

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 23 MARCH 2, 2022

FROM THE INTERIM PRINCIPAL...

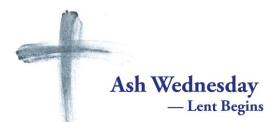
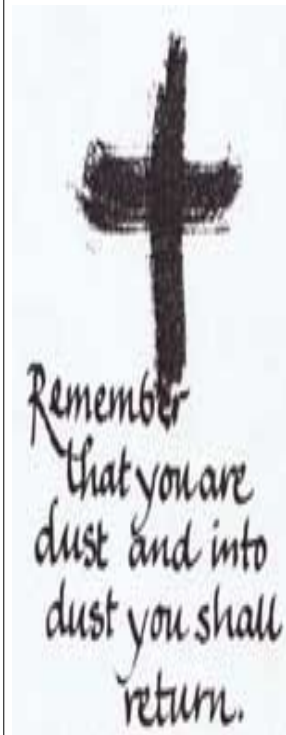
Greetings, St. Mary's Elementary Community,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to accept the position of Interim Principal of St. Mary's Elementary School, and I very much look forward to serving our community in this capacity. I would like to thank Fr. Paul for this opportunity and his support, and I optimistically anticipate working with our dedicated, talented faculty over the upcoming months, as we continue to provide our students with the highest quality of education. I have been in education for 15 years, and have worked primarily as an English teacher, though I have also taught Religion, Social Studies, and Spanish. Additionally, I have worked as both an Assistant Principal and Principal; these experiences will help me serve our community well.

My goal is to continue to grow my relationships with our teachers, meet and acquaint myself with our students, and partner with our parents in the efforts of evolving SME into the best school it can possibly be. Simply stated, my educational philosophy is "Do what's best for the child." The decisions I have made and will continue to make are consistent, fair, and represent this philosophy. I am a very visible principal, which means you can expect to see me outside at morning drop-off, visiting classrooms, and walking around the school regularly. Visiting classrooms and interacting with students is my favorite part of the job!

On a more personal note, St. Mary's has been and will continue to be my family's home. We are proud parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, and my son is currently in our wonderful pre-K program. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the very near future.

Yours in Christ,
Mr. Glenn Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3/2 - Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30. Lent Begins
- 3/8 - 8th Grade Cap & Gown Pictures
- 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
- 4/1 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- 4/11 - 4/18 - NO SCHOOL Easter Recess

BY THE NUMBERS

SCRIP:

From 2/15 - 2/28/22 the Scrip rebate profit earned towards tuition was \$543.87.

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: \$20,565.00

Annual Rebate Profit to Date (3/23-2/28/22): \$19,093.75

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 goes 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 ready during nonacademic activities. If they are caught reading they will go into a raffle for a Barnes & Noble Gift Card!

Themed Dress Down Days:

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 was sent home with each student! 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 Phone: (716) 465-9846



SME YEARBOOKS



On Sale Now!

Paper/flyer order forms are coming home today and are due by 4/8
Online ordering ends 4/15



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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. **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.





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!

The fourth quarter of Scrip earnings for the 2021/2022 school year will end on March 14th, and the first quarter of the 2022/2023 school year will begin on March 15th.

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.
We are here for you!

NURSE NOTES

I will be starting vision and hearing testing this week. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please reach out to me or your teacher!

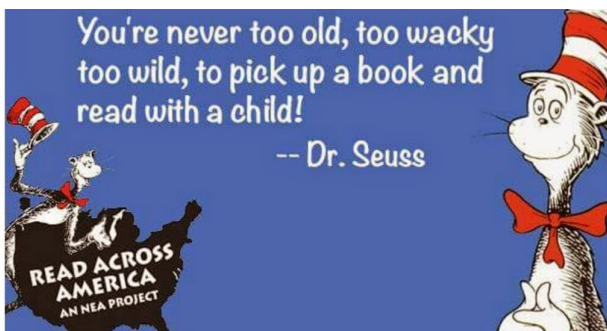
With the new mask guidelines, please feel free to do what makes you and your family comfortable. If you would still like your child to wear a mask in school, please do so.

At this time, the school districts are still following the same quarantine/isolation guidelines.

We may see a rise in other illnesses at this time, so please be diligent about not sending your child to school ill. If your child has been running a fever, please make sure they are fever free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

Thank you again for all of your help and patience.

Nurse Tara
nurse@smeschool.com
683-2112 x128



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. February prize winning checks will be mailed this week.

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

TAX INFO

Starting your taxes?

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



NURSE INFO

 Nurse Tara is available Monday - Friday from 9:30am until 1:00pm and can be reached at:
nurse@smeschool.com
683-2112 x128

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

STAY IN THE KNOW



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

Save the Date: 3/4 - Spring Sales end (Niagara & Fowlers)

Save the Date: 3/8 - 8th Gr. Cap & Gown Picture Day

Save the Date: 4/1 Mega Early Bird Drawing #2

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

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are going great! 475 tickets were part of the first early bird drawing on March 1st and \$300 was awarded to the purchaser of ticket #747.

**The second early bird drawing is on Friday, April 1st, and orders will be accepted through 4:00pm on Thursday, March 31st.
Be sure to get your orders in for a chance to win \$200! **



As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, 142 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 encouraging 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 virtual drawing on Friday, June 10th. 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!

If you are interested in joining the Mega Raffle committee, please reach out to megaffle@smeschool.com.
We encourage as much support as possible!

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

Sale Ends: 4/4

Orders begin shipping March 1st

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

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



Fowlers Chocolates

Sale Extended through: 4/4

Delivery to SME the week of March 14th

Free ship to SME or direct to home (S&H)

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

SCHOOLSTORE.COM

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

Participation prizes are still being distributed daily.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE: Our 2022 Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 18th 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 or (716) 807-5719.

LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Attend an Ash Wednesday Mass or prayer service today.</p>	<p>As a family, research and select a charity that you will support during Lent.</p>	<p>Fast from taking second helpings at meals.</p>	<p>Take over a disliked chore for a family member.</p>
<p>First Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Attend Mass often. The Eucharist is our greatest communal prayer and a surefire way to encounter Jesus.</p>	<p>Pray with your family at mealtime. Make a point of praying for people in need.</p>	<p>At bedtime, pray for people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets tonight.</p>	<p>Be more courteous in your attitude, words, and deeds.</p>	<p>Make a list of ten things you are grateful for in your life.</p>	<p>Fast from criticizing others aloud or silently in your mind. Seek to understand instead.</p>	<p>Pray while creating a piece of artwork. Do something creative, and do so for the glory of God.</p>
<p>Second Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Forego a favorite TV program for a week.</p>	<p>Go through your closets and donate usable clothing and household goods to a local charity.</p>	<p>Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside.</p>	<p>Fast from gossip.</p>	<p>Pray at the sound of sirens from emergency vehicles. Pray for the people who might be in trouble.</p>	<p>Fast from e-mail, text messaging, or both for a day.</p>	<p>Speak less and listen more. Give others the gift of your undivided attention.</p>
<p>Third Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Pray while you go for a walk.</p>	<p>Fast from overscheduling your time. Leave some time to simply be.</p>	<p>Curtail your extra spending and donate what you save to your chosen charity.</p>	<p>At the end of the day, take time to thank God for all the graces you received during the day.</p>	<p>Pray the Rosary or other traditional prayers of the Church. Realize that you are joining your voice to millions of others who have prayed these prayers through the years.</p>	<p>Fast from the habit, substance, practice, or mindset that most stands in the way of your growing closer to God.</p>	<p>While grocery shopping, purchase an additional day's supply of food and drop it off at a local food pantry.</p>

LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>During prayer, picture yourself meeting Jesus in a scene from the Gospels. Imagine your reaction and response.</p>	<p>Send a greeting card or a letter to a relative, friend, or fellow parishioner who is homebound.</p>	<p>Fast from eating food mindlessly, that is, from not even bothering to taste it.</p>	<p>Clean up a common area at work, in the neighborhood, or at home. Do it as a gift for the good of all.</p>	<p>Invite a widowed neighbor to join your family for a meal.</p>	<p>Fast from worrying. Trust God instead.</p>	<p>Plant a tree that will benefit future generations.</p>
<p>Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Pray for the willingness to seek forgiveness from people you have hurt.</p>	<p>Fast from light. Sit by the light of one candle in your home. Remember that Jesus has called you to be a light for the world.</p>	<p>Make a prayer out of performing a loving action for others. For example, when you take out the garbage or help your child with homework, do it mindfully.</p>	<p>Pick a day when you fast from using electronic appliances.</p>	<p>When you see or hear a news story about someone in trouble, pray for the person as a family.</p>	<p>Fast from hitting the snooze alarm. Get up and use the extra time for prayer.</p>	<p>At the grocery store, pray for the farmers and all those who help make available the food that you will bring to your table.</p>
<p>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</p> <p>Prayerfully read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.</p>	<p>Monday of Holy Week</p> <p>Volunteer for a parish program that helps those in need.</p>	<p>Tuesday of Holy Week</p> <p>Let a favorite hymn run through your mind as a prayer.</p>	<p>Wednesday of Holy Week</p> <p>Fast from comparing yourself to others. We are all one in God.</p>	<p>Holy Thursday</p> <p>Recognize your own needs and give them their due. Allow others to help you from time to time.</p>	<p>Good Friday of the Lord's Passion</p> <p>Fast from complaining. Notice how often you are tempted to complain!</p>	<p>Holy Saturday</p> <p>Be mindful of all that God has done for you.</p>
<p>The Resurrection of the Lord</p> <p>Celebrate Easter!</p>	<p><i>Notes and Reflections...</i></p>					

DR. EDWARD SRI "LIVING LENT" 2-EVE PARISH MISSION

Tuesday, March 15

7 p.m. "Into His Likeness"

7:45 p.m. Break

8:00 p.m. "Walking with
Mary in Lent"

Wednesday, March 16

7 p.m. "Vibrant Faith"

7:45 p.m. Break

8:00 p.m. "Biblical Walk
Through the Mass"

St. Martha Church

10 French Road

Depew, NY 14043

716-684-6342

Co-sponsored by:

Our Lady of Pompeii

St. Mary of the Assumption

St. Teresa of Calcutta

St. Martha

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Dr. Edward Sri is a renowned Catholic theologian, author, and international lecturer who speaks to tens of thousands of people across the world each year.

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- "...visible examples of Gospel living."

Mar, 2022

Student lunches are **\$3.50**, and adult lunches are **\$5**. 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 four alternate choices offered daily; Julienne Salad, Yogurt Parfait, Sunbutter/Jelly, and Ham/Cheese Sandwiches. **Julienne Salad and Ham/Cheese Sandwiches will not be offered on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at kitchenmanager@smeschool.com. We appreciate your support. Tracy Hadsall & Jenny Fulciniti

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 French Toast Sticks Egg Patty, Potatoes Veggie Juice, Fruit & Milk	1 Nachos Grande Bean Salad Corn, Fruit & Milk	2 Ash Wednesday Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Veggie, Fruit & Milk	3 Chicken Parm on Bun w/Marinara Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk	4 Cheese Pizza Romaine Salad Veggie, Fruit & Milk
7 Breakfast Sandwich (Egg Patty, Cheese, Ham) Potatoes, Veggie Juice Fruit & Milk	8 Sweet & Sour Chicken Brown Rice Veggies, Fruit & Milk	9 Market Salad w/Chicken Berries, Diced Apple, Cheese Whole Grain Muffin Veggie, Fruit & Milk	10 Loaded Baked Potato Tomato Soup Veggie, Fruit & Milk	11 Cheese Pizza Romaine Salad Veggie, Fruit & Milk
14 Cheeseburger Potatoes Baked Beans, Fruit & Milk	15 Ramen Bowl w/Chicken Broth, Noodles, Veggies Veggie, Fruit & Milk	16 Taco Salad Tortilla Chips Veggie, Fruit & Milk	17 Sloppy Joes Tater Tots Veggie, Fruit & Milk	18 10:45 Dismissal No Lunch Service Staff Development
21 Breakfast Pizza Potatoes Veggie, Fruit & Milk	22 Italiano Incredi Bowl w/Orzo Pasta, Cannelini, Meatballs & Marinara Veggie, Fruit & Milk	23 Antipasto Salad Garlic Bread Veggie, Fruit & Milk	24 Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Corn, Fruit & Milk	25 Cheese Pizza Romaine Salad Veggie, Fruit & Milk
28 Meatball Bomber Veggies Fruit & Milk	29 Mexi Incredi Bowl w/Meat, Rice, Beans, Corn, Cheese Veggie, Fruit & Milk	30 Chicken Souvlaki Pita Bread Veggie, Fruit & Milk	31 Mac-n-Cheese Tomato Soup Veggie, Fruit & Milk	

Menu subject to change.

Prepayment Guidelines for Student Lunches at St Mary's Elementary

1. The upcoming lunch menu is always posted on the SME Website by the last Wednesday of the month. Once you look over the menu, you may decide to prepay for as many or as few lunches as you wish.
2. A check or cash may be sent with your child/children in an envelope clearly labeled with 'Name, Amount Enclosed, and Number of Lunches Paying For.'
3. The Kitchen will then record how many Prepaid Lunches are available for your student(s), and will be marked accordingly. We will track your account(s) as the lunches are used and the account is depleted.
4. Even if the account balance is at zero, no child will ever go without a lunch. A Notice of Account will be sent via e-mail to indicate that the account needs to be replenished.
5. We also allow for ala carte milk to be prepaid. We will record and track daily milk purchases, just as we do for lunches. Simply send in a clearly marked envelope with your 'Name, Amount Enclosed, and Number of Milk Purchases Paying For.'
6. Any questions regarding the SME Lunch Program, contact us at kitchenmanager@smeschool.com, or 683-2112 extension 119 during school business hours.

Please note our daily offerings and menu options are subject to change. Due to Covid, our menu has become somewhat more fluid, often changing to accommodate supply chain interruptions and shortages. We have had to make several changes as deliveries have not included what was requested at the beginning of the month, when the menu was created. We do not always know when a manufacturer stops production or drops a product from their line because of demand, or lack thereof. Although these substitutions are made after the menu has been created, the daily offerings are still in keeping with the National School Lunch Program, and adhere to all standards set forth. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at kitchenmanager@smeschool.com. Thank you for your support of our school lunch program! We love our Customers and appreciate their patience!



St. Mary's Elementary School
YEARBOOKS ARE NOW ON SALE

Flyer Orders Are Due By: Friday, April 08, 2022

Online Ordering Ends: **Friday, April 15, 2022**

Hardcover Color \$13.00

To order visit: **inter-state.com/order** and enter this code: **63622B**
Or return envelope with cash or check payable to: Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co.

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

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.

Hardcover Color \$13.00



PRACTICE ENTRANCE EXAMS *for prospective students in grade 7*

Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. or

Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

We encourage all 7th grade boys considering St. Joe's as a high school destination to take a free practice Entrance & Scholarship Exam under normal testing conditions. The exam takes approximately three hours and all testing materials are provided by St. Joe's. A full exam score report is mailed to your home approximately 30 days after the exam.

[Register for a 7th Grade Practice Exam](#)

SUMMER CAMPS 2022

We're getting ready for the best summer @ SJCI yet! Don't miss out on our summer camps!

Now is the time to reserve your spot at Collegiate Summer, Innovation Camp, Outdoorsman Camp, and our 12 different Sports Camps. Camps are open to boys of a variety of ages.

[Register for St. Joe's Summer Camps](#)

SPRING OPEN HOUSE 2022 *for all prospective families*

Sunday, May 1, 2022

All prospective students and their families are invited to Open House for private, self guided tours of our modern campus. Your tour map will direct you through our campus to interact with our teachers, staff, coaches, and students. This a pre-registration event only with limited attendance and appointment slots. Each party is limited to the prospective student and up to two adults.

Schedule your appointment: **[Spring Open House 2022](#)**

EXPERIENCE ST. JOE'S MORNING PROGRAM *for all prospective families*

This program allows prospective families the opportunity to experience our Community of Excellence during a regular school day in a small group setting. Experience St. Joe's is offered on select Wednesdays from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Each session includes remarks from our President, Christopher Fulco, Ed.D., and Principal, Mr. James Spillman '95 along with a tour of campus, including opportunities to experience classes in session. Each session is limited to 4 families total with each party containing the prospective student and up to two adults.

Wednesday, April, 6 (9 - 10:30 a.m.)

Schedule an **[Experience St. Joe's Program Appointment](#)**

EXPERIENCE ST. JOE'S EVENING PROGRAM *for all prospective families*

This program allows prospective families the opportunity to experience our Community of Excellence during an evening in a small group setting. Experience St. Joe's is offered on select evenings throughout the academic year. Each session includes remarks from our President, Christopher Fulco, Ed.D., and Principal, Mr. James Spillman '95 along with a tour of campus including opportunities to interact with current students, teachers, coaches, and parents. Each session is limited to ten (10) families total with each party containing the prospective student and up to two adults.

Wednesday, March 9 (7 - 8:30 p.m.)

Schedule an **[Experience St. Joe's Program Appointment](#)**

All events can be accessed through the admissions tab at sjci.com