



“An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of our Catholic Schools.”
~Pope Francis

October 2019 Newsletter

What is the Foundation for Inclusive Catholic Education?

The Foundation for Inclusive Catholic Education supports the families, educators and schools with the advocacy, knowledge and resources necessary to help students with special needs experience the spiritual and academic richness of a Catholic education in an inclusive environment. FICE is the “go to” agency where all are welcome, families, principals, teachers for advocacy and training, in a Catholic setting.

FICE Receives Blue Cross Blue Shield Donation



Laura Shannon is a supervisor at Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY. Recognizing Laura's enthusiastic spirit for helping others, BCBS named Laura their volunteer of the year! BCBS makes a \$250 donation to the charity of the volunteer of the year recipient's choice! Laura requested the donation go to the Foundation of Inclusive Catholic Education in honor of her daughter Riley's dear friend, Maria Schultz. Maria who has Down Syndrome, has attended Our Lady of Victory since kindergarten, and is now in 5th grade with Riley. According to Laura, “Riley's friendship with Maria has made a positive impact on her daughter as well as the OLV school community”.

Please join us for our Sixth Annual Taking Flight dinner to benefit FICE! The Taking Flight dinner will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the Millennium Hotel. There will be a sit-down dinner, raffles, and awards to those who serve our children through fostering inclusion every day. Please stay tuned for more details to come. At this time, committees are being formed to assist with the planning of this wonderful event! Please contact Lynda Carver at carverlynda@gmail.com, if you would like to join the committee.

Launching our new website
www.ficebuffalo.org

Many thanks to Jerry McGarrity who spent the summer giving our website a new look and a new name – ficebuffalo.org

Dr. Kathleen Magiera, FICE board member and secretary graciously volunteered her husband, Jerry to assist with much needed update. Jerry graciously accepted the challenge and we are forever grateful. Look for more information throughout the year.

Like us on Facebook and check out the Tuesday tips for inclusion provided by Kathryn Schultz. Please contact us at ficeprogram@yahoo.com for suggestions or questions.



FICE Sponsors Inclusion Trainings

Erie 1 BOCES is teaming up with FICE to provide onsite inclusive education training to seven diocesan schools! Under the leadership of Dr. LaFever and his staff inclusion programs are growing. This year each school will receive two full days of an inclusion specialist that will work with the teachers to develop teaching strategies that meet the needs of their unique classroom setting. The schools receiving this opportunity are: St. Amelia's, St. Mary of Swormville, Our Lady of Victory, St. John Vianney, Saints Peter and Paul of Hamburg, St. Gregory the Great and Immaculate Conception.

FICE board member Mary Jo Pfeiffer will be training new teachers on differentiated instruction on 10.23.19. Mary Jo has over 35 years of experience in special education. .

Special Education Attorney to present to Parents



Patrick McNelis, an attorney who works in Special Education Law, will meet with interested parents on:

Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm at:

McPartlan's Corner

669 Wehrle Dr. Cheektowaga 14225

Patrick will explain NY education law and how to maximize resources and services for your child attending public or non-public school. Dinner will be served to attendees.

RSVP by 11/8/19 to 536-3887.

Co-Sponsored by Parent Network and FICE



Check out the calendar of events for families with children with special needs at www.parentnetworkwny.org. Parent Network offers many resources for families from understanding IEPs to Holiday Baking with Dietary Restrictions.

Coming 12/5/19 is the 3rd annual Family Engagement Conference at Michaels Catering in Hamburg. This is an all-day conference with a nationally recognized speaker, Laura Porter co-founder of ACE Interface LLC. Early bird registration ends 11/21/19.

Celebrate Inclusive Schools Week

Kick off Advent by celebrating Inclusive School Week is Dec. 2 – 6 2019

This year, the Inclusive Schools Week's theme is "[Charting the Course for Inclusive Schools](#)." Inclusive Schools Week celebrates the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, mental health issues, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The Week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children. Check out Inclusiveschools.org for more ideas and free materials to celebrate Inclusive schools. The ideas and activities for promoting inclusion are a great way to kick off Advent!



National Red Ribbon Week

The effort to keep kids away from drugs and bully free goes on every day, but the Fall is an especially important time of the year. From October 23-31st, 2019 SME will participate in “National Red Ribbon Week”. This will be observed in schools and communities across the country. During this week people all over the country will wear red ribbons and clothing; decorate schools in red and hold assemblies to show their commitment to living free of drugs and to be bully free.



St Mary's Elementary school will be participating in the campaign to keep students Drug/Alcohol and Bully Free. Please see the information below for our week of commitment to being Drug/ Alcohol and Bully Free. *If you choose not to participate in Red Ribbon Week, then you must wear your school uniform.*

Thursday, October 24th Students and staff show your support and dress up in whatever “RED” you have today to show you are drug free. You may wear jeans (tear and rip free) NO sweatpants or leggings/yoga's. Each student will either color or sign a pledge to promise to be Drug & Alcohol Free.
keep in mind today is Picture Re-Take day

Friday, October 25th “Our School is Drug Free” Students and staff may dress up in SME's Spirit clothes, i.e. gym t-shirt, SME sports t-shirt, school hoodie or SME sweatshirt. No jeans allowed today; *students must wear uniform bottoms.*

Monday, October 28th “Show you have the Power to say NO to Drugs” and “Sock it to drugs” Students and staff may wear a Superhero T-shirt and /or Crazy Socks. You may wear jeans (tear and rip free). NO sweatpants or leggings/yoga style.

Tuesday, October 29th “Be on a Drug Free Team” Students may wear their favorite TEAM t-shirt/jersey/hoodie. You may wear jeans (tear and rip free). NO sweatpants or leggings/yoga style.

Wednesday, October 30th “Too Bright for Drugs” Students and staff may wear NEON clothing today. Students may wear jeans (no rips or tears). NO sweatpants or leggings/yoga style.

Thursday, October 31st “Say Boo to Drugs” Students may wear their school appropriate Halloween Costumes with no masks or weapons.

Vendor / Craft Fair

\$2.00 Admission includes grab bag!

Festive fun for the whole family!



Saturday, November 9

1:00 - 6:00 pm

St. Mary's Elementary School, 2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster

Spaghetti Dinner

Provided by Rosina Foods

Includes: Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad,

Costanzo's Roll w. Butter & Beverage

\$8 Presale / \$10 at the Door

(until sold out)



Dinner ticket includes Craft/Vendor Fair Admission

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7 OCTOBER 23, 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week. During this week we participate in different activities to remind students of the dangers of drugs, alcohol and bullying. You will be receiving a sheet that details the events of the week.

This past Friday was our Little Sweetheart Dance. It was fantastic to see all of the dressed up young ladies and their "dates" for the evening. I am looking forward to the mother/son bingo in March!

Don't forget, this Saturday night is our Family Fun Night!!

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - 31st. SME along with schools across the country will participate in the campaign to be drug & bully free, this week & always! Each day we will have a different theme:

Thurs. 10/24 - Wear RED to show you are drug free! Jeans are ok, please no sweatpants/joggers/yoga style pants.

Fri. 10/25 - Wear SME Spirit attire TOPS with your UNIFORM bottoms as we will be attending church.

Mon. 10/28 - Wear a Superhero T-Shirt &/or Crazy Socks to 'sock it to drugs' & 'show you have the power to say NO to drugs'! Jeans are ok, no sweatpants/joggers/yoga bottoms.

Tues. 10/29 - Wear your favorite team apparel to 'be on a drug free team'. Jeans are ok, no sweatpants/joggers/yoga bottoms.

Wed. 10/30 - Wear NEON clothing because you're 'too bright for drugs'. Jeans are ok, no sweatpants/joggers/yoga bottoms.

Thurs. 10/31 - Wear your school appropriate Halloween Costume to 'say BOO to drugs'!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **10/23** - Progress Report Upload
- **10/24** - School Picture Re-Take Day
- **10/26** - Family Fun Night 6-8 pm
- **11/1** - All Saints Day Mass, 8:30
- **11/1** - Marathon Pledge Money Extended due date
- **11/4** - **1:00 Dismissal**, Dress Down Day
- **11/7** - Red White & Blue Dress Down, \$1
- **11/8** - **10:45 Dismissal**, Parent/Teacher Conferences 12-6pm **NO FAST CLUB**
- **11/11** - **No School**, Veterans Day
- **11/14** - 5th Gr. Grandparents Mass
- **11/15** - NJHS Induction Mass, 8:30

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From *October 8, 2019* to *October 21, 2019*, the Scrip rebate profit earned for the school was **\$275.48**. We are still **\$1,224.52** away from our goal this month!

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
October Profit-to-Date	Year Profit-to-Date
\$563.09	\$1,376.66

CANDY BAR SALE:

Be the rock star in the neighborhood & help SME too by giving out big bars for Halloween!

Don't forget... You can earn a bonus dress down ticket for every two boxes of chocolate which are ordered & pre-paid through the end of the month! Tickets will be distributed in November.

There will be an exciting new addition to the Gertrude Hawk family with our next order, stay tuned!!

Our candy bar sale is moving right along! Suggest thinking outside the box when gifting a featherlight gift card and weigh down that gift bag/box with something tasty!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Please join us this Saturday for our annual Family Fun Night & Trunk-or-Treat sponsored by our HSA team! There will also be a haunted carnival provided by our middle school students! The fun runs from 6-8 pm in the PC.

RSVPs are preferred to ensure there are enough treats for all. If you are in need of another invitation please contact Amanda Kuhn or email the HSA team directly at hsa@smeschool.com.



The success of our Trunk-or-Treat depends on you! Please contact the HSA team to let them know if you will be participating.

We can't wait to see you there!



PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

Inter-State Studio will be here on Thursday, October 24th for any student needing a retake of their school photo.

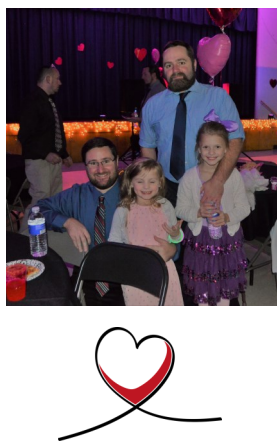
If you need an order form, please contact Amanda Kuhn and one will be sent home to you.

Any student who was absent on our first picture day will have their photo taken on this day as these photos will be used in our yearbook.

Please note that we will have a fun dress down for Red Ribbon Week on this day. Your child may change into the planned attire of the day following their picture if they choose to.



MY LITTLE SWEETHEART DANCE



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UPON THIS HILL,
WE DO GOD'S WILL



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



SCRIP

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. Each week we will update what we have sold towards the monthly goal of \$30,000 in Scrip sales. There is a locked box outside the Athletics office so that you can drop off orders whenever it is convenient for you! There is also one in the back of the church.

We thank you for your support in making the Scrip program a success for 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.

Due to popular demand, we will offering 2 Parish Gift Cards Sales again this year: Sunday, November 17th & Sunday, December 8th. Both events will be held in the Rectory from 8:00 - 2:00 each day. Coffee and Timbits will be available. A flyer will be going home as we get closer to the sales.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)

CRAFT / VENDOR FAIR:

On Saturday, November 9th, our HSA Team will be hosting a Vendor Craft Fair & Spaghetti Dinner from 1-6:00pm.

Vendor Fair admission is \$2

Spaghetti Dinner Tickets are \$8 Presale / \$10 at the Door and will be available until sold out. Dinner tickets include admission to the craft/vendor fair.

Tickets are now available in the school office!

If you or someone you know is a crafter/vendor and would like an application, please contact our team at hsa@smeschool.com or Amanda Kuhn at secretary@smeschool.com.

The HSA team could use some extra hands to assist with the spaghetti dinner. If you are available to help, please contact the team at hsa@smeschool.com.

We thank you in advance for your assistance!



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MARATHON

We are extending the due date of any marathon pledge money until Friday, November 1st. Thank you to those who have already turned in your pledges. All pledge money received is utilized to continuously upgrade/update the technology here at SME.

HELP WANTED

The volunteer sign-up form will be live all year & will list all events where help is needed. Remember, many hands make light work, and so the more people that can help out, the more efficiently the events will run!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BA5A728ABFA7-stmarys>

ATHLETICS

The Cross Country team concluded their season at the league championship meet on Monday, 10/21. During the championship meet, 5 of the 7 team members ran personal best times over the 1.5 mile course at Caz Park. A special congratulations goes out to Chris G. for coming in 8th place overall in the meet, earning 2nd team All Catholic and to Evan S. for coming in 3rd place overall, earning 1st team All Catholic.

Team members this season included Evan S., Liam D., Christopher B., Christopher G., Ethan T., Maddison K. and Mia O. Congratulations to everyone on a great season!



SHOPAROO

We have begun a new fundraising option that needs no extra time commitment from you!

All you need to do is download the Shoparoo App and snap a pic of your cash register receipt from a variety of stores. The Shoparoo app is available in the apple store & google play.



For all the details visit shoparoo.com.

If at any time you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

8TH GRADE INFO

High School Shadowing:

All coordinating of shadow dates at any of the local high schools will occur directly with the school(s) of your choice. Please take into consideration any tests that may have been scheduled with any of your child's teachers. Any missed homework will be the responsibility of the student to collect and complete upon return to SME. A note/email can be sent in ahead of time to advise of the absence.

Catholic High School Application:

As you register your child for a catholic high school, the final step is sending in a signed copy of the application confirmation email. Your signature allows us to forward a copy of your child's first semesters grades to their first & second choice schools.

DRESS CODE

A friendly reminder that effective 11/1 the winter weather uniform policy goes into effect.

Shorts will no longer be permitted until the warm weather returns in May.

The only acceptable cool weather tops to be worn during school hours are:

- ◆ SME spirit hoodies
- ◆ SME gym uniform sweatshirts
- ◆ Solid navy/red/white cardigan sweater
- ◆ Navy blue fleece from a school approved vendor (Lands End / McKay's)

If at any time you have any questions as to the uniform policy, please contact Mrs. Kwitowski.

CAFETERIA



Our students will continue to go outside for lunch recess until the weather becomes too cool. Please be sure that your child is coming to school in weather appropriate attire to be able to participate.

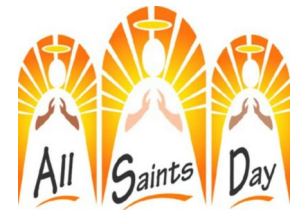
MUSEUM OF SAINTS

You are invited to our Living History Wax Museum of Saints!

In honor of All Saints Day, 7th & 8th grade students have researched saints and will showcase their work in this Living History Museum.

We hope you will join us!

When: Friday, Nov. 1, 2019
Time: 10:00 am - 11:15 am
Where: SME Gymnasium



STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: Friday, 11/1 All Saints Day Mass

Save the Date: Monday, 11/4 1:00 Dismissal, Dress Down Day

Save the Date: Thursday, 11/7 \$1 Dress Down: Red, White & Blue Day

Save the Date: Friday, 11/22 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am

Save the Date: Wed. 11/27 - Fri. 11/29, Thanksgiving Recess