

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 16 JANUARY 18, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Hello, SME Parents,

I am excited and proud to speak of our tremendous preschool and Kindergarten programs! Tomorrow, January 19 from 6:00 - 7:30, our preschool and Kindergarten team will be hosting an Open House for prospective and returning parents.

Our preschool classes are full day and academic based, with before and after school care available. In addition to developing fine and gross motor skills, our preschool students have the advantage of taking five Specials Classes (Physical Education, Art, Library, Music, and Spanish) each week. By beginning to teach reading and math skills, our preschool program prepares students for the academics of Kindergarten. Additionally, our students benefit from becoming familiar with the school environment and structure of the school building and routine.

More than academics, though, we at St. Mary's Elementary School pride ourselves on the family, community environment of our school. Our preschool students collaborate with our older students throughout the year during various events. Additionally, numerous family events bring moms, dads, grandparents, and guardians into our building to grow the community of our preschool classes!

If you or anyone you know may be interested in enrolling their son or daughter in our pre-K 3, pre-K 4, or Kindergarten programs, please join us tomorrow evening.

Have an excellent week,

Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Thurs. 1/19** - After-school Care ends @ 5:00 today!
- **Thurs. 1/19** - Pre-K & Kinder Open House 6-7:30.
- **Fri. 1/20** - NJHS Induction Mass, 8:30
- **1/30 - 2/3** - Catholic Schools Week
- **Wed. 2/1** - Progress Report Upload
- **Fri. 2/3** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Tues. 2/7** - Open House 6:00-8pm
- **2/20-2/24** - **NO SCHOOL:** Mid Winter Recess
- **Wed. 2/22** - Ash Wednesday

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE
JANUARY 19TH-6:00-7:30 PM
 2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086
 716-683-2112 smeschool.com
 REGISTER FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

BY THE NUMBERS

RaiseRight:

Sales office open for walk-ins every:
 Tuesday 9:00-12:00
 Wednesday 12:30-2:30
 Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

The office is located within the Faith Formation office in the school building. Please come to our main door #1 to be buzzed in.

Mega Raffle:

Tickets Sold to date: 114

Tickets Available: 1136

We have sold out 6 of the previous 7 years.

Don't delay... Get your ticket today!

In Person Event: June 9th

New Venue: St. Mary's High School

Year round ways to help:

- ◇ Boxtops 4 Education
- ◇ Amazon Smile (search for St. Mary of the Assumption) November Deposit: \$86.05
- ◇ RaiseRight Program



REGISTRATION PACKETS

Re-registration packets will be coming home to every family. As always, we work on a first come first serve basis. Your 22-23 registration does not hold your spot for next year. We encourage you to complete and return your packet right away.

Additional registration packets are available to share with friends and family and are available upon request through the main office.

BISON FUND

The BISON Fund pre-application for new and current families not on BISON for the 2023-24 school year opened on January 15th. To start the process, complete a pre-application form online at: <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. Our deadline is March 15th. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-applications forms and all applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16th.

Current families do not need to fill out a pre-application, they will be emailed a link to complete the renewal process and add siblings on February 21st.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact 716-854-0869 ext. 1 or cmdonald@bisonfund.com.



BISON
CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Looking ahead... Keep your eye on the NewsNote for more details as the events draw near!

February (dates TBD): Spring Chocolate Sale

3/24 - Mother/Son Event

4/29 - Meat Raffle

5/5 - Penny Fair

SME Parent T-Shirts are available for purchase anytime!

Shirts are \$10.00 and can be ordered here: <https://forms.gle/ozf8ihiapbUkd2Lw5>

Please send payments Attn: Mrs. Kuhn

Orders will be distributed upon receipt of payment.



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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



COVID TEST KITS

We have a surplus supply of Covid-19 test kits. While the packaging indicates that they have expired, the CDC has extended that date by at least 6 months.

If you would like test kits to be sent home with your child, please email Mrs. Kuhn.

RAISERIGHT

RaiseRight walk-in office hours are Tuesday from 9-12, Wednesday from 12:30-2:30 & Friday from 8-12. The brown envelope that you received in September is what you can use to send your orders in to school with your child, and what your gift cards will be sent home to you in.

To expand our selling hours we could use a few more volunteers! If you are interested in learning more about that, please email raiseright@smeschool.com.

To use the RaiseRight app on your mobile device, please email raiseright@smeschool.com to receive the enrollment code.

If you have any questions, please email raiseright@smeschool.com. We thank you for your support of the RaiseRight Program!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SPIRIT DAYS

We will have spirit days during Catholic Schools Week 1/30 - 2/3!

- Monday:** Community Day - Wear SME attire
- Tuesday:** Class Color Day: **Pre-K:** Navy, **K:** Red, **1:** Orange, **2:** Yellow, **3:** Green, **4:** Blue, **5:** Purple, **6:** Black, **7:** White, **8:** Class t-shirts
- Wednesday:** Celebrate the Nation - R/W/B or Camo clothes
- Thursday:** Future Self Day - Dress in clothes of your future self /job. Pre-K will dress like they're 100!
- Friday:** Sports Day - Wear your favorite sports team

MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are going great! To date, 114 tickets have been sold!! There are still 1,136 tickets remaining – did you get yours? We have sold out 6 of the 7 previous years, so be sure to get your tickets soon! Orders will be filled once per week, so please be patient if you do not see your ticket come home the day that you send your check in.

The first Early Bird drawing for \$300 is on **Wednesday, March 1st** - don't miss out on a chance to win money before the event! *All orders must be submitted by 4:00PM on Tuesday, February 28th to be a part of the first Early Bird drawing.*

If you wish to donate an item for our basket raffle, we have set up an Amazon.com registry under the name [2023 Mega Raffle](#). All items purchased will be shipped directly to the school. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, 21 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, 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 event prize winners will be announced at the live drawing on Friday, June 9th at St. Mary's High School. Fliers are available online 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.

If you are interested in helping out with that, please email me garaffle@smeschool.com.

Mega Raffle - LIVE & In Person!

Friday, June 9th

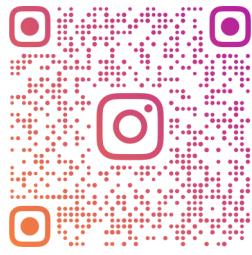
New Venue: St. Mary's High School



a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools



We're on Instagram!



ST.MARYSELEMENTARYSCHOOL

COATS FOR KIDS COLLECTION

Our Faith Formation program is partnering with Colvin's Cleaners COATS FOR KIDS program. They extend an invitation to the SME families to join in giving the gift of warmth to our community as well! Tomorrow is the last day to donate coats, hats, scarves, gloves, & boots for youth and/or adults. Thank you to those families who have supported this endeavor!



CALENDAR CLUB



Did the end of the year sneak up on you and you missed your chance to order a calendar?

Fear not! There are a small number of calendars left and are available first come first serve!

For a \$20 donation you have the chance to win every day of the year!

The order form can be found here:

<https://www.smeschool.com/documents/2022-2023/Calendars/10-19%20NN%20Add%20On%20-%20Calendar%20Club%20Flyer.pdf>

Questions: calendarclub@smeschool.com

A list of winning numbers is posted on our website's NewsNote tab by month.

You can reach
Nurse Dara Sirianni, RN at:
nurse@smeschool.com
716-683-2112 x128
Health Office Hours
9:30am-1:00pm

UNIFORM UPDATE

The following adjustment has been made to our uniform policy:

Leggings: Leggings are allowed to be worn on dress down days in conjunction with a long t-shirt that covers the bottom.

EXCUSES

Please remember to send in an excuse note upon the return of your child's absence.



CALENDAR REMINDERS

Don't forget! Tomorrow, Thursday 1/19 Afterschool Care will end at **5:00** to prepare for open house

Please be sure to mark those dates accordingly and plan appropriately for any end of day pick ups.

8TH GRADE INFO

Did you know that you can drop off your cans & bottles to any Cash for Cans location and they can be donated to our 8th grade class?!

No need to wait for them to be processed, just tape a big paper on it that they are for St. Mary's Elementary - Lancaster (2112) and drop them off by their donation bin!



STAY IN THE KNOW



Make Note: 2/1 K-8 Progress Report Upload

Save the Date: 2/7 K-8 Open House

Make Note: 3/7 Club & Sport Yearbook Photo day

Make Note: 3/8 Spring Photo day

Make Note: 3/17 10:45 Early Dismissal, Staff PD

Save the Date: 3/24 Mother/Son Event