

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 21 MARCH 3, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

This Friday is our Christian Witness Mass. Please join us via livestream to celebrate this past month’s recipients.

Next Friday there will not be any school. Our teachers will be participating in a professional development day.

Thank you to all those who have returned their registration packets for the 21/22 school year. I am very happy that you have decided to continue your child’s educational journey with us! If you are still planning on registering, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. The open spots in the classrooms are filling up quickly.

God's Peace and Love,
Mrs. Kwitowski



READ ACROSS AMERICA

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

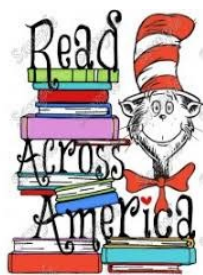
We have a weeks worth of fun in store!

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:

- 3/4 - RAA: Dress in your favorite color. **Spring Candy Sale Pick-up until 6:00pm**
- 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 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: 44

Tickets Available: 700

Drive up sales will close us out so be sure to order in advance to guarantee a dinner!

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>

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are off to a great start with 663 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 winner was Ticket #2 drawn on 3/1 with a prize of \$250. The Second Early Bird drawing will be April 1st with a prize of \$150!

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. Today please find a letter with suggested donations per grade. From those we will create baskets sponsored/donated 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, 278 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.



SCHOOLSTORE.COM FUNDRAISER

We have partnered with SchoolStore.com which is a fundraiser that will extend until March 2022.

If you are familiar with Rakuten, this is a similar idea but SME is the benefactor! If you’re looking to be a fundraising superhero: Purchase your Scrip cards before you do your online shopping @ SchoolStore.com!

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. Information on the program is coming home today!

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 **Tomorrow, 3/4**. It is our goal to have orders ready for afternoon dismissal.
- ◇ Little Caesars 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.

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 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.

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

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

SME YEARBOOK

Yearbook order forms are coming home today and can be ordered until April 15th.

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 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.

We are currently out of stock on: Peanut Butter, Sea Salt Caramel, 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).

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.

CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN DINNER

Day: Saturday, March 20th

Time: 12:00-4:00pm, or until we sell out

Cost: \$10 presale/\$12 the day of

To order & pay with Venmo/PayPal please call 253-7880.

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

ST MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086-2033
www.smeschool.com

Phone: (716) 683-2112
Fax: (716) 683-2134
“...visible examples of gospel living”

March 2021

Dear SME Family,

We would like to thank you for all that you do to make St. Mary's great. Without your support, the events and fundraisers that we hold would not be as successful as they are. At this time, we are looking for donations for baskets to raise additional funds during this year's Mega Raffle on June 11, 2021.

Attached is a list of items that can be donated, separated by grade. If you are able to donate an item (you do not need to donate for more than more grade if you have multiple children enrolled), please send your donation in with your student, **Attention: Mega Raffle**. If you prefer, you may make a monetary (or Scrip gift card) donation in lieu of an item.

We have also set up a **custom gift list** on Amazon.com. Search for **DeMarzio**, then **Mega Raffle 2021**. You can then select and pay for the items you wish to donate, and they will be shipped right to the school – how easy is that? You can even buy Amazon.com cards from Scrip to pay for your purchases and support two fundraisers at once! Be a triple threat; shop via smile.amazon.com! Every time you shop through smile.amazon.com a percentage of your purchase will be donated to St. Mary's!

If you, or someone you know, owns a business and would like to donate a basket, please reach out to us.

We are unable to accept donations of wine or any other alcohol.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Steve & Mary Kate

Steve & Mary Kate DeMarzio (Mega Raffle Chair Couple)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Theme (some items are listed for ideas)</u>
PreK-3	Lottery/gift cards
PreK-4	Cleaning: paper towels, Windex, new cloths, dusters, etc
K	Holiday decorations
1 st	Beach/Summer theme: towels, sunscreen, goggles, books, sunglasses, folding/lounge chair, sun umbrella, cooler, puzzle books, water bottles
2 nd	Pasta theme: boxes of pasta, colander, serving bowl, cheese shaker, wine glasses, salad bowl, salad tongs
3 rd	Car detailing: bucket, soap, brush, tire/wheel cleaner, windshield cleaner, interior cleaner, towels, Delta Sonic GC
4 th	Pet items: toys, food bowls, etc
5 th	Home décor - NEW items only : vases, lamps, pillows, frames, wall decor (paintings, shelves, etc), blankets, candles
6 th	Movie theme: movie theater GCs, popcorn, popcorn bowls/bucket, DVDs, boxed/bagged candy, drinks
7 th	Gardening: gloves, gardening tools, seeds, knee pads, etc.
8 th	Lottery/gift cards

St. Mary's Elementary School
Lancaster, NY
School ID: 3022

Hello Parents,

This year we are partnering with SchoolStore.com to raise funds for essential tools our students and teachers need to succeed. SchoolStore's program is 100% online so there is no selling or handling of money or products. Your participation is easy with no more than 12 minutes of your time required, and there is a nice prize program available to make this a fun experience.

Here is all you need to do for our program to succeed.

1. Go to www.schoolstore.net and sign up using our school ID: **3022**
2. Send form emails inviting family, friends, and co-workers to support your student.
3. **Return the parent envelope with the Student Prize Code for your child to get their really fun participation prize.**

Here are three ways your family, friends, and co-workers can help our school.

1. Make a 100% tax-deductible donation to your child's classroom with the purchase of a CaringForClassrooms.org gift card for your child's teacher to use for classroom supplies and equipment.
2. Renew or purchase magazine subscriptions, DVD's, cookbooks and more. We earn up to 50% of their purchase.
3. Shop online with over 400 major merchants like Walmart, Kohl's, Best Buy, Disney, and more. We earn a small percentage of their purchase.

With a few minutes of your time, SchoolStore is the easiest and safest way for our teachers and school to earn money for materials to enhance your child's education.

Thank you so very much for your participation.
St. Mary's Elementary School

As a reward for helping, there are 2 easy ways to win prizes:

1 Win a Huggers Mystery Prize Just For Participation!
Go to www.schoolstore.net to complete the sign-up process and send email invitations to family and friends. Your child will automatically WIN a Huggers Mystery Prize! *Which One Will You Win?*



2 Earn points for prizes when you, your friends, and family shop with the Family Book Store and/or donate a Caring For Classrooms Gift Card.



Go to www.schoolstore.net
to register and begin helping your child's school today!



St Mary's Elementary School

YEARBOOKS ARE NOW ON SALE

Ordering available until: **April 15, 2021**

Full-Color Yearbook.....\$12.00

To order visit: **www.inter-state.com/yearbook** and enter this code: **57729Y**

Or return envelope with cash, check or money order payable to:

Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co.

Tear At Perforation Above, Moisten Flap, Fold To Seal.
Enclose correct payment and return this envelope to school. Save top portion of this flyer for your reference.

St Mary's Elementary School (NY7235)

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Grade _____ \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Use one envelope for each child – please do not fold currency.

Payment by check is your express authorization that it may be converted into a one-time EFT from your account, and all returned checks or EFTs may be re-presented electronically along with a separate EFT or demand draft for the maximum returned check fee allowed by state law.

For additional information: **www.statecheckfees.com**