

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 17 JANUARY 27, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

Next week as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we ask that all the students demonstrate the values and faith that they gain through their Catholic Education and learn how to make the world a better place. It is the job of all of us here to participate in our mission of being disciples of Jesus and to love and serve others.

Open House will be held virtually on Thursday, February 4th from 6-7:00. Although this is primarily for new families to learn more about our school, all our current families are welcome to attend!

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



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:

- 1/28 - Spring Candy Sale Orders Due
- 1/29 - Spring Candy Sale Payments Due
- 2/1 - 2/5 - Catholic Schools Week
- 2/1 - CSW: \$ Dress Down
- 2/2 - CSW: SME At-tire
- 2/3 - Progress Report Upload, CSW: RWB
- 2/4 - Virtual Open House, 6:00pm, CSW: Dress like a saint
- 2/5: CSW: Dress like a teacher
- 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

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	Annual Rebate
Sales Total	(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 **300** 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, **94** 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.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We have 5 days of celebration scheduled for Catholic Schools week which begins on Monday, February 1st!

There are themed dress days for every day of the week!

We are hosting a fundraiser to benefit Catholic Charities!

We are doing a school wide service project to benefit the Trinity Food Pantry which is located in the village of Lancaster.

Please reference the flyer coming home today for all the details.

We can’t wait to celebrate with you!



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 ends tomorrow 1/28 featuring Niagara Chocolates. All orders **must** be placed online. Hard copies of the catalog are available upon request.
- ◇ Little Caesars is back for a spring sale!

Thank you for your continued support!

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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 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!



Did you know... SME offers a customizable Scrip Certificate in any denomination for all of your gift giving needs! Simply order a Scrip Certificate (item located on the back side of the order form) in your desired amount and the recipient will receive a custom made certificate and Scrip order form to select what ever gift card they'd like!

As the saying goes... 'Nobody shops for me like me!'

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.

SME GEAR

We still have a number of **adult size** 1/4 zip tops available through our SME Gear Sale.

Our 1/4 zip tops are:

- ⇒ Uniform approved so they can be worn any time during the school year
- ⇒ A lightweight, tech style fabric which gives the perfect layer in the winter!

The SME Gear order form is available on the NewsNote tab of the school website.



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.

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.



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)



CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021 WITH FUN DRESS UP DAYS!

Our theme this year is *Catholic Schools Light the Way*. Below is the schedule for our Dress Up Fun Days. Students & Staff please follow the schedule for the Catholic Schools Week dress up days.

If you choose not to participate in the Dress Up Fun Days, you will need to wear your school uniform instead. You may wear jeans (with NO HOLES) and whatever theme is assigned for that day. No leggings/yoga pants are allowed. **BE CREATIVE & HAVE FUN!**

Monday, February 1st

Celebrating Our Community!

Dress down for a minimum donation of \$1.00. All donations collected will benefit Catholic Charities of Buffalo/WNY.

Tuesday, February 2nd

Celebrating Our Students!

Show your school pride and wear your SME logo shirts or sweatshirts w/jeans.

Wednesday, February 3rd

Celebrating Our Nation!

America, Red, White, & Blue Day! Show off your patriotic pride!

Thursday, February 4th

Celebrating Vocations!

Dress as your favorite saint. Please dress respectfully.

Friday, February 5th

Celebrating our Faculty, Staff, & Volunteers!

Dress like a teacher! Your clothing should reflect how teachers dress: business casual or dress up. Please dress respectfully.

We hope you all have a wonderful time celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2021!

Turn for details of our School Wide Service Project →

SME Catholic Schools Week 2021
"Catholic Schools Light the Way"
Service Project
Birthday-in-a-Bag



Everyone loves to celebrate their special day! With this project, our students will help to make birthdays easier for families who are struggling. These *Birthday Bags* will benefit clients of the Trinity Food Pantry located in the village of Lancaster.

Our goal is to supply 75 bags and to have our students assemble the bags.

Will you help us reach our goal?

All items can be found and purchased at the Dollar Tree and/or a local grocery store.

Please return all donations to school by Wednesday, February 3rd.

We are asking that EACH STUDENT/FAMILY supply 1 medium sized birthday gift bag and the items from the list below (approx. cost \$5.00).

PREK - 2 packages of birthday candles (18 count) & 1 bag

Kindergarten - 2 cans of prepared frosting & 1 bag

1st Grade - 3 boxes of cake mix & 1 bag

2nd Grade - 2 cans of prepared frosting & 1 bag

**3rd Grade - 1 package of 9 oz. birthday cups (12 count),
1 package of birthday hats (8 count) & 1 bag**

**4th Grade - 3 packages of birthday hats (8 count)
& 1 bag**

**5th Grade - 3 packages of birthday hats (8 count)
& 1 bag**

6th Grade - 3 boxes of cake mix & 1 bag

**7th Grade - 2 packages of 9" birthday plates (18 count)
1 package of birthday lunch napkins (20 count) & 1 bag**

**8th Grade - 2 package of 9 oz. birthday cups
(12 count ea.), 1 package of birthday lunch napkins (20 count) & 1 bag**



JK

February, 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.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Cheeseburger Oven Fries Veggie, Fruit & Milk	2 Mexi Incredi-Bowl Brown Rice & Black Beans Corn, Fruit & Milk	3 Chicken Caesar Breadstick Veggie, Fruit & Milk No Alt B Offered Today	4 Chicken Dinner Mashed Potatoes Veggie, Fruit & Milk	5 Cheese Pizza Salad, Broccoli Fruit & Milk
8 French Toast Stix Sausage & Potatoes Juice, Fruit & Milk	9 Italiano Incredi-Bowl Risotto, Northern Beans Veggie, Fruit & Milk	10 Nachos Grande Refried Beans, Veggie Fruit & Milk	11 Chicken Fajitas Brown Rice Corn, Fruit & Milk	12 Bflo Chicken Pizza Carrot & Celery Stix Veggie, Fruit & Milk
15 Winter Break No School	16 Winter Break No School	17 Winter Break No School	18 Winter Break No School	19 Winter Break No School
22 Chicken Patty BLT Baked Beans Veggie, Fruit & Milk	23 Ramen Incredi-Bowl Mixed Vegetables Fruit & Milk	24 Chicken Souvlaki Pita Bread Veggie, Fruit & Milk No Alt B Offered Today	25 Popcorn Chicken Tater Tots Veggie, Fruit & Milk	26 Breakfast Pizza Roasted Potatoes Veggie, Fruit & Milk

Menu subject to change.

Our Mission All dishes are made fresh daily with only the best produce, quality proteins and low fat dairy. We limit processed foods and pre-packaged entrees. Many, if not most, menu items have minimal ingredients and are prepared from scratch. Students and Staff can choose from a variety of Daily Alternate Choices, as well as the Main Entrée. Please note, when a Signature Salad is the Main Entrée, we will not serve Julienne Salad, B Option, that day. We hope your child finds many favorites, and looks forward to the lunch we serve. As always, we appreciate your support, welcome your input and look forward to seeing you in the Lunch Room! Tracy Hadsall & Jenny Fulciniti

Snacks Snacks are sold daily during the 3rd and 4th lunch periods, and all cost \$0.50. Due to time limitations, we only serve snack to grades 4 through 8.

Milk Milk is sold a la carte for \$0.50. You may prepay for your child/children's daily milk purchase.

Bflo Chicken Pizza	Whole Grain Pizza Crust with Blue Cheese, Chicken and Mild Chicken Wing Sauce
Breakfast Pizza	Whole Grain Pizza Crust with Scrambled Eggs, Cheese and Bacon
Cheeseburger	Whole Grain Bun with a Lean Ground Beef Patty, covered in melted American Cheese; toppings on the side
Cheese Pizza	Whole Grain Pizza Crust with Tomato Sauce and Low Fat Mozzarella
Chicken Patty BLT	Whole Grain Bun, Chicken Patty, Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato with a Side of Condiments
Chicken Dinner	Chicken Baked to a Crispy Perfection, Served with Potatoes, Gravy and Veggie, Fruit & Milk
Chicken Fajitas	Marinated Chicken Breasts sliced and grilled with Sweet Peppers and Onions. Served on a Whole Grain Tortilla with toppings and Brown Rice
Chicken Caesar Salad	Romaine Lettuce topped with lightly seasoned Grilled Chicken Breast, Real Crumbled Bacon, Whole Grain Croutons, Grated Parmesan Cheese and Caesar Dressing
Chicken Souvlaki	Boneless, Skinless, marinated Chicken Breast grilled and served with fresh Vegetables (sweet peppers, onions, romaine), Feta Cheese and Greek Dressing; served as either an open salad, or stuffed into a Whole Grain Pita Pocket
French Toast Stix	Whole Grain French Toast Stix served with Maple Syrup, Hash Browns, Sausage, Vegetable Fruit Juice and Milk
Italiano Incredi-Bowl	Northern Beans, Risotto and Meatballs with Marinara Sauce
Mexi Incredi-Bowl	Turkey Taco Meat, Corn, Black Beans and Cheese served in a Bowl over Brown Rice
Nachos Grande	Lean Ground Beef spiced with Taco Seasonings, served hot over Whole Grain Tortilla Chips, topped with melted Mild Cheddar Cheese Sauce, with Optional Salsa, Sour Cream & Hot Sauce
Popcorn Chicken	Whole Grain Breaded Popcorn Chicken Bites baked to a tasty Crunch! Served with Optional BBQ Sauce
Ramen Incredi-Bowl	Restaurant Grade Ramen Noodles, Asian Veggies, Served in Chicken Broth



Place catalog orders at **catalog.ncfr.me**

All orders will be entered online at the completion of your sale. When you are finished selling, please use your computer, tablet or smartphone to enter orders at: **catalog.ncfr.me**

You will need to register with your organization code. Enter your order summary as prompted.

Our School/Organizational ID is: STMAR7S

Steps for a Successful Sale:

1. Please share your brochure and order form with your family, friends, and co-workers. There is an electronic copy available at catalog.ncfr.me. We do not encourage door-to-door selling by minors.
2. Use the order sheet to fill in your customers' orders, thank them and let them know when you will be collecting money and when to expect their orders.
3. Our organization is tax-exempt. Please be sure to let your customers know the correct total of their order.
4. Checks should be made payable to: **St. Mary's Elementary – HSA**
5. Once you are done selling, go to **catalog.ncfr.me**. Register using your Organization Code and enter your order summary. Order entry may only be placed one time.
6. Money for your orders is due: **Friday, January 29th**
7. Keep your catalog and order form for your records once the chocolate arrives!

Orders are due online by: Thursday, January 28th

Our Delivery will be: TBD – please keep your eye on the NewsNote

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Walczak (chairperson) at cherylwalczak@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation. The success of our fundraiser depends on you!

✍