

# NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 22 FEBRUARY 16, 2022

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Wednesday!

This will be my last NewsNote. Know that it is with a sad heart that I am saying farewell to the SME Community. It has truly been a wonderful 6 years and I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know all the students, parents, and amazing staff!

I want to thank each one of you for all your support and for entrusting me with your children. I am honored and feel so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be part of the SME Family. I have fostered relationships with many of you and I will cherish the memories and friendships I've made during my time. SME has been a very special place for me, and I will miss everyone.

Although it's hard to say goodbye to the parents and staff, the hardest part of leaving is saying goodbye to the children. I have grown so attached to them over the years. I have loved watching them grow up into amazing young people. Please let them know how they touched my heart and life. I will treasure my memories of them all.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge just how lucky we all are to have such a fantastic school community and I will use all that I have learned here at SME and carry that to the next phase of my career. I feel very fortunate for all the opportunities and experiences I have had at SME, and I wish you and your families all the best!

God's Peace and Love,  
Mrs. Kwitowski



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/21-2/25 - NO SCHOOL: Mid-Winter Recess
- 2/28 - PE & Fowlers Chocolate online stores close
- 3/2 - Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30. Lent Begins
- 3/11 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 3/18 - 10:45 Early Dismissal, Staff PD
- 3/23 - K-8 Report Card Upload
- 3/29 - NYS ELA Testing Gr. 4 & 8 only
- 3/30 - NYS ELA Testing Gr 4 & 8 only

## BY THE NUMBERS

### SCRIP:

From 2/8 - 2/14/22 the Scrip rebate profit earned towards tuition was \$341.47.

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

February Sales to Date: \$10,740.00

Annual Rebate Profit to Date (3/23-2/14/22): \$18,549.88

### CANDY BAR SALE:

Chocolate bars are just \$1.

Initial Order: \$7200.00  
(Deficit)/Profit: (\$3254.00)

Order Anytime:

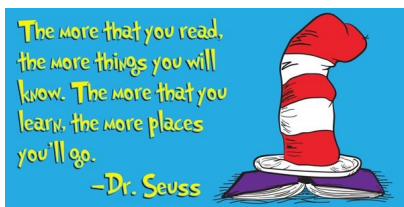
<https://forms.gle/vfLmhrHoEG2PL8oG9>

Unless a specific cause is listed, such as STREAM fundraiser, all funds raised go towards keeping down the tuition rate.

15% of all money coming into the school must come from fundraising.

If we do not fundraise enough, we do not have the funds to keep the tuition rate down.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



Read Across America week is February 28th - March 5th.

We have a weeks worth of fun in store!

We want every student to be Caught Red Hatted! Here's how: Have your child have a book with them all week to read during nonacademic activities. If they are caught reading they will go into a raffle for a Barnes & Noble Gift Card!

Themed Dress Down Days:

**Monday:** Readers Oath - Students can dress in crazy hats, crazy hair and stripes

**Tuesday:** Students can dress in orange & wear a mustache for the Lorax!

**Wednesday:** Students can dress in SME attire or their class color listed on the flyer!

**Thursday:** Students can wear pajamas and bring their favorite Dr. Seuss book

**Friday:** Students can dress in animal print and wear crazy socks

*Students must adhere to the dress down policy. Violators will shop the uniform exchange.*

## BASKETBALL SLAM FUNDRAISER

The Basketball Slam information will be coming home soon! This fundraiser follows the March Madness tournament March 15-April 4, 2022. Tickets are \$10 each and winning prizes are mailed out to the winners after the tournament is over. Ticket orders are due by Friday, March 16th and will be processed by our chairperson. Please allow 1-2 weeks to receive your tickets. Please reach out to Melissa Mitchell if you have any questions.



Chair: Melissa Mitchell Email: [melissa.mitchell514@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.mitchell514@gmail.com) Phone: (716) 465-9846

## COVID TEST KITS

This week Thursday & Friday we will be distributing Covid test kits to any family that would like another box during dismissal.

There is no need to pre-request and there is no obligation to take one.

## BISON FUND

Committed to its mission of making quality education accessible to all, the Bison Fund average scholarship award will be between \$1,500 and a maximum award of \$2,500 for the 2022-2023 school year.

As we welcome 2022, Bison Fund is currently accepting K-8 pre-applications for funding for the 2022-2023 school year. New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on the Bison Fund website at [bisonfund.com](http://bisonfund.com). **The new family deadline is February 28, 2022.** Preference is NOT given to early applications, however applicants must apply by February 28th to be considered for the lottery. New families applying after the February 28, 2022 deadline will be placed on a waitlist.

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on March 1, 2022. If you're not chosen in the lottery, you can always reapply for the next school year.

Current families do not need to fill out a pre-application and will be emailed a link to complete the requalification process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy McDonald, program director at 716-854-0869 ext. 1 or [cmcdonald@bisonfund.com](mailto:cmcdonald@bisonfund.com).



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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

Great news! Beginning with the first quarter of the 2022/2023 school year, the tuition rebate credit will be split 80/20 as opposed to the 50/50 split that occurred this year. Now, you will be able to save even more on your tuition!

There will **not** be an order placed on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, due to school being off that week.  
The next order date is Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**COMING SOON!** ThankScriping Day is your opportunity to earn up to 20% with 70+ bonuses on eGift cards and reloaded gift cards. Stock up and make an even bigger impact.

### Gift card updates:

- Sunoco & Wendy's Gift Cards, as well as Gift Card Wrappers are temporarily unavailable
- Kohl's: Online ordering use (SME) option to get the 5% rebate
- Tops: Online ordering use (Tops Markets) option to get the 5.5% rebate

### Hours:

- Monday-Friday: 9:00-3:00 in the Rectory
- To ensure timely receipt, orders (paper & online) must be submitted by 10:00am Monday

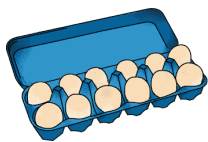
For a complete list of participating retailers visit the shop with scrip website: <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse>

If you have any questions, please email us at [scrip@smeschool.com](mailto:scrip@smeschool.com). We are here for you!

*\*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!*



## FROM THE ART ROOM



Collection of Styrofoam egg cartons is year round at SME and we appreciate the donations!

## CALENDAR CLUB

Prizes will be paid the first week of each month for the previous month and the winning calendar numbers for each month will be posted on the school (under the NewsNotes tab) and parish websites.

If you have any questions about this fundraiser, you can reach Joe Magiera at [calendarclub@smeschool.com](mailto:calendarclub@smeschool.com), or (716) 253-7880.

## HELP WANTED

Who: The rectory is in need of a part time cleaning person.

What: Cleaning of the rectory offices and 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference rooms

When: Approximately 3 to 4 hours a week, 1 day a week.

How to Apply: Contact Heather: [heather@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:heather@stmarysonthehill.org)

## PE ONLINE STORE

Our PE online store is open once again for this school year.

The store will be open until Monday 2/28. Orders now have the option of direct shipping (pay S&H) or delivery to the school (free).

<http://sm-gym.allstargear.com/>

The next store will open in July for your 2022-2023 shopping.

## TAX INFO

Starting your taxes?

We are unable to give out our Tax Id Number. Have your preparer indicate 'Religious Exemption' in its place.



## MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle is our largest fundraiser, and so extremely vital to the financial success of St. Mary's.



As stated in the registration packet, fundraising participation is expected of each family, including the responsibility to sell or purchase two Mega Raffle tickets.

Ticket sales are already off to a great start, and our first early bird drawing is Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to get your order in for a chance to win \$300!!

If you are interested in joining our committee, or helping out with the drawing in any way, please contact Mary Kate DeMarzio at: [megaraffle@smeschool.com](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com)

## NURSE INFO



Nurse Tara is available Monday - Friday from 9:30am until 1:00pm and can be reached at:

[nurse@smeschool.com](mailto:nurse@smeschool.com)  
683-2112 x128

<https://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov/health/files/uploads/pdfs/COVID19TestingResourcesforStudentsinErieCounty.pdf>

## SPRING FUNDRAISING

Both Niagara Chocolates and Fowlers have integrated a fully online sales platform, that means no paper orders to pass, no payments to collect! All ordering is done & paid online. Because of this, we are offering the option to shop with either or both delicious companies!

### Niagara Chocolates

Only direct shipping, free with orders of \$50+.

<http://www.myniagarastore.com/STMARYELM>

Sale Begins: 2/9

Sale Ends: 4/4

Orders begin shipping March 1<sup>st</sup>



### Fowlers Chocolates

Direct shipping (pay S & H) or free delivery to SME.

<https://shop.fowlersfundraising.com/>

Sale Begins: 2/9

Sale Ends: 2/28

Delivery to SME the week of March 14<sup>th</sup>

## STAY IN THE KNOW



**Save the Date:** 2/21-2/25 Mid Winter Recess

**Save the Date:** 3/2 - Lent Begins, Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30

**Save the Date:** 6/3 - Ready SET Read / Battle of the Books

**Save the Date:**

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## SCHOOLSTORE.COM

Thank you to those families who have spread the word about our SchoolStore fundraiser.

Participation prizes are being distributed daily.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our 2022 Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lancaster Country Club. 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. We are looking for additional members on the planning committee, as well as volunteers to help out the day of the tournament. Please reach out to Phil Gonser if you are interested/available: [pgonser@gmail.com](mailto:pgonser@gmail.com) or (716) 807-5719.



# Read Across America Week

Monday, February 28th - Friday, March 4th 2022

## Dear Parents:

The week of Monday, February 28th to March 4th 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.

**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. Feb. 28th - Reader's Oath & "Hats Off to Dr. Seuss":** SME School will take the Reader's Oath during the morning announcements to launch Read Across America Week. SME students can dress in crazy hats, crazy hair and stripes.

**Tues., March 1st - "The Lorax":** Students can dress in orange and wear a mustache. Classes can watch The Lorax.

**Wed., March 2nd - "Hooray for Diffendoofer Day":** Students can dress in their SME attire, wear school colors or class color. Pre-k: pre-k t-shirt, K: red, 1st: orange, 2nd: yellow, 3rd: green, 4th: light blue, 5th: purple, 6th: black, 7th: white, 8th: class T-shirt

**Thurs., March 3rd - Cozy up to a good book with the "Sleep Book":** Students can dress in their pajamas (no tank tops) and bring in their favorite Dr. Seuss book.

**Fri., March 4th - If I Ran the Zoo/Fox in Socks:** Students can dress in animal print and wear crazy socks

**\* School appropriate jeans are acceptable on each dress down day. If children choose not to participate on any given day they are to be in full uniform.**

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