

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 13 JANUARY 10, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

The start of 2018 brings many exciting events to SME. Ready, Set, Read on 1/12, the award presentation by the Buffalo City Mission on 1/12, Catholic Schools Week from 1/29-2/3 and the Snowball Dance on 2/2 are just a few of the events coming up. I hope that many of you will be taking part in these events.

The New Year is a time to celebrate past accomplishments and to look forward to future successes. I wish you a year full of blessings, good health and much success.

Have a wonderful, prosperous New Year!

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1 / 12 - Christian Witness Mass , 8:30am
- 1 / 12 - Ready SET Read / Battle of the Books, 6:00pm
- 1 / 15 - No School, MLK Jr. Day
- 1 / 17 - HSA Meeting 6:00
- 1 / 28-2 / 3 - Catholic Schools Week
- 1 / 28 - Pancake Breakfast 8:30am -12:00pm
- 2 / 2 - Distinguished Graduate Mass, 8:30



SME SWAG

Did you know that we carry the following SME Swag all year long in the school office:

Note from Home Pads - \$1 *Is there something more/else you'd like to see added to the pads before we order more??*

Logo Patches - \$1.25

Car Magnets - \$2.00

SME Parent T-Shirts - \$10

Contact Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com to place your order!



FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From Dec 18 – Dec 31, 2017, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$863.12. The December sales total was \$55,152.00 and the December Profit total was \$3,361.22.

Monthly Scrip	Monthly Scrip
<u>Sales Goal</u>	<u>Profit Goal</u>
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
January	January
<u>Sales-to-Date</u>	<u>Profit-to-Date</u>
\$1230.00	\$61.58

December sales were very strong and I hope that we can keep the momentum going forward!

CANDY BAR SALE:

Letters have gone out to every family with regards to how many boxes have been sold and what if any payment is outstanding. Please return any outstanding payments and your prize selection today!

At this time we have just **37** boxes left. Orders are still being accepted!

Mega Raffle:

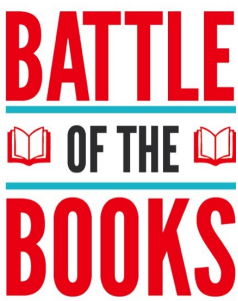
Tickets Sold to date: **82**

Tickets Remaining: **568**

Last year, we sold out before the event, so be sure to get your tickets soon! Orders will be picked up each Monday and will be sent home or mailed out by the corresponding Friday.

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!

READY SET READ

Pre-K3 through Grade 3 students: Help your class win the “Ready, SET, Read!” Classroom Reading Challenge starting on January 3!

This year we will have two divisions:

Our Pre-K classes will have a head to head competition and our kindergarten through grade 3 classes will compete against each other.

The challenge runs from January 3rd through January 11th. The winners will be revealed at Ready, SET, Read Night, on January 12. More information will be sent home about this fun battle!

The Battle / Ready SET Read signup sheet is included again in the electronic version of the NewsNotes.



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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

SNOWBALL DANCE

The 7th Annual Snowball Dance will be held on Friday, February 2nd at St. Greg's Ministry Center.

This dance is sponsored by the Catholic Elementary School HSAs in the Northtowns.

Grade's 5 & 6 will dance from 6-8pm
Grades 7 & 8 will dance from 9-11pm

If you have any questions or are interested in helping with chaperoning please contact Amanda Wentland at tawentland@aol.com.



BISON FUND



Giving Parents a Choice.
Giving Children a Chance.

As we welcome 2018 we are accepting Pre-Applications for funding for the 2018-2019 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, 2018.

Current families will be e-mailed a link to complete the requalification process starting on February 15, 2018. The families will log into the scholarship database and upload their financial information. As a reminder the deadline for that paperwork is April 13, 2018.

MEGA RAFFLE

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **20** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!! Please feel free to get creative with Social Media (posting this great opportunity to Facebook feeds, etc) as well as encourage multiple people to chip in on one ticket! 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.

*Prize winners will be announced at the live drawing on
Friday, June 1st at 6:30 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 helping out the night of the event, please contact Mary Kate DeMarizo at megaraffle@smeschool.com or 510-1409.

CRAFT SUPPLIES NEEDED

Sr. Therese is in need of baby food jars for an upcoming craft with the students in religious education. If you are able to supply any please contact the religious ed. office at 683-2112 x130 or kristenk@stmarysonthehill.org. Thank you!



HSA

On Wednesday Jan. 17th our HSA meeting will include a visit from Jessica Hutchings from Kids Escaping Drugs. Included in today's blue folder is an invitation to this parents only meeting. Please return the RSVP to ensure that we have ample materials.



We will be hosting the next Pancake Breakfast on Sunday January 28th to kick off Catholic Schools Week. The breakfast will run from 8:30 - Noon. As always we are looking for help from our NJHS &/or Student Council Members to act as servers. A sign up sheet will be available in the cafeteria. Help from younger students is also welcome with a parent. Parents interested in helping should contact Annelis Szuder at smsszuder@gmail.com.



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 to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

The Scrip office is now back to the regular schedule of Mon/Wed/Fri 8:00 - 10:00am.

Thank you for your continued support of the Scrip program!!



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.



SPORTS REPORT

Congratulations to the 3rd/4th grade boys basketball team on their win over Nativity of Our Lord (Orchard Park) on Saturday with a score of 17-3!

This Wednesday, come out and watch the Varsity girls basketball teams play at SME!

6:00 - 7th grade girls & 7:00 - 8th grade girls

SHA is hosting a basketball clinic on 1/15 for girls in grades 5-8. Please see the flyer in the electronic version of the NewsNote.



STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: Ready SET Read & Battle of the Books, January 12th

Save the Date: 1/28 Pancake Breakfast 8:30am - 12:00pm

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



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

A private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families in the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private schools.

BISON Scholarship Quick Facts:

- Average scholarship \$1,300
- Max scholarship \$2,100
- Currently BISON has over 1,800 scholars in 70 different private elementary schools in Western New York.
- Each family must contribute toward their child's private education.

step one

Complete a **pre-application online at bisonfund.com** between January 1 - February 28. If you have any questions, you can call BISON at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

step two

Watch for notification after the **BISON Lottery** is held in March. Winners are notified by email and wait-listed families are also notified.

step three

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the School Commitment Form.

step four

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February.



BISON Contact Information:

Cindy McDonald, Program Director (program questions)
Amy Popadick, Executive Director (fundraising questions)

(716) 854-0869 ext. 1 | cmcdonald@bisonfund.com
(716) 854-0869 ext. 3 | apopadick@bisonfund.com



BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

FAQ FOR FAMILIES

More detailed information can be found on our website at www.bisonfund.com

Who qualifies for a BISON Scholarship?

Residents of the 8 counties of WNY with children entering K-8th grade with a total family income within the eligibility scale (details online). You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.

How do new families apply?

New families must complete a Pre-Application Form electronically (online) on our website at www.bisonfund.com. The new family deadline is February 28, 2018. Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 2/28 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the February 28th deadline will be placed on our waitlist.

How are BISON scholarship recipients chosen?

Scholarships are awarded using a lottery from all submitted Pre-Application Forms in March 2018. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.

How do I know if I won the lottery?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email in March 2018.

I received a Scholarship award email ... now what?

In your award email, there will be a link that will take you where you need to go to complete your Full Application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2018. Please be sure to include all your income sources including your FEDERAL 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the School Commitment Form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as tuition amount. You must requalify annually to continue with BISON.

I received an email that I'm on a waitlist ... now what?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a Pre-Application next year to be considered.

Why do families have to pay part of the tuition?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining involved. BISON scholarships are a hand-up, not a hand-out. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of \$500 each year.

What if I am not satisfied with my child's school?

You are free to transfer your student to another private school. Your scholarship will transfer with you unless you are delinquent with tuition payments or a child is asked to leave. Contact the BISON Fund office if you decide to transfer and we will walk you through the next steps.

Can the scholarship be used for Pre-K or High School?

No. Children must be at least 5 years old by 12/21/18 and entering kindergarten through 8th grade to be eligible for a BISON scholarship.



Attention Parents/Grandparents of SME;

On Wednesday, January 17th, 2018 from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the school gym, Jessica Hutchings will present important information from the Kids Escaping Drug program. There will be a HSA meeting first at 6:00pm and the presentation will start as soon as that is done. This is a very informative presentation we hope you will all consider attending.

The KED program will include information about alcohol, marijuana, e cigarettes, prescription pills, heroin and other popular synthetic substances. The presentation will show visuals of what these substances look like, and many of the common warning signs that may be exhibited with their use. The program will also discuss the correlations between these various substances and the most popular trends in substance abuse among youth and young adults. Finally, the presenter will discuss supports available to families who may be experiencing a young person who is using substances.

There is a brief survey that she will ask participants to fill out prior to the program as it is grant funded and this is how they continue to receive their funding.

Jessica Hutchings is the Program Director for Kids Escaping Drugs Face 2 Face Program. Jessica spends the majority of her time educating members of various communities across WNY about the dangers, consequences, and ever-changing trends of substance abuse, primarily among teens and young adults. Jessica began working for Kids Escaping Drugs in 2009 after she graduated with her Masters degree in Social Work from the University at Buffalo. Jessica has also worked as an adjunct professor at Daemen College where she has taught coursework on addiction and currently serves as the Vice President on the Social Work Community Advisory Board for Daemen's Social Work program. Jessica is also an active member of the Erie County Opiate Task Force, and a member of several local community coalitions that work to educate the community about substance abuse and prevention. Jessica is also an Alumnus of SME.

If you are interested in attending this meeting please fill out the form below and send it back into the school office by Monday, January 15th.

_____ YES I will be attending the Kids Escaping Drug presentation.

Name

Please return to school office by Jan. 15th 2018



F2F Peer to Peer Program



The peer panel presentations are interactive and comprised of young people in recovery who willingly volunteer to share their personal stories with their peers in an effort to prevent the real life consequences of substance abuse. This approach cannot be duplicated by a video, in a brochure or by an authoritative adult who is not relatable to the audience.

The goals of the program include:

- Educating young people about the dangers and consequences of substance abuse.
- Encouraging healthy choices among youth regarding the consequences of experimentation and addiction.
- Addressing the stereotypes of addiction, and helping young people realize the disease does not discriminate

Feedback from some of our participants:

"You're really not that much older than me. So it was better hearing from you than some older person that wouldn't understand what's going through our heads. Hearing your story makes me want to never experiment with drugs and alcohol."

- West Seneca West Middle School Student

"Hearing other teens share how drugs and alcohol have robbed them of the most precious years of their life has proven to be a profound experience for our students; an experience we could never offer without the support and services from the Face2Face program."

- Jon McSwan, Superintendant,
Cleveland Hill Union Free School District



Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Thursday, January 18th we will be having the students in 7th & 8th grade attend an assembly entitled Peer to Peer. It is presented by a peer panel and the people from Kids Escaping Drugs program. I have enclosed information that describes what will be discussed. If you prefer that your child not participate in this assembly, please sign the 'opt-out' portion of this form and return it back to the school office no later than Tuesday, January 16th. Thank you.

Mrs. Kim Kwitowski

If you DO NOT wish your child to participate in the Peer to Peer Assembly, please complete this form. After reviewing the Peer to Peer materials, I do not want _____, to participate in the assembly.

Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Please return to the school office no later than Tuesday, January 16th 2018

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. 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.

*****SABRES TICKETS RAFFLE WILL BE HELD AT THIS EVENT*****

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, choose one item from any of those grades.

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: _____

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!

Faith Focus



This week's family connection activity is based on the Gospel reading for Sunday January 14th.

Peace,
Mrs. Hoag

Gospel Reading

John 1:35-42

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus receives his first followers.

Family Connection

**From Loyola Press*

In today's Gospel we learn about one of at least two family relations that appear among Jesus' first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. In next week's Gospel, we will learn about the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We know from the letters of Paul and other witnesses to the early Church that it was a common occurrence for an entire household to be baptized together. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus. We hope and pray that this continues to be true in our family life.

Before your family gathers, look around your house and gather some items that your family might have that remind you of your faith. Perhaps you have a cross or crucifix displayed in your home, a statue of Mary, or statues or other art depicting saints. In today's Gospel we learn about how Andrew led his brother, Simon, to Jesus. **Read today's Gospel, John 1:35-42.**

In our family life, we also help to lead one another to Jesus. Talk together about the items that you gathered, discussing what these items mean to you and how you might use them during the day for prayer. Pray that your family will continue to help one another grow in our faith in Jesus. **Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.**

Sacred Heart Girls Basketball Clinic



This free clinic is a time for girl basketball players, grades 5-8, to advance their basic skills by learning from Sacred Heart's basketball players.

When: Monday, January 15th

9am-11am: 5th and 6th grade
11am-1pm: 7th and 8th grade

Where: Sacred Heart Athletic Center
3860 Main Street
Buffalo, 14226

For reservations and/or questions feel free to...
email: vsippel18@sacredheartacademy.org
or call: (716) 824-2101 ext. 319

Cost: Free

Hope to see you there!

Scrip Saturday Schedule

2017-2018

9:00-11:00 am

In Scrip Office



January 20

Brown

February 10

Brown

March 10

Brown

April 14

Brown

