

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 24 APRIL 11, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Welcome Back!

I hope that everybody had a very enjoyable and relaxing break.

This week our 4th and 8th grade students will be taking the NYS ELA assessments on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday, we will be celebrating our Christian Witnesses for the month of March.

Please be sure to keep up to date on your VIRTUS bulletins if you volunteer in the school.

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!



1. Coming home today is an updated copy of the Payment Policy. The terms in the revised Payment Policy dated 4/5/18 will replace the current terms of the 17-18 Payment Policy effective immediately. It will also replace the version included with your 18-19 Registration packets.
2. Spring Concert: There will be one date for the Spring Concert : June 6th @ 9:00 am. All students will be performing (Pre-K - 8th Grade).



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4/11 - 4/13- NYS Testing ELA Gr. 4 & 8
- 4/13 - Christian Witness Mass (March), 8:30
- 4/17 - Parent Meeting , 6-7:30
- 4/24-27 - Spring BOGO Book Fair
- 4/25 - Parent Night / Open House 6-8:00pm Art Show, Book Fair, HSA Meeting
- 4/27 - Christian Witness Mass (April), 8:30am
- 5/1 - 5/3 - NYS Testing, Math Gr 4 & 8
- 5/4 - 8th Gr. Hope Ribbon Mass & Reception
- 5/7 - 1:00 Dismissal, STREAM Walk-a-Thon, SME Gym Attire
- 5/10 - Ascension Thursday Mass, 8:30
- 5/11 - Penny Fair, No School Mass

FUNDRAISERS BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From Mar 26 – April 8, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$272.11.

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
April Sales-to-Date	April Profit-to-Date
\$1,360.00	\$68.01

CANDY BAR SALE:

Our sale has ended.
Please remit your payment today!

Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: **310**

Tickets Remaining: **340**

Did you get yours?!

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

Have you gotten your group together to split a ticket? Even split 4 or 5 ways brings home a good chunk of change!



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).



MISSION POSSIBLE

ROUND 2 of our whole school service learning project, MISSION POSSIBLE, is coming to an end. Thanks to your generosity, we have reached our goal of 700 cans and are presently in 2nd place.

We are just 80 cans/boxes of food behind the leader.

Our final donation count will take place Friday, April 13th.

We are asking each student to donate at least 3 more cans/boxes of food by April 13th. This would allow us to donate approximately 600 more cans/boxes of food to the Buffalo City Mission.

This time of year is not traditionally a giving season and the people the Buffalo City Mission serves are still hungry. We are blessed by and thankful for your generosity and your willingness to serve others. We hope to further exceed our goal!



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ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

LUNCH PROGRAM

If you have not yet had a chance to submit your lunch survey it will be open for one more week! We encourage you to participate in this survey. You are able to submit the form one time for each child that attends SME.

If you did not receive the email with the survey please contact Mrs. Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com for a copy.

If you prefer, the following is a link to the survey:
<https://goo.gl/forms/dbCBPxpziTeWVDw63>



BISON FUND



Giving Parents a Choice.
Giving Children a Chance.

BISON held the lottery drawing last month and notified results to families via email. Families selected to receive funding were emailed a link to complete a full application. The deadline to complete the full application is April 30, 2018. The deadline for families to renew their scholarships is April 13, 2018. Families can still submit a pre-application on our website and be placed on our waiting list. Award letters will be sent to all families at the beginning of May. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869 ext. 1 or cmcdonald@bisonfund.com.

8TH GRADE FUNDRAISER

The 8th Grade Class of 2018 Chiavetta's Chicken Barbeque is this Friday April 13th from 3-7 here at school.

Tickets are available for \$10 pre-sale or \$12 day of. To purchase tickets please email Mrs. Kasinski at jbkasinski@cavtel.net or Mrs. Morrella.

As part of their 8th grade service project, they have also integrated a donation to the Buffalo City Mission.

Want to pay it forward and help those in our community? Buy one for you and one for donation! Want to support but can't commit to picking your dinner up that night? You can choose to have it donated! That evening a volunteer will load up the hot meals and drive them to the Mission to be served for dinner.

SPORTS REPORT

Spring sport teams will be starting their practices soon! The Coaches are as follows and will contact you at their earliest convenience:

Varsity Boys Volleyball: Head Coach is Ray Ziomek and Dave Czuprynski

Varsity Girls Softball: Head Coach Julie Wipperman, Asst. Coaches, Steve Kuhn & Tara Petroski

1st/2nd grade Soccer: Head Coaches Steve DeMarzio and Mary Kate DeMarzio

3rd/4th grade Soccer: Head Coaches Robert Mordino and Sean Schmittendorff

5th/6th grade Soccer: Head Coach Tabatha Hartz

7th/8th grade Soccer: Head Coach Vincent Cotroneo

Co-ed Track Coaches: Jeff Brown, Julie Wolford, Amanda Kuhn, Julie Morella, Dan Norton, Becky & John Kasinski, Andy & Kate Quinn and Julie Wipperman. Track consultants, Theresa Brown, and Mike Wolford Jr.

Julie Wipperman, Athletic Coordinator
athletics@smeschool.com
716-683-2112 ext. 313



SCRIP

From September 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned by the school was \$10,121.30, which is very good. We fell short of our goal in March, 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. Together, we can 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.

Toys R Us has officially filed to liquidate and close all US stores. A spokesperson for Toys R Us stated on March 15, 2018 that they will

accept gift cards through April 15, 2018. We have 2 - \$20 cards in stock. If you are interested in purchasing them and using them for Easter gifts, spring/summer gear, etc, please submit your order as soon as possible! If you have any remaining Toys R Us gift cards or ScripNow we suggest you use them immediately while they can still be redeemed. We cannot accept returns.

We will have a limited number of special low denomination gift cards available to order through May 25th, or while supplies last. These are perfect for teacher gifts and grad parties! The gifts cards available are: Amazon.com \$10, Applebee's \$10, Barnes & Noble \$5, CVS \$5, Olive Garden \$10, Home Depot \$10, IHOP \$10, Meijer \$10, Outback \$10, Panera \$5, Red Lobster \$10, Regal \$10, Safeway \$10, Starbucks \$5, Target \$10, Wal-Mart \$10.

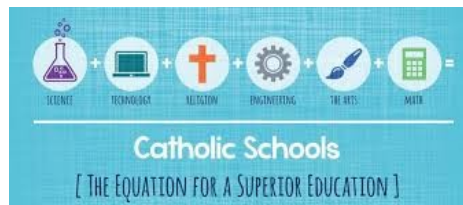
STREAM

Spring is here and so is our STREAM Flower Sale!

Included in your blue folder is an order form for our annual flower sale. The sale will run from April 16 - April 27th. Pick up will be on May 9 from 2:30 - 6:00.

Our STREAM Walk-a-thon is right around the corner on Monday, May 7th. We ask that the students wear their SME gym attire.

With just \$80 in flower sales & \$40 in donations for the walk per student we are sure to reach our \$8,000 goal!



MEGA RAFFLE

The Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **110** 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 helping out please contact Mary Kate DeMarzio at megaraffle@smeschool.com or 510-1409.

CANDY BAR SALE

43 students received coupons for a Karaoke Party based on the number of chocolate candy bars sold. Those students are able to sign up alone or with a maximum of four friends during lunch for a day to sing a song after morning announcements. Signups will close at the end of the month! Students should bring the music for their song to the office for approval prior to rehearsing. If your song is not approved, you will need to choose a different song.

**All candy bar accounts are now past due.
Please send in your payment today!**

Thank you very much for all of your support.
The Chocolate Candy Bar Team

STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: 4/15 Mission Possible Round 2 Ends

Save the Date: 4/19 Autism Awareness Dress Down \$1 - Tie Dye

Save the Date: 4/20 Middle School Dance, 7-9pm \$5, USA Theme

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

Save the Date: 5/4 8th Grade Hope Ribbon Ceremony

Save the Date: 5/11 Penny Fair

FUNDRAISING FOR STREAM!

Hello SME Families!

Our **STREAM** integration continues to be a success here at SME. Our students are challenged to creatively think outside the box, to use the engineering design process in their planning and creating, experience cross curricular integration within the classrooms and experience engaging field trips with community partners in and around Buffalo.

In order to continue this level of **STREAM** integration, we need to raise money through fundraising. *Two **STREAM** fundraisers are happening this spring.* The first, is the **SPRING FLOWER FUNDRAISER**. This sale takes place April 16th - 27th. Flower pick-up will take place Wednesday, May 9th from 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the gym. The second, is the **STREAM WALK-A-THON** taking place on Monday, May 7th.

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$8,000! With your support, we can do this! Simply stated, if each family sells at least \$80 worth of plants and/or \$40 in collected pledges for the Walk-A-Thon, we will reach our goal.

We need your support in order to be able to continue the **STREAM** initiative at SME! Funds raised for **STREAM** will allow us to continue to provide creative, hands-on opportunities for all students that:

- Focus on inquiry, creativity, complex thinking and FUN!
- Emphasize **STREAM** education learning areas and nurtures the innate curiosity of every child!
- Provide a runway for our next generation of believers, innovators, scientists and leaders!

STREAM funding is needed for:

- Buses for **STREAM** Field trips
- Admission fees to our **STREAM** field trips
- **STREAM** Academy Courses and Supplies
- ESP Science kit refills
- Gear Up Engineering Design Brief supplies
- 21st Century Math lessons and Activities
- *and more!*

Remember, *STREAM Education makes learning relevant!* **STREAM** Education allows academic concepts to be coupled with increased real life application in all the disciplines. Students become involved in hands-on projects where problem solving, collaboration, and the results of their efforts make lessons more relevant than a textbook alone. Increased technology to enhance learning is emphasized, and career connections as well as exposure to working professionals further relates students to their own learning and their futures!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR HELP TO REACH OUR **STREAM FUNDRAISING GOAL!** Additionally, if you work for a business that would like to be a sponsor of our **STREAM** integration by making a donation, please email Mrs. Hoag.

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Hoag

STREAM Coordinator/Campus Minister

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STREAM FUNDRAISER - FLOWER SALE!

We need to raise funds to continue our level of STREAM integration here at SME. Our Goal is to raise \$8,000!









To reach our goal, each family needs to sell only \$80 worth of product.

ALL ORDERS & MONEY ARE DUE BY April 27TH! CHECKS PAYABLE TO SME SCHOOL

PLANT PICK-UP WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY MAY 9TH 2:30PM – 6:00PM.

PLEASE NOTE: All plants come from Mitchell Farm in Alden. PLANTS COME IN A VARIETY OF COLORS. CHOICE OF COLOR IS NOT AVAILABLE.

SPECIAL: PURCHASE SIX 4 1/2" POTS FOR \$25.00 (Buy 5, Get 1 Free)!

<u>ITEM #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
1	10" Combination Hanging Basket	3 or 4 different varieties in each basket create very interesting color and texture. Multiple different color and plant combinations for sun or shade. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$19.00	
2	10" Hanging Basket Strawberries	Ever bearing varieties, Fort Laramie & Eversweet, will fruit all summer long. Keep in full sun. Feed regularly. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$19.00	
3	Gerbera Daisies 4 1/2" pot	Numerous color and flower styles in the Festival, Jaguar, and Revolution series. Solid dark eyed and light-eyed blooms. Grow and flower best in full sun with adequate moisture. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$5.00	
4	Double Impatiens 4 1/2" pot	Fiesta double impatiens. Heat tolerant. Filtered sun to part shade. Numerous large rose-like blooms. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$5.00	
5	Petunias 4 1/2" pot	Proven garden performers give color all season. Do best in high light, like lots of food and moisture. Excellent in combinations and solid plantings. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$5.00	
6	Tuberous Begonias 4 1/2" pot	Partial shade or filtered light; well drained location. Feed regularly. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$5.00	
7	Coleus 4 1/2" pot	Kong coleus. Upright and trailing varieties or shade areas. Unusual and attractive colors with great texture. Great in landscape. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$5.00	
8	Osteospermum 4 1/2" pot	Sunscape Daisy. Cold hardy plant that will tolerate spring and fall frost. They make outstanding full sun garden or patio plant. <i>You choose your plants from what is available on pick-up day.</i>	\$5.00	

****At the bottom of the form: total the # of all plants in each column, total the # of all plants sold, & total the amount of all \$ collected.***

ST MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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"...visible examples of gospel living"

Payment Policy

2018-2019

All families are required to make tuition payments according to one of the following payment plans. Credit card payments are accepted for tuition payments only. Options for payment shall include:

- Annual Payment - Full payment of tuition directly to the school office by check, cash or credit card by July 15, 2018
- Quarterly Payment – Payment of tuition directly to the school office by check, cash or credit card by July 15, 2018, October 15, 2018, January 15, 2019 and April 15, 2019
- Monthly Payment – Payment of tuition directly to the school office by check, cash or credit card by the 15th of each month beginning July 15, 2018 through April 15, 2019
-

*Note: Post-dated checks will not be accepted.

Late Payments

Tuition payments not received within 10 days of the due date will be considered late and may be assessed a \$25 late fee.

Returned Checks

A fee of \$35.00 will be assessed to a tuition account for checks that do not clear and are returned by the bank. When replacing a returned check, it must be paid by a money order, bank check, cash or credit card payment. Credit card payments are accepted for tuition payments only.

Non-Admission of Students due to Default in Payment of Tuition, Fast Club, Fundraising, etc...

Families who fail to pay Tuition, Fast Club, Fundraising, etc... according to any agreement that they made with St. Mary's Elementary School or who have been unwilling to make alternative arrangements will be notified that their student(s) will not be allowed to attend St. Mary's Elementary School until their accounts are current. Parents/Guardians will not have access to their student(s) grades on parent portal if a tuition account is in arrears and records will not be released. All families must be current with their payment of Tuition, Fast club, Fundraising, etc....

By August 25:

If not, student(s) may not be admitted on the first day of school until their Tuition, Fast Club, Fundraising accounts etc...are current.

By December 19:

If not, students may not be readmitted after Christmas vacation on the first day of class in January until their Tuition, Fast Club, Fundraising accounts etc...are current.

By April 25:

If not, students may not be allowed to attend class as of May 1 and registration will not be accepted for the following year until their Tuition, Fast Club, Fundraising accounts etc...are current.

By May 25:

If not, students may be excluded from participating in end of school year activities, field trips, graduation ceremonies, receiving of transcripts, and final report cards until their Tuition, Fast Club, Fundraising accounts etc...are current.

Withdrawal

The cost of your child's education is a full school year expense. Please note books are purchased, teachers are hired, and classrooms are prepared in anticipation of each student's full-year enrollment. As a result, St. Mary's Elementary

School has specific policies and guidelines regarding students who withdraw from the school. Families withdrawing their student(s) prior to the first day of school shall be refunded the entire amount of tuition that has been paid for the upcoming school year. Families who withdraw their student(s) before the end of the school year are financially responsible to pay the tuition up to and including the month of withdrawal. Commitment Fees and financial aid are not considered tuition payments and will not be refunded in the event of a withdrawal. There is no tuition refund for students expelled for disciplinary reasons. Commitment Fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Tuition Assistance

St. Mary's Elementary School Tuition Assistance Program is available for families with students attending grades K – 8. Applications are available per request from tuition office. This need-based assistance is funded by an annual donation from The Galasso Foundation. A letter of request, specific financial documentation, a description of monthly expenses, and the completed application must be turned into the Tuition Office for consideration. Please contact Nancy Jezuit, Director of Student Affairs at 683-2112 x121 or Jezuitn@smeschool.com if your family circumstances change and a need arises during the school year.

BISON Fund is a privately funded tuition assistance program offering partial tuition assistance to low income families for students attending K - 8. More information may be found at www.bisonfund.com or by calling Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869 ext. 1.

However, since circumstances often are unpredictable, families should not hesitate to inform the tuition office of their need whenever it may arise during the school year. For the sake of our families and the general financial stability of our school, we encourage parents/guardians to contact Nancy Jezuit in the tuition office or Mrs. Kwitowski, Principal, at 683-2112 x124 or Kwitowskik@smeschool.com as soon as possible when they are experiencing economic difficulties. We are always happy and willing to work with you.

Parishioner vs. Non-Parishioner Tuition Rate

By meeting the following criterion, families are considered active parishioners and qualify to receive parishioner rate status for students in K – 8:

- 1) Families must be registered at a Roman Catholic parish without a school or registered at St. Mary of the Assumption parish.
- 2) Families are encouraged to attend Mass on a weekly basis and worship in the parish faith community.
- 3) It is expected that families receiving the parishioner rate contribute financially to the parish in their weekly offering.
- 4) **Note: Pre K families** will receive the parishioner rate if they meet the criterion above and are registered parishioners of St. Mary's of the Assumption parish **only**. The Payment Policy also applies to Pre-K families.
- 5) **NON-AFFILIATE RATE:** A non-affiliate is either a non-Catholic, a Catholic not registered at any parish, or a member of another parish with no CTGP verification of parish membership form on file.

Fast Club

All Fast Club payments are due on a bi-weekly basis and are expected to be paid in full by the due date indicated at the bottom of your Fast Club statement. Charges are based on a cumulative number of hours for services rendered on a weekly basis. Weekending dates are used as the posting date for all weekly charges. If paying by check, please issue a separate check made payable to St. Mary's Elementary School. Receipts will be issued for all cash payments.

Families whose balance is in arrears are in violation of the Payment Policy and are at risk of losing Fast Club services.

Fundraising

All Fundraising participation is at the discretion of each family and is not mandatory. However, active involvement by SME families is necessary to keep school expenses to a minimum, encourage community involvement, and assure continued success of our school. SME hopes to promote the true spirit of volunteerism which is not compensated. All money raised by any family as a result of voluntary participation in any fundraising event is expected to be turned in to the school office promptly upon the sale of goods provided to you per your request. Candy Bar money is expected to be promptly turned in to the school office upon the sale of each box of candy bars sold. Golf Tournament Raffle Ticket proceeds are expected to be promptly turned in to the school office upon the sale of the Golf Tournament Raffle Tickets. Any family who has an outstanding balance due to St. Mary's Elementary School for any fundraising event and who has not turned in the money owed, is in violation of the Payment Policy and may be subject to enforcement of the terms of the payment policy.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!



On Tuesday, April 17th parents from some of our school organizations are hosting a parents only meeting from 6:00-7:30pm in the school gym. They are asking that at least 1 parent from every family attend.

This meeting will be an open discussion amongst SME parents. We hope you are able to attend as your input is extremely valuable!

We had a great turn out last time, let's keep the momentum going. Thank you for your time.

Babysitting is in the process of being arranged.

St. Mary's Elementary

**BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE^{*}
BOOK FAIR!**

Needs Volunteers!

*When: April 25 (8:20-2:20 & 6:00-8:00)
April 26 (8:20-2:20)*



If you can volunteer any of your time, please contact:

Bernie Bookmiller, Book Fair Chair
bbookmiller@roadrunner.com

or

901-1197 (text or call)

Come to St. Mary's U.S.A. dance!



2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY

Open to grades 6-8!

10 Catholic Schools Invited!

Come party with us

FRIDAY APRIL 20, 2018

7:00 to 9:00 pm

We'll have fun in the gym with a DJ



- ***Pizza for \$2.50***
- ***Snacks & Beverages \$1***
- ***Tickets are \$5***
- ***Signed permission slip required***



Questions? Contact us at 683-2112 x221



Join us for Catholic Schools Night at Coca-Cola Field with a 7:05 first pitch vs. the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders and post game *fridaynightbash!*® fireworks!

SPECIAL GROUP RATE ONLY \$7.00 / TICKET!

First pitch awarded to the Representative of the School that sells the most tickets! Hot Dog & Coca-Cola Vouchers available for an additional \$7.50. For questions and more information, contact:

SHAUN O'LAY | 716.846.2032 | SOLAY@BISONS.COM



To order tickets, please visit

<https://groupmatics.events/s/other/Bisonscatholic>