

# ST. SEBASTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



February 2007

## Welcome to St. Sebastian Elementary School

At the Calgary Catholic Board Meeting of December 13, 2006 the school in Chaparral was officially named St. Sebastian Elementary School, and the dream became a reality.



On behalf of the Calgary Catholic School District I would like to welcome you to participate in the tremendous opportunity of opening a new school.

My name is Craig Carpenter and I am extremely pleased to have been appointed Principal of St. Sebastian Elementary School. I look forward to building our school from the ground up, creating a Catholic climate and culture, and establishing St. Sebastian Elementary as an integral part of the Chaparral community.

This first newsletter is intended to provide valuable information concerning: St. Sebastian, our Patron, hours of operation, student registration, our first Parent Meeting, Kindergarten Orientation, school start-up committees, sign-up sheet and the 2007 -2008 District School Calendar.



## Our Patron - St. Sebastian



Sebastian was born at Narbonne, in Gaul, and raised by his parents in Milan, Italy. It is reported that he possessed great physical endurance and had a natural inclination to military life. He became a soldier in the Roman army at Rome about the year 283. Emperor Diocletian later named Sebastian captain in the Praetorian guards, unaware that he was a Christian. Sebastian was actually a faithful follower of Christ and by 286 used his position in the Praetorian Guard to assist Christian confessors and martyrs in their suffering. At the time, the Roman army was ruthlessly participating in the persecution of Christians while Sebastian was secretly committing many acts of love and charity for those persecuted.

Sebastian is known to have encouraged two Roman martyrs, Marcellian and Marcus, under sentence of death, to remain faithful to Christ. During this time he is also known to have converted many Romans to Christianity and cured others of sickness, through his strength in faith alone.

Once it was discovered by Emperor Diocletian that Sebastian was a Christian, he was sentenced to death by being shot full of arrows by the Mauritanian archers. Being left for dead, Sebastian was found and miraculously nursed back to health. A short time later, however, Sebastian openly criticized the Emperor for his persecution of Christians and was executed by being beaten to death. He is reported to have died on January 20, 287.

Sebastian was one of a class of military martyrs and soldier saints of the Early Christian Church. He is a patron saint of athletes because of his physical endurance and energetic way of spreading and defending the faith. He is also a patron to all soldiers. The feast day for St. Sebastian is January 20.

## Hours of Operation

There have been several inquiries by parents as to St. Sebastian's hours of operation. Hours of operation, or bell times, are tied into transportation schedules of buses that will serve Chaparral. Often bus schedules are twinned with other schools to make the routes more cost effective. Bus routes are generally completed in the spring when more information is available and we will be able to inform parents at that time.

## Student Registration

If you are a Catholic resident of Chaparral and your child is already registered within a Calgary Catholic School, **you are not required to register your child for St. Sebastian**. Your child's name will automatically be submitted for registration.

Registration for all new students is currently being facilitated at St. Philip School at 13825 Parkside Drive S. E., 271-5522. Please bring the following items with you when you register:

- Child's birth certificate
- Baptismal certificate of one parent  
and/or the child (if child has been baptized)

- Documentation with current address

To be eligible for Kindergarten during the 2007-2008 school year, children must be five years old by February 29, 2008. Please indicate an AM or PM preference upon registration.

## Parent Meeting - February 26, 2007

A Parent Meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting will be held at St. Philip School. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Carpenter, discuss the school opening and investigate the opportunity to participate in various school start-up committees. These Committees will include: **Playground, School Start-up, Logo/Banner Development and School Council**. Please see a brief description below for committees that may be of interest. **Please inform and encourage all neighbors and friends, who are Catholic residents of Chaparral, to attend this meeting.**

## Kindergarten Orientation - May 31, 2007

A Kindergarten Orientation has been scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. St. Philip School will be the site for this meeting. Topics covered will include: kindergarten program, current registration, routines and expectations.

## Playground Committee

Playgrounds are a cornerstone in the development of a school and its growing community. The construction of a new playground becomes the primary objective in its start-up year. Fundraising methods, grant applications and organizing an army of volunteers are the essence of this committee.

## Logo and Banner Development Committee

A logo is a symbol of the school and its Patron Saint that immediately identifies it to the public at large as a Catholic school. This logo is displayed on all school letterhead, illustrated on newsletters, represented on School District correspondence and natu-

rally featured as a centerpiece of the school's gymnasium.

All schools in Calgary Catholic are represented by a school banner that depicts its core values and mission statement. Usually all district banners are positioned in the school's main foyer . Once we have a starting point with both a logo and banner, graphic representations will be developed and the symbols will be formalized.

## School Start-up Committee

The focus of this committee is to support the school in its physical start-up. It would begin with the identification of individuals who would be willing and available in the weeks and days preceding the September 2007 Opening. Duties may include movement of materials to all areas of the school, identification of school property and materials, as well as the assembly of equipment such as desks, tables, carts and furniture. If you like shopping at that Swedish furniture store, then this committee is right up your alley.

## School Council

Normally, school councils are elected in May of the prior year of its operations. School Council plays a critical role in the operations of the the school as the executive and members of council provide an important advisory role. School administration looks to Council for their valuable support and input.

Typically, there are four executive positions:

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Parents are encouraged to consider whether they have something to offer in these roles. Naturally, the development of a constitution and by-laws become the priority in the first year of operation.

If you are interested in any of these committees please refer to the **Sign-up Sheet** attached to this newsletter.

## Sign-Up Sheet

This feedback sheet will constitute a **Preliminary Registry** of parents who are willing to assist us in the early stages of creating the school community of St. Sebastian. There is much to be done and many hands make light work. If you are interested in helping, please fill out the form below and submit it to the office of St. Philip School.

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**Please return this SIGN-UP SHEET by Friday, March 2, 2007 to St. Philip School**

**I would be interested in working on the following committees of St. Sebastian Elementary School:**

### PLEASE CHECK

Playground Committee

School Logo Development Committee

School Banner Committee

School Start-up Committee

School Council

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_