

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7 OCTOBER 24, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Wednesday is Halloween. The different grades will celebrate with parties in their classrooms. Please remember that if you are sending in treats to make them peanut/tree nut free for our students who have allergies. Also, costumes need to be brought into school with your child. They will have a chance to put them on before their party. Costumes should be able to fit over top their clothing as to prevent a loss of party time due to a long line for the bathroom. Costumes should not be too scary or contain a mask. We appreciate your assistance and understanding in this matter.

This Saturday night is our Family Fun Night. Please try to come and join in the fun!

Please note that effective 11/1 shorts are no longer acceptable within the uniform policy.

On November 7th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center, Father Paul will be hosting a discussion for St. Mary's Parishioners to speak and be heard regarding the current sexual abuse scandal impacting the Church in WNY and globally. All are welcome to attend.

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski

RED RIBBON WEEK FUN

Our 8th graders took the time to place red ribbons on the trees around our school grounds for all to see that we are a Drug & Bully Free zone!



Wed., 10/24 “Team up against Drugs”.

Students and staff may wear their favorite sports team shirt or jersey with their uniform bottoms. No jeans.

Thurs., 10/25 “Black OUT Bullies”. Students and staff may wear a “BLACK” shirt with jeans (no rips or tears) or uniform bottoms. NO sweatpants or leggings/ yoga style pants.

Fri., 10/26 “SHADE Out Drugs Day”. Students may wear sun glasses AFTER Mass all day in school. *Students are to wear their school uniform.*



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **10/22 - 10/26** - Red Ribbon Week
- **10/24** - Book Fair Preview Night: **CANCELED**
- **10/25** - Book Fair 8-2:00, Picture Re-Take Day
- **10/26** - Book Fair 8-2:00
- **10/27** - Family Fun Night 6-8:30 pm
- **11/1** - All Saints Day Mass, 8:30 am
- **11/2 - 1:00 Dismissal**, HSA Meat Raffle 6:00pm

SCRIP

From October 16, 2018 to October 22, 2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$231.97.

Monthly Scrip	Monthly Scrip
<u>Sales Goal</u>	<u>Profit Goal</u>
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
October	Year
<u>Profit-to-Date</u>	<u>Profit-to-Date</u>
\$717.16	\$1500.50

When we work together on the \$1,500.00 monthly goal, it is less than a \$200 purchase in gift cards per family, per month, through the SCRIP program.

Awesome news!! Amazon.com is now offering a new type of physical gift card instead of a printed thermal ticket. While the physical gift cards have a new look, they are still available in \$25 and \$100 denominations at the same great 2.25% rebate. The new gift card will be easier to handle and even better for gifting.

Beginning this week, a few vendors are offering low denomination gift cards, through December 14th. The list below is what will be available as of October 20th. There will be a limited number available in the Scrip office (the cards that are in **bold** type), so please plan ahead and order!

\$5 Cards: **Barnes & Noble**, Blimpie, Cold Stone, **Panera**, **Starbucks**, **Taco Bell**

\$10 cards: **Amazon**, Applebees, CVS, Olive Garden, Home Depot, IHOP, Meijer, Outback, Red Lobster, **Target**, **Walmart**

Mark your calendars! The Scrip office will be open on the following Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 – October 27th, November 3rd and December 1st.

Due to popular demand, we will offering 2 Parish Gift Cards Sales again this year: Sunday, 11/4 from 8:00-2:00 and Sunday, 12/2 from 8:00-2:00. Be sure to stop by and get your gifts taken care of! Coffee and Timbits will be available as well!

We thank you for your continued support. Please contact the Scrip office at scrip@smeschool.com to find out how you can support this fundamental program.

HSA

Saturday, 10/27 - Family Fun Night (6-8:30pm), Trunk or Treat! Come decorate your car trunks starting at 4 in our teacher lot and pass out nut free candy to our ghouls, goblins and little angels in a safe environment from 6-6:30! Then the fun moves inside for the DJ, dancing, food & fun! There will be a prize for the class with the most participants!



Friday, 11/2 - Fall Meat Raffle, doors open @ 6. Many hands make light work, and the work is FUN! Tickets are available in the school office and are \$5 presale. If you are able to help during the Meat Raffle please email hsa@smeschool.com

Monday, 11/19 - Pie / Coffee Pick up day, 2:00 - 6:00pm.



PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

Inter-state Photography will be back tomorrow, Thursday, October 25th for picture re-takes. Students who were absent on our original date are asked to have their picture taken on 10/25. Families looking to have their student photo re-taken will also be done at this time.

Only students getting their picture taken should dress their best on 10/25. Order forms are available in the school office or contact Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com to send one home with your child.

BOOK FAIR

The Fall Book Fair is this week Thursday & Friday for our students. There will be **NO** preview night as originally planned.

A schedule is coming home today of when your child will be attending the book fair. Parents/ Grandparents/Guardians are welcome to come and shop with their child(ren).

Pre-K parents are welcome to stop in anytime to shop with their child(ren) as they will not be attending as a class.



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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..."

8TH GRADE CAN DRIVE

Our 8th Grade class will once again be collecting bottles and cans for their year round fundraiser.

Cans can be brought directly to Cash-4-Cans clearly labeled 'St. Mary's Elementary' (William & Aurora location) or dropped in one of the bins located in the school.

We do ask that you PLEASE separate your glass bottles from your plastic & cans. Failure to do so can result in the closing of our account.

Funds raised will be utilized for 8th grade expenses and the class trip in the spring.

We thank you in advance for your support! If you have any questions please contact Liz Heerdt at heerdt34@roadrunner.com.



KITCHEN NEWS

Is your child having a birthday?

Our kitchen has a wide variety of ice cream and treats (all nut safe!) to help celebrate their special day! Order forms are available on our school website on the 'Lunch Menu' tab to make it easy! A copy is also included electronically with today's News-Note.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MARATHON

Any student who was sponsored with donations will receive their form back to collect their pledges. All monies will be used to enhance the technology at SME!

Pledge money is due back by October 29th. Thank you!



PAST DUE

If you have not yet returned the following items please do so ASAP:

- Parent / Student Sign-off page from the handbook. Forms were due back on 10/1. An electronic copy is available in the Parent Portal. The last page can be printed out, signed & returned. If you are unsure if you have returned your page email Amanda Kuhn (secretary@smeschool.com).

- SET Directory Response form. Forms were due back 10/5.



Red Ribbon Week 2018



SAVE THE DATE

On Friday, December 14th, 2018 at 5:30 pm, Saint Mary's Elementary School students will present **JOY TO THE WORLD! – a Living Nativity Christmas Celebration**. This will be the only Christmas production taking place this year. This beautiful depiction of our Lord's birth will take place in the SME school gymnasium. **ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES K - 8** will be a part of this production! Students will be singing and acting with a backdrop of the manger including live animals, just as it was on that busy day in Bethlehem.



MISSION POSSIBLE

Challenge Period 1 takes place Oct. 2nd - Dec. 14th.



Our minimum goal for this period is 750 cans/boxes of food donated!

This equates to 3-4 cans/boxes of food per student donated.

Last fall we exceeded our goal by over 200% and we accomplished this by donating more than our minimum goal.

Suggested Goals by grade:

Pre-K- 2 = 60 cans each grade

3-7 = 70 cans each grade

8th grade = 100 cans

Teachers/staff = 60 cans

ATHLETICS

The BSN Online Store is now closed for all basketball gear. All orders are in and numbers will be assigned for the season. PLEASE remember to update your athletes physical and return it to the nurses office. You cannot practice without a physical. If you did not go online and purchase a uniform, you will not have a uniform to participate in. We will have very limited back up sizes and numbers to accommodate families that missed the deadline. Please contact Dan Johnson, our Athletic Director at athletics@smeschool.com if you need assistance.

Basketball practices will begin no earlier than November 1st. Coaches will be communicating and sending out practice schedules. Stay tuned...

We will be opening another online store very soon with St. Mary's Athletics gear for sale. This will not be a sports specific store. It will be for all parents of the school, whether your son or daughter is an athlete or not. That will be coming soon...TBD

I would like to encourage all parents to please send me pictures during the course of the season. We can post them on our website and social media pages.

Girls Diocesan Volleyball Championships are Wednesday night 10/24 at Niagara Frontier Sports, 425 Meyer Rd. West Seneca NY at 7pm. Our St. Mary's Blue team will be playing for the title. Good Luck ladies and coaches!!!

Please have a fun and safe Halloween!

Daniel Johnson
St. Mary's Elementary Athletic Director
Email: athletics@smeschool.com
Cell: 716-880-0335

NURSE NOTES

An updated food allergy policy went home a couple weeks ago, please be conscious of this policy for all Halloween parties that will take place at school. Thank you for your cooperation. We want all students to be able to participate in the festivities and have fun!

The Teal Pumpkin Project® is a worldwide movement that offers an alternative for kids with food allergies, as well as other children for whom candy is not an option. It raises awareness of food allergies and promotes the inclusion of all trick-or-treaters throughout the Halloween season. Please consider being a part of this growing movement. Please visit the following website for more information. I would love to hear which SME families are participating!

<https://www.foodallergy.org/education-awareness/teal-pumpkin-project>

Mrs. Parker RN, BSN



8TH GRADE INFORMATION

Parents wishing to have their child shadow at high school must coordinate that with the high school directly.

Please submit a copy of your Catholic High School application confirmation email to the school office once you have received it so that your child(s) transcript can be forwarded to the appropriate school(s).

<http://catholichighschoolswny.com/>



STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: Wednesday, 10/24
MP1 Ends, Progress Reports Uploaded

Save the Date: Wednesday, 10/24 -
10/26, Fall Book Fair, Gym

Save the Date: Saturday, 10/27,
Family Fun Night, Trunk-or-Treat

Save the Date: Friday, 11/2 1:00
Dismissal, Meat Raffle 6:00

Save the Date: Monday, 11/19 2-
6:00, Coffee / Pie Pick Up



Dear SME Families,

SAVE THE DATE! On Friday, December 14th, 2018 beginning at 5:30 pm, SME students will present **JOY TO THE WORLD! – a Living Nativity Christmas Celebration**. This will be the only Christmas production taking place this year. This beautiful depiction of our Lord's birth will take place in the SME school gymnasium. It is expected that **ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES K - 8** participate in this production. Because the students will be learning and practicing songs during Music class for a number of weeks before the event, attendance will be a part of the students' 2nd marking period grades. That evening, students will perform with the band, sing, and act with a backdrop of a manger that will include live animals.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN the below acknowledgement to Mrs. Hoag by November 2, 2018. We are thrilled that **ALL** of our students in grades K-8 will be participating in this joyous annual event.

Thank you for your support of the activities that take place here at SME. We truly appreciate it!

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Kwitowski
Principal

Mrs. Hoag
Campus Minister & Religion Teacher Gr. 6-8

Mr. Hunter
Music & Band Teacher

JOY TO THE WORLD! – a Living Nativity Christmas Celebration
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Please Return by November 2, 2018 ATTN. Mrs. Hoag

_____ Student Name (Please Print)	_____ Grade	_____ Homeroom Teacher Name
_____ Student Name (Please Print)	_____ Grade	_____ Homeroom Teacher Name

I acknowledge that my SME student(s) are expected to participate in the SME annual **JOY TO THE WORLD! – a Living Nativity Christmas Celebration** and that this celebration will involve **ALL** SME students in grades K - 8. I am aware that this performance will take place on Friday, December 14th, 2018 beginning at 5:30 PM.

Parent/Guardian Name – PRINT

Parent/Guardian Signature

AK



10/24/18

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Diocese of Buffalo is working to fully comply with all the directives of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* implemented by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2002. In addition to training all adult staff and volunteers that work with children, the Diocese of Buffalo is also training children in sexual abuse awareness.

Sexual abuse awareness training, mandated by the Diocese of Buffalo will be conducted at our school the week beginning **MONDAY November 5-9, 2018 during Religion Classes**. The training is a way for your child to learn to recognize and respond appropriately and assertively to issues such as improper touch, tricks used by sexual predators, and internet safety.

Your child will not be exposed to specific sexual language or depictions of graphic situations. A copy of the *diocesan approved* lesson plans for your child's age group can be found by visiting <https://www.wnycatholicschools.org/np-safe-environment-sexual-abuse-training>.

Parents are invited to discuss the content of this lesson plan prior to its implementation with their children. You may also contact our office should you wish to learn more about this topic to better equip yourself to respond to your child's questions.

If you *DO NOT* wish for your child to participate in these lessons at school, please sign the release below, detach it, and return it to us by Wednesday October 31, 2018. An alternate educational opportunity will be provided for your child during that session.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kwitowski, Principal
Mrs. Hoag, Campus Minister
Mrs. Abbatoy, Religion Teacher

OPT OUT FORM FOR DIOCESAN SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS LESSON
(Clip and return by 10/31/18 to opt your child out)
ATTN. Mrs. Hoag

I ask that my child/children

Name	Teacher	Grade
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be excused from attending the Sexual Abuse Awareness session at **SME SCHOOL during religion classes NOVEMBER 5-9, 2018**. I understand that it is my right and responsibility as a parent under guidelines of the Catholic Church to do any such instruction myself.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Parent/Guardian Name

KK

Happy Birthday Treat!

It's _____ Birthday on _____

and we would like to offer the students in their class a snack from the school cafeteria to celebrate.

Please allow Grade _____ Homeroom(s) _____ to purchase a snack in the amount of:

<input type="checkbox"/> up to \$0.50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____	=	<input type="checkbox"/> up to \$0.75	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____	=	<input type="checkbox"/> up to \$1.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____	=
Number of Students	_____		Number of Students	_____		Number of Students	_____	
Total Amount Due	_____		Total Amount Due	_____		Total Amount Due	_____	

Please submit total amount due in cash or check made out to St. Mary's Elementary to the cafeteria at least one day in advance of the date you would like your child and their class to receive snack. Any unused funds from this request will be returned in cash.

Thank you for your continuing support of our school cafeteria!

Actual Snack

Tally:

You Are Invited To

An Evening of Sharing and Listening

**For St. Mary's Parishioners To Speak and
Be Heard Regarding the Current
Sexual Abuse Scandal
Impacting the Church in Western New York
and Globally**

***There Will Be No Formal Presentation - Simply a Chance for
Your Concerns and Questions to be Addressed***

Wednesday, November 7

7 to 9 PM

Parish Center
(At St. Mary's Elementary School)

**Hosted by Pastor Rev. Paul Steller and
Deacons David Jerome and John Owczarczak**

***Advance Reservations are Not Necessary
Questions? Please Call 716-683-6445***