

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 19 FEBRUARY 10, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

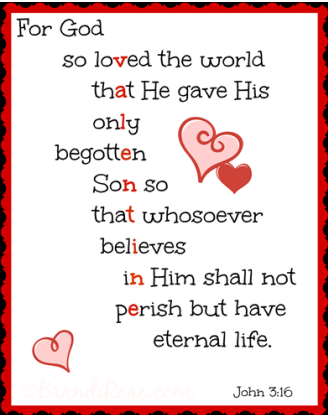
This Friday, 2/12, to show our support for Mrs. Junik in her battle with breast cancer, we will have a dress down day. You may wear pink or if you purchased one of the shirts in support of her from SMH, you may wear that shirt. Remember that this Friday is a 1:00 dismissal so that our teachers can take part in some professional development.

Please return completed registration packets as soon as possible. Our classes are filling up very quickly. Thank you!

Be sure to regularly check out our Facebook page. You do not need a FB account to view our page! Simply visit our website and scroll to the bottom. Every post we make is linked there as well - no log in needed!

I wish everybody a relaxing break and a Happy Valentine's Day. Spend time with family and take the time to recharge for this latter part of the school year. Please remember to follow the rules regarding travel if you plan to go away during this break.

God's Peace and Love, Mrs. Kwitowski



2021-2022 REGISTRATION

Thank you to those who have already returned your re-registration paperwork.

If you have not yet completed your paperwork, we urge you to submit ASAP. All classes are filled first come first serve & only those registrations received in their entirety will be processed for placement. Our open house last week was a huge success, ensure your spot today!

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.

COVID-19 Travel Advisory:

As many of you are seeking warmer weather and new scenery over our upcoming school breaks please be aware of the NYS travel advisory related to the ongoing COVID pandemic. As these policies change often please refer to the following website for the most up to date travel information. When your child returns, please provide all the proper documentation on their first day back to school. If you have any questions or concerns related to this please reach out and we can assist you. Safety of our school community is always a priority.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 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
- 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
- 4/16 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- 4/23 - **1:00 Early Dismissal**, Staff PD

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 Sales Total	Annual Rebate (3/16/20 - 3/15/21) Profit to Date
\$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: (\$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 **442** 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 **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, **156** 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.



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 coming home today 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 Friday, March 5th.

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 TBD by Niagara Chocolates. We will update you as soon as we receive it.
- ◇ **Little Caesars sale 2/10 - 2/24!**

Thank you for your continued support!

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ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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 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%.



Coming soon: the first February ThankScriping Days! Mark your calendar for the big event, happening the 18 – 19. It's a huge opportunity to multiply our organization's earnings with bonuses on many popular brands.

Earn up to 19% with 60+ bonuses on eGift cards and reloaded gift cards.

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.

NURSE NOTES

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. A healthy and clean smile is so important (even underneath our masks!) to total body health. Please practice and help your child to have good oral/dental hygiene.

Here are a few reminders:

- ◆ Brush teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste
- ◆ Clean in between teeth by flossing daily
- ◆ Eat a healthy diet-limit sugary drinks and avoid sticky candies and foods
- ◆ Visit the dentist every 6 months for a routine cleaning

Mrs. Parker RN

Children's Dental Health Month



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.

PARISH PASSAGE

Please, won't you spend *five minutes with the Word* this Lent?

Today you will find a booklet where we invite you to try to dedicate just a few minutes each day this Lent to pray and to read the Scriptures from Mass and the daily reflections within it.

Lenten offering collection boxes are also coming home today.
We ask that you please return your offering by 3/31.

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: 2/12 - 1:00 Early Dismissal

Save the Date: 2/15-2/19 NO SCHOOL, Mid-Winter Recess

Save the Date: 2/17 - Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

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

Save the Date: 3/5 - Christian Witness Mass



St. Mary's Elementary

Presents...

Our Little Caesars® Pizza Kit Fundraiser!

It's **Pizza!Pizza!** time! Time for you, your friends, and your family to get your Little Caesars® Pizza, Breads, Cookies and Desserts! Have them on hand for quick dinners, parties or entertaining! Buy several items and stock your freezers! We are asking everyone to sell 10 Kits to reach our goal. Thanks!

JUST IN TIME FOR THE EASTER BREAK!!

St. Mary's makes \$6 profit on each order placed, and proceeds help our Home School Association fund events for our school.

There are 2 ways to submit your order.

1. **Turn in your completed order form and payment to your fundraising chairperson:**
Collect payment at the time you take orders. Please make checks payable to **St. Mary's Elementary**. Fill out the top portion of your order form with your name and the best contact phone number (cell phones preferred).

OR

2. **Pay for your order at PizzaKit.com (a great option to use for local friends and family).**

Order and pay online by credit card:



- Go to PizzaKit.com
- Click on '**Products**', then click on '**Shop**'
- Select **Ship My Order to the Group**
- Enter **Fundraiser ID # "387342"**
- Follow prompts to create your User ID
- **Do not submit these orders on any Order Form you turn in to your chairperson.**
- **Online ordering questions?** Call Little Caesars Customer Care Team at (888) 452-5487 from 8:30am – 8:00pm EST

Important Dates: 2/24/2021

Order form and payment due.

Be sure your order form is correctly tallied!
Double check all rows and columns.
Late orders will **NOT** be accepted.

Week of 3/22/2021

Pick Up Order. Date and time will be communicated after our final order is placed.
Watch for announcements.

Questions: Please feel free to email Kristie May at hsa@smeschool.com with any questions.

Thank you for your support and participation!

KK

Read Across America Week - Monday, March 1st - Friday, March 5th 2021



Dear Parents:

The week of Monday, March 1st to March 5th is Read Across America Week. March 2nd is Read Across America Day, commemorating Dr. Seuss' (Theodore Geisel's) Birthday. SME will be partaking in a weeklong celebration of reading for the nationwide event.

- **Book Donation** - We are asking every child in the school to donate a new book or a gently used book that has no writing inside. It could be a book from the dollar store. We will collect them in our classrooms all week. These books will be donated to Trinity Pantry on Broadway. The book will be due by Friday.
- **Sock Donation** - Students will be 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 problem they have from not having new socks. We will donate to a local charity. The socks will be due by Friday.
- **Caught Red Hatted** - Have your child have a book with them all week to read during nonacademic activities. If they are caught reading, their name will be entered in a drawing to win a \$10 Barnes and Noble Gift card. The winner will be picked at the end of the week.

Mon. March 1st - Dress As your Favorite Dr. Seuss Character: SME students can dress in their favorite character outfit today. Students may be out of uniform today only if they are dressed as stated above.

Tues., March 2nd - "Oh the Places You'll Go!": Students dress as a World Traveler - wear something from a country or a state. Ex: Grass skirt, Hawaiian shirt, Kimono, Florida shirt, etc.

Wed., March 3rd - Wacky Wednesday: Students can dress in their wackiest clothes today.

Thurs., March 4th - My Many Colored Day: Students can dress in their favorite color today.

Fri., March 5th - 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins/Fox in Socks: Students will wear a Hat and Crazy socks with uniform. Sock donations are due and final day for collecting books

**** If your child does not wish to participate in the dress down days, they will need to wear their uniforms.**