

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 20 FEBRUARY 24, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

I hope that everybody had a relaxing break!

We have entered the season of Lent. Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. It’s one of the most important times of year for Christians. Lent is seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus’ life, death, and body resurrection.

Just a reminder: when driving or parking in the parking lot, please use caution. I ask that you drive slowly through the lot, observe traffic signs and basic driving rules. When parking, please do so between the designated lines. Following these rules will help to ensure the safety of all our school families.

In addition, if you have not returned your registration packets, I highly encourage you to return them as soon as possible. Packets are coming in at a rapid pace and the classes are filling up.

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski

READ ACROSS AMERICA



Read Across America week is
March 1st - 5th.

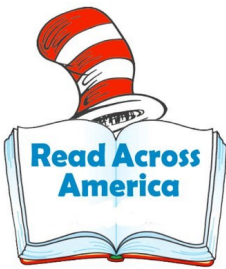
We have a weeks worth of fun
in store!

Please refer to the flyer that went home 2/10 for all the details!

Book Donation - We are asking every child in the school to donate a new or gently used book that has no writing inside. (The Dollar Tree has a great selection!) We will collect them in our classrooms all week. These books will be donated to Trinity Pantry on Broadway.

Sock Donation - Students are also asked to donate a pair of socks. We will conduct a sock drive to both raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and the problems they have from not having new socks. We will donate to a local charity.

We ask that the books & socks be brought in by the conclusion of Read Across America Week on Friday, March 5th .



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **3/1** - RAA: Dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss Character
- **3/2** - RAA: Dress as a world traveler
- **3/3** - RAA: Dress in wacky attire
- **3/4** - RAA: Dress in your favorite color
- **3/5** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30; RAA: Wear a Hat & crazy socks *with uniforms*
- **3/12** - No School, Staff PD Day
- **3/24** - Report Card Upload
- **4/1** - Transportation Forms Due to Home District Offices
- **4/1** - No School - Holy Thursday
- **4/2** - No School - Good Friday
- **4/4** - Easter Sunday
- **4/5 - 4/9** - NO SCHOOL, Easter Recess
- **4/12** - School Resumes

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

January 1, 2021 to January 31, 2021, the Scrip rebate profit earned towards tuition was **\$898.60**.

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

January	Annual Rebate
<u>Sales Total</u>	<u>Profit to Date</u>
\$18,980.00	\$14,370.65
Year to Date Total Sales: \$269,247.00	

The January profit fell short of our monthly goal by \$601.40.

Our Year to Date Profit is short of our annual goal by \$3,629.35. We have until 3/15 to reach it!

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

CANDY BAR SALE:

Expenses: (\$7190.79)
Deposits: \$9145.00
Profit/(Loss): \$1945.24

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

Electronic Order form:
<https://forms.gle/qJyjojPaA4uhqpgdba>

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are off to a great start with **563** 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!!**

NEW! 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 **custom gift list** on Amazon.com. Search for DeMarzio and you will see a list named ‘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, **211** 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 megaraffle@smeschool.com.



2021-2022 REGISTRATION

- ♦ All classes are filled first come first serve & only those registrations received in their entirety will be processed for placement.
- ♦ Please remember that transportation forms (which we provide as a courtesy) **should not** be returned to SME. Please submit as directed on the form to your home district.



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 pick up date is **Thursday 3/4**. It is our goal to have orders ready for afternoon dismissal.
- ◇ **Our Little Caesars sale ends 2/24!** Delivery is the week of 3/22. Exact date TBD.

Thank you for your continued support!

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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



UPON THIS HILL,
WE DO GOD'S WILL



SCRIP CORNER

Scrip sales will continue in the Rectory
Monday - Friday from 9:00-3:00.

Gift card updates:

- ⇒ Tops has increased the rebate percentage to 5.5%!
If you're not a Tops grocery shopper, you can also purchase gas with the gift cards.
- ⇒ Amazon \$10 physical gift cards are currently not available.
- ⇒ If you purchase Kohl's gift cards online, be sure to select the option with (SME) after the denomination to get the 5% rebate. Otherwise, the rebate is only 4%.

Don't forget... Scrip is available for all your day to day shopping needs!

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. 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!

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.

PARISH PASSAGE

Inspiring quotes from Catholic Saints:

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you." *St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

"Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe." *St. Augustine of Hippo*

"Know that the greatest service that man can offer to God is to help convert souls." *St. Rose of Lima*

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." *St. Gianna Molla*

"Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry." *St. Francis de Sales*

Found on: <https://mycatholic.life/inspiring-quotes/>

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 kieriejewskis@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.

We are currently out of stock on: Peanut Butter, Sea Salt Caramel & Factory Mix Boxes. Orders received will be filled with stock on hand until these flavors arrive.

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).

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.

CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN DINNER

St. Mary's is hosting a drive-thru Chiavetta's Dinner sale on Saturday, March 20th from 12:00-4:00pm, or until we sell out. Dinners are **\$10 presale**/\$12 the day of. See the flyer attached today for more information!

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the event.

If you are interested, please email Mary Kate DeMarzio at marykate@stmarysonthehill.org

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 *



Starting your taxes?

We are unable to give out our Tax Id Number. Have your preparer indicate 'Religious Exemption' in its place.

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: 3/1-3/5 Read Across America Week

Save the Date: 3/5 - Christian Witness Mass

Save the Date: 3/12 - No School

Save the Date: 3/20 - Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner Sale

Save the Date: 3/24 - K-8 Report Card Upload

Save the Date: 4/1-4/9 Easter Recess



Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ

@

St Mary of the Assumption

(1 St Mary's Hill Lancaster, NY 14086)

Saturday

March 20th, 2021

12pm – 4pm*

*End time could be earlier if meals are sold before 4pm

**Take-out
only**

**Only 700
meals will
be sold. Pre-
order today!**

Meal (1/2 Chicken and two sides) Pre-Sale: \$10 / Day of: \$12

Pre-Order Options:

- **Mail Check (payable to St Mary of the Assumption) with the amount for the total number of pre-ordered meals. Your returned receipt will be your pick-up 'ticket'**
 - o **Address: 1 St Mary's Hill / Lancaster, NY 14086**
 - o **We will use the name/info from your check to designate the pre-ordered name**
- **For other pre-payment options (Venmo, PayPal, etc) or for any questions, please call (716) 253-7880**

St Mary of the Assumption
1 St Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

St Mary's Elementary School
2 St Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086



PRACTICE ENTRANCE EXAM *for prospective students in grade 7*

Saturday, March 13, 2021 8:30 a.m. - Noon or Saturday, May 1, 2021 8:30 a.m. - Noon
We encourage all 7th grade boys considering St. Joe's as a high school destination to take a free practice Entrance & Scholarship Exam under normal testing conditions. The exam takes approximately three hours and all testing materials are provided by St. Joe's. A full exam score report is mailed to your home approximately 30 days after the exam.



BUFFALO ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

7th Grade Practice Exam

Saturday March 6, 2021
9 am - Noon

This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the format of the Catholic High School Entrance Exam which will be offered to 8th graders in November 2021. Girls will take all five sections in a test environment and receive detailed written results. The practice test is open to 7th grade girls and will be offered both in-person and remotely (please indicate preference at bottom of form). If you choose remote, log-in instructions will be emailed the week of March 1. Questions? Call the Admissions Office, 834-2101 ext. 311.
Cost: \$20



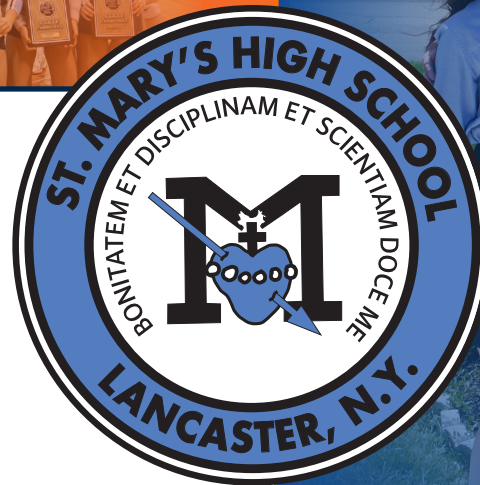
***Begin your
high school journey!***

**High School Practice
Entrance Exam**

Saturday, March 20th

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Register today at smhlancers.org.



 **683.4824 x 211**

 **smhlancers.org**

 **adrabik@smhlancers.org**

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
LANCASTER • NEW YORK

Preparing young men and women for college and beyond



Be prepared for the next step

7th Grade Practice Exam

- A practice version of the High School Entrance and Scholarship Exam.
- Become familiar with the format under actual testing conditions.
- Open to all 7th grade boys at **no cost.**

March 6, 2021 or April 24, 2021

Canisius High School
1180 Delaware Ave., Buffalo
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.





NARDIN
academy

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Practice Entrance and Scholarship Exam

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 8:30 am (exam lasts approximately 3 hours)

Cost: \$20

Current 7th grade girls are invited to take the Practice Entrance and Scholarship Exam in person at Nardin Academy on Saturday, April 24. The practice exam is a good opportunity to become familiar with the exam format as you start thinking about the independent, Catholic high school admissions process.

Any questions, please reach out to Director of Admissions, Danielle Dodman, at ddodman@nardin.org or 716.881.6262 x1030.