



NewsNotes

St. Mary's Elementary School

3/1/2017

Happy Wednesday!

Welcome back! I hope that everybody had a relaxing and enjoyable break. As we enter the Lenten Season, we need to prepare ourselves for Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the upcoming 40-day period will give us as Christians, the chance to partake in moderation, meditation, fasting and repentance. All of these things will allow us to reflect on the life, words and sacrifices of Jesus Christ.

Registration is in full swing! I am happy to see how many of our families have re-registered for next year. We would like to thank those families who decide to pay their tuition, in full by July 15th, either by cash or check, with a discount of \$50.00.

This Saturday, our Science Olympiad team will be competing at Waterfront Elementary School in Buffalo. Please come out and support them if you are able to.

God's Peace and Love,

Mrs. Kwitowski



Re-Registration 17-18

Re-registration packets for the 17-18 school year have been distributed to all oldest and/or only students on Monday, February 06, 2017. Please be sure to read, fill out all required documents, and return to school in the envelope provided as soon as possible. **Returning K-8 families will receive an Early Registration Discount of \$50 off their Commitment Fee if re-registered by March 15, 2017.** If any family has a Pre-K student not currently registered and is interested in joining our Pre-K program next year, please contact the office and we will forward a Pre-K packet to your attention. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

- 3/1 - School Mass: Ash Wednesday
- 3/1 - Read Across America: **Uniform Dress**
- 3/2 - Read Across America: **Dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss Character**
- 3/3 - Read Across America: Crazy Socks **With Uniforms**
- 3/4 - Science Olympiad Competition, Waterfront Ele., Bflo
- 3/6 - 1:00 Dismissal, Dress Down Day
- 3/10 - Christian Witness Mass
- 3/13 - NO SCHOOL
- 3/15 - St. Joseph's Table
- 3/17 - NO SCHOOL
Annie Performance 7:00
- 3/18 - Annie Performance 1:30 & 6:00

Service Hour Submission

The submission deadline for all Service Hours worked for the 16-17 school year is almost upon us. All parents who have agreed to work at least 35 hours per the Tuition Contract need to submit a listing of their Service Hours to Sherri Weinholtz at sherriw1175@yahoo.com or send their completed Service Hours Form to the school Tuition Office by the March 15, 2017 deadline. Please make a copy of this form for your reference before submission. Hours may be accrued between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Failure to complete your pledged hours needed to reach 35 minimum by June 30, 2017 will result in an assessment for unfulfilled hours per your signed Tuition Contract. Projected hours may be added to your Service Hours Form and will be verified against the sign-in sheets provided at each event worked. Please be sure to list the date, event name, time in and out, and total number of hours worked for each event on your Service Hours Form. Always remember to sign in and out with the chairperson at each event. Service Hours opportunities are published in our weekly News Notes and through contact via Chairpersons of the various events. Service Hours forms have been provided to each family opting for Service Hours per the Tuition Contract upon registration. Additional Service Hours Forms are available in the office for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Jezuit, Director of Student Affairs at jezuitn@smeschool.com or 683-2112 x121. Thank you.

BISON Fund

Giving Parents a Choice. Giving Children a Chance.

Happy New Year!!! As we welcome 2017 we are ready to accept Pre-Applications for funding for the 2017-2018 school year. Families should apply on-line through our web-site at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. The Pre-Application will only be available electronically again this year. The Pre-Application is only for families **new** to BISON. Our deadline is February 28, 2017. Please refer to the poster located near the SME office door.

Current families will be e-mailed a link to complete the requalification PROCESS STARTING ON February 13, 2017. The families will log into the scholarship database and upload their financial information. As a reminder, the deadline for that paperwork is March 31, 2017.

Regards, Cindy McDonald, BISON Fund

Athletics

I would like to personally thank Julie and Mike Wolford for what they have done for S.M.E.! The February Freeze basketball tournament was so successful and that was due to Julie's deepest commitment to making this tournament so awesome! All of her planning and details is what made the tournament run so smoothly! It was a great event for the basketball players and the families! Additionally, a thank you is extended to ALL of you that helped out during the tournament. It could not have been as successful if we didn't have all the continued help! Thank you to everyone that attended this amazing tournament!

Thank you to Mike Wolford for his dedication to the gym floor project! His commitment and planning is what made this project so successful and beneficial to all of the students at SME. I thank all of the families that helped support the project of the new gym floor! Thank you Mike and Julie Wolford for all you've done!

Other news: On Friday, March 10th, the spring sport teams will have their team pictures taken by Life Touch during the school day. Team uniforms will be distributed to the athletes that signed up for soccer, boys Varsity volleyball and Girls softball before photos will be taken. Your athlete will bring home their uniform on this day so please keep in safe place until their season begins.

Look for information regarding the Winter sports banquet which will be included in next weeks NewsNotes. The date for the banquet is Thursday, March 23rd at 6:00.

Mega Raffle

DEADLINE EXTENSION – Thank you very much for the donations for the gift baskets. We will continue to accept donations through April 15th. Please refer to the list of requested items from each grade included in the electronic version of the 2/15/17 NewsNotes.

Ticket sales are going very well! To date, **411** tickets have been sold for the Mega Raffle. There are only **239** tickets remaining - did you get yours?

Thank you to the **59** families who have sold or purchased tickets as part of the fundraising option of the tuition agreement. **All tickets must be paid in full by 4/15/16.** After that date, any remaining tickets will be available to the community, and you will be responsible for the \$200 payment, without receiving a ticket.

The prize winners will be announced at the live drawing on Friday, June 2nd at 7:00 in the Parish Center.

Flyers are available in the front office if you would like to bring them to your place of business to sell - people love a raffle!

If you are interested in joining our committee, or earning service hours (we are in need of volunteers the night of the event), please contact Mary Kate DeMarizo at megaraffle@smeschool.com or 510-1409.

Yearbook Orders

Yearbook order forms are coming home this week with your child.

Ordering your yearbook(s) online
ybpay.lifetouch.com - Yearbook code #1501617
is a fast, easy, convenient & reassuring way to order!

The order deadline is April 3, 2017.



Attention: Parents of SME who will have a child ready to enter **Pre-School** for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in a spot for your child, please request a Registration Packet to be sent home, as our classes are beginning to fill up quickly. Thank you!

February Freeze Tournament

To SME Coaches, Players and Families,

I want to thank everyone who contributed to and supported the February Freeze Basketball Tournament last weekend. Thanks to everyone's help, we raised just under \$3,400 for our school's athletic fund. These funds can be used in the future when we have a need for sports equipment, uniforms, or for our teams to enter other tournaments. More importantly, the tournament was so much fun for our players, coaches, families and fans. I received lots of great feedback from the other schools that participated as well.

A few weeks ago, when I sent out the link for people to volunteer to help at the tournament, I thought, "Well, the amount of help I get will determine whether I run this tournament again next year." I was so excited to find my mailbox flooded the next morning with people volunteering to help, make donations, and lots of "tell me what else I can do to help" responses. The help didn't stop coming in the weeks leading up to the tournament and during the weekend of the tournament.

Some people dedicated most or all of their weekend to helping at the tournament- my husband, Mike, my children Christine and Luke, Julie, Bernie & Tori Wipperman, Steve DeMarzio (our awesome MC in the PC), Ann Murphy and her daughters Lauren and Hanna, Pete Nawojski, Jay Gianni, and Steve & Tracy Wass. There were many others who volunteered for multiple shifts or helped an entire day. The members of the Girls Varsity team were extremely helpful with selling 50/50 tickets and working concessions. Many of our basketball players were excited to help out where they could (especially with the half-time contests), and I loved that so many of the kids were there to cheer on their classmates. Thank you to the families who donated baskets for our raffle: the Murphys, the Gallos, the Kuzniareks, the Wippermans, the Rahubas, the Cudecks, the Wass family, the 8th grade boys' team, and the 6th grade girls' team. Thank you to Ted Kuzniarek for donating the trophies and All-Tournament team medals. Thank you to Dan Rosati (New Era Caps) for the cap donations. Thank you to SME alumni Chris Horvatits for being the MC for our championship games on Sunday, and to Nicole Norton for singing at the championships. Thank you to Father Paul, Sister Therese, Mrs. Kwitowski, Mr. Kroll, Mrs. Jezuit, Mrs. Dutro, Mr. Over, Mr. Sherman, Kristin, and Jim- all of whom offered their time and support. Thank you to all of the SME coaches who helped me recruit teams, send out emails, run the score clocks, and as always, we appreciate that they give so much of their time and talents to coaching our children.

Congratulations to the 6th grade boys and 6th grade girls for winning the Championship in their divisions. Congratulations to both of our Varsity teams, 8th grade boys and 7th/8th grade girls for placing 2nd in their divisions. The Varsity boys 7 team finished with a strong win over St. John the Baptist. Our 5th grade JV girls team, with the help of two 4th graders, did an awesome job competing against 6th grade teams. The following SME athletes were named to their division's All-Tournament teams: Sean Brown, Christine Wolford, Josh Czuprynski, Brooke Bauer, Gabby Petroski, Travis Bauer, Blake Gallo, & Kaitlyn Propis. Good sportsmanship and school spirit was demonstrated by all.

I had so much fun at the February Freeze and was very proud of our school. I am thankful to God for the wonderful community we have in which to raise our children.

Sincerely,

Julie Wolford



What are they up to?



The 4th grade had a fun time at the History Museum on Feb. 17th. The students enjoyed a guided tour of the Native American and Pioneer exhibits and were able to watch the amazing Apostolic clock in action.

Paper Recycling



Did you know that SME participates in a Recycling Paper Program?

By dropping off your paper recycling to any of the three bins in our lot (near the church) we receive a profit based on the weight!

What an easy way to make some green by being green!

We want ALL your:

Newspapers / Magazines / Office & School Papers
Shopping Catalogs / Mail

Please do NOT include:

Plastic / Glass / Metal / Trash

Lenten Offerings

Parents, Lenten Boxes and Cards were sent home a few weeks ago. Each year the students of SME participate in collecting donations (spare change) in their boxes to help with raising money for Catholic Charities. If your child is able to collect a donation we will need the boxes or cards back to the school office by March 31st. All proceeds will be donated to Catholic Charities. Thank you!



News from the Band Room

The students in band have been doing a spectacular job this year! Our clarinets started the year on pg. 7 of their lesson book. They have been working very hard and are now playing pieces on pg. 25. In addition, our first year trombone students are already on pg. 12 of their lesson book and our experienced players continue to improve every week. Last month the members of the band had an opportunity to write a short composition inspired by a Chinese theme. We will be using these compositions in an arrangement for our spring concert. I am very proud of what the students have accomplished so far this year and look forward to seeing how much more we can do in the upcoming months. It is not too late to join us! This Christmas we partnered with students from Lancaster High School in order to compensate for instrument parts that we were unable to cover. We intend to do this again this spring, but it would be wonderful if we could have those parts played by students from St. Mary's as well. If you play an instrument and would like to join us for our concert in June, please contact Ms. Stringer.

St. Mary's Elementary
2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

"...visible examples
of gospel living."

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



7th Grade Practice Exam

Saturday, April 22, 2017

8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$20

This practice exam is recommended for all seventh grade students who will be taking the fall Placement Exam. Call 683.4824, ext. 211 to reserve your spot by April 17th.



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Get a head start

Seventh graders have an opportunity to get a leg up on preparing for the HSPT, which will be administered in the fall. By taking the practice exam, students will gain a better understanding of the critical thinking and test-taking skills required for the mandatory placement exam.

St. Mary's is a private, Catholic high school offering a rigorous college prep program that challenges students to achieve their full potential. 100% of our graduates pursue higher education at the nation's top schools.

We're committed to preparing students for life beyond the classroom, helping them grow socially, academically and in their faith.

Call to reserve your spot at the April 22nd 7th Grade Practice Exam.

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