

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 20, 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very Happy Thanksgiving and a restful break spent with family and friends.

Thanksgiving Prayer
For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



BUS SAFETY

We ask that every: parent / grandparent / aunt or uncle / babysitter / friend / sibling / anyone picking up a student- **PLEASE** be mindful of bus safety even in our parking lot. This means that when the red lights are flashing **no one** should be passing a bus.

We understand that there was concern as to the way buses were staging/waiting in our lot in the morning and have addressed it with the companies. We also ask that extra care is taken as winter weather approaches .

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Did you know... You can use your credit card to pay for your tuition & fundraising (Candy Bar / Mega Raffle ticket / Golf)? We cannot process payments over the phone, it must be a personal visit. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Jezuit at jezuitn@smeschool.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **11/21 - 11/23 - NO SCHOOL**, Thanksgiving Recess
- **11/27** - Dress Down Day \$1, Supporting: *Student Council*
- **11/28** - Dress Down Day \$1, Supporting: *Help Portrait*
- **11/30** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am, Middle School Dance (Gr. 6-8), 7-9:00pm
- **12/3 - 1:00 Dismissal**, Dress Down Day
- **12/7 - NO FAST Club**, Merry Moose Shoppe, 9:30 - 2:00
- **12/14** - Living Nativity, 5:30pm
- **12/16** - Pancake Breakfast with Santa

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP

From 11/ 10 to 11/ 19/2018, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was \$643.27.

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
November Profit-to-Date	Year Profit-to-Date
\$1,303.64	\$3,103.54

We are so close to our goal this month - I know we can do it!

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. Since SCRIP cards can be purchased for Tops Gasoline, Tops groceries, Amazon, Tim Hortons, paying your Kohl’s bill, etc I am sure we can all find easy ways to help with this goal. Lockboxes are available outside the Scrip office & in the back of the church to make dropping off an order easy.

Candy Bar Sale

Don’t just give a gift card this Christmas - trick them with the weight of a candy bar or two! Order forms are available in the school office & electronically with today's NewsNote.

We have many boxes of all three brands of the factory mixed box. We are out of our specialty handmade GH variety boxes.



BABY IT’S COLD OUTSIDE!

Please make note of the following approved cold weather apparel for students during the winter months:



- SME Hoodies (logo style ordered through HSA, available anytime)
- SME Athletic Hoodies (available through each sport uniform order shop and with the Knights apparel store that was open mid November)
- 8th Grade Hoodies
- Gym uniform sweatshirt (ordered through the office, available anytime)
- Solid navy/white/red cardigan sweater
- Navy blue fleece from a school approved vendor, must have SME logo (available through McKay’s, Flynn O’Hara, Lands End anytime)
- Solid black leggings may be worn under skorts/skirts during winter months

SCRIP

Thank-Scrip-ing day is TODAY and is bringing huge bonus rebates just in time for Black Friday and Cyber Monday! Our families can earn on all of the eGift cards (ScripNow®) and reloads you need for your holiday shopping!! See the flyer in last week’s NewsNotes to make sure you’re ready for the big day!

SAVE THE DATES:

Weekend hours: Saturday, 12/1 from 9:00-11:00; Sunday, 12/2 from 8:00-2:00.

REMEMBER!!

Some vendors are offering low denomination gift cards through December 14th. The list of available cards is below and there will be a limited number available in the Scrip office while supplies last (the cards that are in bold type). Please plan ahead and order soon!

\$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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPALS DESK	1
BUS SAFETY	1
COLD WEATHER ATTIRE	1
SCRIP	1
WRAPPING SUPPLIES	2
ATHLETICS	2
MISSION POSSIBLE	2
JOY TO THE WORLD	2
HOLLY HANGING	2
GIVING TREE	2
X-STREAM GAMES	2
FEBRUARY FREEZE	2
8TH GR. INFO	2
STAY IN THE KNOW	2



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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

X-STREAM GAMES

X-STREAM Games Showcase and Competitions will take place at St. Joe's Collegiate on Sunday December 2nd. Please come and show your support! Our students have been working diligently in their STREAM Academies. This is a day to celebrate their creativity, collaboration and hard work.

MY LITTLE SWEETHEART DANCE

Don't forget... Photos from the My Little Sweetheart Dance are available for download until December 1st by visiting:
www.kellytanskiphotography.com



WRAPPING SUPPLIES

Our Merry Moose helpers are in need of wrapping supplies such as:

- Wrapping Paper
- Gift Bags
- Gift Tags
- Tissue Paper
- Tape

Our Holly Hanging committee is also in need of wrapping paper, ribbon & bows.

Donation boxes are located in the school office.

Thank you for your continued support!

FEBRUARY FREEZE

Basketball players and fans - Mark your calendars for the SME 2019 February Freeze Basketball Tournament!

Our SME JV and Varsity teams will compete against other Diocesan teams at our school from Thursday, February 14- Sunday, February 17.

If you are interested in being part of the February Freeze Tournament Committee, please email Julie Wolford at jmwolford7473@yahoo.com.

GIVE UNTO OTHERS...

Our Giving Tree will be up until 11/30.

We are collecting hats, gloves/mittens & scarves to be delivered to the Lancaster Youth Bureau and will serve the need in our community.

We will also be collecting new toys to be delivered to Children's Hospital via Peyton's Toy Drive.



HSA

Congratulations to Mrs. O'Grady's Pre-K 4 class for the most coffee & pies sold - a total of 100 items! They will be enjoying a pizza party for their efforts!



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.

Thank you for your continued generosity! We are currently in second place for **Buffalo City Mission's Mission Possible Food Challenge!** There are 3 weeks left in this challenge period. Please keep the cans coming! Your donations are helping to make a difference.



So far, SME has donated 1083 cans of food!
Our collection period ends on December 14th.

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 Fall Banquet is tonight! Team photo's will begin at 5:30pm with the banquet starting at 6:30pm.

Parents, please feel free to print out pictures of our athletes in action. We will be spreading them out on tables for all to see. Should be a great night!

HELP PORTRAIT

On Wednesday, November 28th we will be hosting a Dress Down Day supporting Help Portrait. Please see the flyer in today's blue folder for more information on this worthy cause. We appreciate your anticipated support.

BUDDY TIME!

Mrs. Morrella's 8th grade class enjoyed some Thanksgiving fun with their Kindergarten Buddies!



SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY



On Saturday, November 17th, Colin, Cameron, David, Chris and Griffin spent their Saturday morning giving back to The Teacher's Desk. The boys spent their morning as warehouse assistants, packing over 12,000 cups to be given to the teachers who shop there. The Teacher's Desk is a place that teachers who work in schools with a large number of students are economically disadvantaged can go to receive a shopping list of school supplies for free. The Teacher's Desk is supplied by donations and employed by volunteers only. What a wonderful experience the boys had giving back to their community!

8TH GRADE INFORMATION

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: 11/27 - Dress Down \$1, Supporting: Student Council

Save the Date: 11/28 - Dress Down \$1, Supporting: Help Portrait

Save the Date: 11/30 - MS Dance, 7-9:00 in the Gym

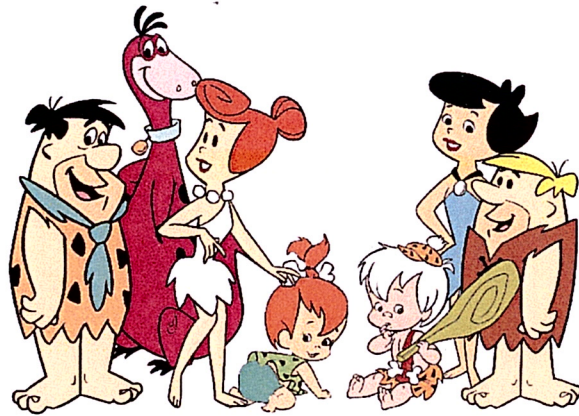
Save the Date: 12/3 - 1:00 Dismissal! Dress Down Day

Save the Date: 12/7 - Merry Moose Shoppe, 9:30 - 2:00

Family Fun Night Survey

We need your help!!!

HSA is looking to add a few fun nights. We have a couple ideas and want your opinions on which one you would attend. Please fill out the survey below and return asap by November 26, 2018!



_____ I would attend a Family Fun Night at Spinners Roller Skating on 1/19/19
[This event is not considered a fundraiser – Cost \$5 per Skater]

_____ I would attend a fundraiser at Sky Zone
[Cost is \$15 per person and must be held on a weeknight – Date TBD]

_____ I would attend a Family Game Night at our School
[Cost & Date TBD depending on Friday or Saturday building availability]

Other IDEAS???? Please Provide Below:



Greetings SME Families!

Thank you for your continued generosity! We are currently in second place for **Buffalo City Mission's Mission Possible Food Challenge!** There are 3 weeks left in this challenge period. Please keep the cans coming! Your donations are helping to make a difference. ***So far, SME has donated 1083 cans of food! Our collection period ends on December 14th.***

You can learn more about the Buffalo City Mission by visiting their website at www.buffalocitymission.org. They do a lot of good serving the poor and vulnerable in our city and are a wonderful example of what it truly means to be disciples of Christ.

God Bless all of you and thank you for sharing with those less fortunate than ourselves,
Mrs. Hoag

Data from The Buffalo City Mission Website:

POVERTY IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

- Over 45% of people in Buffalo and Erie County live below the poverty line.

HOMELESSNESS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE

- Each year, an estimated 5,500 individuals are homeless in Western New York.
- Over half are experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- What is today's face of the homeless? Homelessness does not discriminate. It impacts all races.
 - 52 % are Black or African-American
 - 37% are White
 - 5% Other
 - 4% are Multiple Races
 - 1% are American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - 1 % are Asian

THEY ARE EDUCATED

- Two out of three homeless individuals have a high school or greater education.
 - 37% have less than a High School education
 - 36% have either a High School or GED diploma
 - 18% have some College or Technical training
 - 9% have a Bachelor's, Certification or greater

REASON OF HOMELESSNESS

- Four out of five are due to issues that could happen to any of us.
 - 28% due to housing (fire/foreclosure/eviction)
 - 21% due to other reasons
 - 17% due to health (mental illness/disabilities)
 - 14% are from household disputes
 - 12% are economic related (loss of job / income)
 - 8% are domestic violence and other family issues

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Mt. 25:40



SME Comfort Tree

The collection period ends November 30th.

We are looking for your help to bring comfort to people in need.

Our donations for adults & children will be delivered to *the Lancaster Youth Bureau* and will serve the needs of

families in our community. Help us to decorate our comfort tree with the following items:

Warm Hats

Gloves/Mittens

Scarves

Additionally - We are collecting **new toys** to be delivered to Children's Hospital via *Peyton's Toy Drive*. These toys will bring love, comfort and cheer to children who are in the ICU at the hospital. (<http://peytonstoydrive.weebly.com>)

Thank you for your generosity, for participating in the works of mercy, and for being Christ to others. God Bless you!

KK

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

NOVEMBER, 2018

Dear families,

I have some important information that I would like to share with families that were unable to make the parents meeting on Thursday, 11/8/18. An overview of school finances now and going forward was provided. Some points that I think are important to share are:

1. Budgeted subsidy from St. Mary's Parish to SME for the 18-19 school year is \$300,000.
2. Approximate cost to educate a student at SME is \$6,487.00 per year
3. Diocese Recommends the following
 - 60% Tuition - \$3,600.00 per student
 - 25% Subsidy
 - 15% Fundraising/all other
4. Fundraising total ask - \$450 per family/year. The more that we can raise from fundraisers, the less fluctuation there will be in tuition costs.
5. Golf Tournament - Profits were \$13,350.00. 2018 profits were down from \$16,730 in 2017
6. Fall Fest - Profit of \$22,500
7. SCRIP profits have dropped off. This is convenient way to raise funds for the school while providing a service for those who purchase the cards. SCRIP purchases can be set up and made on your phone. Information as well help in doing this is available in the SCRIP office.

We have a great school of which we all should be proud. We have come a long way and we continue to grow and offer the students of SME a faith filled education that encourages students to strive at doing their best. Our graduates have gone on to the high schools of their choice and excelled. Many have become valedictorians of their classes. We consistently hear from the high schools that our graduates are well prepared and are successful in both the public and private high schools. Recent Business First rankings show our middle school to be ranked 22 out of 191 middle schools in the area. This is a great achievement and certainly something of which to be proud. By working together, we can continue to provide the quality education that our students deserve for many more years to come.

I truly appreciate all of the hard work to make our school and the many functions at it possible. Our volunteers feel as I do, that the success of our school is reliant on fundraisers to keep the cost of education down. We all have busy lives and taking the time out to be a part of the success of SME is a testament to the wonderful families here at SME.

I would like to ask the SME families to remember there are many aspects to running a school, and not all issues are black and white. Many events or programs have legal implications, or certain financial or tax requirements that SME must adhere to and cannot be altered. The actions the SME Administration takes are based on these constraints, with an eye towards what is in the best interests of our students, faculty, and SME families. With that said, I encourage you to please stop in the office if you have concerns to discuss them. I have stated since my first day at SME that I am always available for discussion. I have always had an open door policy and will continue to do so.

God's Peace and Love,

Mrs. Kwitowski

Join us at St. Mary's for a
Christmas Bash Dance

Hosted by Student Council



Grades 6, 7, 8 are invited!

Friday 11/30/18

7:00 - 9:00

- Tickets are \$5
- Pizza \$1
- Snacks & Beverages \$1
- Hot Cocoa Bar \$2

2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY

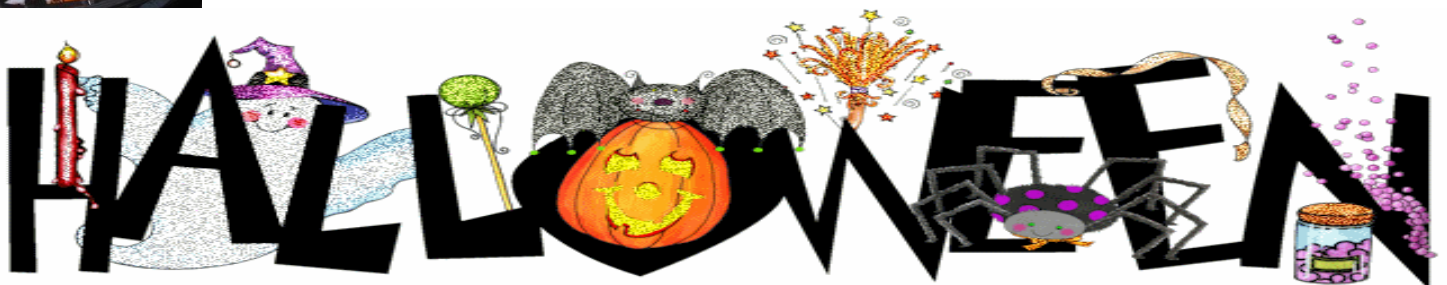
We'll have a blast with our favorite DJ... RJ!

Questions? Contact us at 683-2112 x221

JK



Thank you to everyone that joined us for our
Family Fun Night - Trunk or Treat!
We hope you had a Ghoulishly Good Time!



Dollar Dress Down to Support

Help Portrait

Each year, we do our best to provide for the needs of those who cannot afford to provide for themselves. Often, that means attending to their physical needs—donating food and clothes to soup kitchens or shelters. However wonderful these donations are, we frequently forget to attend to the spiritual needs of those same people. Help Portrait is a non-profit designed to do just that.

What is Help Portrait? What Do They Do?

On December 8th, volunteers from the Buffalo area with varying talents will be serving their community by providing a free opportunity to have professional photos taken just in time for the holidays. People, often families, coming from places like Make a Wish, Roswell Park, and Jericho Road will walk through the doors of Oshei Children's Hospital and into an experience of a lifetime. They will immediately be met by greeters who will walk with them on their journeys, listening to their stories throughout the day. Those greeters will then take them to have their hair and makeup done by professionals if they so choose. When they move on, the family will arrive at a photographer's studio where they are posed and photographed at their very best. While waiting for their pictures to be printed, participants have the chance to pick out a frame and children partake in fun winter crafts.

Why is this Mission Important?

Having a portrait taken does not seem like much to those of us with easy access to a camera or a phone. However, to the people who attend Help Portrait Buffalo, having a photo taken and framed is a precious and rare experience. The smiles on the faces of adults and children alike as they get to see their pictures, some for the first time, are incredible to see. That is what this event is all about—providing some love and happiness this holiday season.

How are we helping?

In order to make this event free to those they serve, the volunteers at Help Portrait run solely on donations from generous people like you! These donations go toward ink, paper, frames, craft supplies, and so much more to make the event truly special. For this reason, we will be hosting a dollar dress down day on November 28th so that we, too can help to spread cheer this holiday season. Please consider donating to this incredible cause and enjoy a dress down day!

