

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 16 JANUARY 31, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

This week we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We have enjoyed movies, pajama day, making valentines for our Vets, making bread and going bowling. We are excited to have the Buffalo Bandits join us on Thursday and to celebrate our Distinguished Graduate on Friday. We are also fortunate to be having some of our parents and the Erie County Controller, Stefan Mychajliw, coming in on Friday to talk about their careers.

Don't forget to join us Saturday for 4:30 mass and then an ice cream social and basketball game back at school!

Next week we have 2 big events. First on the 6th, we have our new Family Open House. Current families are welcome to attend. On the 7th, we have our Ready, Set, Read/Battle of the Books event. Please come and join us!

Re-registration packets for the 2018-19 school year were sent home on Monday with your child. If you did not get one, please stop by the office.

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/28-2/3 - Catholic Schools Week
- 2/2 - Distinguished Graduate Mass, 8:30
- 2/3 - Ice Cream Social following 4:30 mass
- 2/3 - Spirit Games
- 2/5 - 1:00 Dismissal
- 2/6 - New Family Open House 6-7:30pm
- 2/7 - Spring Picture Day
- 2/7 - Ready SET Read/Battle of the Books 2.0 6-8pm
- 2/8 - Graduation Picture Day
- 2/9 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30

Re-Registration Packets went home on Monday!
March 1st is the last day to register to receive the \$50 discount.

Your commitment fee now includes supplies with the exception of Middle School calculators, headphones & other technology needs.



A BIG Thank You to every one who came out to eat or help at our Kickoff to Catholic Schools Week Pancake Breakfast!

FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From Jan 15 – Jan 21, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$98.14.

| Monthly Scrip Sales Goal | Monthly Scrip Profit Goal |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$30,000.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| January Sales-to-Date | January Profit-to-Date |
| \$11,535.00 | \$557.37 |

CANDY BAR SALE:

There is still a small handful of families who have not yet returned their candy bar payment. Please remit payment today! If you have any questions about your candy bar account, please email candybarsale@smeschool.com.

Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: 144

Tickets Remaining: 506

Did you get yours?!

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Parents: We need your 'Whys'! Last week a letter was sent home requesting a letter/poster showing why you chose SME. A copy of the letter is available with the electronic version of today's News-Note. Please return your submission ASAP. Thank you!

Spirit Game: Our Annual Spirit Game is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3rd! A basketball game will be played in the gym with the 7th grade basketball teams vs. the 8th grade basketball teams. (Boys and girls combined) The game will start AFTER the Catholic School Week Mass. Mass is at 4:30 and we invite and encourage families to pray with us together and then we will proceed to the school for the basketball game! Feel free to bring pom poms/signs to show your school spirit! ALL school families are invited to this school wide event!

Ice Cream Social: The HSA will be hosting an Ice Cream Social in the Cafeteria following the 4:30 Mass. All are welcome!

Schedule of Events:

Wednesday 1/31: Class Color Day (head to toe!)

Pk: Neon, K: Red, 1st: Orange, 2nd: Yellow, 3rd: Green, 4th: Lt. Blue, 5th: Purple, 6th: Black, 7th: White, 8th: Grey class shirts

Thursday 2/1: Twinning Day or Sports Day, The Buffalo Bandits will be here for a visit! Grade PK-3 Science Museum Field Trip

Friday 2/2: Dress up Professionally (No Jeans or Costumes), Distinguished Graduate Mass

Saturday 2/3: School Mass 4:30, Spirit Games & Ice Cream Social following Mass



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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

HSA

Come on out and help support SME's Fund-
raiser Night with the Buffalo Bandits!



Saturday, February 10, 2018

Game time 7:30pm

Tickets are just \$15 each & \$5 from each sale is
Donated back to SME!

To purchase tickets, go to:
<https://groupmatics.events/Stmarys3>

Fun Night For The Whole Family!

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](http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships) The Pre-
Application will only be available electroni-
cally again this year. The Pre-Application is
only for families **new** to BISON. Our dead-
line 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 dead-
line 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, **36** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school
families – thank you for your support!! Please feel free to get creative with Social Me-
dia (posting this great opportunity to Facebook feeds, etc) as well as encourage multi-
ple 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 sup-
port 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.

Here is an example of how easy it is to help us reach our SCRIP goal with your monthly shopping:

| Vendor | Card Value | Profit % | Purchased | Purchased | Earned |
|----------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Tops | \$100 | 5% | 4 | \$400 | \$20 |
| Kohl's | \$100 | 5% | 1 | \$100 | \$5 |
| Tim Horton's | \$10 | 5% | 2 | \$20 | \$1 |
| Monthly total | | | | \$520 | \$26 |
| Annual total | | | | \$6,240 | \$312 |

SPRING PICTURES

Spring picture day is 2/7!

NEW: Only students wishing to order a picture
package & have their order form with payment
will have their photo taken.

Pre-K, K & 8th Gr. Grad Photos: 2/8
Please have your child wear a white polo

FROM THE KITCHEN

Just a reminder that as per pg. 13 of the Parent/
Student Handbook: Parents cannot bring into
school outside food or drinks from carry-out
restaurants. Failure to adhere to this policy
jeopardizes the funding for our School Lunch
Program.

SCRIP

From September 1, 2017 through Janu-
ary 28, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit
earned by the school was \$8,593.07,
which is excellent!

We fell short of our goal this month, but
I know we can hit it in future months if
each family strives for a profit of \$250/
year in Scrip rebates. Above is one ex-
ample of what can be purchased by a
family to reach this goal.

Please take into consideration the places
that you normally shop and dine, includ-
ing purchasing your gasoline at Tops (gift
cards accepted at pump) or paying your
Kohl's charge card bills using SCRIP gift
cards.

This will take some commitment and
planning on your part, but does not re-
quire you to make any purchases you
would not normally make.

Together, we can make the SCRIP pro-
gram 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 funda-
mental program.

SPORTS REPORT

Track team update: Thank you to everyone that turned in the track interest form! We WILL
have a SME track team this Spring! If you did not turn in the track interest form, please send to
the main office by this Friday, Feb. 2. (Attn: Athletics) By turning in the form, it will ensure that
your child will be included in future track information/correspondence.

Spirit games: This Saturday, Feb. 3rd, come to Mass at 4:30 and then enjoy an ice cream social
sponsored by the HSA in the cafeteria! At 5:30, the 7th grade basketball teams will compete
against the 8th grade basketball teams in the school gym! Come and show your school spirit! This
is a FREE event and all families are invited to attend.

Basketball team updates:

The 5th Grade Girls basketball team moved to 4-2 on the season with an 11-9 win over St.
Mark's. Contributing on the scoreboard were Elena with 5pts including a 3 pointer, Mae with
4pts and Marissa with 2pts.

Congratulations to the 3rd/4th grade boys team on their big win against ICCS, 20-10! Their re-
cord is now 5-2! Great job boys and Coach Jeff!

SNOWBALL DANCE

The 7th Annual Snowball Dance will be held on Fri-
day, 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.

STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: 2/3 Spirit Games &
Ice Cream Social

Save the Date: 2/14 Parish Spon-
sored Clam Chowder Dinner 3-7pm

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

Save the Date: 3/22 Winter Sports
Banquet, 6-9:00 pm

SME's School Effectiveness Team tries again...

Battle of the Books & Ready SET Read Night 2.0!

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:00-8:00 pm

If you have already signed up for Ready SET Read or Battle of the Books and are available to join us on the new date, you are all set and we will see you on February 7. If you were not registered for the event previously, but would like to join us on February 7, please read below for how to register. If you previously signed up, but are unable to attend on this new date, please complete and return the bottom of this form for a refund.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS- 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 event for students in grades pre-K 3 through grade 3 and their families. 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.

*****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 February 2.

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: |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------|

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

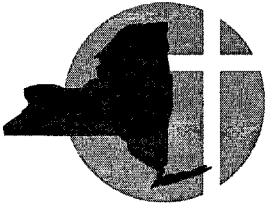
| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total enclosed: | _____ |
|-----------------|-------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total number of family members that will be eating pizza and subs: | _____ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|

Food item that we will bring to the event: _____

_____ We are unable to attend on the new date. Please send home a refund with my child

Child's name _____ Homeroom teacher's name _____



New York State Catholic Conference

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RICHARD E. BARNES
Executive Director

JAMES D. CULTRARA
Director for Education

Expanded 529 Plans What it Means for Catholic School Families

The 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act, enacted last December by Congress and the President, expands **529 college savings plans** to allow those funds to be used also for **Kindergarten – Grade 12 tuition**.

529 plans were enacted in 1996 to help families pay for college by ensuring that the *earnings* on the funds in the accounts *are not subject to federal* income tax. **For example:** A parent deposits \$1,000 into their child's 529 account at the child's birth. The 529 account grows in value and is worth \$2,500 when the child attends college. If the \$2,500 is used to pay eligible college expenses, there is no federal income tax on the \$1,500 earned.

Many states, including New York, enhanced the tax benefit, going above and beyond the *federal* government by changing their *state* tax laws to allow *contributions* to 529 accounts (that's the money *going in*) to be deductible on *state* income taxes. However, New York will likely need to change its tax law again to ensure that withdrawals (the money *going out*) for K-12 tuition are not subject to New York *state* income tax. According to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, in its "preliminary" report on the federal tax changes:

It appears that distributions [from 529 accounts] for K-12 tuition expenses would not be considered qualified distributions under New York statutes ... [and] would trigger the recapture of any [state] tax benefits that had accrued on contributions.

To put it another way: If you are going use funds from a 529 account for K-12 tuition, New York State will likely require you to not only pay back the amount that was deducted from your state income taxes, but you may also have to pay state income tax on any earnings. This could more than offset any federal tax advantage you accrued and result in even greater costs to your family.

The NYS State Catholic Conference is advocating with New York policymakers to ensure that you are not penalized when taking advantage of the expanded federal 529 Plans and that you can obtain the full tax benefits of 529 accounts for K-12 tuition that are available to families for college tuition.

But we need your help! Some organizations, which oppose any government help for tuition-paying families, are working to stop New York State from giving you this benefit.

Go to www.nyscatholic.org, click on "Catholic Schools Need Your Help" to add your voice to this very important effort. We need the Governor and lawmakers to help families struggling with elementary and secondary school tuition just as they have helped families with college tuition for 20 years.

In the meantime, it is important that you consult with a tax advisor before utilizing 529 plans for K-12 tuition.



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

BRING YOUR FAMILY
TO A BUFFALO
BANDITS GAME!



NATIVE AMERICAN NIGHT

vs GEORGIA SWARM
SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 10 | 7:30PM

VISIT THIS LINK TO PURCHASE
BUFFALO CREEK 300 LEVEL
TICKETS FOR \$15

<https://groupmatics.events/Stmarys3>

For more information please contact Melissa Rugg
716-855-4420 melissa.rugg@sabres.com

\$5 FROM EVERY TICKET SOLD WILL BE DONATED BACK TO SCHOOL



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

BRING YOUR FAMILY
TO A BUFFALO
BANDITS GAME!



NATIVE AMERICAN NIGHT

vs GEORGIA SWARM
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For more information please contact Melissa Rugg
716-855-4420 melissa.rugg@sabres.com

\$5 FROM EVERY TICKET SOLD WILL BE DONATED BACK TO SCHOOL

SME'S 2018 FEBRUARY FREEZE



SME will be hosting the 2018 February Freeze Basketball Tournament from Thursday, February 15- Sunday, February 18. The tournament is for diocesan boys' and girls' basketball teams in grades 5-8. We had twenty teams take part last year and are hoping for even more this year. This event raised \$3,500 for our school's athletics fund. Here are the ways you can help make this year's February Freeze successful:

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:

Please click on this link to sign up to volunteer at the tournament:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/smebasketball/sheet/68992/>

DONATE A BASKET:

We are asking each of the SME Basketball teams to donate a basket valued at \$25 for the basket raffle that will be held at the tournament. If you are willing to put this basket together for your child's team, let your child's coach know. You can ask families from your child's team to donate a few dollars each to help purchase items for the basket.

We are also asking SME families to please consider donating a basket for the basket raffle. If you are able to donate a basket please email Julie Wolford at jmwolford7473@yahoo.com. Baskets can be dropped off at the athletic office beginning Monday, February 13.

SELL PROGRAM ADS:

New this year, we would like to ask local businesses to sponsor our event by purchasing ads for our tournament program. We would like you to please share the attached letter with your business or other business contacts.

ORDER T-SHIRTS:

This one's the easiest! See the attached order form to order your 2018 February Freeze t-shirts to wear when you cheer on our school! Orders must be received by Friday, January 26.

Dear Friends of St. Mary's Elementary,

Our 2nd annual February Freeze Basketball Tournament is quickly approaching. The dates of the tournament are Thursday, February 15th—Sunday, February 18th. The tournament is for boys and girls basketball teams from 5th through 8th grade. Last year we had 20 teams participate and hundreds of visitors came to the games. In addition to adding teams to this year's tournament, we are looking to enhance the Tournament Program to include advertising and local community support. We are asking your support in sponsoring this popular athletic event. As a local business, we encourage you to promote your business with a business ad or a business card .

If interested, we would encourage you to come catch some of the games during the following dates and times:

- ⇒ Thursday 2/15 5-9 pm
- ⇒ Friday 2/16 5-9 pm
- ⇒ Saturday 2/17 9 am–9 pm
- ⇒ Sunday 2/18 9 am—2pm (championship games)

We truly appreciate the opportunity to have you consider supporting our 2nd Annual February Freeze Basketball Tournament.

Sincerely,

All of the volunteer Coaches & Parents



Please cut here and return below portion with your payment to St. Mary's Elementary School by Monday February 5th, 2018 to the attention of Mike Wolford



Payable with cash or check to "St. Mary's of the As-

1/4 page size ad \$25 _____

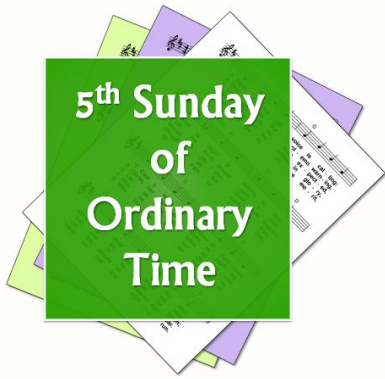
1/2 page size ad \$50 _____

Full page size ad \$100 _____



Please attach a business card, printed sheet or email file to

mwolford@ppg.com



Faith Focus

This week's family connection activity is based on the Gospel reading for Sunday February 4th.

Peace,
Mrs. Hoag

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law and many others as well.

Family Connection

**From Loyola Press*

We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for?

Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. **Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:29-39.** Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. **Pray together the Lord's Prayer.**