

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 20 MARCH 7, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Congratulations to our Varsity Girls Basketball Team. They won the basketball diocesan championship! This is the first time in the history of our school that we have won this championship. We are also the only school in the diocese to win both a volleyball and basketball championship in the same year! Way to go ladies!!

This Friday, March 9th is our Mother/Son Bingo night which will begin at 5:45. I hope to see many of our moms and sons there. The last day to return your RSVP is this Thursday, 3/8. Our second graders will also be making their First Reconciliation this weekend.

Next Thursday evening, March 15th will be our re-scheduled Ready Set Read and Battle of the Books event. We hope that many of you will still be able to join us.

Please remember that school will not be in session on Friday, March 16th. Our teachers will be having a professional development day. Enjoy the long weekend!

God's Peace and Love, Mrs. Kwitowski



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

Do you know someone who is interested in joining our family? Registration packets are available in the school office!

Transportation requests are due to Public School Districts on April 1. Parents of Catholic school students must request transportation services directly from the public school district in which they live. The deadline for submitting written requests for transportation is April 1, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year. Failure to submit a request by this deadline might lead to the suspension of bus privileges for those families. Chris Riso, Assistant Superintendent of Government Services and Special Projects for the Diocese is urging parents of the necessity of meeting this deadline. Since April 1st falls during Easter Break, please submit requests no later than March 27th.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3/9 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 3/9 - Mother/Son BINGO 5:45-8:00pm
- 3/16 - No School
- 3/19 - St. Joseph's Day Feast, 6:00
- 3/23 - Living Stations I & 7 pm, Church
- 3/29 - Holy Thursday, No School
- 3/30 - Good Friday, No School
- 4/1 - Easter Sunday
- 4/2 - 4/6 - No School
- 4/9 - School Resumes

FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From Feb 26 – Mar 4, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$186.81.

Monthly Scrip	Monthly Scrip
<u>Sales Goal</u>	<u>Profit Goal</u>
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
March	March
<u>Sales-to-Date</u>	<u>Profit-to-Date</u>
\$1,750.00	\$84.64

From September 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned by the school was \$9,285.64, which is excellent! I know that we can hit our goal every month if each family strives for a profit of \$250/year in Scrip rebates. Please contact the Scrip office at scrip@smeschool.com to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

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 distributions will be sent home for all current accounts this week. A schedule of prize events will also come home at this time.

Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: **236**

Tickets Remaining: **414**

Did you get yours?!

The past two years we've sold out before the event!

TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Per the directive of the Diocesan auditors, we are no longer able to supply families with our Tax Identification Number. The recommendation for any family requesting this information is to indicate "Religious Exemption" in the area where the Tax Identification Number would be placed. The practice of sharing this information has ended since 2017 and we have not had any issues with regards to this change in procedure. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy DiBerardino: Administrative Assistant (ndiberardino@buffalodiocese.org 716-847-5504).



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ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112
Fax: 716-683-2134
www.smeschool.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

READ ACROSS AMERICA

This past Wednesday we welcomed the Village of Lancaster Mayor, William Schroeder to read to our students in grades Pre-K, 2nd, 3rd & 4th. With his top hat, bowtie and Dr. Seuss books in hand, a great time was had by all!



BISON FUND

Giving Parents a Choice.
Giving Children a Chance.

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.



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Congratulations to our Science Olympiad Team on their fantastic showing at this past Saturday's competition! There was a total of 13 schools competing and we placed in 8 of the 20 events!

Our 8th grade members: Jocelyn, Andrew, Joseph & Megan (absent from photo)

Our 7th grade members: Kaylee, Anna, Molly & Luke

Our 6th grade members: Isabella, Anna, Austin
The team is led by Ms. Chudyk, MS Science Teacher.

Jocelyn & Andrew: 2nd Meteorology & 5th Crime Busters
Jocelyn: 4th Road Scholar
Jocelyn & Megan: 5th Thermodynamics



Joseph & Megan: 2nd Disease Detectives

Joseph: 5th Potions & Poisons



Kaylee & Molly: 3rd Herpetology

Isabella & Anna: 5th Write it/Do it



Congratulations to all on a job well done!
We are looking forward to next year and placing even more!

SPORTS REPORT

The Winter sports banquet is Thursday, March 22nd. Please see the banquet flyer in your blue folder and return to school by Thursday, March 15th. The banquet is from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and is \$10.00/family.

All basketball players will receive a medal for their participation in basketball this season! The banquet is a nice evening honoring our student athletes and also thanking our amazing coaches at SME!

Spring sports teams are being finalized. Your child's coach will be in contact with you after rosters are ready and after they have attended the league meetings which are held in March. Coaches will be notified of upcoming meetings soon!

Congratulations to the 8th grade girls Varsity basketball team for winning the Diocesan Championship with a final score, 31-9! A record was set as this was the 1st team in St. Mary's school history to win this title. Additionally, there has NEVER been a Catholic elementary school in the Diocese



to win BOTH the Diocesan basketball AND volleyball championships in the same year! Congrats to the girls on this accomplishment and to Coach Ted Kuzniarek for his dedication and 1st coach to win both titles! Coach Bernie Wiperman ends his 14 year coaching elementary school basketball in "SHOCK AND AWE!"

Thank you to the parents for their support and congrats to the girls: Margaret, Chloe, Blair, Aloise, Christine, Lainie, Claire & Molly!

HSA

Our Gertrude Hawk Delivery is set for next Wednesday, March 14th from 3-6:00 pm in the Parish Center.

We will make every attempt to have your items available at walker dismissal, but we are at the mercy of the UPS delivery.



MISSION POSSIBLE

Round 2 of Mission Possible has begun and will run through April 15th.
OUR GOAL IS TO DONATE 700 CANS/BOXES OF FOOD.

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.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Mrs. Hoag and the Social Justice Class
hoagb@smeschool.com



MEGA RAFFLE

The Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **79** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!! 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.

If you are interested in joining our committee, or helping out the night of the event, please contact Mary Kate DeMarzio at megaffle@smeschool.com or 510-1409.

WANTED!

Did you take photos during your child's February Freeze game? We would like to put a collage together but need your help! Please send any picture submissions to Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com. Please include the grade of the team as well. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: 3/9 Mother Son BINGO, 5:45-8:00 pm

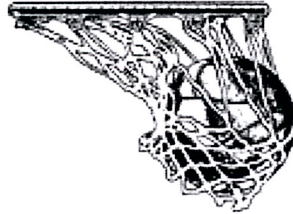
Save the Date: 3/19 St. Joseph's Table, 6:00

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

Save the Date: 4/9 Lenten Collection Boxes Due

Save the Date: 4/29 Benefit for the Lipiarz Family @ SMHS

Winter Sports Banquet
Thursday, March 22, 2017
Parish Center 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Girl's and Boy's Basketball Teams



We are asking the following teams to kindly bring:

Girl's Basketball: 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th – Desserts
Girl's Basketball: 7th & 8th - three 2-liters of *cold* pop

Boy's Basketball: 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th - Salads/Side Dishes (hot & cold)
Boy's Basketball: 7th - fruit
Boy's Basketball: 8th – case of water

*****Lifetouch will be taking photos for SME yearbook*****

Athletes please wear your uniform to the banquet. Uniforms will be collected by your coach that evening.

Please return bottom of form

Winter Sports Banquet
Thursday, March 22, 2017
Parish Center 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Family Name: _____

Player Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____

Due to space restrictions, this banquet is limited to player and immediate family members.

**Please send in this form along with \$10 per family to office,
Attention: Julie Wipperman (due 3/15/2017).**

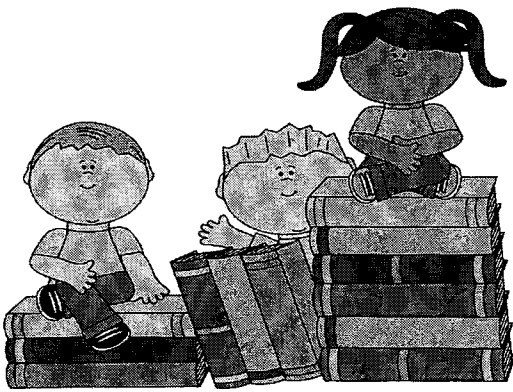
JK

The Book Swap

The book swap is back! A few times throughout the year, Mrs. Wojcik and Mrs. Gasiacki will host a book swap for students in **grades K-5**. 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.



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

- 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 ☺).

Our book swap will start on **Thursday, March 22nd**.

We hope you will encourage your students to participate!

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

Mrs. Wojcik & Mrs. Gasiacki

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 March 11th.**

Peace,
Mrs. Hoag

Gospel Reading

John 3: 14-21

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be raised up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life.

Family Connection

**From Loyola Press*

Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John's observation that darkness is preferred to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God's great mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

After your family gathers, sit for a time in darkness, then light a candle. Invite people to talk about what it felt like to be in the darkness and to compare that to their feelings when the candle was lit. What are we able to see by the limited glow of the candlelight that we couldn't see when we were sitting in darkness? Read today's Gospel, John 3:14-21. John's Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the **Act of Contrition**.

Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.