

SAINT SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Craig Carpenter
Vice Principal: Mrs. Nadia Verna

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JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Many **new events** are taking place at Saint Sebastian School and **eBoard** is the **place to find** the most **up to date information**.

How do I access the Saint Sebastian eBoard?

Go to the Saint Sebastian's website:
<http://www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/stsebastian/>

The toolbar on the left hand side has a link:



The password is **chaparral**.

From here you can access **important parent information, noteworthy dates for the month**, as well as **individual classroom notes** on the **daily, weekly and monthly** happenings.

Please **send questions and feedback** to Mrs. Verna at nadia.verna@cssd.ab.ca

Please give it a try!

We need your email address! (please)

Please send us your **email address** for the distribution of our **monthly newsletter**. You can email me directly at cheryl.larocque@cssd.ab.ca and I'll put your name on our list. It does **save on photocopying time and paper** for the school. If you do like to have a hard copy, you can always print it at home. We are still sending photocopied newsletters to **95 families** a month and would like to **reduce that number**. You can use the form in this newsletter to send me your email. **Thanks!**



CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Thank-you



gifts and offers of thanks.

The staff of Saint Sebastian School would like to **thank** parents who took the time to **pass along Christmas cheer** in the form of **cards, treats,**

We really appreciated your thoughtfulness!!

We even became the beneficiary of **one giant fig tree** that is now **housed in our library**. This tree added to our jungle setting for the opening of our library and I know for a fact was a **favorite** of our special visitor, **Clifford the Big Red Dog**. Thanks everyone!

Heritage Fair 2008



Every year Grades 4 – 9 students participate in a **Canadian Social Studies Fair** at the **Calgary City Hall**. It is held in the spring and it will be on the first Saturday in May.

Beginning in **January** there will be a **Heritage Fair Club** called **Historica** for students in **Grades 4 to 6**. Our club will **meet twice a week** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** at **lunch** for students to work together on **individual or partner projects** about **Canadian history**.

The fair and project-making are a lot of fun and it is a great opportunity to **develop speaking and display-making skills** as well as to learn more about our **wonderful country, Canada**.



Ms. Annette Parte

School Council Scheduled Meeting Dates:

February 7, 2008 (Thursday)

March 6, 2008 (Thursday)

April 3, 2008 (Thursday)

May 1, 2008 (Thursday)

***June 5, 2008 (Thursday)**

***Annual General Meeting**

Saint Sebastian Day

Our **first Saint Sebastian Day** will be celebrated on **Monday, January 21st** with enthusiasm and excitement!



Our **theme** will be the virtual **“LOVE”**. Our day will **begin** with a **liturgy** recognizing our school patron, Saint Sebastian in song and prayer. The students will have their first

opportunity to gather in their **Big Family Groups**. We will **create cards of love and support** for our **Canadian veterans**.

Our day **will end** by sharing a **treat** together in our classrooms. **Saint Sebastian Day** promises to be an **opportunity to build community and school spirit!**

Recycling Success

The students and staff of Saint Sebastian School have been able to recycle **6,475 pop, juice and water containers** since our startup on September 4, 2007.

That works out to an average of approximately **18 containers/student**. We are extremely proud of the steps taken so far in our



role as environmental stewards in our community. It should also be stated that thousands of milk containers have also been recycled. We don't have an actual count of these containers because there is no recycling return program for milk containers; other than the "Swish and Squish" campaign that is currently operating.

Juke Box Raffle

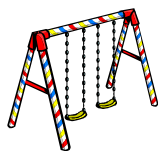
There was **one lone survivor** from our First Annual Family Dance and Silent Auction, held on Friday, November 23, 2007. The **juke box** that was kindly donated by SML Entertainment and Mr. Brett Fisher is still up for grabs. Mr. Fisher has authorized that the Rowe/Ami CD juke box be put up for a raffle at the school. Please be reminded that this juke box sells for \$2,495.00 retail.



Raffle tickets will be available for sale starting **Wednesday January 16th** at a cost **\$2.00/ticket**. These tickets will be available for purchase from **12:30 pm** next to the library, while students are eating lunch. The draw for the **Juke Box** will be held on the afternoon of **Thursday, January 31st**. All proceeds will go towards our new playground!

Playground Partnership

A partnership has been struck between Saint Sebastian Elementary School community and the Health Select Pharmacy in Chaparral. **The deal is that the Pharmacist/Owner, Mr. Farouk Haji, will donate \$1.00 from every prescription filled between December 2007 and April 2008.** The only requirement is that you must say that you support the playground development at Saint



Sebastian Elementary School, when having a prescription filled out. The address for the **Health**



Select Pharmacy is #204, 803 Chaparral Drive S. E. and Mr. Haji can be reached at 256-7674. Please consider directing your business to the Health Select Pharmacy, supporting a community operated business and thus assisting the construction of our new playground.

Student Leadership Training

Student Leadership training will be starting the week of January 14. Students in grades 4 through 6, who have expressed an interest by applying for particular leadership opportunities, will be sharpening their skills in the areas of: intramural support, recycling, music listening program/announcements, peace patrols and recycling. Students will be expected to fulfill their commitment for the remainder of the school, once they have successfully completed their training. Schedules will be provided so that students can keep track of their duty times and dates. Parents are requested to familiarize themselves with your children's commitments and schedules. If an illness coincides with a scheduled duty, please include this information when phoning in the absence.

Community Safety

One strategy for keeping on top of all community safety concerns is to register with the **Police and Community Telephone System (P. A. C. T.)**. This is a **free service** offered by the Calgary Police Service in which **registrants receive recorded phone updates on what is happening, crime-wise, in our community.** It is **free of charge** and you can **register by calling 645-2999**, or by going to www.calgarypolice.ca and clicking on "crime prevention."

Volunteer Orientation

A **final** Volunteer Orientation has been scheduled for **Monday, January 28 at 7:00 pm**. Please complete the Volunteer Orientation Registration

included in this newsletter and send it in to school by **January 25 at 9:00 am.** Or email the information to cheryl.larocque@cssd.ab.ca

Kindergarten 2008 – 2009

Parents of Kindergarten aged children are reminded that registration for the 2008 – 2009 school year has been on-going throughout this school year. To be eligible for Kindergarten, students must be 5 years of age by February 28, 2009. A copy of your child's birth certificate plus a baptismal certificate of one parent, will be required upon registration.

Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed

Our **School Council** is attempting to establish a **team of committed parents** willing to participate in delivering a **special hot lunch** to our students, at least **once a month**. Contacting vendors, planning dates, preparing order forms, counting money, distributing the lunches and cleaning up are the major roles that need to be filled for each and every hot lunch event. That is not the pet project of just one hard working parent; it takes a committee. **If you are interested in participating at any level in this fun project please come to our Hot Lunch Committee scheduled on Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 pm.** The meeting will be held in the school's staff room.

Knight's of Columbus Free Throw Competition

This event will be **hosted** this year at **Our Lady of Peace School** on **January 22 at 7:00 pm**. This is available for all students aged 10 – 14 years. **Entry forms** are available **through the office** at Saint Sebastian School. A preliminary competition will be held through the physical education program at our school.

NOTICE TO SAINT SEBASTIAN'S BRAVE & DEVOTED PATROLLERS...



We will **NOT** be venturing outside when the daily temperature drops to **-17 °C (with the wind chill) or colder.** This ensures your safety!

A.M. PATROLLERS please check **www.theweathernetwork.com** at 7:45 a.m. from home in the following manner:

When on the website:

FIRST: CLICK on Alberta.

SECOND: In the ENTER CITY Bar, TYPE Calgary.

THIRD: Look at the temperature and LOOK AT WHAT THE TEMPERATURE IS READING IN THE **“FEELS LIKE”** SECTION (*this section reads what the wind chill is outside*) AND this is the temperature that we will use!

A.M. PATROLLERS ARE STILL EXPECTED TO COME TO SCHOOL BY 8:25 A.M. REGARDLESS OF THE TEMPERATURE. Ms. Legge will check the website at school and inform the patroller(s) before the scheduled time, the students will remain under Ms. Legge's or Mrs. Watts' supervision. This will assist with ensuring that we follow the protocol and it will aid the patrollers by maintaining their weekly routine.

Mrs. Watts will handle the above procedure for the P.M. PATROLLERS. After checking the website, Mrs. Watts will send one of the Captains to inform 5-S, 5-W and 5/6-L that it's too cold. If you do not hear anything by 3:05 p.m., assume that you are outside for patrols.

THANK YOU for being such **responsible** and **caring individuals!** ☺

P.S.: The above **website is great** for the **Grade 5 Weather Unit** and **Grade 6 Sky Science Unit**. **Check it out** boys and girls!

Saint Sebastian Music News



Our School Song:

All children from grades one to six participated in a “live” recording of our school song called Follow His Way. We are looking into making copies of the CD to sell as a fundraiser. If anyone in our school community has knowledge or expertise in this area of production, please contact Mrs. Stankowski at the school.

Liturgy News:

Thank you to all of the participants and those who attended our first annual Family Advent Liturgy at St. Patrick's Church in December. This liturgy along with our other in-school Advent liturgies helped us all to prepare our minds and hearts for the Christmas season. The children did a wonderful job reading, lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, ushering, ringing bells and singing.

Choir News:

Our choir is preparing for our Saint Sebastian School Blessing and Dedication, as well as, a spring performance. All members are asked to continue signing in on our weekly attendance sheets posted in the music room to show their

commitment. Absences do require a note from a parent.

Handbell Club:

Our Advent Liturgy would not have been the same without the great ringing of our 12 members. We are taking a brief break from early morning rehearsals and will resume practicing after the Teachers Convention in February. Members will be informed and a new schedule will be sent home.

Djembe African Drumming Unit:

All of our children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will experience African drumming in their music classes this month. Our school was able to borrow a class set of Djembe African drums from our District's Fine Arts Center. The drums are made from beautifully carved, hollow logs. The top or head of each drum is made from goatskin.

Recorder Unit:

Following our Drumming Unit, the children in Grades 4 to 6 will study the recorder. More information about this unit of study will be coming home to those students later this month. Mrs. Stankowski

“Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Survey – Grade 4 Parents”

Parents of students of grades 4, 7 and 10 students (all parents of students in grade 4 and above for Charter schools) will **receive a survey mailed to their homes** directly from **Alberta Education**.

As was **piloted last year**, the parent survey is available in a number of languages in addition to English and French. Parents can contact their principal to receive a survey in another language. It is expected that the surveys will be available in:

English, French, Cantonese/Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Arabic, Korean, Cree, Blackfoot, Deni, and Tagalog.

In **February**, students in **grades 4, 7 and 10** (all students grades 4 and above in Charter schools) **and all teachers** will be **completing their surveys online** through their schools.

All **surveys are anonymous** and no reports will be issued if the number of respondents is fewer than six to further protect the privacy of respondents. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experiences they have had at their school. Responses for parents of students who have moved during the current school year will be attached to the school in which the student was registered on September 30, 2007.

We strongly **encourage your participation** as the results help us **identify our school and jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses**. Survey **results** will be available to jurisdictions by the start of **May 2008**, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of the Annual Education Results Reports in the fall of 2008.

World Record Holders!!

On **October 3rd 2007**, Canada set out to break the World Record for the largest number of people walking 1 kilometer at the same time. The current record was held by Western Australia with 100,915 Participants. **Saint Sebastian School** Community decided to **join** this "walkolution" and set out together to walk 1 km from our school, around the Lake Chaparral path, and back. **We submitted a total of 341 participants and have been eagerly awaiting the results!**



An unofficial announcement was released on December 20th 2007, stating that 30,945 people participated in Alberta and **231,635 in total across Canada, beating the existing record!** All the verification documentation received by Green

Communities has been bundled up and shipped to the Guinness World Records office in London, UK, for **verification**. **This process will** take a few months but we will **notify everyone** once we **hear back from the folks at Guinness**.

The event was a **huge success** as it emphasized the simple pleasure of walking, created excitement, school spirit, and put the spotlight on daily physical activity, safety, and environmental sustainability. We are **very proud** to have been **part of** this generated renewed **enthusiasm for walking!** **Thank you to everyone** for your active participation.

Milk Program

Our **lunch time milk program** continues to be well received. Both **white and chocolate milk** will be available at lunch. We sell milk coupons during the **lunch hour in the gym** or at the office.

1 ticket for **.75¢**
10 tickets for **\$7.50**
20 tickets for **\$15.00**.



Please make your cheques **payable to Saint Sebastian School**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your support.

Winners!!

Top 10 Raffle Prizes

1. Flytech Dragonfly – Shawn G. (5/6L)
2. Calgary Flames Hat & Robyn Regher Autographed Picture – Damon T. (6W)
3. Calgary Flames Shirt and Autographed Alex Tanguay Picture – Ryan P. (6W)
4. Robopet – Nicholas P. (4St)
5. Reindeer Webkins – Brendan M. (4 St)
6. Webkins Basket – Emmy W. (3P)
7. Hitmen Tickets – Connor P. (5W)
8. Tic Tac present – Cameron P. (4St)
9. Plasma Car – Ethan D. (KCom)
10. Husky Webkins – Myles C. (5W)

Thank you to everyone for their support. For a complete list of winners, please check at the office.

WHAT'S UP WITH CUPS?

“**Sport Stacking**” (formally known as “Cup Stacking”) is **all the rage!** We have **started a Sport Stacking Club** just for **fun** as well as to prepare for the up and coming **tournament**, for **those who would like to compete**.

Sport Stacking is an activity in which **participants manipulate special plastic cups** into **various positions and patterns**, using **alternating hand movements**.

“**You’ve got to see it to believe it!**”

SPORT STACKING PROMOTES:

- ✓ Athleticism
- ✓ Hand-eye coordination
- ✓ Ambidexterity
- ✓ Quickness
- ✓ Focus
- ✓ Bilateral proficiency (equal performance on both sides of the body)

Sport Stacking (product name – “Speed Stacks”) was **discovered in the 1980’s** by Bob Fox (P.E. Teacher from Colorado) – he began promoting and running tournaments in the U.S. in 1996.

Sport Stacking Tournament April 12th!

Team Skyline is sponsoring **The Alberta Cup 2008** (Western Canada’s 3rd Annual Sport Stacking Tournament) on **Saturday, April 12** at the **Mount Royal College Triple Gym**. **Competition** is open to **all students** from **age 5 to 18**. Ribbons, medals and trophies will be awarded. It should be a very exciting event! Please **contact Mrs. Wallace** for more information or go to the website: www.teamskyline.com and click on the top right

corner that says: The Alberta Cup 2008 Cup Stacking Competition.

Mrs. Wallace is on the **Organizing Committee** for **The Alberta Cup** and is **looking for volunteers to help** with signing in participants on the morning of the tournament. If you are available to give less than 2 hours of your time (before competitions begin), then please email Mrs. Wallace at jennifer.wallace@cssd.ab.ca . Thank you!

Cup Orders?

Our school has a class set of “Speed Stacks” for **students to use and practice with** during club time. Some students have expressed an interest in **ordering their own**. Through Team Skyline, one **set of twelve “Speed Stacks”** comes with a **carrying case** and an **instructional DVD** for **under \$20** (depending on ordering regular or “premium” colors). **Other products**, such as **Mini Stacks, timers and mats** are also **available**. Please see or email Mrs. Wallace for order forms.



“**Cup Clubs**” will meet at **noon** (12:02 – 12:26) on the following days:

Grades 3 & 4 - Tuesdays
Grades 5 & 6 - Thursdays
Grades 1 & 2 - Fridays

*Schedule subject to change due to P.D. days.



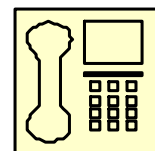
School Bell Times



We have our bell system working!!

8:51	Entry K - 6 (ring outside & inside)
8:56	Late bell (ring inside)
10:26	Recess – Gr. 1-6 (ring inside)
10:41	Recess – Gr. 1-6 (ring outside & inside)
11:34	Kindergarten (AM)- Dismissal (no bell)
12:02	Lunch (ring inside)
12:26	Lunch (ring outside & inside)
12:38	Kindergarten – PM Entry (no bell)
12:50	Lunch (ring outside & inside)
12:55	Late bell Gr. 1-6 (ring inside)
3:16	Dismissal K-6 (ring outside & inside)

Please remember to inform the **OFFICE** if your child will be late or absent from school due to **illness, appointment, vacation or any other** reason. **257-1787**



Saint Sebastian School Bouquets or Constructive Comments



Do you have any **bouquets** or **constructive comments**? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any items that might be appropriate for our monthly newsletter (100 words or less). We would sincerely **appreciate your feedback** on our efforts at Saint Sebastian School.

Please **complete and return the following tear off sheet** and **return it to the school** one week prior to the newsletter going home (**first Monday of every month**). Please sign your feedback sheet and leave a number that you can be reached at during the day, if you would like a response to your input.

Some examples of newsletter items include: feedback on school events, the newsletter issues of concern, bouquets and constructive comments to improve home/school communications.

Newsletter Draw – January 2008

We have read the November newsletter and wish to enter our child(ren)'s name(s) for the draw.

Students Name: _____ Grade & Teacher: _____

Parent's Signature: _____



Submission Deadline: **Friday, January 25th, 2008**

Newsletters by Email

Newsletters will be sent on the first **Monday** of each month. Please fill out the email information below (if you have NOT already) so that we can accurately distribute our newsletter to your family. This will be continuing for the **remaining** newsletters of the year. Please let us know if your **email** address **changes**.

FAMILY NAME: _____
(Please print)

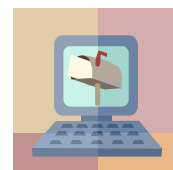
STUDENT(S) NAME: _____ Grade & Teacher: _____
(Please print)

(Please print) Grade & Teacher: _____

(Please print) Grade & Teacher: _____

I can receive email at home: YES _____ NO _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



Volunteer Orientation #3 – Registration Form

A **FINAL** Volunteer Orientation
has been scheduled for



Monday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Please **complete** the Volunteer Orientation Registration Form below and **return it** to the **school office** by **Friday, January 25 at 9:00 am**. Or email the information to cheryl.larocque@cssd.ab.ca

ADULT VOLUNTEER NAME(S):

(parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles – who ever is going to be helping in our school)



1. _____
(please print)

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____


STUDENT'S NAME: _____

GRADE/CLASS: _____

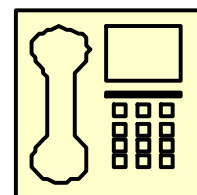
DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

January 2008 Saint Sebastian Elementary School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
						
6	7 Day3 School Re-opens	8 Day4	9 Day5	10 Day 6 School Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm	11 Day 1 Feast of the Epiphany Celebration 1:15 pm	12
13	14 Day 2	15 Day 3	16 Day 4 Raffle Tickets on sale at 12:30 today	17 Day 5 7:00 Hot Lunch Committee Meeting	18 Day 6	19
20 Feast Day of Saint Sebastian	21 Day 1 Feast of Saint Sebastian Celebrations – Full day of events	22 Day 2	23 Day 3	24 Day 4	25 Day 5	26
27	28 Day 6 7:00 PM Volunteer Orientation	29 Day 1	30 Day 2	31 Day 3 Juke Box Raffle Draw today!!	1 FEBRUARY Teacher Professional Development Day – No Classes	

**Please remember to inform the OFFICE if
your child will be late or absent from school
due to illness, appointment, vacation or any
other reason. 257-1787**





February 2008

SAINT SEBASTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Teacher Professional Development Day (No Classes)	2
3	4 Day 4	5 Day 5 Shrove Tuesday	6 Day 6 Ash Wednesday Celebration @ 9:15 am (gym) 	7 Day 1 7:00 School Council Meeting	8 Day 2	9
10	11 Day 3	12 Day 4	13 Day 5	14 Alberta Teachers Association Convention (No Classes) 	15 Alberta Teachers Association Convention (No Classes)	16
17	18 Family Day (No classes) 	19 Day 6	20 Day 1	21 Day 2	22 Day 3	23
24	25 Day 4	26 Day 5	27 Day 6	28 Day 1	29 Day 2	

NOTE: Report Cards will be distributed on **Friday, March 7, 2008.**



SAINT SEBASTIAN SCHOOL 2008 CALENDAR



See the **Month-at-a-Glance** (previous page) for more **January** calendar **details!!**

2008

Jan. 7	Monday	School Re-opens 8:51 am classes begin!
Feb. 1	Friday	Professional Development Day (no classes) (K-Gr.6)
Feb. 5	Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday
Feb. 6	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 14	Thursday	Teachers' Convention (no classes)
Feb. 15	Friday	Teachers' Convention (no classes)
Feb. 18	Monday	Family Day (no classes)
March 13	Thursday	Parent/Teacher Interviews (K-Gr. 6)(4:00 – 7:30 pm)
March 14	Friday	Parent/Teacher Interviews (K-Gr. 6)(8:30 – 11:30 am & 1:00 – 3:00 pm) (no classes Friday, March 14 th)
March 20	Thursday	Easter holidays begin (early dismissal @ 12:02 pm)
March 21	Friday	Good Friday
March 23	Sunday	Easter Sunday
March 31	Monday	School Re-opens
May 2	Friday	Professional Development Day (no classes) (K-Gr. 6)
May 19	Monday	Victoria Day (no classes)
June 26	Thursday	Last day of classes, (K –Gr. 6) Report Cards distributed
June 27	Friday	Teacher Organization – AM (no classes)



Achievement Tests – May & June 2008

May 13	Tuesday	Gr. 3 Math – Timed Number Facts	9:00 – 9:06 am
May 14	Wednesday	Gr. 6 Language Arts – Part A	9:00 – 11:00 am
May 15	Thursday	Gr. 3 Language Arts – Part A	9:00 – 10:00 am
May 15	Thursday	Gr. 6 Math – Part A	9:00 – 9:30 am
June 17	Tuesday	Gr. 3 Language Arts – Part B	9:00 – 10:00 am
June 18	Wednesday	Gr. 6 Language Arts – Part B	9:00 – 10:00 am
June 19	Thursday	Gr. 3 Math – Part B	9:00 – 10:00 am
June 19	Thursday	Gr. 6 Math – Part B	9:00 – 10:00 am
June 20	Friday	Gr. 6 Social Studies	9:00 – 10:00 am
June 23	Monday	Gr. 6 Science	9:00 – 10:00 am