

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 16 JANUARY 20, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

This Friday we will be inducting the newest members of our National Junior Honor Society. We are extremely proud of all our inductees! Congratulations.

There have been a lot of changes to learning this school year. I am proud of all our students and teachers in adjusting to the changes. Many things may be different but the one thing that remains the same is the commitment that SME has to the strong education of our students and the commitment to our "family".

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski

Postponed:
Cap & Gown photos (PK & Gr 8)
Distinguished Graduate Mass

OPEN HOUSE

We are hosting a Virtual Open House on Thursday, February 4th @ 6:00pm!

Share the following link with your friends, neighbors, coworkers to register for a spot:

<http://open-house.smeschool.com/OpenHouse.html?SessionGuid=40c07682-cdd4-4000-af7c-65d9a370ac3b>

Shout it loud & proud... SME is *the* place to be!

*Core Catholic Values
Uncompromised Education*



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/22 - NJHS Induction Mass, 8:30. Bills Dress Down Day!
- 1/28 - Spring Candy Sale Orders Due
- 1/29 - Spring Candy Sale Payments Due
- 1/31-2/6 - Catholic Schools Week
- 2/3 - Progress Report Upload
- 2/4 - Virtual Open House, 6:00pm
- 2/10 - Spring Photo Day: Pre-K3 - Gr. 8
- 2/12 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30, **1:00 Early Dismissal**, Staff PD Day
- 2/15 - 2/19 - **NO SCHOOL**, Winter Recess
- 3/5 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 3/12 - **No School**, Staff PD Day
- 3/24 - Report Card Upload, K-8

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, the Scrip rebate profit earned towards tuition was \$4,777.34.

Collectively, St. Mary's goal is to sell \$30,000 in Scrip each month with a rebate goal of \$1,500.

December Sales Total	Annual Rebate (3/16/20-3/15/21)
\$86,493.00	Profit to Date \$13,455.96

For the month of December we surpassed our goal by \$56,493.00.

The sales & rebate totals will now be monthly & reported in the first NN of each month.

Contact the Scrip office at scrip@smeschool.com to find out how you can support his fundamental program!

CANDY BAR SALE:

Expenses: (\$5577.99)
Deposits: \$6329.00
Profit/(Loss): \$751.01

candybarsale@smeschool.com.
All flavors are \$1/bar, \$48/box.

Electronic Order form:

<https://forms.gle/qJyoyPaA4uhqpgdba>

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are off to a great start with 80 tickets sold to date. We have sold out all 5 previous years, so be sure to get your tickets before it's too late!

The first early bird drawing is Monday, March 1st.

Be sure to get your orders in for a chance to win \$250!!



There is a QR code on the flyer to place your order online.

Feel free to share it with family and friends who may like to get in on the raffle as well.

With so many business struggling this year, will are asking that our families donate what they can for the basket raffle for this year's event. A flyer will be coming home soon with suggestions from each grade level, and we thank you in advance for contributing what you can! If you are interested in helping out with assembling the baskets, please reach out to Mary Kate DeMarzio at the email below. We have also set up a gift registry on Amazon.com under the name Mega Raffle 2021. All items purchased will be shipped directly to the school. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fund raiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, 15 of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!! Please feel free to get creative with Social Media (posting this great opportunity to Facebook feeds, etc) as well as encourage multiple people to chip in on one ticket! 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.

The prize winners will be announced at the live drawing on Friday, June 11th in the Parish Center. Flyers are available upon request and on the school website if you would like to bring them to your place of business to sell - people love a raffle!

We need volunteers to work the night of the event, as well as set up the evening before.

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Mary Kate DeMarzio at me garaffle@smeschool.com.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

When: Monday, July 26th

Where: Lancaster Country Club – NEW VENUE!

Information will be coming home soon re: the pre-tournament raffle tickets and signing up for the tournament.

Keep an eye on the NewsNotes for more information.



HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The HSA team will host a variety of fundraisers throughout the school year. Each fundraiser benefits the school and students directly.

Current/Upcoming Fundraisers:

- ◇ Candy Bar Sale featuring Gertrude Hawk Chocolate
- ◇ Spring Sale begins today featuring Niagara Chocolates. Sale ends January 28th. All orders **must** be placed online. Hard copies of the catalog are available upon request.

Thank you for your continued support!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPAL'S DESK	1
OPEN HOUSE	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
MEGA RAFFLE	1
HSA	1
GOLF	1
SCRIP	2
BISON FUND	2
HELP WANTED	2
FORMS & FLYERS	2
SME SUCCESS	2
CANDY BAR SALE	2
DRESS DOWN	2
8TH GRADE INFO	2
STAY IN THE KNOW	2



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UPON THIS HILL,
WE DO GOD'S WILL



SCRIP CORNER

Scrip sales will continue in the Rectory Monday - Friday from 8:00-3:00.

Orders can be sent to school, placed online, dropped off at the Rectory any weekday, or left in the locked box in the vestibule of the church.



Don't forget - SCRIP is there for all your day to day needs not just for gift giving!



Feel free to reach out with any questions: scrip@smeschool.com

We thank you for your continued support in making the Scrip program a success for our school, our Parish and for our children!

**Please remember to send in your brown Scrip envelope with your order. If you order online, please send your envelope in for us to return your order to you. Thank you!*

BISON FUND



Committed to our mission of making quality education accessible to all, the Bison Fund is pleased to announce that the BISON Fund Board of Directors voted to increase the K-8 maximum award from \$2,100 to \$2,500 beginning in the 2021-22 school year.

As we welcome 2021, Bison Fund is currently accepting K-8 pre-applications for funding for the 2021-22 school year. Families should apply online through our website at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. The pre-application is only for **new** families who are not currently receiving Bison Fund scholarship awards. The pre-application deadline is February 28th. Bison Fund will hold a lottery drawing to award the scholarships on March 1st. Lottery winners will receive an email directing them to complete a full application to receive a scholarship. Waitlisted families will also be notified by email.

Current families do not need to fill out a pre-application, they will be emailed a link to complete the requalification process on February 22nd.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869 ext. 1 or cmcdonald@bisonfund.com.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

Should a closing occur due to the weather it will be announced on all local tv news stations.

We are a part of the Lancaster Central School District. As such, when they close for the day, we close. HOWEVER should Lancaster decide to cancel afterschool/evening activities this does not automatically include our school.

Please keep watch for an update from us. We will always submit our closing/ cancelling independently. Please make sure you are paying attention to the high school vs. elementary school in that scroll/list. Safety of our students, and families, is always at the forefront of our decision making. When bad weather hits, our eyes stay on the forecast and we make a plan. Our goal is to notify you as soon as we are able to with any changes or concerns.

Text messages will come from the following number: 76127

HELP WANTED

Thank you to the families that have reached out to volunteer for upcoming events! As you know, our success depends on you!

Active involvement of all our families is necessary to keep school expenses to a minimum, encourage community involvement, and assure continued success of our school.

We hope to promote the true spirit of participation and volunteerism by inviting you to get involved in one or more of our 3 main fundraisers:

- Mega Raffle (June 2021)
- Golf Tournament (July 2021)
- Fall Fest (Autumn 2021)



In addition to chairs for events, we are looking for committee members who would be interested in assisting the chairs as they plan. If you would like to join the committee for any of the events listed above, please reach out to our Events Coordinator, Mary Kate DeMarzio at marykate@stmarysonthehill.org or (716) 683-6445, ext. 12.

Do you have a knack for advertising? Then we need you!

If you have any background or interest in helping in marketing/advertising our major events, please email kierejewskis@smeschool.com. Planning for Mega Raffle will soon be underway!

Your involvement is vital to the success of these events!

CANDY BAR SALE

Orders can be placed at any time via the google form:

<https://forms.gle/qJyoyPaA4uhqpgdbA>

Please feel free to contact the candy bar team at:

candybarsale@smeschool.com if you...

- Have any questions
- Need the order link emailed
- Would like a hard copy

* We are asking each family to sell (2) boxes of chocolate.*

Boxes contain 48 bars and cost just \$1 per bar. Factory mixed boxes as well as the ever popular 'build your own' option are available.

Payment is due within 30 days of distribution by cash, check, charge (of 2 boxes or more) or Venmo by request.

Your candy bar team,
Cheryl Barber & Amanda Kuhn

OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

As per the tuition schedule that was included in your registration paperwork:

Family Service Hour & Fundraising Participation Responsibility is expected of each family. Regardless of parish affiliation and tuition rate, active involvement of all 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 participation and volunteerism which is not compensated.

Family Service Hour & Fundraising Participation Responsibility is expected of each family. Responsibilities include 20 Service Hours per family and purchase and/or sell 3 Fall Fest tickets @ \$50 ea, 2 Mega Raffle tickets @ \$100 ea, 10 Golf Super Raffle tickets @ \$5 ea, and 1 box of chocolate @ \$48

We have had to adjust our fundraising plans with the current COVID restrictions and so we were unable to hold our Fall Fest this year. To offset the difference, we are asking each family to sell 1 additional Mega Raffle ticket (total of 3) and 1 additional box of chocolate (total of 2).

FLYERS & FORMS

Although we are going green as much as possible; hard copies of any flyer or form are always available and can be sent home with your child.

Please email Mrs. Kuhn (secretary@smeschool.com) at any time if you need a hard copy.



Can't stop - Won't stop!

We've got to keep the good luck going because we Bill-eve!

There will not be a charge for this dress down day.

Go Bills!!

8TH GRADE INFO

Did you know??

Our 8th graders collect cans & bottles at the following Cash for Cans locations:

480 Aurora Street
2500 George Urban Blvd

There is no need to wait while they count, simply label your bag with 'St. Mary's Elementary School', drop it off and they'll count and add the cans to our account.

Funds collected are used to cover costs incurred with graduation etc...

* Grade 8 Cap & Gown photos have been postponed until May *

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: 1/28 Spring Candy Sale Orders Due

Save the Date: 1/31-2/6 - Catholic Schools Week

Save the Date: 2/3 - Progress Report Upload

Save the Date: 2/4 - Virtual Open House

Save the Date: 2/10 - Spring Photo Day (all students)