

NewsNote

DECEMBER 18, 2024

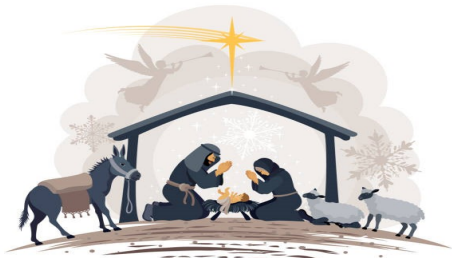
FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Our annual production of the Living Nativity will be held later this evening, Wednesday, December 18. Following are some important reminders as we approach our big event:

- The Living Nativity is produced by **students in Kindergarten - Grade 8**.
- We will **open the doors @ 5:30; students should arrive no later than 5:45**.
- The performance will **begin @ 6:00**.
- We ask that parents be seated in the gym; **students will wait in the Parish Center and the Cafeteria with their homeroom teachers** as they wait to perform their songs.
- We encourage students to **“dress up” in Christmas attire** - nice blue, black, or khaki pants and a Christmas shirt, sweater, or blouse. Christmas dresses or skirts are also acceptable. Think “Christmas best.”
- Please be courteous, cognizant, and respectful of others if you are taking photographs or videos during the performance. All attending will be present to celebrate Christmas and watch the children sing and perform, and we will all have ample opportunity to take photographs.
- The production should take about one hour, **concluding around 7:00**.

Thank you for reviewing these key items and for joining our holiday celebration.  
Merry Christmas,  
Mr. Olejniczak



- **Mon. 12/23 - 1/3**  
Christmas Recess
- **Mon. 1/6** - School Resumes
- **Fri. 1/10** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **Thurs. 1/16** - Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House 6p-7:30pm
- **Mon. 1/20** - NO School: M.L.K Day
- **Fri. 1/24** - NJHS In-duction Mass 8:30am
- **Sun. 1/26** - Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass 10am
- **Tues. 1/28** - Open House 6p-8p
- **Wed. 1/29** - NO School

UNIFORM DRIVE

We have launched a **School Uniform Drive!**

We invite everyone to come in and browse through our uniform bins. Feel free to take as much or as little as you’d like! We have all different sizes/styles available to choose from!

Our goal is to *narrow down* our inventory to only a few bins!

The uniform bins will be available everyday **M-F** during all hours. The bins will be set up on tables outside the main office and remain available until our goal has been reached!

We welcome you to stop by at your convenience. Thank you for your continued support!



FINANCES

We are excited to share that our new email contact will be available to assist you with any inquiries.

Please direct all further questions/concerns regarding financial services to the email below:

**finances@smeschool.com**

Thank you!



JOIN THE CHOIR



Youth are invited to join the Angel Choir to sing at our Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Family Mass in the Parish Center. If you would like to sing at the Christmas Eve Mass, please contact Ms. Andrea Ross at [andrea@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:andrea@stmarysonthehill.org).

HSA

I hope you and your family have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

-Kristen

On behalf of the HSA, I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all the parents, grandparents, family members, friends, teachers and staff for everyone’s help this year so far for all of our events. From donating any items that were requested, to volunteering any amount of time to help at an event, we could not have done it without you. It truly does take a village to pull off all these events, and we have the best village here at SME. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas break full of love, laughter, and relaxation. I can’t wait to hit the ground running in January with more fun events!

-Megan Nichols

Breakfast with Santa

We would like to thank everyone that helped to make the Breakfast with Santa such a success! We had an amazing turnout, and the kids had an awesome time! Thank you to everyone who not only donated cookies, frosting, and sprinkles, but to everyone that donated their time to ensure a successful event.

SME Parent Wear

Show your SME pride with SME Parent t-shirts. Each T-shirt is \$10. Adult sizes small through 2XL available. Sizes are limited to available inventory. Order using the following link: <https://sme-parent-wear.cheddarup.com>

SME Spirit Wear

Need SME Spirit Wear? We’ve got you covered! Each t-shirt is \$15, youth and adult sizes are available. Scan the QR code to order.



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## ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112  
Fax: 716-683-2134  
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S  
WILL

## SPIRIT WEAR

Thank you for your patience as we awaited the fulfillment order of the youth size small Spirit Wear t-shirts. The order has arrived at the school and the inventory quantities have been updated. Please use the link below to complete your purchase:

<https://sme-spirit-wear.cheddarup.com>

Once the payment is received, I will send the shirts home with your student or contact you to arrange pick up later this week/early next week.

## UNIFORM ORDERS

Uniforms will be available for ordering on a monthly basis! All orders placed within the month-long period will be processed by All-Stars.

Please click the link below to place your order :)

<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/stmary-smonthly>



## RAISERIGHT



### OFFICE HOURS:

**Tuesday 9-12**

**Wednesday 12-3**

**Friday 9:30-12**

Have you begun making your list and checking it twice?

You are going to buy that gift anyway, why not give yourself the gift of a rebate on your tuition while you're at it?! Using RaiseRight cards to do your shopping is like the gift that keeps on giving!

With RaiseRights extensive list of vendors the possibilities are endless!



**The last day to order to guarantee**

**Christmas delivery is today, December 18th!**

**Last day for order pick up is December 20th!**

## NURSES MESSAGE

In addition to my monthly update please read the updated NYSDOH Covid guidelines.

Much like the Flu, Covid is so individualized. We may have the same symptoms, but the severity and the duration can be different for all of us.

That being said, we no longer need to isolate for 5 days. We must be 24 hours fever free without the aid of medication as well as have an improvement in symptoms.

Please call the Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA PHOTOS



## CALENDAR CLUB



We will once again run the Calendar Club fundraiser for the 2025 calendar year. With 365 days of prizes there is over \$10,000 to be won!

Upon the receipt of your \$25 donation, your name and number will be registered for all drawings for the year 2025. Winning numbers will be physically drawn monthly at St. Mary's and will be published monthly on the parish & school websites.



## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Tickets are \$30 each or 3/\$75, available through December 19<sup>th</sup>. Daily cash prizes will be awarded Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Tickets are being sent home with students and will also be available at SME. What a great idea for a Christmas gift!

Winners will be contacted after January 5<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, email [12Days@smeschool.com](mailto:12Days@smeschool.com) or call 716-861-7210.

QR Cheddar-up to purchase:





# PRE-K & K OPEN HOUSE

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**2 ST. MARY'S HILL, LANCASTER, NY**

**JANUARY 16TH, 2025**

**6:00PM-7:30PM**

**LET'S WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER**

**CONTACT US @**

**716-683-2112 EXT:123**

**ADMISSIONS@SMESCHOOL.COM**





Ladies and Friends!

The Ladies of Charity are in critical need of children's clothes. We have already used all our fall and winter clothes that we had in storage as we have seen an increase in clothing referrals from Catholic Charities.

Please ask your friends and families to consider donating children's clothes - especially sizes 2T - 16!

We need: tops, bottoms, and winter jackets and boots.

Please donate to Ladies of Charity, 1122 Broadway, Buffalo. 716-895-4001. Donations accepted 9-3:00 M-F.

Thank you so much!

# NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

December 2024

## Snacks

Please continue to use the Safe Snack list when sending in treats and goody bags for our classroom celebrations and parties.

I am always open to new ideas, so please feel free to send me these ideas prior to the day of your child's class celebration!

Also, please include the ingredients/allergy information when sending in goody bags, This saves a tremendous amount of time when approving class snacks.

## Contact Information

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN  
Office Hours- 9:30-1  
phone- (716)683-2112 ext 128  
fax- (716) 683-2134  
email- nurse@smeschool.com

**IS IT A COLD OR FLU?**

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU

## Illnesses

The Christmas Season is a time of giving and sharing, and sometimes that includes illnesses.

Please continue to encourage proper respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene with your children.

I am so impressed with how great these kiddos are about coughing into their elbows!

Let's keep it going!





**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

## Department of Health

**JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Commissioner

**JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 7, 2024

**TO:** Local Health Departments, Healthcare Providers, Healthcare Facilities, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatric, Adolescent Medicine, Infectious Disease, Primary Care Providers, Nursing Homes, Adult Care Facilities, School Nurses, and Infection Control/Epidemiology

**FROM:** New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

**HEALTH ADVISORY: Updated recommendations on when to stay home and when to go back to normal activities after respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) – Non-Healthcare Settings**

Following the [updated CDC recommendations](#), the NYSDOH is revising its guidance for when to stay home and when individuals can return to normal activities after respiratory infections including COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. This [infographic](#) from the CDC is helpful in simply illustrating this respiratory guidance. Please feel free to post in clinical spaces so staff and patients can easily understand this approach for viral respiratory diseases.

- Individuals should stay home and away from others, including people they live with who are not sick, if they have respiratory virus symptoms that are not better explained by another cause. These symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache.
- Individuals can go back to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both of the following are true:
  - Symptoms are getting better overall, **and**
  - They no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- When going back to normal activities, individuals should take added precautions over the next 5 days, including taking additional [steps for cleaner air](#), [hygiene](#), [masks](#), [physical distancing](#), and [testing](#) when they will be around other people, especially older adults, young children, and those with weakened immune systems. Children under age 2 should never wear a mask. Healthcare providers should discuss with their patients about how long a child under 2 should stay home.
- Keep in mind that people may still be able to spread the virus that made them sick, even if they are feeling better, so it is important to take extra precautions after resuming normal activities.

- If individuals develop a fever or start to feel worse, they should stay home and away from others again. They should use the same criteria for returning to normal activities as when they first had symptoms and take added precautions over the next 5 days.

These changes described above **DO NOT** pertain to individuals working in healthcare settings. Healthcare facilities should continue to follow the CDC's [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 | CDC](#) and [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#). Transition from conventional to contingency to crisis staffing strategies should be based on ability to provide essential services, as determined by the facility. Also see: [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/02/doh-hcw\\_rtw\\_advisory\\_11\\_30\\_22.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/02/doh-hcw_rtw_advisory_11_30_22.pdf).

This document supersedes previous guidance on return to normal activities after testing positive for COVID-19 for non-healthcare settings.

Questions about this guidance may be addressed to the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at [bcdc@health.ny.gov](mailto:bcdc@health.ny.gov) or call 518-473-4439.