



# NewsNotes

St. Mary's Elementary School 3/8/2017

Happy Wednesday!

I would like to congratulate our Science Olympiad team! They received a team spirit award and Ben H. and Nick W. received first place in the Towers competition. Awesome job!!

Next week Friday (3/17) and Saturday (3/18) our talented students will be performing Annie Jr. Please be sure to get your tickets and join us for a fabulous performance.

In today's blue folder you will find an updated annual calendar which reflects two changes: our newest day off on 3/13 & the removal of the meat raffle, which we have unfortunately had to cancel.

Additionally, for your personal records is a copy of the code of conduct which is signed by every volunteer in our school. As your signed copy is housed in our school office, we felt it was important that you had access to a copy to reference as needed.

God's Peace and Love,

Mrs. Kwitowski



## Upcoming Events

- 3/10 - Christian Witness Mass
- 3/13 - NO SCHOOL
- 3/15 - St. Joseph's Table 6:00
- 3/17 - NO SCHOOL  
Annie Performance 7:00
- 3/18 - Annie Performance 1:30 & 6:00
- 3/23 - Book Swap - Part I
- 3/24 - Book Swap - Part II
- 3/28 - 3/30 - NYS Testing, Grades 4 & 8
- 3/31 - Living Stations 1:00 & 7:00

## Tuition Discount

Registration is going strong for the 17-18 school year! We would like to thank all Pre-K and K-8 families who will be joining our SME family next year by offering a \$50 discount off your tuition if you decide to pay your tuition in full by July 15, 2017. Payment will only be accepted by Check or Cash in order to receive this \$50 discount. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Jezuit, Director of Student Affairs at [jezuitn@smeschool.com](mailto:jezuitn@smeschool.com). Thank you!!



## Mega Raffle

Ticket sales are going very well! To date, **437** tickets have been sold for the Mega Raffle. There are only **213** tickets remaining - did you get yours?

Thank you to the **62** 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.

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fund raiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. Thank you to all families that have not only sold or purchased the required tickets; but also to those who have assisted in selling additional tickets. Every ticket sold gets us closer to our goal and makes sure we have a successful drive! Thank you again for all of your continued support on this important fundraiser. **INCENTIVE:** The first 50 families to sell 5 tickets will earn \$50.00 in SCRIP credit. **6 families have sold 5 or more tickets so far, and one of those families has sold 13!**

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

Flyers are available on the Mega Raffle tab of the school website and will be available again soon 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](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com) or 510-1409.

# Bison Fund

Giving Parents a Choice. Giving Children a Chance.

Welcome to March!!! It's a busy month for BISON!

The deadline for the Pre-Application was February 28, 2017 and we will be holding a lottery drawing to award new scholarships on March 10, 2017. Any family that applies after the deadline will be placed on our waiting list. We do take families off the waitlist as more funds become available so please continue to encourage families to apply. I will be notifying families with the results of the lottery drawing by e-mail on March 13, 2017. If a family is selected to receive funding, they will receive a link to complete a full application online. The deadline for new families to complete the full application is April 30, 2017.

The deadline for families to recertify for the 2017-2018 school year is March 31, 2017. We mailed our families a letter notifying them of the new online procedure and to verify that we had the correct email address on file. On February 13<sup>th</sup> we sent them an email with the link to recertify for the upcoming school year. As a reminder, they have the capability to upload their financial documents in step 3 of the process. If they are unable to upload them, they will have the option to print a cover letter and mail them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869 ext. 1 or [cmcdonald@bisonfund.com](mailto:cmcdonald@bisonfund.com).

## Athletics

The Winter sports banquet sign up form is included in today's folder. This banquet is for students in grades 3rd-8th that played basketball this past season. Sign up forms are due by Thursday, March 16th as there is no school on March 17th. Basketball players should keep their uniforms because they will wear them to the sports banquet. Lifetouch will be present taking team photos for the yearbook!

This Friday, March 10th, Lifetouch will be taking team photos for the following Spring sport teams; soccer, Varsity girls softball and Varsity boys volleyball. Uniforms will be handed out to the athletes for their team photo. Your child will bring their uniform home on Friday. Please keep it in a safe place until their season begins.

Thank you very much for the donations for the Mega Raffle gift baskets. We will continue to accept donations through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please refer to the list of requested items from each grade included in your blue folder today to see how you can help!

*You're  
Invited*

Please join us on Wednesday,  
March 15th for our annual  
St. Joseph's Feast Day Table!

Dinner begins at 6:00.

No reservations are necessary.

Please bring a meatless dish to pass!

## Yearbook Orders

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

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

The order deadline is April 3, 2017.

## SCRIP

There will be no SCRIP order on Monday, March 13 due to the school holidays on Monday and Friday.

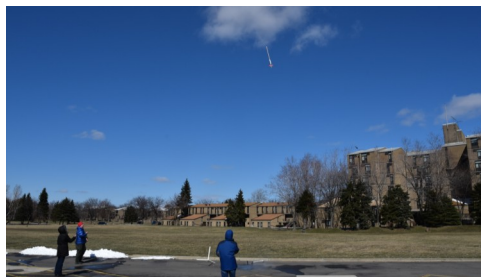
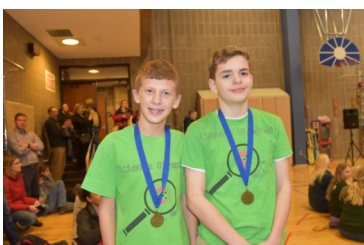
There will be regular sales 8-10 am Tuesday-Thursday in the SCRIP office.

The 2016-2017 SCRIP year ends on Monday, March 20. Don't forget to make your SCRIP year end purchases.



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!

# What are they up to?



Our Science Olympiad team competed against 16 other schools on Saturday, March 4 at Waterfront Elementary School in Buffalo.

Eighth graders, Ben H. and Nick W. received 1st place for the Towers project.

Seventh graders, Joseph K. and Jocelyn J. received 2nd place for their Disease Detectives test.

Our team also won the Spirit award!

Congratulations to all of the team members for a job well done!



## 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 31<sup>st</sup>. All proceeds will be donated to Catholic Charities. Thank you!



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](http://www.smeschool.com)



# **COPY - PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS**

## **Diocese of Buffalo**

## **Code of Conduct For Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Ministers, Administrators, Staff, and Volunteers**

### **Code of Conduct**

Adults who work with children or young adults through the Diocese of Buffalo or any of its parishes or schools have the legal, moral, and religious responsibility to perform their duties in a way that educates and assists – and does not harm -- the children and young adults with whom they work. In keeping with that obligation, the Diocese of Buffalo establishes the following Code of Conduct for all who minister to children and young adults in the parishes of the Diocese, teach children and young adults in the schools of the Diocese, coach children and young adults on sports teams connected with the Diocese or any of its parishes or schools, or in any other way work with children and young adults through the Diocese of Buffalo.

**As one of the priests and religious, teachers and coaches, employees and /or volunteers, who work with children and young adults in or through the Diocese of Buffalo, I solemnly pledge that:**

- 1) I will to the best of my ability, perform my work in a manner consistent with the mission of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Buffalo;
- 2) I will always remember that I am not a peer of the children or young adults with whom I work and I will perform my duties accordingly;
- 3) I will maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries from the children and young adults with whom I work;
- 4) I will avoid situations where I am alone with a child and/or young adult at Church activities;
- 5) I will refrain from any and all physical conduct, conversations and other communications with children or young adults that have a sexual purpose or result;
- 6) I will not touch a child and/or young adult in a sexual or other inappropriate manner;
- 7) I will report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and I will report to the appropriate office of the District Attorney any allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor;
- 8) I will cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or young adults;
- 9) I will treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration;
- 10) I will use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or young adults;
- 11) I will neither accept expensive gifts from children and/or young adults nor give expensive gifts to them without prior written approval from the parents or guardians and from the pastor or administrator;
- 12) I will not smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or young adults;
- 13) I will not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol while working with children and/or young adults;
- 14) I will not use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time;
- 15) I will not pose any health risk to children and/or young adults (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations);
- 16) I will not strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or young adults;
- 17) I will not humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or young adults;
- 18) I will not use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or young adults;
- 19) I will not use profanity in the presence of children and/or young adults.

*I understand that this code is to be applied fairly and equitably on a case by case basis.*

**I understand that whenever I am working with children and/or youth, as a volunteer or employee, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history.**

**I further understand that this criminal background check will be conducted prior to beginning my employment/assignment and thereafter at such times and frequencies as determined by the agency, department, and/or organization by which I am employed and/or to which I am assigned.**

**I understand that criminal background and character reference information may be requested from public and private sources.**

**I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct, or actions inconsistent with Diocesan policies for the protection of children and young adults, or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in removal from my position.**

**I also understand that this code of conduct does not abrogate or replace any other obligations that I have under any applicable law, guideline, policy or regulation.**

**I hereby authorize, without reservation, any law enforcement agency, institution, information service bureau, school, employer, or reference contacted by the Diocese of Buffalo or its agent to furnish the information described herein. I hereby release the employer and agents and all persons, agencies, and entities providing information or reports about me from any liability arising out of the requests for or release of any of the information or reports herein.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# The Book Swap

On Thursday, March 23rd and Friday, March 24th, during lunch periods, Mrs. Wojcik and Mrs. Gasiecki will host another book swap! Students can bring gently used books from home they are finished with to "swap" for new books. We hope to encourage reading at home, without costing families any money!

## How it works:

- This will be a two day process. Day 1: students bring in their books and get a ticket for each book they turn in. Day 2: students exchange each ticket for one book.



- Grades 2+ will have to show responsibility by keeping track of their tickets. We will track grades K and 1.
- Students may "swap" up to 3 books. Books need to be "like new" condition, but not brand new. Books with torn or missing pages will not be accepted.
- We kindly ask parents not to come to help your children pick out books, as we want them to make their own choices (we will monitor this, of course😊).

Books must be grade level appropriate!

K-1: books with pictures

2-5: at least one book must be a grade appropriate chapter book

Our next swap will start on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We hope you will encourage your students to participate!

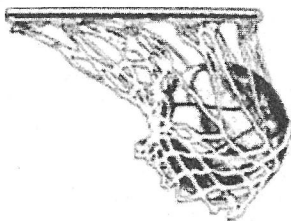
Unfortunately, due to previous lack of participation, middle school will not be included in this swap.

If you have any questions, please email us at: [wojcikk@smeschool.com](mailto:wojcikk@smeschool.com) or [gasieckih@smeschool.com](mailto:gasieckih@smeschool.com)

Mrs. Wojcik & Mrs. Gasiecki

JK

# Winter Sports Banquet



**Thursday, March 23, 2017  
Parish Center 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Girl's and Boy's Basketball Teams**

**We are asking the following teams to bring:**

**Girl's 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Basketball - Desserts**  
**Boy's 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Basketball - Salads/Side Dishes (hot & cold)**  
**Girl's 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Basketball - three 2-liters of *cold* pop**  
**Boy's 7<sup>th</sup> Basketball - Fruit**  
**Boy's 8th Basketball – Water**

**\*\*\*New this year Lifetouch will be taking photos for SME yearbook\*\*\***

**Athletes please wear your uniform to the banquet. Uniforms will be collected by your coach that evening.**

Please return bottom of form

## Winter Sports Banquet

**Thursday, March 23, 2017  
Parish Center 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

Due to space restrictions, this banquet is limited to player and immediate family members.

**Please send in this form along with \$10 per family to office,  
Attention: Julie Wipperman (due 3/17/2017).**

January 26, 2017

Dear SME Family,

We would like to thank you for all that you do to make St. Mary's great! Without your support, the events and fundraisers that we hold would not be as successful as they are.

At this time, we are looking for donations for baskets to raise additional funds for this year's Mega Raffle on June 2, 2017.

Attached, is a list of items that we are collecting, separated by grade. If you are able to donate an item from your grade (you do not need to donate for more than more grade if you have multiple children enrolled), please reach out to me at [megaraffle@smeschool.com](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com) with what item you will be sending in. We would like to avoid duplicates. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation in lieu of an item.

If you received a Christmas gift that you cannot use, we may be able to! Please label all items donated so that we can return them if we are unable to use them. If you have any new Buffalo sports gear (Bills, Sabres, Bisons, etc), or know someone that can supply tickets for games, we will gladly accept those as well!

All donated items can be turned in to the front office by 2/15/17.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Steve & Mary Kate DeMarzio (Mega Raffle Chair Couple)

Over →

JK



<u>Grade</u>	<u>Items Requested</u>
PreK	Lottery tickets, Gift cards in denominations of \$5-\$10
K	Pet theme: Dog treats, cat treats, dog toys, cat toys, dog bed, cat tree/bed, dog shampoo, leashes, blankets, bowls
1 <sup>st</sup>	Beach theme: towels, sunscreen, goggles, books, sunglasses, folding/lounge chair, sun umbrella, cooler, puzzle books, water bottles
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pasta theme: boxes of pasta, colander, serving bowl, cheese shaker, 2 wine glasses, salad bowl, salad tongs
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Car detailing: bucket, soap, brush, tire/wheel cleaner, windshield cleaner, interior cleaner, towels, Delta Sonic GC
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wedding theme: 2 champagne/wine glasses, bride/groom flip flops, Mr/Mrs pillows, blanket with wedding theme, wedding picture frames/albums, Mr/Mrs towels, Mr/Mrs wall hanging
5 <sup>th</sup>	Home décor - <b>NEW items only</b> : vases, lamps, pillows, frames, wall decor (paintings, shelves, etc), blankets, candles
6 <sup>th</sup>	Movie theme: movie theatre GCs, popcorn, popcorn bowls/bucket, DVDs, boxed/bagged candy, drinks
7 <sup>th</sup>	\$2.00 for cash prize to be displayed in a frame
8 <sup>th</sup>	Lottery tickets, Gift cards in denominations of \$5-\$10

JK