

# NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17      FEBRUARY 7, 2018

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Tonight is our Ready, Set, Read/Battle of the Books event. Please say a prayer for good weather. A lot of hard work has gone into the preparation of this event. I know that our “contestants” have read several books and are eager to display their knowledge.

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

God's Peace and Love,  
Mrs. Kwitowski



We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Battle of the Books!  
Dinner is at 6:00  
The competition begins at 6:30  
Gr. 5-6: Gym & Gr. 6-8: Cafeteria



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

Re-Registration Packets have gone home!  
March 1st is the last day to register to receive the \$50 discount.  
Do you know someone who is interested in joining our family? Registration packets are available in the school office!

## SPRING PICTURES

**Spring picture day today!**  
**NEW:** Only students wishing to order a picture package & have their order form with payment will have their photo taken & Dress Up.  
**Pre-K & 8th Gr. Grad Photos:** 2/8 Please have your child wear a white polo.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/7 - Spring Picture Day
- 2/7 - Ready SET Read/ Battle of the Books 2.0 6-8pm
- 2/8 - Pre-K & 8th Gr. Graduation Picture Day
- 2/9 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 2/14 - Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30; Clam Chowder Dinner, 4-7pm
- 2/19 - 2/23 - NO SCHOOL, Winter Recess
- 2/26 - School Resumes
- 3/2 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 3/5 - 1:00 Dismissal, Dress Down Day



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## FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

### SCRIP:

From Jan 29 – Feb 4, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$239.95.

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
February Sales-to-Date	February Profit-to-Date
\$2,600.00	\$132.63

### CANDY BAR SALE:

ALL 931 boxes have left the building. So far we have collected \$41,000. We still have \$3,000 outstanding. **Please send your monies in.** Prize distribution will be next week, for all current accounts. A schedule of prize events will also come home at this time.

Last week over 50 students were rewarded (for selling 5+ boxes of candy bars) by placing hundreds of strips of duct tape on Mrs. DeMarzio, Mrs Trulin, Mr, Hunter & Mr. Norton. **Thank you** to all of our teachers who so graciously volunteered and endured the "Tape A Teacher" event.

### Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: **175**

Tickets Remaining: **475**

**Did you get yours?!**

Last year, we sold out before the event, so be sure to get your tickets soon!

## MISSION POSSIBLE

We are getting ready to kick off ROUND 2 of our whole school service learning project MISSION POSSIBLE! We are working in conjunction with the Buffalo City Mission and are registered in their challenge to collect canned foods. Thanks to your generosity, we won challenge 1 and helped to feed over 800 needy community members! This time of year is not traditionally a giving season and the people the Buffalo City Mission serves are still hungry. Let's see if we can come out on top again!

This challenge period runs **MONDAY FEB. 5th - APRIL 15th.**  
**OUR GOAL IS TO DONATE 700 CANS/BOXES OF FOOD.**

To win, we need to surpass our goal. *During Round 1, we surpassed our goal by over 400%!*

Questions can be directed to Mrs. Hoag at hoagb@smeschool.com. Our 8th grade Social Justice Class is helping to lead this endeavor and I am very proud of their enthusiasm and participation.

*Here are our goals for this period per grade:*

PREK -1st grade = 50 cans      2nd grade- 6th grade = 60 cans  
7th & 8th grades = 150 cans      Grand total = 700 cans

We are blessed by and thankful for your generosity and your willingness to serve others. The 8th grade Social Justice class will collect and count the cans each Friday throughout the challenge period. We will keep you updated in the newsnotes as to how we are doing.

## READ TO RIDE



SME students in grades K-5 are able to earn a FREE ticket to Darien Lake during the months of July and August 2018 just by reading for seven (7) hours between this week and February 15! SME has enrolled in the Darien Lake Read to Ride program which promotes recreational reading. "The seven hours of reading can be in the form of reading to oneself, reading to another person or being read to by others. Students may read books, magazines, or newspapers."

Your child was given a Student Tracking Chart to keep track of the book, magazine, or article and amount of reading time they will complete. The students **MUST** hand the Student Tracking Sheet back in to their teacher no later than **February 15, 2018.**

Please direct any questions to Mrs. Trulin (trulinc@smeschool.com)



## ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

## SCRIP

We fell short of our goal in January, but I know we can hit it in future months if each family strives for a profit of \$250/year in Scrip rebates. Please take into consideration the places that you normally shop and dine, including 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 require you to make any purchases you would not normally make. Together, we can make the SCRIP program a success for our school, our Parish and for our children! Contact the Scrip office at [scrip@smeschool.com](mailto:scrip@smeschool.com) with questions.

## MEGA RAFFLE

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, 48 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](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com) or 510-1409.



On 1/30/18, grades 4-7 participated in a Learn, Bake, Share bread making workshop presented by King Arthur Flour. Thank you to our SME families for baking bread this past weekend. Because of your support and generosity, we were able to donate 80 loaves of freshly baked bread to the Tri-Community Food Pantry in Depew!

## 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.

## HSA

SME's 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  
<https://groupmatics.events/Stmarys3>

## 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.

## 8TH GRADE NEWS

8th Grade is still looking for YOUR donations of recyclable bottles and cans. Please send them into school. Cash for Cans collection boxes are located in the school foyer, simply bring your bottles and cans in when you drop off or pick up your child. Anything you can bring would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

Next time you visit SME, stop by the Gym and look up. 8th Grade students have created Winter Scenes on the 2nd floor windows. Sledding (Jocelyn / Christine), Snowball (Andrew / Joe), Skiing (Gavin / Charles ) Snowboarding (Ryan / Aiden ), Ice Skating (Nicole / Megan), Hockey (Grace / Benjamin). Great Job everyone!



## SPORTS REPORT



Buffalo Bills player (#24) for leading the 1/2 court shot competition and making the basket!!!

Spirit Games was a HUGE success and so much fun for all that attended! The friendly competition between the 7th and 8th grade basketball teams was filled with excitement, great shots and outstanding sportsmanship by all! A special thank you is extended to the following for their help: Ted, Dave and Bernie for set-up as it is their last year with SME. We thank them for their dedication and commitment for so many years they have given to our children! Thanks to Jeff Brown for being an awesome referee! Thank you to Shannon Bauer, Darcie Fidoli, Sherri Kobis and Amanda Kuhn for their help with the food and ice cream! A final thank you is extended to Terrence McGee, former

Our Parish sponsored Clam Chowder Dinner will be held next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, from 4-7pm in the Parish Center. Volunteer opportunities are available for both adults & students. Please see the sign up in the school office.



Erie County Sheriff Officer Scott Kuhlmeier and his K9 partner Axe visited the 7th grade social studies class to correspond with our U.S. Government unit. Officer Kuhlmeier shared his experiences as a sheriff and gave an in depth presentation with his expertly trained partner Axe, who is an arson detection dog. Axe came to NY from a shelter in the south and was picked to become a dog with the Sheriff's department because of his intelligence and personality. In addition to sharing information about working with Axe, Mr. Kuhlmeier and his son Evan, a 7th grade student, shared stories about what a great family dog Axe is at home. We thank Mr. Kuhlmeier and Officer Axe for coming!



## STAY IN THE KNOW

**Save the Date:** 2/14 Clam Chowder Dinner 4-7pm

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

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

**Save the Date:** 3/9 Mother Son BINGO, 6-8:00 pm





# MISSION POSSIBLE

An Educational Food Drive Challenge

Are YOU ready to take on Challenge Period 2?

Get ready to accept your next Mission on Monday, February 5th, 2018!

Students will learn about the importance of investing in their community, while also earning educational character achievements and edification milestones as they work towards their mission goal.

**Challenge Two Ends on: Friday, April 13th, 2018**

The Closing Ceremony will be on May 8th, 2018 at  
10am at the Men's Center  
(100 E. Tupper St. Buffalo NY)

Contact Heather Mattiuzzo today  
for more information, and learn more about this  
exciting program!

Email [hmattiuzzo@buffalocitymission.org](mailto:hmattiuzzo@buffalocitymission.org)  
or call 716-854-8181 ext. 407





# 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](mailto:melissa.rugg@sabres.com)

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



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Let today be the  
day you give up  
who you've been  
for you who can  
become.

**Blessed Ash Wednesday**

**Faith Focus**

*This week's family connection activity is based on the Gospel reading for  
Wednesday February 14th, Ash Wednesday.*

*Peace,  
Mrs. Hoag*

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18**

*Jesus teaches that almsgiving, prayer, and fasting should be done in secret.*

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**Family Connection**

*\*From Loyola Press*

The season of Lent presents families with an opportunity to examine our family life and to re-commit ourselves to the Christian practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Each of us is invited to do these things as individuals, but we can also do one or more actions as a family. Ash Wednesday is a good time for families to pray together and to plan the family's Lenten practices.

**Gather as a family and read today's Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.** Remind yourselves that Jesus expected that his disciples would give alms, pray, and fast and that he gave instructions that when we do those things, they should not be done for show. Determine one way that your family will give alms during Lent to share what you have with people in need. Decide upon one way that your family will pray together during Lent and choose one thing that your family will give up during Lent as a reminder of your love for God. Agree to encourage one another in whatever Lenten promises each has made individually. Pray together that God will bless your family's Lenten promises by praying together today's psalm, Psalm 51, and/or praying the Lord's Prayer.

# Student Council Sponsored Monthly Dress Down Days

## January - Random Act Of Kindness for \$1 on Tuesday 1/16/18

Wear your favorite warm fuzzy outfit to support random acts of kindness and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's ideals of change through peaceful actions.

Proceeds will support your Student Council.

## February - Heart Health Awareness Day for \$1 on Monday 2/12/18

Wear red to support the American Heart Association.

## March - Cancer Awareness Day for \$1 on Monday 3/12/18

Wear Lavender/Purple to support Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

## April - Autism Awareness Day for \$1 on Thursday 4/19/18

Wear tie-dye to support "My Brother Rocks the Spectrum"

My Brother Rocks The Spectrum Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps to provide an inclusive environment in all communities; to ensure ALL children can attend classes, social skills programs, and have one-to-one attendant care when needed; to support those with special needs through employment and additional resources; and to aid community leaders fighting for children of all abilities. All funds donated to MBRTS are distributed to families with children with special needs.

## May - Mental Health Awareness Day for \$1 on Monday 5/14/18

Wear green to support Catholic Charities of WNY who do so much for families in our community.

## June - Summer Safety Awareness Day for \$1 on Tuesday 6/5/18

Wear tropical to support local Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) & Fire Companies





### ***Faith Focus***

This week's family connection activity is based on the Gospel reading for Sunday February 11th.

Peace,  
Mrs. Hoag

### **Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:40-45**

Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone.

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### **Family Connection**

*\*From Loyola Press*

Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. **Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45.** In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. **Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.**

### **Prayer for Vocations**

*God, in Baptism you called me by name and made me a member of your people, the Church. Help all your people to know their vocation in life, and to respond by living a life of holiness. For your greater glory and for the service of your people, raise up dedicated and generous leaders who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers. Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen me that I may serve your people following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I offer this prayer. Amen.*

# LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Attend an Ash Wednesday Mass or prayer service today.	As a family, research and select a charity that you will support during Lent.	Fast from taking second helpings at meals.	Take over a disliked chore for a family member.
<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Attend Mass often. The Eucharist is our greatest communal prayer and a surefire way to encounter Jesus.	Pray with your family at mealtime. Make a point of praying for people in need.	At bedtime, pray for people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets tonight.	Be more courteous in your attitude, words, and deeds.	Make a list of ten things you are grateful for in your life.	Fast from criticizing others aloud or silently in your mind. Seek to understand instead.	Pray while creating a piece of artwork. Do something creative, and do so for the glory of God.
<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Forego a favorite TV program for a week.	Go through your closets and donate usable clothing and household goods to a local charity.	Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside.	Fast from gossip.	Pray at the sound of sirens from emergency vehicles. Pray for the people who might be in trouble.	Fast from e-mail, text messaging, or both for a day.	Speak less and listen more. Give others the gift of your undivided attention.
<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Pray while you go for a walk.	Fast from overscheduling your time. Leave some time to simply be.	Curtail your extra spending and donate what you save to your chosen charity.	At the end of the day, take time to thank God for all the graces you received during the day.	Pray the Rosary or other traditional prayers of the Church. Realize that you are joining your voice to millions of others who have prayed these prayers through the years.	Fast from the habit, substance, practice, or mindset that most stands in the way of your growing closer to God.	While grocery shopping, purchase an additional day's supply of food and drop it off at a local food pantry.



# LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> During prayer, picture yourself meeting Jesus in a scene from the Gospels. Imagine your reaction and response.	Send a greeting card or a letter to a relative, friend, or fellow parishioner who is homebound.	Fast from eating food mindlessly, that is, from not even bothering to taste it.	Clean up a common area at work, in the neighborhood, or at home. Do it as a gift for the good of all.	Invite a widowed neighbor to join your family for a meal.	Fast from worrying. Trust God instead.	Plant a tree that will benefit future generations.
<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> Pray for the willingness to seek forgiveness from people you have hurt.	Fast from light. Sit by the light of one candle in your home. Remember that Jesus has called you to be a light for the world.	Make a prayer out of performing a loving action for others. For example, when you take out the garbage or help your child with homework, do it mindfully.	Pick a day when you fast from using electronic appliances.	When you see or hear a news story about someone in trouble, pray for the person as a family.	Fast from hitting the snooze alarm. Get up and use the extra time for prayer.	At the grocery store, pray for the farmers and all those who help make available the food that you will bring to your table.
<b>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</b> Prayerfully read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b> Volunteer for a parish program that helps those in need.	<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> Let a favorite hymn run through your mind as a prayer.	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b> Fast from comparing yourself to others. We are all one in God.	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Recognize your own needs and give them their due. Allow others to help you from time to time.	<b>Good Friday of the Lord's Passion</b> Fast from complaining. Notice how often you are tempted to complain!	<b>Holy Saturday</b> Be mindful of all that God has done for you.
<b>The Resurrection of the Lord</b> Celebrate Easter!	<i>Notes and Reflections...</i>					