

# NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10    DECEMBER 13, 2017

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Our Living Nativity will take place on Saturday, December 16th. It is a beautiful event to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I hope to see many of our families there. We are in need of a couple of volunteers to man the hot cocoa and cookie table. If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Kierejewski.

Just a reminder: Through our mass communication program, you will receive one or more of the following types of notifications in the event that we need to be closed:



A phone call from: 1 (866) 419-5001  
A text from: 761-27

An email from: kwitowskik@smeschool.com

We are also closed if Lancaster Central School District is closed.

Christmas break begins on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. School will resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

God's Peace and Love,  
Mrs. Kwitowski



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 12/14 - Gr. K-5 Book Swap part I
- 12/15 - Gr. K-5 Book Swap part II
- 12/16 - Christmas Concert & Living Nativity
- 12/22 - 12/29 - No School, Christmas Break
- 1/1 - 1/2 - No School
- 1/3 - School Resumes
- 1/5 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am

## FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

### SCRIP:

From Dec 4 – Dec 10, 2017, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$929.11.

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
December Sales-to-Date	December Profit-to-Date
\$28,073.00	\$1,701.72

### 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*

### Mega Raffle:

Information went home regarding selling/purchasing Mega Raffle tickets last week and order forms have been coming in already! If you would like a specific number, be sure to order soon! Orders will be picked up each Monday and will be sent home or mailed out by the corresponding Friday. If you are interested in joining our committee, or helping with the event in any way, please contact Mary Kate DeMarizo at megarafl@smeschool.com or 510-1409.

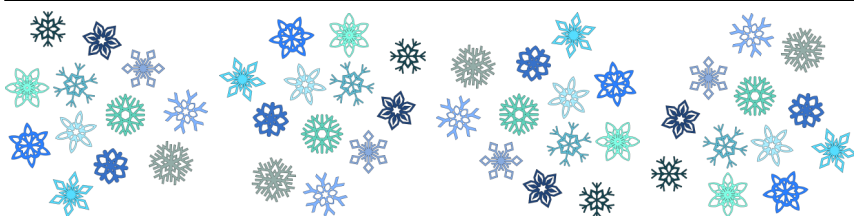
## LIVING NATIVITY

Please join us this Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00pm, Saint Mary's Elementary School will present **JOY TO THE WORLD!** – a Living Nativity Christmas Celebration.



Our school band will present their Christmas Concert beginning at 6pm. The Living Nativity presentation will begin at 7pm. Students will present this beautiful depiction of our Lord's birth in the SME school gymnasium.

**Grades K-8 will be a part of this production!** Students will be singing and acting with a backdrop of the manger including live animals, just as it was on that busy day in Bethlehem.



## KITCHEN NEWS

On Thursday, December 21st the Kitchen is offering a **free** pizza lunch to **every** student! Simply have your child indicate to their teacher in the morning that they would like to purchase the main lunch ('A' lunch option) and they will receive their lunch at no charge! Please note that this is for the pizza option only.



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## ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

### LABELS FOR EDUCATION

The Campbell's Labels for Education program is coming to an end. The last day to send in your labels is Thursday, December 20th! All labels received will be mailed out on or before January 2nd. Any label received after this point will be recycled as they are no longer accepted. Thank you all for your support of this fundraiser.



### FEBRUARY FREEZE



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](mailto:jmwolford7473@yahoo.com).



### 4TH GRADE SERVICE PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who dressed down for a cause this past Monday. With your support the 4th grade was able to raise enough funds for a water buffalo!



For more information on this cause please visit: [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

### BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The 2018 Battle of the Books will take place on Friday, January 12th at 6:00pm.

#### 4th/5th grade Titles

Rollergirl by Victoria Jamieson  
Swindle by Gordon Korman  
Tornado by Betsy Byars

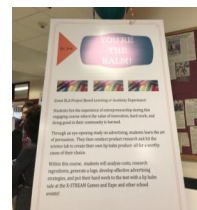
#### 6th/7th/8th grade Titles

El Deafo by Cece Bell  
The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck  
The Menagerie by Tui and Kari Sutherland

**Books Wanted!** SET is collecting gently used books for the book sale at Battle of the Books/Ready, SET, Read Night on January 12. A donation box is located in the school office. Thank you for your help!

### X-STREAM GAMES

Our 'You're the Balm' teams had a great showing at the X-Stream Games and some even sold out of their product!



### 4TH GRADE FUN

Our 4th Grade class received a visit from two local firefighters for having the most families attend our Pancake Breakfast in September!



### SCRIP

November and December were very strong months for sales – let's keep the momentum going! Together, we can continue to make the SCRIP program a success to our school, our Parish and for our children!

Please contact the Scrip office at [scrip@smeschool.com](mailto:scrip@smeschool.com) to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

The last order day for 2017 was 12/11/17, and the next order will be placed on 1/8/18.

The Scrip office will be open 5 days a week through 12/20/17 for walk-in orders, based upon availability.

Also, please note that 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!!



### 7TH GRADE SCIENTISTS

Our 7th Graders had a lab extracting DNA from Strawberries!



### STAY IN THE KNOW

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

**Save the Date:** Joy to the World,  
Living Nativity Celebration, Saturday  
December 16 @ 7:00

**Save the Date:** February Freeze Bas-  
ketball Tournament 2/15 - 2/18/18

**What?**  
It's a game show style competition to test teams' knowledge of three books.

**When?**  
Friday, January 12  
6-8pm

# BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

**Who?**  
4th & 5th graders  
in one division  
6th-8th graders in  
the other division

**Prepare!**  
Read all 3 books selected for your division or let each team member read one. Come up with a team name, make a poster, wear costumes.

**How?**  
Sign up your team of 1-4 members in the school library and send in the registration form. Team members can be in different grades within the same division.

**Win!**  
Cash prizes for the top 3 scoring teams in each division. Candy prizes for best posters and costumes!

**Why?**  
Have fun with your friends!  
Enjoy a pizza and sub party!  
Win cash prizes! Beat the teacher teams!

SME's School Effectiveness Team presents...

# Battle of the Books and Ready SET Read Night!

Friday, January 12, 2018 6:00-8:00pm

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS** is for students in grades 4-8. There are two Battle of the Books divisions. The 4th & 5th grade Battle will be held in the school cafeteria. The 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Battle will be held in the gym. There will be cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team in each division. There will also be a "Team Spirit" award in each division for the team that has the most creative team name, costumes, & poster. Teams can have one to four members. All students should sign up their teams with Mrs. Janik in the school library beginning tomorrow. Please complete and return the form below and send in registration fees.

**READY SET READ** is a fun literacy event for students in grades pre-K 3 through grade 3 and their families. Does your family like camping, the outdoors, and s'mores? This year's theme is "Camp Cozy" and will include guest readers, crafty activities, reading challenge, raffle, and more! Put your pajamas on and join us for a reading adventure that starts in the Parish Center. Please complete and return the form below and send in registration fees.

**USED BOOKS WANTED!** S.E.T. is collecting gently used books for the book sale at this event. A used book donation box can be found in the school office.

To help us prepare for this event, please let us know if you and your child will be attending. Complete and return the below portion of the page along with a payment of \$5 per child. The fee is used to cover the cost of crafts, activities and prizes at the event. Please include an additional \$10 per family to cover the cost of pizza and subs for the entire family. Return the form and payment in an envelope labelled "SET" by Dec. 22.

We are asking that each family bring the following items to the event:  
 Pre-K, Kindergarten, grades 6 & 7- a side dish (salad, fruit, chips, veggies)  
 Grades 3-5- a dessert  
 Grades 1, 2 & 8- two 2 liters of pop or equivalent of water or another beverage  
 If you have children in multiple grades, chose one item from any of those grades.

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**Yes, we will be attending Battle of the Books/ Ready SET Read night!**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family email \_\_\_\_\_

Name and grades of children attending:

Student's name:	Grade:	\$5 per each child attending:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Include \$10 per family for pizza and subs. \$10.00

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of family members that will be eating pizza and subs: \_\_\_\_\_

Food item that we will bring to the event: \_\_\_\_\_

*And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

*Mt. 25:40*



### **SME Comfort Tree**

We are looking for your help to bring comfort to the homeless. Our donations for adults will be delivered to *Little Portion Friary* in Buffalo and will serve the needs of the homeless that enter through their doors. Donations for children will be delivered to the *Lancaster Youth Bureau* to serve children in our community. Help us to decorate our comfort tree with the following items:

**Warm Hats**

**Gloves/Mittens**

**Scarves**

**Warm Socks**

### **Blessing Bags**

We are also collecting the following toiletries for the homeless. We will assemble individual *Blessing Bags* that will include:

**Toothpaste**

**Toothbrush**

**Deodorant**

**Hand Sanitizer**

**The collection period will run from  
November 30 - December 14th.**

**Thank you for participating in these works of mercy  
and for being Christ to others. God Bless you!**



### ***Faith Focus***

This week's family connection activity is based on the Gospel reading for Sunday December 17th.

Peace,  
Mrs. Hoag

Third Sunday of Advent, *Cycle B*

### **Gospel Reading**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

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### **Family Connection**

*\*From Loyola Press*

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the

Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. **Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8,19-28.** Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us. Read and pray together the psalm for today's Mass, the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55).