

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 33 MAY 18, 2022

FROM THE INTERIM PRINCIPAL...

Dear St. Mary's Elementary School Families,

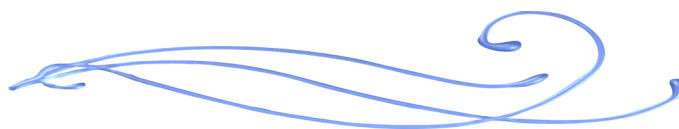
Last Friday, our school community celebrated our **May Crowning Mass** outside. As we celebrated the Eucharist under a clear and sunny sky, we were all reminded that Mary, by saying yes to God, blessed all of us with our Savior, Jesus. Mary's faith and the Incarnation of the Word changed everything, for all of us. With maternal concern, Mary constantly looks out for all of us; her son Jesus offers all of us hope, in all situations. Always.

This Friday, our 8th grade class will celebrate our annual **Hope Ribbon Mass**, an event that both recognizes and honors achievements completed while also taking an optimistic look at the limitless possibilities of the future. This celebration always leads to a reflection of the virtue of hope.

Hope is a theological virtue, a gift from God through which we will achieve eternal life - and the means of obtaining it. As we teach our students here at the school, living with this virtue does not mean life will be simple and easy. Instead, I feel that we are reminded that life is littered with sadness, grief, tragedy, and loss. But, if we continue to follow Mary's example and say "yes" to the Lord, with hearts full of love and hope, we will always be blessed with all we need in life.

Have a blessed week,

Mr. Olejniczak
olejniczak@smeschool.com



SPRING CONCERT & ART SHOW

On Wednesday June 1st we are excited to share the artistic talents of our K-8 student body in both sound & work! The concert will begin at 9:00 and all are welcome to attend. Artwork will be displayed throughout the halls as well!

BY THE NUMBERS

RaiseRight:

From 5/10 - 5/16/22 the RaiseRight rebate profit earned towards tuition was **\$312.36**.

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

May Sales to Date: \$10,325.00

Annual Rebate Profit to Date (3/15 - 5/16/22): \$2,168.59

CANDY BAR SALE:

Chocolate bars are just \$1.

Initial Order: \$7200.00

(Deficit)/Profit: (\$607.00)

Order Anytime:

<https://forms.gle/vfLmhrHoEG2PL8oG9>

MEGA RAFFLE:

Totals as of 5/12

Total tickets Sold: 676

Tickets Left: 574

Sold by SME Families: 223

DINNER FUNDRAISERS:

Save the date

Chipotle (Transit near BJ's): 6/4

Panera Results: \$128.24! Thank you!!

AMAZON SMILE:

March Donation: \$82.83

Shop [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) & select St. Mary's and a portion of your order can be donated to us!

SCHOOL PICNIC

School Picnic:

We are excited to host our School Picnic once again this year!

The picnic will be held on Tuesday, June 21st.

Please see the following sign up for a list of donatable items & volunteer slots:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4CADA923A2FF2-school>

MEGA RAFFLE

Our Mega Raffle drawing is just 3 weeks away! No ticket yet? No problem! While our ticket sales are going great with **676** tickets sold as of May 12th; there are still plenty of chances to get into the drawing, with 574 tickets remaining.

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families.

As part of the tuition agreement, each family is asked to sell or purchase at least two tickets.

So far, **223** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by **74** of the 186 current school families; a percentage of 40%. We thank you for your support and encourage the other 112 families to meet their commitment soon.

Don't forget about the **sales competition** as well: The classroom with the highest number of tickets sold by June 1st will be rewarded with an ice cream party, and the top seller from each class will get to ride a fire truck to school!

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!

Flyers are available upon request - people love a raffle!

If you are interested in joining the Mega Raffle committee, please reach out to megaraffle@smeschool.com.

We encourage as much support as possible!

The prize winners will be announced at the virtual drawing on Friday, June 10th.



Thank you again for all of your continued support on this important fundraiser.

HSA

Spring Book Fair:

The book fair will be held on May 25th & May 26th just before our long Memorial Day Weekend. If you are able to help with set up on Tuesday 5/24 or during the fair, please contact Jenny Sparmo (jennifersparmo@gmail.com) to reserve your spot! A schedule is attached electronically today to see when your child's class will attend. Students in grades 3 & under are welcome to have a parent/guardian come in and assist them while shopping. There will be parent volunteers in and able to help as well.

Chocolate Bar Sale:

Chocolate bars are still available! Orders can be placed via our google form: <https://forms.gle/vfLmhrHoEG2PL8oG9>

If you would prefer a paper order form be sent home, please contact Mrs. Kuhn and that will be taken care of.

Take a box to work and see how fast they go!

Each box will earn a dress down pass upon receipt of payment from here on out!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **5/20** - 8th Grade Hope Ribbon Mass 8:30am
- **5/24** - NYS Science Testing
- **5/25-5/26** - Book Fair
- **5/26** - Ascension Thursday Mass 8:30
- **5/27** - NO SCHOOL
- **5/30** - NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
- **6/1** - K-8 Spring Concert & Art Show 9:00 - GYM
- **6/3** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **6/6** - NYS Science Testing
- **6/10 - 10:45** Early Dismissal - Staff PD. NO AFTERSCHOOL



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ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112
Fax: 716-683-2134
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,
WE DO GOD'S WILL



RAISERIGHT CORNER

ShopWithScrip is now RaiseRight – same great savings for you, with a new name and more user friendly platform.

We will slowly be rebranding through St. Mary's, and so you will continue to see both Scrip and RaiseRight used.

For the 2022/2023 school year, the tuition rebate credit will now be split 80/20 so that you will be able to save even more on your tuition!

You can start earning now towards your tuition for the 2022/2023 school year, and sales continue at the rectory all summer!

There will NOT be an order placed the week of May 30th due to the Memorial Day holiday. The remaining order dates of the school year are May 23rd, June 6th & June 13th. The program runs year round (meaning you can earn rebate credits year round) and gift cards can be purchased from the Rectory all summer.



Gift card updates:

- Now in stock: \$25 Focus Brands gift cards: good at McAlister's, Carvel, Moe's, Auntie Anne's, Jamba, Cinnabon & Schlotzsky's
- Burger King & Sunoco Gift Cards 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 RaiseRight website: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

If you have any questions, please email us at 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.

Dinner! Gas! Groceries! Clothes! Furniture! Vacations! Coffee! Health & Beauty! Prescriptions!

READY SET READ

We will be hosting our Annual
Ready SET Read & Battle of the Books
event on June 3rd during the school day.

Students in Pre-K - Grade 3 participate in themed activities while students in Grades 4 -5 & 6-8 battle it out trivia style by reading novels.

Our reading challenge is underway for our students through 3rd grade!

Keep on reading & earning those 20 minute reading slips to drop another stone in the bucket.
The heaviest bucket will win a prize!

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Save the Date:

Our 2022 Golf Tournament is Monday, July 11th at Diamond Hawk Golf Club.

Raffle tickets & tournament sign up sheets went home to all families. If you are in need of more tickets, please contact Mrs. Kuhn.

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 in helping out: pgonser@gmail.com or (716) 807-5719.

CALENDAR CLUB

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

Prizes are paid the first week of each month for the previous month. April prize winning checks were mailed last week.

Monthly winners posted on our website's NewsNote tab.

NURSE INFO

Nurse Tara Salge
nurse@smeschool.com
683-2112 x128
M-F 9:30am - 1:00pm

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.



NURSE NOTES

Warm weather notes...

- * Please have your child(ren) bring a water bottle with them daily.
- * Sweatshirts/hoodies must be worn atop a uniform approved top so they can be removed as needed throughout the school day.
- * Please remember sunscreen, hats, and proper footwear for kids while outside.
- * Shorts are allowed to be worn through the remainder of the school year. Please adhere to the uniform policy guidelines.

Some reminders as we look to the 2022-2023 school year:

- ⇒ All **NEW** students at St. Mary's Elementary are required to have a current physical.
- ⇒ New York State requires that the following grade levels must have a current physical on file: PRE-K, K, 1, 3, 5, 7. Physicals are valid for one calendar year from the date a student is evaluated.
- ⇒ Letters have been sent to 5th Grade students needing the required Tdap immunization upon entering 6th Grade. Please plan accordingly over the next few months to make an appointment with your doctor to receive this if needed.
- ⇒ Students entering 7th grade are required to have one dose of Meningitis vaccine. You will be notified if you are needing this immunization.

DIOCESAN ART SHOW

The following SME students' artwork has been selected from the juried Diocesan Art Show.

Work was on display at the X-STREAM games this past Sunday at St. Joe's.

Winners will receive a Ribbon recognizing their accomplishment.

1st PLACE: Jack L. - 7th grade, 1 point perspective Aquarium
2nd PLACE: Tara P. - 7th grade, Dragon Eye in oil pastel
3rd PLACE: Ava V. - 2nd grade, Cardinals and birch trees, mixed media collage

Congratulations Artists!

BOX TOPS 4 EDUCATION

Did you know that St. Mary's participates in the Box Tops 4 Education program?

The program has gone digital! Gone are the days of clipping tiny little coupons. Now all you have to do is download the app & snap a picture of your receipt. It couldn't be easier!

For more information and to download the app:
<https://www.boxtops4education.com/referred>

This month, new app users who sign up to support a school using code **TeachersMakeUsBetter** will earn \$5 for their school when they scan their first receipt by 5/31/22!

YEARBOOK

Yearbook presale orders will be arriving soon!

We will have a limited amount of yearbooks available via cash & carry for \$15.00. If you are interested in a yearbook please send your payment (cash or check payable to SME) to the attention of Mrs. Kuhn / Yearbook. The orders will be filled first come first serve.

8TH GRADE INFO

Hope Ribbon Mass begins at 8:30 in the Church.

There will be a professional photograph taken at the end of Mass. Order forms went home with the Hope Ribbon mass information & attire sign off page & can be returned at any time.

We look forward to this special tradition & mass with our 8th graders!

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date: 5/20 Hope Ribbon

Save the Date: 5/25-5/26 Spring BOGO Book Fair

Save the Date: 5/27 & 5/30 NO SCHOOL

Save the Date: 6/1 Spring Concert & Art Show 9:00am GYM

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

Save the Date: 6/4 - Chipotle Fundraiser

June Happenings

Lancaster Public Library

5466 Broadway • 716-683-1120

Registration is required for all programs.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/lancasterlibrary> or call 716-683-1120.

Summer Kick-Off Party!

Wednesday, June 30, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us in the library with crafts, games, popcorn and even an appearance from a special guest! Glenn Colton will perform! Fun for all ages!

Summer Reading RAFFLE- 4 BIG Prizes

Wednesday, June 1 - Thursday, August 18

Check out books to win!

Kids 12 and under receive one raffle ticket for every 5 print books checked out.

Teens 13-17 receive one raffle ticket for every 3 print books checked out.

Prizes are funded by contributions from our generous donors. Prize #1: Camping Tent.

Prize #2: Sprinkler Splash Pad. Prize #3: LEGO sets. Prize #4: Telescope.

Summer Reading BINGO for Teens & Adults

Thursday, June 23 - Wednesday, August 31

Pick up a bingo sheet at our library and complete a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line.

Turn in your card at the Lancaster Public Library and you'll be entered to win a Fitbit

Color by Number Reading Log - WIN Prizes!

Thursday, June 23 - Wednesday, August 31

Pick up a color by number reading log in the library to participate. Color a section after reading a book. Once you read 10 books, color and complete the reading log and turn it in for a prize! For kids up to age 17.

Drop-In LEGO

Thursday, June 2, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *No registration required.*

No need to bring your bricks, just bring your imagination and create. Ages 5 and up.

Dare to Repair Cafe

Saturday, June 4, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Register to attend: thetoolibrary.org/daretorepair

Dare to Repair Cafes are pop-up community events where individuals can bring broken items and have a team of volunteer fixers to try and to repair the item alongside them for free!

Ms. Melissa's Sprouts

Monday, June 6, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. *Reg. begins 5/9.*

Join Ms. Melissa in helping your little one learn and grow through music. Ages 6 and under.

Computer Coach

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21 & 28, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Reg begins 5/24.*

A library staff member can assist you with computer related topics. Ages 17 and above.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21 & 28, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. *Reg begins 5/24.*

Ms. Meg will read stories and hand out crafts to make at home. Ages 3-5.

Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21 & 28, 11:30 a.m. - noon. *Reg begins 5/24.*

Ms. Meg will read stories and hand out crafts to make at home. Ages 2-3.

Lapsit Storytime

Fridays, June 10, 17 & 24, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. *Reg. begins 5/27.*

Parents/caregivers will enjoy stories, songs & fingerplays with Ms. Meg. Ages 3-23 months.

Family Storytime

Fridays, June 10, 17 & 24, 11:30 a.m. - noon. *Reg begins 5/27.*

Ms. Meg will read stories and hand out simple crafts to work on together. Ages 6 and under.

Home Internet Setup Class

Wednesday, June 15, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Reg. begins 5/16.*

Curious of how to get internet into your home? This class will help you learn the steps to connect to the internet.

Father's Day Crafts with the Youth Bureau

Wednesday, June 15, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. *Reg. begins 5/18.*

Join the Lancaster Youth Bureau and create fun crafts. Ages 5-12.

LEGO Club

Saturday, June 18, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. - noon. *Reg. begins 5/7.*

Each month will have a theme to build your own creation to be displayed in the library. Children will have their own set of bricks. Ages 6-12.

Drop-In Button Program

Monday, June 20, 11:00 a.m. - noon. *No registration required.*

Stop by and make your own button. All Ages.

Paws for Love: Read to a Dog

Saturday, June 25, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Reg. begins 5/27.*

Pick out a book and practice reading out loud to a therapy dog. Improve literacy skills and reading confidence. Ages 4-12.

Take Home Kits

Stop by the library and request a kit to make at home. All take home kits are FREE. One per child, while supplies last.

Craft & Carry - Summer-themed take home crafts! Ages 5-12

STEM Kits - Straw Pan Flutes! Ages 7 and up

Weekly Take & Make at Home Craft All Ages



NEW Diocese of Buffalo Youth Council

Theodore Musco

Director of Renewal Mission, Evangelization, and Lay Formation
Director of Youth and Young Adult Missionary Discipleship

Attention: Parents and Guardians

Establishing the New Diocesan Youth Council for 2022

Pope Francis, in section 135 of his beautiful document *Christus Vivit (Christ is Alive)*, tells us, “God is the giver of youth and he is at work in the life of each young person. Youth is a blessed time for the young and a grace for the Church and for the world. It is joy, a song of hope and a blessing. It is very evident that youth have plenty to offer the family, school, and Church. It is the desire of Bishop Fisher to listen carefully to each person here in the Diocese of Buffalo, and certainly, this includes our youth.

PURPOSE

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) seeks to provide opportunities for young people to participate in the renewal of the life, mission, and work of the Diocese of Buffalo through gatherings with the Diocesan Bishop and appropriate adult lay leaders. There will be two groups established within the Council: students in grades 6-8 and students in grades 9-12. Each group will receive training and formation before and while they serve on the Council.

The representatives will:

- Advise and consult with the Bishop and Catholic Center leadership regarding youth and Church issues
- Advocate for youth across the Diocese of Buffalo
- Provide witness of missionary discipleship to parishes, Family of Parishes, and Diocese of Buffalo

STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

Youth ministry has to be synodal; it should involve a “journeying together” that values “the charisms that the Spirit bestows in accordance with the vocation and role of each of the Church’s members, through a process of co-responsibility... Motivated by this spirit, we can move towards a participatory and co-responsible Church, one capable of appreciating its own rich variety, gratefully accepting the contributions of the lay faithful, including young people and women, consecrated persons, as well as groups, associations and movements. No one should be excluded or exclude themselves”. Christus Vivit, #206

- The Council will be composed of teen representatives from each vicariate (representing grades 6-8 and representing grade 9-12) and fourteen representatives (two from grades 6-8 and two from grades 9-12) chosen from various apostolates. Each representative will serve a one or two-year term.
- Diocesan Youth Council applications for youth will be available annually.
- Adult representatives serve one or two year terms (renewable once) as members of a Youth Council Advisory Board under the leadership of the Diocesan Director for Youth and Young Adult Missionary Discipleship.

- In addition to regular bi-monthly gatherings (six times per year) usually with the Bishop, youth will be expected to participate regularly in their local parish and Family of Parishes. Time commitment per bi-monthly Diocesan Youth Council meetings will be about 90-120 minutes in addition to travel time. There may be additional Zoom meetings throughout the month.
- Representatives are expected to communicate with the pastor and appropriate lay leaders of their parish and Family of Parishes.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Appointed representatives are:

- Practicing Catholics
- Available for formation opportunities previous to and during their time of service on the Council
- Supported by the Pastor and Youth Minister (or similar parish leader) and Parents/Guardians
- Able to inspire other teens by word and action
- Be aware of the hopes and desires of youth
- Attending junior high school or high school
- Committed to attend regularly scheduled meetings **at various locations** throughout the Diocese of Buffalo
- Able to serve at various Diocesan special events

WHY SERVE ON THE DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL?

Appointed representatives will meet regularly with the Bishop and share in the renewal of the Diocese of Buffalo. They will also have the opportunity to grow in Faith through prayer, conversation, collaboration, and witness to the Gospel. This service to the Diocese will bring many blessings for years to come.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

Interested youth in grades 6-8 and 9-12 should discuss this commitment with their parents or guardians, Pastor, Catholic school principal or other administrator, Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation, Youth Minister, and anyone else who could be helpful. Commitment to the Council is a serious one and that should not be taken lightly. It is also a family commitment. Parents/guardians will receive all information and notices provided to the Council members.

If your child/teen makes the decision to complete an application, please follow the directions on the application carefully.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Theodore Musco, Director of Youth and Young Adult Missionary Discipleship, at tmusco@buffalodiocese.org or 716-847-8374.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with his many special gifts.

To access the digital version of the application and to request further information, go to <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/who-we-serve/youth/>