

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 23 MARCH 17, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

I am very happy to say that we will be able to present our Living Stations this year! Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will lead us on a prayerful meditation through the Stations of the Cross in commemoration of Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday. The Living Stations will be presented on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. You can watch the livestream of the presentation at 1:00.

Second trimester report cards will be uploaded to the parent portal on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

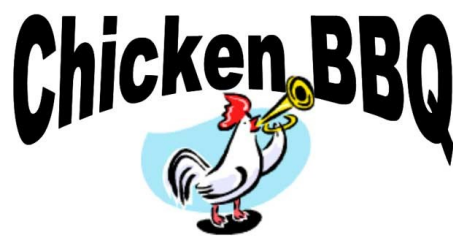
Thank you again to all those who have returned their registration packets for the 21/22 school year. I am glad that you have decided to continue your child’s educational journey at SME! If you are still planning on registering, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

God's Peace and Love,  
Mrs. Kwitowski



CHIAVETTA’S CHICKEN DINNER

Come one, come all; but most of all come hungry!



**This Saturday:** March 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 12:00-4:00pm,  
or until we sell out  
**Cost:** \$10 through Friday / \$12 Saturday  
***Ensure a dinner by pre-ordering today!***

Orders can be sent in with your child, mailed to the rectory (1 St. Mary’s Hill), or you can order & pay with Venmo / PayPal\*!

\*Please call 253-7880 or email Mary Kate DeMarzio at marykate@stmarysonthehill.org for details



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3/20 - Chiavetta’s Diner 12:00-4ish
- 3/24 - Report Card Upload
- 3/25 - Little Caesars Pick up Day
- 3/26 - Living Stations of the Cross 1:00
- 3/31 - \$1 Baseball Opening Day Dress Down
- 3/31 - Lenten offering box due
- 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 Re-sumes



BY THE NUMBERS

**SCRIP:**

February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021

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

Feb. Sales Total	% Monthly Sales Goal
\$16,555.00	55%
Feb. Rebate Profit	% Monthly Profit Goal
\$1,014.16	68%
Sales Year-to-Date	Rebate Year-to-Date
\$286,132.00	\$15,409.72

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

**Chiavetta’s Chicken BBQ:**

Tickets Sold: 240  
Tickets Available: 460

**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/qJyoyPaA4uhqpgdba>

**SCHOOLSTORE.COM:**

Month to date Profit: \$259.57

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are going great with 696 tickets sold as of March 15th.

The Second Early Bird drawing will be April 1st with a prize of \$150!  
Orders will be accepted through 12:00pm that day.

**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 letter with suggested donations per grade was sent home on 3/3. From those donations we will create baskets sponsored by each grade. 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 those that have already purchased items!

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fund raiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, 296 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.



READY SET READ & BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The Ready, SET, Read (grades Prek-3) and Battle of the Books (grades 4-8) events this year will take place during the school day on June 11th. The reading list for Battle of the Books is attached. More details to come!

STREAM FLOWER SALE - SAVE THE DATE

 We will be holding our annual STREAM flower fundraiser  
**April 14 - April 30, 2021.**  
Plants and flowers will be delivered in time for Mother’s Day! Flower pick-up will take place on Thursday, May 6th from 2:30 - 6:00 pm. The order form link (online orders) will be shared after Easter Break.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

**March 15 - March 19**

We have been informed of an immediate need in our community. Together we can make a difference! Please consider helping those in need by donating NON-PERISHABLE FOOD items. Thank you for generosity!

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
- ◇ Little Caesars Delivery is **Thurs. 3/25**. Product arrival is scheduled for the morning and items will be available for distribution at dismissal.

*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  
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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.

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](mailto:scrip@smeschool.com).

The total family tuition credit earned through December 14, 2020 was \$7,538.67, 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 March 15, 2021. There are thousands of dollars in tuition credit available to you!

### 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%.

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.*

## SCHOOLSTORE.COM FUNDRAISER

Thank you to those that have helped to spread the word of our newest fundraiser! We have already earned \$259.57 in profit for SME.

Prizes earned by students will be sent here for distribution in approximately 4 weeks. Students can earn points throughout the year long fundraiser.

SchoolStore.com is an online shopping mall where over 400 nationally-known online merchants have agreed to give a percentage of sales to K-12 schools. Companies like Kohls.com, Walmart.com, DisneyStore.com, and Best Buy participate. SchoolStore is a great way to support your school when you shop at your favorite online merchants. There are also magazine subscriptions available.

We understand that not every fundraiser is for everyone, but with nothing extra to buy, just doing your personal shopping through this site, helping SME couldn't be easier! The deadline to help is March 2022! Students can earn prizes just for spreading the news of our sale via emails to family & friends.

## PARISH PASSAGE

As a reminder, the Lenten Donation boxes are due back on 3/31. All donations are for Catholic Charities.

## SME YEARBOOK

Yearbook order forms were sent home 3/3 and can be ordered until April 15th. If you are in need of another copy, please contact Mrs. Kuhn ([secretary@smeschool.com](mailto:secretary@smeschool.com)).

The cost per yearbook is \$12.00

Please make your checks payable to:  
Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co.



## 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 26, 2021*) Fall Fest (*Autumn 2021*)

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](mailto: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](mailto:kieriejewskis@smeschool.com).



We are in need of a parent (or two) who are interested in chairing our bookfairs! We host two fairs (fall & spring). If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Sheila Kieriejewski ([kieriejewskis@smeschool.com](mailto:kieriejewskis@smeschool.com)).

**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](mailto: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 fully stocked once again with all candy bar flavors!** Thank you for your continued support of our sale!

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](mailto:secretary@smeschool.com)) at any time if you need a hard copy.

## NJHS: GIVING BACK

NJHS wants to give back to the cleaners at Saint Joe's Hospital who don't get enough recognition for all that they do, and we need your help!

Many people don't realize how much these people do to keep a safe environment for patients in the hospital, especially during the pandemic. We are collecting certain items for small gift bags to give to these workers to simply put a smile on their faces from **March 22nd** through **March 31st**. Students who participate will be thanked with a small treat, compliments of NJHS.

Please see the flyer attached electronically today for the details!

NJHS thanks you for your gratitude towards these hard-working people!

## 8TH GRADE INFO

The 8th Grade Presentation of the Stations of The Cross will take place on Friday, March 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm (via live-stream).

We invite you to watch along with us as a school community.



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

When: Monday, July 26th  
Where: Lancaster Country Club – NEW VENUE!  
Tournament information & raffle tickets went out 3/10.

## STAY IN THE KNOW



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

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

**Save the Date:** 3/31 - Lenten Offering boxes due

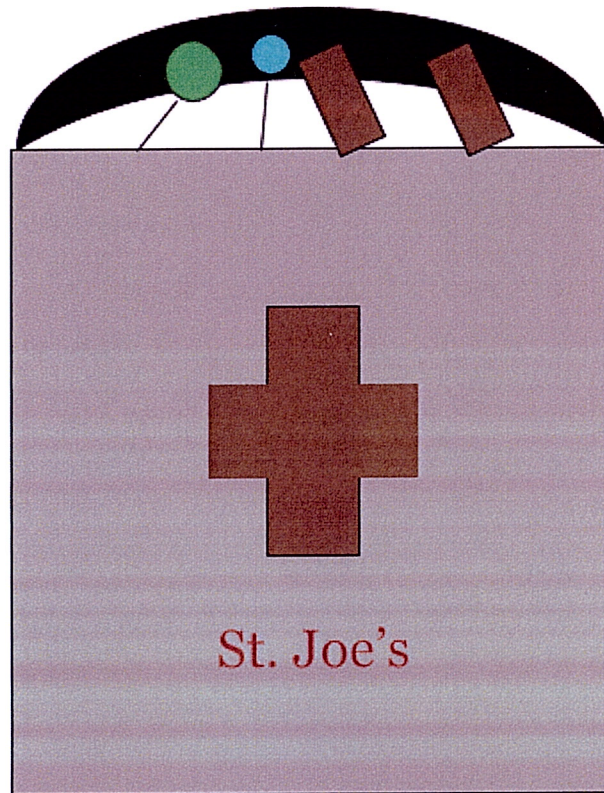
**Save the Date:** 4/1-4/9 Easter Recess

**Save the Date:** 4/16 - Christian Witness Mass

**Save the Date:** 4/23 - 1:00 Early Dismissal, Staff PD



# NJHS St. Joe's Service Project



We're making thank you bags for the cleaning staff at St. Joe's.  
Help us thank them for their hard work during the pandemic!

## Collection Dates:

3/22/21-3/31/21

Grades	Pk-2: Personal Care	3-5: Treats	6-8: Stress Relief
Examples	Hand Sanitizer, lotion	Snack food, candy	Stress balls, fidget toys, notepads, pens
	Anyone- Thank you cards, small gift cards, monetary donations		

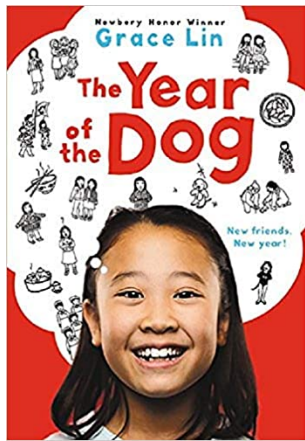
Students who participate will receive a thank you treat from NJHS!

# Battle of the Books: June 11, 2021

## 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Titles:

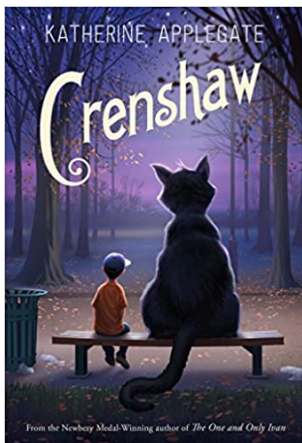


It's Omri's birthday, but all he gets from his best friend, Patrick, is a little plastic Indian toy. Trying to hide his disappointment, Omri puts the Indian in a metal cupboard and locks the door with a mysterious skeleton key that once belonged to his great-grandmother. Little does Omri know that by turning the key, he will transform his ordinary plastic Indian into a real live man from an altogether different time and place! Omri and the tiny warrior called Little Bear could hardly be more different, yet soon the two forge a very special friendship. Will Omri be able to keep Little Bear without anyone finding out and taking his precious Indian from him? **Guided Reading Level: R**



When Pacy's mom tells her that this is a good year for friends, family, and "finding herself," Pacy begins searching right away. As the year goes on, she struggles to find her talent, deals with disappointment, makes a new best friend, and discovers just why the Year of the Dog is a lucky one for her after all. This funny and profound book is a wonderful debut novel by award-winning and bestselling author and illustrator Grace Lin, and young readers will be sure to love and treasure it for years to come.

**Guided Reading Level: Q**



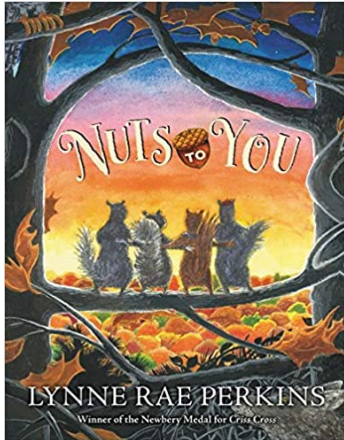
In her first novel since *The One and Only Ivan*, winner of the Newbery Medal, Katherine Applegate delivers an unforgettable and magical story about family, friendship, and resilience. Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?

Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

**Guided Reading Level: S**

# Battle of the Books: June 11, 2021

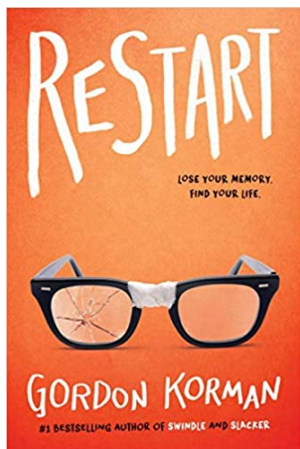
## Middle School Book Titles:



How far would you go for a friend? In *Nuts to You*, the funny and moving illustrated novel by Newbery Medalist Lynne Rae Perkins, two squirrels go very far indeed to save a friend who has been snatched up by a hawk. *Nuts to You* "begs to be read aloud . . . another completely original and exceptional package from Perkins," said the *Horn Book*.

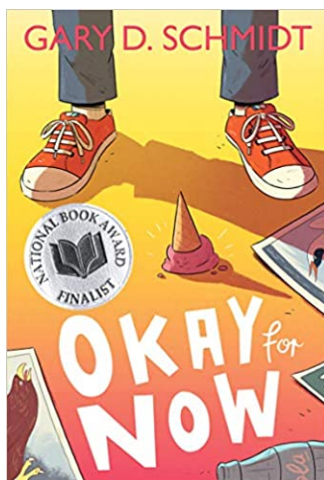
Jed, TsTs, and Chai are the very best of friends. So when Jed is snatched up by a hawk and carried away to another realm, TsTs and Chai resolve to go after him. Mysteriously, the hawk has dropped him. They saw it. Jed could be alive. New communities are discovered, new friends are made, huge danger is encountered (both man-made and of the fox and bobcat variety) and the mysteries of squirrel culture are revealed. *Nuts to You* is wholly original, funny, lively, and thought-provoking. *Publishers Weekly* said, "Readers . . . will relish the squirrels' adventures, as well as Perkins's laugh-aloud illustrations and equally witty footnotes."

Guided Reading Level:H



Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember *anything*. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again... starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who *is* Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is -- it's a question of who he *was*... and who he's going to be. From the #1 bestselling author of *Swindle* and *Slacker*, *Restart* is the spectacular story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start.

Guided Reading Level: W



Beloved author Gary D. Schmidt expertly blends comedy and tragedy in the story of Doug Swieteck, an unhappy "teenage thug" first introduced in *The Wednesday Wars*, who finds consolation and a sense of possibility in friendship and art.

At once heartbreaking and hopeful, this absorbing novel centers on Doug, 14, who has an abusive father, a bully for a brother, a bad reputation, and shameful secrets to keep. Teachers and police and his relatives think he's worthless, and he believes them, holding others at arm's length. Newly arrived in town, he starts out on the same path—antagonizing other kids, mouthing off to teachers, contemptuous of everything intimidating or unfamiliar. Who would have thought that the public library would turn out to be a refuge and an inspiration, that a snooty librarian might be a friend, or that snarky redheaded Lil would like him—really like him? With more than his share of pain, including the return of his oldest brother from the Vietnam War, shattered and angry, will Doug find anything better than "okay for now"?

Guided Reading Level: Y