



NewsNotes

St. Mary's Elementary School

12/21/2016

Happy Wednesday!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very merry and blessed Christmas.

A Christmas Prayer

*Loving Father,
 Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
 that we may share in the song of the angels,
 the gladness of the shepherds,
 and worship of the wise men.
 Close the door of hate
 and open the door of love all over the world.
 Let kindness come with every gift
 and good desires with every greeting.
 Deliver us from evil by the blessing
 which Christ brings,
 and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
 May the Christmas morning
 make us happy to be thy children,
 and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
 with grateful thoughts,
 forgiving and forgiven,
 for Jesus' sake.
 Amen*

by Robert Louis Stevenson

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



Upcoming Events

- 12/22 - Christmas Movie 9:00
- 12/23 - 1/2 - Christmas Break, No School
- 1/3 - School Resumes
- 1/12 - Ready SET Read Dress Down
- 1/16 - No School - MLK Jr. Day
- 1/18 - HSA Meeting 6:00
- 1/20 - Ready SET Read / Battle of the Books
- 1/30 - 2/3 - Catholic Schools Week

In the Spirit of Christmas

Joy to the World!!! St. Mary's students performed a live "Living Nativity" this past weekend. So very beautiful! All our students did a fabulous job. We even had Mrs. Trulin's (Spanish Teacher) baby boy perform as baby Jesus (he is such a little angel). Thank you to all our families who came out to see this spectacular event. We would like to THANK Mrs. Hoag (Religion Teacher) and Ms. Stringer (Music Teacher) for their dedication, time and talent, Mr. Rinow and crew for helping us get our Christmas trees and straw here, Mrs. Phillips for letting us borrow the straw, Ladies of Charity for providing the cookies and making the cocoa, Wings for helping out that evening, Mr. Sherman for setting up and taking down all our chairs and St. Mary's of the Assumption Church for donating cocoa.

We would also like to thank the Lakeview Animal Sanctuary (which is a home for abused, unwanted and retired animals) for bringing some of their animals out to perform for us during the Living Nativity. They are a non-for profit organization that is always looking for donations whether monetary or off a wish list.

Most of all THANK YOU to ALL our students who participated that night, we love that you were a part of this beautiful day!



SME's students were at it again helping the less fortunate...way to go, we are so lucky to have such thoughtful students and families!

Thank you to all who donated to our Tree of Comfort service project for the Homeless!



We collected 71 sets of warm items (hats, gloves, scarves, & socks) and we collected toiletry items that fill 35 Blessing Bags!

Wow! Your generosity is appreciated. All items will be delivered to the Little Portion Friary.

Peace and Blessings,
Mrs. Hoag and the SME Family

Scrip

The next SCRIP order will be placed Tuesday, January 3rd.

Hilton Business Gift Cards are now available to order in \$100 and \$500 denominations, both with a 2% rebate.

A very big thank you to all the SCRIP volunteers who make our program so successful.

As always, thank you for your support of the SCRIP program. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Amanda Argentieri, Mary Kate DeMarzio, and Becky Kasinski.



Athletics

Tonight our 7th/8th grade girls Varsity basketball team will be playing at 7:30 at SME. It's their 1st home game! Come out and support your friends!

The concession stand will be open where pizza, water, Gatorade, candy and chips are available for purchase!

I would like to personally extend a very Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New year to all of you!

Julie Wipperman, Athletic Coordinator
athletics@smeschool.com
716-683-2112 ext. 313



Reminders



Any & all emails regarding changes in dismissal/absences etc... need to be sent to both

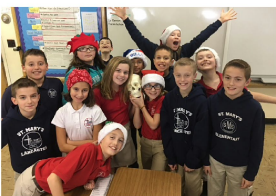
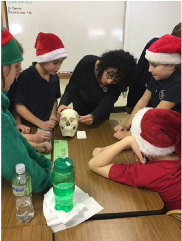
your child's teacher as well as Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com. If a teacher is absent and emails are not sent to both parties, adjustments cannot be made appropriately.

There will be no office hours during Christmas Break

If your child is interested in singing in the Christmas Mass in the PC on Christmas Eve, please arrive by 3:30 and go to the chapel. There will be no practice prior to this mass.

What are they up to?

The 5th grade had a visit from Mr. And Mrs. Benson (both doctors) from the Randwood Foundation to teach us more about Rwanda and to collect their pen pal letters! Students learned so much about the amazing endangered mountain gorillas! Students even got to compare 3 types of primate skulls!



The 8th grade class attended the "Engineer-It" workshop at the Buffalo Science Museum. Using the principles of aerodynamics, students chose designs for constructing their cars and then raced their cars to see which ones would travel the farthest. After the workshop, students had time to explore many of the interactive exhibits at the museum.

Miss Chudyk's 6th grade class had fun making "ooblek", a type of slime, to learn about the properties of Earth's asthenosphere. This is a layer of the Earth which has properties of both solids and liquids.



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"...visible examples
of gospel living."

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The SCRIP team is looking for 10 or more people that would be interested in earning 2-3 service hours per shift as a seller.

Shifts are available Monday-Friday mornings and one Saturday a month beginning this summer and for the 2017-2018 school year.

The commitment can be as simple as one day a month!

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Becky Kasinski at [**jbkasinski@cavtel.net**](mailto:jbkasinski@cavtel.net).

12/19/16

Parents,

My name is Mike Wolford and I coach the 6th grade Boys Basketball team along with Steve Wass at SME. After several conversations and first-hand experiences about the poor condition of our Gym floor at SME, I have decided to not complain about it, but rather take action. The floor surface has been neglected for years, and even those students/athletes that have brand new sneakers, continue to slide all over the floor. I firmly believe that at some point it will become a safety concern as well. I have asked and was granted permission by Mrs. Kwitowski to have the floor looked at by outside contractors and collect estimates to have the floors stripped and waxed, which I am currently doing.

Since then, we have selected a contractor that will strip and re-wax the Gym floor for a cost of \$2,600. The contractor has agreed to come in over Christmas Break so as to cause as little disruption to the school as possible and have the floor looking great when the students return on 1/3/17. In addition, we intend to raise enough money to purchase a floor buffer so that the school can keep the machine and maintain the floor year round in-house and keep the floor safe and looking great.

I have been a parent and volunteer coach at SME for several years and this is a project I have thought about for some time now. I feel that both our students and athletes will enjoy the benefits of this improvement to one of our most commonly used facilities. We have so many good families at our school that I am confident we can make this work and be really proud of our facilities. If you are willing to help donate to this project, you can email me at mwolford@ppg.com or call/text me at 255-8439 by 1/6/17. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Wolford