

# NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 32 MAY 26, 2021

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

This past Friday, we celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> grades with a Hope Ribbon Mass. The Blue and White Hope Ribbons, our school colors, are a sign to all future graduates' dedication and hard work. They symbolize "Our Hope for the future..." and a sign and symbol of celebration.

If your child is currently receiving services from Lancaster, you must request a continuance of those services by June 1<sup>st</sup>. A sample form for you to use and send to Lancaster was attached to last week's NN. You will just need to fill in the yellow highlighted areas. Please forward SME a copy of it for our records.

If you have not purchased your Mega Raffle ticket yet or would just like another opportunity to win \$30,000 while helping SME, please mail your check (\$100/ticket made out to St. Mary's) to 1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086, and your tickets will be sent home with your child or mailed to you if you prefer. Payment is also accepted via Venmo or Paypal - contact Mary Kate or Steve DeMarzio by calling (716) 253-7880 or emailing [megaraffle@smeschool.com](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com).

The new mask removal mandates DO NOT apply to our schools. Anybody on school grounds must follow our reopening protocols which will be in place for the remainder of the school year. Also, the mandating of wearing masks all day in the classrooms is a DOH requirement. I understand that it is getting hotter and that the students would like to remove the masks. I would like nothing better than to be able to accommodate that. Unfortunately, we must follow the guidelines set forth by the DOH. If they change their mandates prior to the of the year, I will let you know.

In addition to the DOH guidance on masks, we also received guidance on graduations. The DOH Graduation guidance supersedes any other meeting space guidance for celebrations. "For example, if you are having a church graduation, you must follow the graduation guidance NOT the guidance for worship spaces." This being said, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation must be limited to 100 people.

There are some openings for the 21/22 school year. If you have not turned in your registration packet, please fill out the information and return the packet as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding registration, do not hesitate to call our office.

God's Peace and Love,  
Mrs. Kwitowski



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 5/28 - NO SCHOOL
- 5/31 - NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
- 6/4 - Christian Witness Mass (May & June), 8:30
- 6/10 - School Mass, 8:30
- 6/11 - 10:45 Early Dismissal, Ready SET Read & Battle of the Books
- 6/11 - Mega Raffle
- 6/18: NO SCHOOL - Juneteenth
- 6/21 - 10:45 Early Dismissal,
- 6/22 - 1:00 Early Dismissal, Last day of School
- 6/23 - Graduation Ceremonies: Pre-K (9, 10 & 11 am), Kinder (12 & 1pm), 8th Gr. (4pm)



## BY THE NUMBERS

**SCRIP:**  
*April 1 - April 30, 2021*

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

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| April Sales Total   | % Monthly Sales Goal  |
| \$19,520.00         | 65%                   |
| April Rebate Profit | % Monthly Profit Goal |
| \$992.86            | 66%                   |
| Sales Year-to-Date  | Rebate Year-to-Date   |
| \$25,345.00         | \$1,291.49            |

Contact the Scrip office at [scrip@smeschool.com](mailto:scrip@smeschool.com) to find out how you can support this fundamental program!

**CANDY BAR SALE:**

Expenses: (\$7766.79)  
Deposits: \$11042.00  
Profit/(Loss): \$3266.24

[candybarsale@smeschool.com](mailto:candybarsale@smeschool.com).  
We are SOLD OUT!  
Please send in payments by 6/1.

**SCHOOLSTORE.COM:**

Total Profit to date: \$386.28

This is an ongoing fundraiser, every purchase through the site earns us money!

## CDC MASK GUIDELINES

In an announcement by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, the state will adopt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's eased mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people, which allows them to stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings.

However, according to the announcement, **masks will continue to be required in** public transportation, nursing homes, prisons, **schools** and health care facilities.

**All SME employees, students, and visitors will continue to be required to wear masks** in accordance with the NYS requirements and the district's health and safety plan. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

## MEGA RAFFLE

There are only **85** tickets remaining for Mega Raffle 2021 as of May 21<sup>st</sup> – get yours before they're gone!

The Virtual Raffle order form is attached electronically again this week.

**Our Theme Baskets can be viewed here:**  
[https://www.smeschool.com/mega\\_raffle\\_2021](https://www.smeschool.com/mega_raffle_2021)

Without the live event, additional revenue from the evening will be lost, and so it is paramount that we sell all 1,000 tickets. We need the help of our school families and we appreciate everyone's efforts, especially during these trying times. So far, **401** 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 encouraging 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.

We hope to be back in full swing with our in-person event in 2022!

**The winners of the sales contest will be announced soon, along with the prize details!**

*If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary Kate DeMarzio at [megaraffle@smeschool.com](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com).*



## 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:**

◇ Popcorn Fundraiser 6/19

We have an exciting opportunity to raise funds for our school! Wal-Mart (Transit & William) is allowing us to set up at their location on Saturday, June 19th from 9am-6pm to sell Carl's Popcorn. We will receive 50% profit from this sale!

There is still plenty of opportunity to help work the popcorn stand! Setting up from 8:00-9:00, and then the duration of the sale. If you are able to help, please use the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4CADA923A2FF2-carls>

Questions can be directed to Kristie May ([hsa@smeschool.com](mailto:hsa@smeschool.com) or 998-6504).

*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 Mon. - Fri. from 9:00-3:00. 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.

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

The total family tuition credit earned in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (December 15, 2020 – March 22, 2021) was \$2,202.49, and these funds were applied directly to the tuition accounts of families utilizing the program. The next quarterly tuition credit report will be run on June 15, 2021. ***There are thousands of dollars in tuition credit available to you!***

### Gift card updates:

- \* NEW BRAND ALERT! Scrip now has Whole Foods gift cards, which offer a 3% rebate and Instacart gift cards, which offers 4%!
- \* 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%.

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

***Please return your Scrip envelope for reuse & online ordering.***

## NURSE NOTES

With the warm weather finally upon us comes more opportunities to be outside! Please remember sunscreen, hats, and proper footwear for kids while outside. We have also seen an increase of students exhibiting allergy like symptoms that can be similar to COVID symptoms. If you know your child suffers from allergies please keep up with their allergy meds to reduce symptoms and the possibility of missing school due to those symptoms. Just as a reminder, we are still requiring a doctor's note or negative COVID test if your child is absent from school due to illness.

Earlier this month was Food Allergy Awareness Week. Over 32 million Americans have a diagnosed food allergy. We have many students and faculty/staff with food allergies right here in our SME community. Being aware and knowledgeable about food allergies is very important in keeping everyone safe and included. Thank you for your continued support of sending in allergy safe snacks for class parties.

May is also Lyme disease awareness month. Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by a bacteria which is spread by ticks. To prevent tick bites it is recommended to use bug spray with DEET, wear shoes, long pants, and long sleeve shirts while in an area where ticks are known to be. It is important that a tick is removed entirely and immediately and also saved for testing.

Mrs. Parker RN, BSN

## READY SET READ

The **Ready, SET, Read** event is for students in grades Pre-K through Grade 3 and includes books, games & activities!

Our RSR reading challenge starts on Monday 5/17 for students in grades Pre-K - Gr. 3!

For every 20 minutes read: cut out, sign & send in one ticket (coming home today). Additional ticket sheets are available anytime from your teacher! 1 ticket = 1 bead for your classroom bucket. The heaviest classroom bucket wins a prize! The challenge ends Wednesday June 9th!

The **Battle of the Books** is a trivia based team competition for **grades 4-8** based on the books on our book list.

The events will take place during the school day on June 11th.

### 4th & 5th Grade List:

- The Indian in the Cupboard
- The Year of the Dog
- Crenshaw

### 6-8 Grade Book List:

- Nuts to You
- Restart
- Okay for Now

## 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) - *Volunteers are no longer needed for this event*

**Golf Tournament** (July 26, 2021)

**Fall Fest** (Autumn 2021) - *This event is 'under construction'! Keep your eye on the NewsNotes for more information which will be coming out soon!*

**SCRIP** (year round) - Coordinator position

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.

**Your involvement is vital to the success of these events!**



## CANDY BAR SALE



We are **SOLD OUT!**

Thank you to the families who participated and continued to make this sale a success!

Please submit outstanding candy bar payments by 6/1.

If you are unsure of your balance, please feel free to contact us at candybarsale@smeschool.com.

We appreciate your participation and support of our sale & school!

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).

## WARM WEATHER

In light of the warmer temperatures on the horizon (pay no attention to the end of this week - yikes!) students will be allowed to wear their PE uniform shirt in lieu of polo tops with uniform bottoms.

All tops, regardless of style, must be tucked in for all students K-8.

## HOPE RIBBON MASS



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

When: Monday, July 26th

Where: Lancaster Country Club – NEW VENUE!

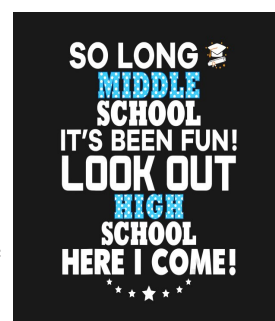
Tournament information & raffle tickets went out 3/10. The flyer is also available on the NewsNote tab of our website.

## 8TH GRADE

Our 8th Grade fun day is set for Friday, June 4th!

Take a deep cleansing breath for the Religion & Spanish exams which are now done!

Graduation is set for Wednesday, June 23rd @ 4:00. More details to come!



## STAY IN THE KNOW



**Save the Date:** 5/28 No School

**Save the Date:** 5/31 No School

**Save the Date:** 6/11 10:45 Early Dismissal

**Save the Date:** 6/18 No School

**Save the Date:** 6/21 10:45 Early Dismissal

**Save the Date:** 6/22 1:00 Early Dismissal

**Save the Date:** 6/23 Pre-K, K & 8th Grade Graduations



# ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- "...visible examples of Gospel living."

# June, 2021

Student lunches are \$3, and adult lunches are \$4.25. During this time, we ask that all lunches be prepaid with either cash or check made out to SME, in the exact amount. Any overage will be kept on account. All lunches are comprised of five components; protein, whole grain, vegetables, fruit & milk. In addition to the main entrée, there are five alternate choices offered daily; Julienne Salad, Yogurt Parfait, Sunbutter & Jelly, Turkey/Cheese and Ham/Cheese Sandwiches. All orders are taken during Homeroom. We appreciate your support and look forward to serving your child/children a freshly prepared lunch each day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [kitchenmanager@smeschool.com](mailto:kitchenmanager@smeschool.com).

| MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 31<br>Memorial Day Holiday  | 1<br>Chicken Dinner<br>Mashed Potatoes<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk   | 2<br>Taco Salad<br>Bean Salad<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk<br>No Alt B Lunch Today                      | 3<br>Sloppy Joes<br>Tater Tots<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk         | 4<br>Cheese Pizza<br>Romaine Salad<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk   |
| 7<br>Hot Dogs<br>Baked Beans<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk              | 8<br>Buffalo Chicken Pizza<br>Carrots & Celery<br>Fruit & Milk   | 9<br>Cobb Salad<br>Breadstick<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk<br>No Alt B Offered Today                    | 10<br>Meatloaf<br>Mashed Potatoes<br>Veggies, Fruit & Milk     | 11<br>10:45 Dismissal<br>No Lunch Service  |
| 14<br>Breakfast Pizza<br>Tater Tots<br>Veggie Juice, Fruit & Milk | 15<br>Chicken Patty Sandwich<br>Coleslaw<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk | 16<br>Chicken Souvlaki Salad<br>Whole Grain Pita<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk<br>No Alt B Offered Today | 17<br>Nachos Grande<br>Black Beans<br>Veggie, Fruit & Milk     | 18<br>Juneteenth<br>Holiday<br>No School   |
| 21<br>10:45 Dismissal<br>No Lunch Service                         | 22<br>1 pm Dismissal<br>Last Day of School<br>School Picnic      | 23<br>Graduation Ceremonies<br>Congratulations to<br>Our Amazing Students!                         | 24<br>Enjoy Your Summer!<br>Stay Safe!<br>See You In the Fall! | 25<br>Thank You For Your<br>Support and Patronage<br>of the<br>School Lunch Program!   |
| 28  | 29   | 30   |  | Alt B – Julienne Salad<br>Alt C – Yogurt Parfait<br>Alt D – Sunbutter & Jelly<br>Alt E – Turkey/Cheese<br>Alt F – Ham/Cheese |

Menu subject to change.



# PULL TAB PALOOZA!

Pull Tab Drop Off Days

**Friday June 4th ● 1pm - 4pm**

**Saturday June 5th ● 11am -1pm**

**Walk or drive through our half circle driveway  
at 780 West Ferry Street**

Hand off your pull tabs to  
one of our fantastic volunteers

Please include on your package your Name and Address

If you would like to receive our newsletters, please also include your email

**In Honor of Volunteer Jim Rowe who started our program.**

Thank you to everyone who has continued to collect and  
save pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities of WNY  
during the pandemic!