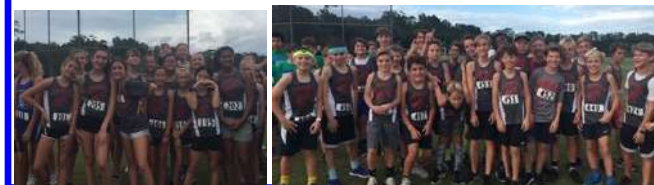


### Putting the A in STEAM!

Students in Ms. Hagy’s and Ms. King’s art classes used the theme “Happy Clouds Happy Trees” last week to create art that celebrated the legend of artist Bob Ross. On Friday, students brought in art-inspired foods—like cookies made into paint palettes and rice crispy treat paintbrushes. Von Birchall, pictured left, even brought in a wig to emulate the artist. To quote Bob Ross, “There are no mistakes, just happy little accidents.” Well said!

### Eagles Fly in Cross Country!

In their second meet of the season last week at Gamble Rogers Middle School, our Boys placed 3rd overall and our Girls placed 5th. Sixth grader Hobbs Bradenstein (pictured right) placed first in his age group and fourth overall. With two more meets to go, our Eagles are off and running! Way to go!!



### Biology Students Visit Guana

Students in Mrs. Nall’s Biology class visited the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR) last Friday to learn about the importance of an estuary as a unique body of water. Students gathered data on environmental conditions and water quality using technology and then went seining to collect crabs, shrimp and fish. Students had to identify and count the marine life in their nets. In the science educational center, students learned about habitats, maps, shells, aquariums and even got to view bald eagles through a telescope. The data gathered by students will be put into the National Estuary database for GTMNERR. It was a true outdoor laboratory!



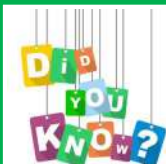
### Applications due Friday 10/25!

Seventh and Eighth grade students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher are invited to apply for membership into NJHS at SMS. Applications available [here](#) and are due to Ms. Hagenbuch-Reese by Friday, 10/25. NJHS meets the second Thurs. of each month.

### Basketball Pre-Season Meeting 10/29 @ 5:00pm



Coach Razy will hold a meeting for all parents and students interested in playing girls or boys basketball at SMS this year on Tuesday, 10/29 at 5:00pm in the Auditorium. Please bring valid physicals (dated April 2019 or later) & open gym permission forms.



### United Way 211 Info Hotline

United Way of St. Johns County serves many of the families in our school system through programs that focus on Education, Financial Stability and Health. In order to connect families with health and human services that are available in our community, they also fund an information referral hotline called 2-1-1. You can search the database by visiting [www.nefl211.org](http://www.nefl211.org) or simply dial 211 or 904-632-0600 from any phone to be connected to services for the following:

- Medical and Health Services
- Child/Adolescent/Adult Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Food, Shelter, Clothing
- Support Groups
- Services for People with Disabilities
- HIV/AIDS Information and Testing
- Help for Victims of Abuse or Crime
- Adult, Child and Family Services
- Financial Assistance Information
- RealSense – Earned Income Tax Credit/Free Tax Prep
- Elder Helpline—assistance/access to services for seniors
- 24-hour Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention



### Fall is Planting Time at SMS!

Students in Mr. Barber’s and Ms. Bradshaw’s self-contained ESE classes planted their fall garden last week with the help of master gardener volunteers from the St. Johns County Agricultural Center. To keep birds away, the students also created the life size scare crow pictured here. Students will be harvesting and cooking their produce into soups and salads as it matures in the months to come!



### Yearbook Photos Needed!

Parents who are attending club or athletic events with their students are invited to take photos and submit them for inclusion in the SMS Yearbook this year! You can upload pictures to Pictavo Community by clicking [here](#). Once you find our school, create an account and verify it (check your junk folder for the email), and then upload your photos! Please be sure to tag the kids involved and put your pictures into the proper folder. Questions? Please contact yearbook editor Emily.Ludwick@stjohns.k12.fl.us.