

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 DECEMBER 6, 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

I wanted to follow up to my email yesterday regarding the different ways that you will receive notification if the school will be closed.

Through our mass communication program, you will receive one or more of the following types of notifications:



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. This will be posted on the TV stations.

I would like to congratulate our participants in this past weekends X-STREAM Games at St. Joe's. Our robotics team lead by Luke placed 2nd & Joseph placed 5th over all, with a total of 38 teams competing - well done! We also had teams participating in the Arcade Academy & You're the Balm sale. All teams did a wonderful job in their category & representing SME!

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.

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 12/8 - NO FAST Club
- 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 Nov 27 – Dec 3, 2017, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$1,491.69.

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

November Sales-to-Date	November Profit-to-Date
\$47,682.00	\$2,767.20

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

AUTUMN GOLD:

2016-2017:

Tickets Sold: 593

Profit: \$17,649

2017-2018:

Tickets Sold: 548

Profit: \$14,094



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.

POINSETTIA SALE

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia or wreath from our 8th grade class. We hope that they add the perfect touch to your Christmas décor!



ART CLUB

ART Club will officially begin on Wednesday, December 13th and appreciate your understanding in the delayed start.



LIVING NATIVITY

On Saturday, December 16th, 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.

We hope that you will join us!



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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

ATHLETICS

Basketball practices and games are in full swing!



All parents need to fill out the A-2 Parent permission form and the A-3 Sport Code of Ethics form and return to your Head Coach as soon as possible! (Please do NOT turn them into the Main Office.) Your basketball coach should have given these forms to you by now.

Basketball coaches, please report game scores/highlights to: Athletics@smeschool.com so they can be included in the weekly Newsnotes.



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.

HSA

Notices went out to any family who has yet to return or purchase the KidStuff Coupon book(s) on Monday 12/4.

Thank you to those who have already responded accordingly. If you have any questions, please email Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com.

Additional books are going home to anyone selling 3+ on Today!



4TH GRADE SERVICE PROJECT

Our 4th graders will be sponsoring a dress down day on Monday, Dec. 11th for \$1 in support of the Heifer International Program.

Heifer International is an organization that changes communities by providing them the resources and training for a sustainable future. Their mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

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

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

Please see the registration form in the blue folder today!

MISSION POSSIBLE

Last Friday we counted a whopping 823 cans/boxes of food that was donated by our SME families. Thank you!

To date, we have collected 2677 can/boxes of food to the Buffalo City Mission! Our collection period ends **this Friday** December 8th.

We have 2 more days to collect food. Please keep the cans/boxes of food coming. Thank you all for your generosity and your willingness to serve the poor.



CANDY BAR SALE UPDATE

Thank You to all who ordered boxes from our last parent meeting. 20+ new orders came in, clearing out all of our Gertrude specialty boxes. We have filled all orders at this point except for Gertrude Hawk *O-la-la Luscious & Light and Lively*. We are waiting for Gertrude Hawk to send in several flavors that make up those boxes, but unfortunately something broke in the production line, and that is the delay in filling your order. We appreciate your patience in this situation.

There are still plenty of traditional flavors of Niagara, Fowler, and Gertrude available! Order forms can be found on the SME website, and in the office, or simply send in a note with Child's name, grade, brand and flavor and we will send it home. Candy Bars make great stocking stuffers, or as part of a teacher gift, or as part of an office exchange. Everybody loves chocolate!

Thank you for your continued support of this important fundraiser!

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 is only 1 order date left before Christmas! The last order for 2017 will be 12/11/17.

The SCRIP office will be open 5 days a week through 12/20 for walk in orders!



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 | Home Depot - \$10 |
| IHOP - \$10 | Outback - \$10 |
| Panera - \$5 | Red Lobster - \$10 |
| Regal - \$10 | Starbucks - \$5 |
| Target - \$10 | Walmart - \$10 |

Please note that Olive Garden & Red Lobster are no longer available on the same gift card.



8TH GRADE BOTTLE DRIVE

8th Grade welcomes ALL SME families to join in and drop off recyclable bottles and cans in the front foyer. Simply drop off a bag as you drop your child off in the morning, or picking up after school, or anytime the school is open.

8th graders - please bring in your bottles and cans to the SME library with your name on the bag. That is the only way you will get credit for your collection.

Bottle Drive totals are posted in the middle school hallway.

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

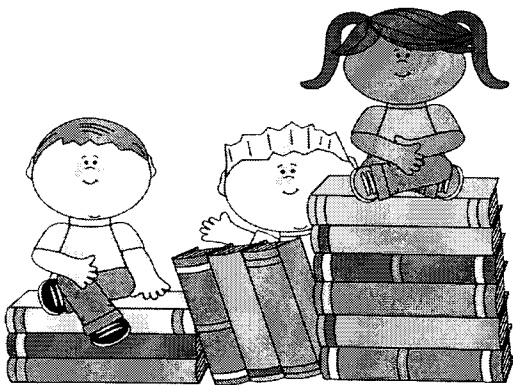
Save the Date: February Freeze Basketball Tournament 2/15 - 2/18/18

The Book Swap

The book swap is back! A few times throughout the year, Mrs. Wojcik and Mrs. GasiECKi will host a 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.



- Notifications of the dates will be posted in the newsletter.
- 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 & simple words

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

Our book swap will start on **Thursday, December 14th**.

We hope you will encourage your students to participate!

If you have any questions, please email us at: wojcikk@smeschool.com or gasiECKih@smeschool.com

Mrs. Wojcik & Mrs. GasiECKi

JK

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

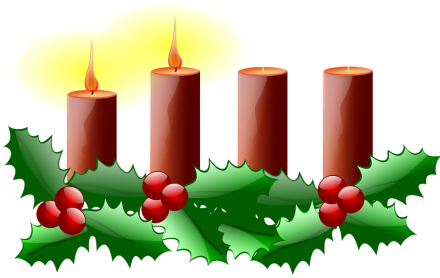
Toothbrush

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 10th.

Peace,

Mrs. Hoag

Second Sunday of Advent, *Cycle B*

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Family Connection

**From Loyola Press*

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus.

The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate.

Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray 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.