

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 14, 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

I hope that everybody enjoyed the long weekend.

Thank you for all the orders in support of the Little Caesar's fundraiser. We are trying to be creative with our fundraising ideas for this year. Please remember that you do not have to participate in all the fundraisers. Partake in the ones that work for your family. We just ask that you support the fundraisers as they are vital to our school.

I came across this "advice" that I would like to share. It is called "Advice from a Pumpkin"



Be well rounded
Get plenty of sunshine
Give thanks for life's bounty
Have a thick skin
Keep growing
Be outstanding in your field
Think Big!

-Ilan Shamir

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski

NURSE NOTES

As a reminder all students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, and 7 and any new student, regardless of grade, must have an updated physical on file in the health office. If you have not done so yet, please send in your child's health appraisal form as soon as possible.

It is also mandated by NYS that all students be up to date on immunizations.

As we prepare for flu season it is important to get your yearly flu shot. Please call your healthcare provider to make your appointment.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding with our many new health office protocols.

Mrs. Parker RN, BSN
parkerk@smeschool.com
683-2112 x128



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 10/28 - Progress Report Upload, K-8
- 11/6 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- 11/10 - 10:45 Dismissal
- 11/11 - No School, Veterans Day
- 11/25-27 - No School, Thanksgiving Recess
- 11/30 - 1:00 Early Dismissal, Staff PD
- 12/4 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am, **NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE TODAY**

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

September 29, 2020 to October 5, 2020, the Scrip rebate profit earned towards tuition was \$229.93.

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

Monthly Scrip Sales Goal	Monthly Scrip Profit Goal
\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00
October Sales Total	Year Profit-To-Date
\$3,780.00	\$3,691.12

From Sept 29 - Oct. 5 we sold \$4,625.00 in Scrip, a great start to the month!

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

CANDY BAR SALE:

Online orders are preferred but hard copies of the form are available at any time.

Questions can be sent at any time to candybarsale@smeschool.com.

All flavors are \$1/bar, \$48/box.

Electronic Order form:

<https://forms.gle/eq1au7amGqRBrbLj6>

CANDY BAR SALE

We are excited to say that another order to the factory has been made! Thank you to those who have already requested &/or sold a box or two or three!

Orders can be placed at any time via the google form: <https://forms.gle/eq1au7amGqRBrbLj6>

Please email candybarsale@smeschool.com if you need the link emailed to you.

A hard copy of the order form is available on the NewsNote tab of the school website or you can email: candybarsale@smeschool.com.

This has historically been HSA's largest fundraiser for the school and the duration of the sale will depend on the demand.

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 will be due within 30 days of distribution by cash, check, charge (of 2 boxes or more) or Venmo by request. Thank you for your anticipated support of this delicious fundraiser!

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The Home School Association is a vital group of volunteers who work to ensure the positive growth of our school community. The HSA team will host a variety of fundraisers throughout the school year. Each fundraiser benefits the school and students directly.

Thank you to those that pre-ordered from our New SME Gear Store! Items should be arriving in about a week! Pre-ordered items will be filled and distributed as soon as the shipment arrives!

Current/Upcoming Fundraisers:	Thank You!
◇ Candy Bar Sale featuring Gertrude Hawk Chocolate	With your support we were able to raise \$1266 from the Little Caesars Fundraiser!
◇ Panera Bread Fundraiser: December 17th	Delivery of the items will be the week of 10/26, please watch next week's NewsNote for the exact date & times for pick up.
	With your support we are currently looking at a \$650 profit from our Fall Book Sale.



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NURSE NOTES - REPRINT

To help with the planning of upcoming birthday and holiday celebrations in school please be aware of the new procedures that need to be put in place due to ongoing health concerns and decreasing the spread of germs. We understand the importance of celebrating birthdays and holidays in school and we would like to do it as safely as possible and need your cooperation and understanding to keep the students and staff safe.

~All food must be peanut and tree nut free

~No unwrapped bulk, unlabeled or home baked items will be allowed

~Touching of other classmates food will not be allowed. Teachers will clean the outside of the box and then distribute the snacks to their students while wearing gloves. Please bring in snacks/treats that are individually wrapped from a factory sealed box. For example: fruit snacks in boxes, bags of chips inside a bag/box, or packaged crackers inside a box. Below are a few examples.

As always, please call with any questions or concerns. Thank you and we look forward to celebrating with your child in school!

Mrs. Parker RN, BSN (parkerk@smeschool.com, 683-2112 x128)



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UPON THIS HILL,
WE DO GOD'S WILL



LIBRARY NEWS

Good news!

Even though our students can't have regular library classes this year, they can still take advantage of all the great books in the library! Beginning in the next couple of weeks, students in grades 2-8 will be allowed to check out one book (class books for projects, ELA, reading groups, etc. not included) for a period of 2 weeks. To make this a safe process for all, a book request system will be in place. Request forms will be available in each classroom. Any student who would like to check out a book can fill out a request form and hand it in to the classroom teacher, who will get the request to me. I will fill requests when I am in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so depending on when a request is submitted, it could take a few days for it to be filled. As books are returned, they will be quarantined until they are safe to return to circulation. If you do not want your child(ren) to check out books from the SME school library or if you have any questions, please email me at kasinski@smeschool.com. Happy reading!

~ Mrs. Kasinski

SCRIP CORNER

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. 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. There is a locked box outside the school office, as well as in the back of the church, so that you can drop off orders whenever it is convenient for you!

Check out the flier in last week's electronic NewsNotes re: Bonus Fest: 4 Weekends of 2-day bonuses! You will need an online account with Great Lakes to take advantage of the deals.

All Scrip sales are in the Rectory on Mondays, Wednesdays-Fridays from 8:00-3:00. As stated in the information packet, if you send your order into school with your child, your order will be sent home as soon as it has been filled. Feel free to reach out with any questions: scrip@smeschool.com

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.

If you have any questions, please email scrip@smeschool.com

Your Scrip Team: MaryKate DeMarzio & Jessica Kulpit

SET

The SET opt in/out form is coming home one last time to ensure everyone has a chance to be included in this valuable directory! Forms need to be returned by Wednesday 10/28 so that we can get it compiled and distribute it as soon as possible!

Your SET team is always available for you! Visit the School Effectiveness Team tab on our website (under School Life) to learn more about this group.

SET forms are available to be sent home with your child, emailed to you or on our website.



SME GEAR

Let's all show our pride in SME by wearing our gear!

Hoodies and ¼ zips (with SME uniform shirt underneath) and masks can be worn in school.

Thank you to those that pre-ordered from our SME Gear store! Items should be arriving within the week and orders will be filled & distributed ASAP! Although we will have a limited supply on hand, we will be having an online store that is open 24/7!

Watch the NewsNotes for updates re: the opening of the web store, from which you can order your SME Gear anytime, from the comfort and ease of your own home.

Don't forget that Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and more will want to show their pride as well!



RED RIBBON WEEK

We pledge to be Drug Free!

Please see the Red Ribbon Week flyer coming home today with our themed attire days for the week of 10/26.

Remember, if your child chooses not to participate on any given day they are to be dressed in uniform.

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.

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 are revamping what would have been our Fall Fest and Mega Raffle into one big raffle. Stay tuned for more information!

Did you score a Buffalo Sabres 50th Anniversary Yearbook before school shut down in March? It is not too late!

There are a limited amount still available in the school office.

The cost is just \$10.00/book.

Please submit your payment in an envelope
Attn: Sabres Yearbook
and your copy will be sent home the same day!



EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN - SAFETY LESSON

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, the Diocese of Buffalo & St. Mary's Elementary School is partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your youth. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves.

Date(s) of in-program training:

10/26 - 10/30 during Religion classes. For questions, or to obtain access to the specific lesson and related activities, please communicate with: Mrs. Hoag, Campus Minister (hoagb@smeschool.com). Please see the letter coming home today for more information.

8TH GRADE INFO

If your child is planning on attending a Catholic High School, please don't forget to submit the signed record release form as indicated in your application confirmation email.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam will be held on 11/21. Your child should take the exam at their first choice HS.

If your child is planning to shadow at any of the local catholic high schools please be sure to notify the school office & middle school teachers. Shadow days should be planned around any tests/quizzes that may be assigned by the middle school team.



HANDBOOK

If you have not yet signed & returned the last page of the Parent/Student handbook please do so ASAP. Forms were due on 9/25.

If you are in need of another handbook, an electronic version can be emailed to you. Just the last page needs to be signed & returned.

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: 10/21 Fall Picture Re-Take Day

Save the Date: 10/26 Red Ribbon Week Begins

Save the Date: 10/28 Progress Report Upload

Save the Date: 11/10 10:45 Early Dismissal

Save the Date: 11/11 No School, Veterans Day



St. Mary's Elementary Red Ribbon Week

October 26th-30th 2020



BE HAPPY. BE BRAVE. BE DRUG FREE!

Monday, Oct. 26th

Proud to be DRUG Free!

To kick off Red Ribbon Week, wear as much **RED** as you can! (no hair dye)

Jeans are allowed (free of rips/tears, NO jeggings/skinny jeans, leggings, yoga's or jogger pants).

Tuesday, Oct. 27th

Let's Team Up Against Drugs?

Wear your favorite Sports Jersey or Team Gear!

Jeans are allowed (free of rips/tears, NO jeggings/skinny jeans, leggings, yoga's or jogger pants).



KK



Wednesday, Oct. 28th



I am too **BRIGHT** for Drugs!

Please wear a neon shirt/sweatshirt and you may wear sunglasses too!

Jeans are allowed (free of rips/tears, NO jeggings/skinny jeans, leggings, yoga's or jogger pants).



Thursday, Oct. 29th

"Drugs Can't Find Me"

Today you may wear a camouflage shirt/sweatshirt.

Jeans are allowed (free of rips/tears, NO jeggings/skinny jeans, leggings, yoga's or jogger pants).



Friday, Oct. 30th



Drugs are Scary, so let's **SCARE** off Drugs!!

Today please wear a Halloween T-shirt/sweatshirt, Halloween socks and or Hat (no face masks).

Jeans are allowed (free of rips/tears, NO jeggings/skinny jeans, leggings, yoga's or jogger pants).



Just a reminder, if you do not want to participate in the "special dress up" days that are assigned for Red Ribbon Week, you will need to wear your school uniform.

October 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, the Diocese of Buffalo & St. Mary's Elementary School is partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your youth. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves.

This school year, your child will be presented with a program entitled *Empowering God's Children*, in which teachers present a safety lesson to children that houses a grade-appropriate video component along with a hands-on activity. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them. Youth will participate in the following lesson:

Lesson 1: *Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules*

As the primary educators of your children, parents and guardians are encouraged to review these materials ahead of time and discuss the information at home. If you have ever thought about how to empower children to protect themselves, fortify their boundaries or increase their safety through in-person and online situations, then reviewing the lessons on your own to both begin *and* reiterate the message at home is the best next step to take. Thank you for your partnership with us to protect youth.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Date(s) of in-program training: 10/26 - 10/30 during Religion classes

*For questions, or to obtain access to the specific lesson and related activities, please communicate with:
Mrs. Hoag / Campus Minister / hoagb@ smeschool.com*

Please note: You also can “opt” the youth out of the formal in-program safety lesson if you only plan to provide safe environment education at home. Please complete, detach and submit the form below if you **do not** want your child to receive safe environment information via their school about ways to protect themselves. In this case, your child will be separated from others during the lesson and an alternative activity will be provided for them. You will be given the lesson plan to complete at home. You will need to sign and return a confirmation form to the school that this was completed.

TO OPT-OUT THE CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON, RETURN THIS PORTION TO:
Mrs. Hoag, BY Monday, October 19th.

I, (*printed name of parent or guardian*) _____, have reviewed the safety lessons and DO NOT give my permission SME to present the *Empowering God's Children* Safety Lesson to my

child (*printed name of child*) _____

Grade _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

***List names and grades of additional children on the back of this slip.**



School
Effectiveness
Team

--- ATTENTION PARENTS ---

**St. Mary's Elementary School
2020-2021 Family Directory**

Each school year, the SME School Effectiveness Team (SET) publishes the Family Directory of all families who belong to St. Mary's Elementary School.

- ✓ Need to know the phone number of your child's teacher? *It's in there.*
- ✓ Looking for addresses of classmates to send party invitations? *They're in there.*
- ✓ Like to see your name in print? *You'll find it.*

The directory lists all the students sorted by grade, and includes their name, the names of their mother and father, address, phone number, and e-mail address. All of the information is taken directly from the school registration database. However, we understand that not everyone may want their personal information included in the directory. Please use this form to select what information you do NOT want included in the family directory, or to give us permission to include your information.

NOTE: a non-response will also be taken as you do NOT want to list any information, therefore you will NOT be included in the directory.

**PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE BELOW
AND RETURN THIS FORM BY Wednesday, October 28, 2020.**

Family Name: _____

- CHECK HERE IF: I agree to have our information in the directory. However, please do **NOT** include

((Please circle what you **do not** want included))

Address

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Father's Name

Mother's Name

- OR CHECK HERE IF: I **DO** agree to **INCLUDE ALL** of the information mentioned above

Parent Signature: _____