

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7 NOVEMBER 15, 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!
Where is the time going? I can hardly believe that next week we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. We will only be in school on Monday and Tuesday so that our families can enjoy the holiday. On Tuesday, we will come together as a school for a Thanksgiving Mass. We will also announce our Christian Witness recipients for October at this mass.

Tonight, parents from some of our school organizations are hosting a parents meeting. They are asking that at least 1

parent from every family attend. It will be held in the gym from 6:00-7:30. Babysitting will be available.

Congratulations to all of our National Junior Honor Society Inductees. We will have a ceremony to officially induct them in during Friday's mass.

Mr. Hunter and I are starting to look at plays for this year. We are in need of volunteers to help us with this year's production. If you can volunteer your time, in any capacity, please let me know.

"Give thanks not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of your life. Appreciate and never take for granted all that you have."

-Catherine Pulsifer

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



thanks
& giving

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11/17 - NJHS Induction following 8:30 mass
- 11/21 - Thanksgiving Mass 8:30, Oct. Christian Witness
- 11/22-11/24 - NO SCHOOL
- 12/1 - Christian Witness Mass 8:30, Merry Moose Shoppe
- 12/4 - 1:00 Dismissal, Dress Down
- 12/8 - NO FAST Club
- 12/16 - Christmas Concert & Living Nativity

FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From Nov 6 – Nov 12, 2017, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$391.33.

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00

November Profit-to-Date	Year Profit-to-Date
\$1,127.40	\$3,034.68

Thanks for your support in making the SCRIP program a success to our school, our Parish and for our children! Please contact the Scrip office at scrip@smeschool.com to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

CANDY BAR SALE:

2016-2017:

10 Families Opted Out

10 x 2 boxes ea = \$480 **lost** Profit

2017-2018:

57 Families have not participated

57 x 2 boxes = \$2736 **missing**

Profit

Short 2 top selling families = over 400 boxes... \$9,600 missing profit

To date we have handed out 585 boxes of chocolate. We are only 1/3 of the way to our goal of 1,500 boxes.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The 2018 Battle of the Books will take place on Friday, January 17 at 6:00pm.

4th/5th grade Titles

Rollergirl by Victoria Jamieson

Swindle by Gordon Korman

Tornado by Betsy Byars

6th/7th/8th grade Titles

El Deafo by Cece Bell

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck

The Menagerie by Tui and Kari Sutherland

SET will be buying copies of the books for the school library.

Watch the NewsNote for more information about team sign-ups, Battle of the Books, and Ready SET Read!

FEBRUARY FREEZE 2018

Mark your calendars for the 2018 February Freeze!



This basketball tournament, hosted by SME will be for 5th through 8th graders.

It will take place from Thursday, February 15-Sunday, February 18 at SME.

If you would like to help in the preparation for this tournament, please email Julie Wolford at jmwolford7473@yahoo.com.

ART CLUB

Art Club will be starting on Wednesday, November 29th. There will be six sessions 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 1/3 & 1/10.

A \$15 supply fee per child will be due at the first session. Students will be creating two projects, one on canvas and the other will be sculptural Paper Mache, clay etc.

Each session will run from 2:30 - 3:15. If your child is not picked up by 3:25 they will be sent to FAST Club and charges will apply.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPAL'S DESK	1
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
ART CLUB	1
FEBRUARY FREEZE	1
FAITH CORNER	2
HSA	2
MISSION POSSIBLE	2
MERRY MOOSE	2
SCRIP	2
STAY IN THE KNOW	2
ATHLETICS	2





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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

"...VISIBLE EXAMPLES OF GOSPEL
LIVING..."

MERRY MOOSE

Our annual Merry Moose Holiday Shoppe is just a month away! Our students love to shop for their special someone from the assortment of gifts all priced at \$5 or less! We are now accepting donations of wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbon, gift bags & tape! Please send them to the office ATTN: Merry Moose. If you are interested in helping please email Jenifer Carroll at jcarr2300@gmail.com. Thank you!



FAITH CORNER

Beginning this week and continuing on you will find a 'Faith Corner' worksheet in your blue folder. These sheets contain an activity to help you share the Gospel with each other. We hope that this will help enrich your faith lives within your homes.



HSA

We still have a number of families who have not returned books/payment for our Kidstuff sale. If you are unsure of your status, please email Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com. Free books & a profit report cannot be completed until we have every student/family closed out. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

ATHLETICS

The Fall sports banquet is tomorrow (11/16)!

The banquet will start promptly at 6:10 p.m. so please be on time!

Inter-state photography will be taking team photos for the yearbook. Please have your athlete(s) wear their sport uniform to the banquet over another shirt. After the team photo is taken, athletes will turn in their jersey to their coach.

Order forms will be available to order team/individual photos. Cash/Checks payable to Interstate are acceptable.

The following is the list of items that are needed for the banquet. Families with multiple athletes can pick from one of the options. Thank you in advance for your help!

Varsity Volleyball 7th & 8th grade girls: Desserts

JV Volleyball 5th/6th grade girls: three 2-liters of cold pop

Swimming: salads/side dishes (hot or cold)/ fruit

Varsity Baseball 6th-8th grade boys: salads/side dishes/ (hot or cold) fruit

Cross Country 6th-8th grade co-ed: 1 case of bottled water per family



MISSION POSSIBLE

Thank you for your continued generosity! We are currently in the lead for Buffalo City Mission's Mission Possible Food Challenge!

There are 3 weeks left in this challenge period. Please keep the cans coming!

Your donations are helping to make a difference. So far, SME has donated 1854 cans of food!

We will share some surplus with our local Food Pantry here in Lancaster. For our Thanksgiving Mass taking place on Tuesday 11/21/17, students will bring a can/box of food with them to mass to be donated to the food pantry here in Lancaster. We will take from the donations that are received this week (11/13-11/17). Please be generous!

God Bless all of you and thank you for sharing with those less fortunate than ourselves, Mrs. Hoag



SCRIP

The faculty/staff wish lists are now available in the Scrip office. As always, if you place your order on Monday, it will be sent home on Friday.

There are only 3 order dates left before Christmas – the last order for 2017 will be **12/11/17**. The Scrip office will remain open on 12/13/17, 12/15/17, 12/18/17 and 12/20/17 for walk-in orders.

Please make note of the following vendor updates: Olive Garden and Red Lobster are no longer available on the same gift card, and Sephora is now a \$25 card. Thank you for your continued support of the Scrip program!!

We have the following low denomination gift cards available while supplies last:

- Amazon.com - \$10
- Applebee's - \$10
- Barnes & Noble - \$5
- CVS - \$10
- Olive Garden - \$10
- The Home Depot - \$10
- IHOP - \$10
- Outback - \$10
- Panera - \$5
- Red Lobster - \$10
- Regal - \$10
- Starbucks - \$5
- Target - \$10
- Walmart - \$10



STAY IN THE KNOW

My Little Sweetheart Dance:

Photo's from this years dance are now available for download until November 30th. Please visit:

www.kellytanskiphotography.com

Save the Date: Christmas Concert 12/16, 6:00pm

Save the Date: Joy to the World, Living Nativity Celebration, Saturday

December 16 @ 7:00

Bottle Drive: Thanksgiving weekend our 8th graders will be running a drop by bottle drive here in our parking lot.

Save the Date: February Freeze Basketball Tournament 2/15 - 2/18/18!



November, 2017

Dear SME Parent:

Many of you may recall that in the spring of the 2015-16 school year we requested that the parents of our students complete our School Satisfaction Survey on Survey Monkey. The survey was to help us with your suggestions on what SME is doing well - and how we can improve. We made a similar request of our educators with a separate survey prepared just for them.

Thank you to all who participated. Since then many adjustments have been undertaken to sustain what you advised we do well and to improve where you advised improvement was needed.

Since the spring 2016 survey, the Saint Mary's Elementary Community School Board, comprised of lay educators and parents and parishioners selected from the parishes served by St. Mary's Elementary Community School has been established. In accord with its mission, the Board is in the process of preparing a strategic plan designed to foster and sustain present and future excellence in the education provided at St. Mary's.

To gauge the progress we have made and the progress we need to make, the Board has decided to undertake follow up surveys from both you and our educators. Some questions have been added, some removed, some changed and, as with the spring 2016 survey, an opportunity to comment has been provided.

Even if you did not participate in the spring 2016 survey, perhaps because you are new to St. Mary's, your opinions are greatly valued.

Regardless of whether you participated in the spring of 2016, please take a few moments to complete our School Satisfaction Survey on Survey Monkey. The survey will be open for responses from November 27 to December 4, 2017. Submissions are confidential.

Access it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/smeparent>.

Thank you very much for your time, your responses and your continued support of St. Mary's. May God bless you and your family during this Advent season and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rev. Paul W. Steller, Pastor

Faith Corner

Below is a family activity to help you share the Gospel with each other. We hope that this will help enrich your faith lives within your homes.

Peace,
Mrs. Hoag

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sunday, November 19, 2017
**From Loyola Press*

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:14-30*

Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which he teaches about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Family Connection

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the correlation between faithfulness and responsibilities. Family life provides many opportunities to illustrate this connection for children. As children prove themselves trustworthy, they can be trusted to take on greater responsibilities. Jesus teaches us in this parable that when we show ourselves to be trustworthy in small matters, we can be trusted to participate in greater matters of responsibility.

As you gather as a family, take some time to recall how each child in the family has matured and can now be trusted with greater responsibilities.

Say: In today's Gospel, Jesus talked about how our trustworthiness in small matters shows that we can also be trusted to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Matthew 25:14-30. Say: We share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven when we use our talents to help and serve others.

As a family, choose one thing to do this week to serve others. Conclude in prayer together, asking God's help so that your family may serve others more faithfully. Pray together the **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Protecting God's Children (for Adults 18+)

Parish and Catholic school employees and volunteers, over the age of eighteen, who work with children and young people in the Diocese of Buffalo, are required to attend a sexual abuse awareness session. The three and one half hour workshops are scheduled at the following times and locations:

Published: 10-Nov-2017

November

Nov. 15 at 6:00 PM Nativity of the BVM (Clarence)

Nov. 18 at 9:00 AM Immaculate Conception (Eden)

December

Dec. 2 at 9:00 AM St. Mary (Holley)

Dec. 5 at 5:30 PM Bishop Timon-St. Jude H.S. (Buffalo)

January

Jan. 11 at 1:00 PM Catholic Center (Buffalo)

February

Feb. 22 at 1:00 PM Catholic Center (Buffalo)

March

Mar. 8 at 1:00 PM Catholic Center (Buffalo)

Additional Workshops:

Workshops are scheduled at the request of parishes and schools. For a complete updated list of Protecting God's Children Workshops please go to www.virtus.org and then click on "First Time Registration"

To report abuse of a minor by a member of clergy (priest or deacon), an employee, or a volunteer, please contact the Diocese of Buffalo
Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Jacqueline Joy

Phone: (716) 895-3010 e-mail: jacqueline.joy@ccwny.org



Register online at www.buffalodiocese.org/protecting-gods-children

Working Together to Create a Safe Environment for Our Children

Safe Environment Requirements for Adults:

1. Attend Protecting God's Children Workshop and continue ongoing training bulletins/re-certifications
2. Complete a standardized employment/volunteer application
3. Sign the Code of Conduct
4. Check at least 2 references
5. Conduct a criminal background check through the Diocese

Pre-registration is STRONGLY encouraged

To register for an upcoming workshop:

Register on the Internet:

Go to <http://www.buffalodiocese.org>

Click on "Protecting God's Children"
(look on the left side of screen)

OR Check with your parish/school for registration help

Safe Environment Office – Catholic Center – 795 Main Street, 3rd Floor – Buffalo – NY – 14203
Phone (716) 847-5532 – Fax (716) 847-5538 – e-mail: SafeKids@buffalodiocese.org

Protecting God's Children™ Workshop Request

S. E. Office Use Only:	
Approved/Denied:	_____
Master calendar updt:	_____
Confirmation sent:	_____
Virtus: Class added:	_____
Virtus: Site Info updated:	_____
Central Services notified:	_____
Details sent:	_____

The Diocese of Buffalo mandates that all adults over the age of eighteen who work regularly with youth in schools, parishes or Catholic organizations must attend a Protecting God's Children Workshop one time. Please see the Safe Environment policies for additional requirements including ongoing training, criminal background checks, and reference checks. This mandate applies to any adult who is a volunteer or employee and regularly works with youth. It includes coaches, parent volunteers, teachers, clergy, youth ministers, all school staff and others:

To fulfill the training requirement, each parish, school and diocesan organization must determine how they will provide training opportunities for their mandated individuals.

To request that a three and a half hour Protecting God's Children™ Workshop be presented at your location, complete this form and fax the form back to the Safe Environment Office. Consider the needs of parents, employees, and volunteers in deciding how many times each year and when you should request a class.

The schedule of upcoming classes is posted in the WNY Catholic Newspaper and faxed to all schools and parishes each month. It is also listed on the Diocese of Buffalo website: <http://www.buffalodiocese.org>.

In order to schedule a class and meet the publication deadlines, we must have your request by the **3rd of the month PRIOR** to the month you wish to conduct the class. Advance notice is needed so that we can include your class in the schedule of classes listed in the WNY Catholic each month.

Note that the WNY Catholic is delivered to the churches on the first weekend of the month, so any classes should be scheduled to be held with enough time for people to read the WNY Catholic and plan their time.

Facility Information	
Host Facility Name:	
Street Address:	
City & Zip Code	
Session Date:	
Session Start Time:	
Accommodate size (if not 75 people)	
Bldg or Room info:	
Handicapped Accessible? (Yes/No)	

Contact Info	
Name:	
Title:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
e-mail:	
Alt. Contact Name:	
Alt. Contact Phone:	
Alt. Contact e-mail:	
Facilitators:	TBD

I have read the information about hosting this program and understand the hosting requirements. A partial list includes:

- Please **COMMUNICATE**: advertise this session, especially in bulletins, meetings, etc
 - Notify school personnel: teachers, lunch monitors, coaches, custodians, volunteers, etc.
 - There is a minimum class size requirement. Generally classes are not scheduled for less than 20.
 - Notify parish youth ministers, your Religious Education Department and others
 - **Notify and coordinate with neighboring parishes and schools!!**
- Please provide some light refreshments for the attendees
- Please provide several volunteers to help out with registration
- Please provide a TV, DVD Player and adequate sound system for videos and the facilitator

Note that our facilitators are a diocesan resource. Facilitators will be assigned by the diocese and may be offered compensation from the diocese for facilitating this class. **There is no cost to the hosting facility.**

Request authorized by: (please sign and date): X _____