

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 13 DECEMBER 14, 2022

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear St. Mary's Elementary School Families,

Greetings! It has been so energizing and uplifting seeing, visiting, and chatting with so many families these past couple of weeks. Because of the partnership between our teachers and SME school parents and due to the generous giving of time, energy, and efforts of many; SME has been able to offer Merry Moose shopping, cookie decorating, Breakfast with Santa, and a pre-K Christmas Sing-A-Long to our students and school families! We've also welcomed back some of our alumni and their current classmates from St. Mary's High School for a Christmas concert and hosted a holiday dinner for our faculty, staff, and partners from the parish! It has been a wonderfully busy season of celebration, merriment, and camaraderie! If you have not yet liked or followed our Facebook page, I encourage you to do so, so that you can follow along as we collectively write this year's story of our school.

Perhaps our most significant and poignant event will be held in the school gym this Friday, **December 16 @ 7:00 PM**, though, when our entire school community gathers to perform the **Living Nativity**. Under the direction of Miss Sullivan & Mr. Hunter, our older student performers and all of our student singers will help remind all of us in attendance of the true meaning of Christmas. Just as Linus from the Peanuts gang reminds viewers of Luke's gospel account of the miraculous good tidings of great joy that Jesus' birth brought, our Living Nativity will help us remain focused on the most important reason we celebrate this Winter: the birth of Jesus.

I am certain to see many at the school on Friday evening, but also wanted to share our family of parish's Christmas Mass Schedule:

<https://v53c28.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Family-2022-Christmas-Schedule-Half-Page-scaled.jpg>

I hope that you continue to have a peaceful holiday season with your family and loved ones, and I look forward to seeing so many of our school families again this Friday.

Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **12/14** - Report Card Upload K-8
- **12/15** - Bills Dress Down for \$1
- **12/16** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30 (November recipients), **Living Nativity** 7:00pm in the Gym, **NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE**
- **12/26 - 1/2 - NO SCHOOL**, Christmas Recess
- **1/3** - School Resumes
- **1/5** - Bills Dress Down for \$1
- **1/6** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30 (December recipients)
- **1/13 - 10:45 Early Dismissal, Staff PD**
- **1/16 - NO SCHOOL**, MLK Jr. Day
- **1/20** - NJHS Induction Mass, 8:30
- **1/30 - 2/3** - Catholic Schools Week

RAISERIGHT - TIME IS RUNNING OUT

We have just ONE more order date (Monday) to ensure your Gift Cards arrive in time for Christmas!

Save yourself the time and hassle of going from store to store by submitting your RaiseRight order TODAY!

While you're at it, you'll be earning credits on your tuition account!

There is an order form attached today, and they're always available on our website.

There are **WALK-IN** Hours on: **Tuesdays: 9-12**

Wednesday: 12:30-2:30

Fridays: 8-12

BY THE NUMBERS

RaiseRight:

Sales office open for walk-ins every:

NEW! 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.

Little Caesars (HSA):

Profit: \$1542.00

Heart & Home (HSA):

Profit: \$2029.80

Year round ways to help:

◇ Boxtops 4 Education

◇ Amazon Smile (search for St. Mary of the Assumption) November Deposit: \$86.05

◇ RaiseRight Program



PARENT T-SHIRTS

SME Parent T-Shirts are available for purchase anytime!



Shirts are \$10.00 and can be ordered here:

<https://forms.gle/ozf8ihiapbUkd2Lw5>

Also available anytime:

Car Magnets & Shirt Patches for \$1 each.

Please send payments Attn: Mrs. Kuhn

Orders will be distributed upon receipt of payment.

LIVING NATIVITY

On Friday, December 16th, 2022 at 7:00 pm, Saint Mary's Elementary School students will present **JOY TO THE WORLD! – a Living Nativity Christmas Celebration**.

This will be the only Christmas production taking place this year.

This beautiful depiction of our Lord's birth will take place in the SME school gymnasium. **ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES PK - 8** will be a part of this production! Students will be singing and acting with a backdrop of the manger just as it was on that busy day in Bethlehem.

Students should dress up and are more than welcome to dress as Christmas and festive as they like.

All students need to be in the Parish Center by 6:45 on this evening.

We are looking forward to presenting our annual Christmas production to share with our families!



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



This week is the final week of the 12 Days of Christmas Raffle. As of 12/12/22, we have only sold 951 tickets.

This event is replacing our Fall Fest event, and sales of the tickets are paramount to reaching our fundraising goal.

All families are asked to sell or purchase at least three tickets. Tickets are \$30 each, or 3/\$75. If you need additional tickets to sell, you may stop by the Rectory or ask for tickets at school. Please return your stubs and payment before December 16th, along with any unsold tickets. Daily cash prizes will be awarded December 25, 2021-January 5, 2022. Winners will be contacted after January 5th.

For more information, please contact:
12Days@smeschool.com or call 716-473-7115.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



Thank you to all that joined us for Breakfast with Santa!



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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

While we have not seen an uptick in Covid cases here at SME, we do have a surplus supply of Covid-19 test kits.

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

MEGA RAFFLE

The Mega Raffle will be held on Friday, June 9th and is LIVE & IN PERSON!! To ensure that the event is a success, and to welcome back our guests who have missed the live event the past 3 years, we are in need of additional committee members to help with the planning.

The next planning meeting will be via Zoom in January.

If you would like to be added to the meeting, or would like more information, please email megaffle@smeschool.com.

Help is needed in the following areas:

- ◆ Bankers (2 ppl): sit in a secure room and handle the money
- ◆ Bar (4-8 ppl): reach out to vendors for donations, order the beer/wine/cups, brew coffee, serve drinks during the event
- ◆ Decorations (1-2 ppl): order & pick up balloons, assist with set-up the night before the event, wash tablecloths after the event
- ◆ Food/drinks (1-2 ppl): order pizza, pick up pop, make sure cups/plates/napkins are available/ordered
- ◆ Raffle baskets/donations (1-4 ppl): reach out to businesses for donations, assist with basket assembly for the event, sell tickets during the event

SME GEAR ONLINE STORE

We expect to distribute orders from the SME Gear store the week of December 19th. If you have a special pick up request, please contact Mrs. Kuhn to arrange that, otherwise your order **will** go home with your child.

Orders placed as direct shipping should begin to ship on 12/16.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE SCHEDULE UPDATES

Due to various Staff & School events there will be **NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE** available on the following date:

Friday 12/16

Please be sure to make arrangements for your children to be picked up or take the bus home that day.

We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

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 raiserright@smeschool.com.

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

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

ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Calling all SME singers!

Voices are needed for the youth Christmas Choir at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass in the parish center.

If your child is interested, please contact Mrs. Ross, the St. Mary's music director at 716-330-9182 (call or text).

Students will need to arrive for pre-mass rehearsal @ 3pm in the chapel. The songs will be traditional Christmas carols.



BILLS DRESS DOWN DAYS

The Athletics department will be hosting Bills themed dress down days on the following dates:

Thursday 12/15 & Thursday 1/5.

For a minimum donation of \$1/day students can be a part of the fandomium! Funds raised will benefit the athletics program.

Students choosing not to participate are expected to be in their regular school uniform.



NURSE NOTES

A few reminders as we close out November...

- Physicals are required for students in PreK, K, 1, 3, 5 & 7. As well as annually for those wishing to participate in sports. I am still missing quite a few. Please remember to have physical forms sent in to the health office ASAP.
- Health Office updates will be sent home this week, these are to be completed annually for every student.
- Please send in extra clothes for your younger students. If your child has an accident at school and doesn't have extras we will provide them with some. Unfortunately, our stash of extra supplies is running low. So please remember to wash and return anything your student need borrows.
- Vision and hearing screenings have begun and are going well. You will be notified if a referral is needed. Please reach out with any questions/concerns.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH: JESSE TREE SIGN-UP

Please click the link to sign up your children/teens to participate in our Jesse Tree Ornament procession & ornament hanging at our Masses during Advent. You can sign up your children/teens for multiple Masses if you wish.

We need 7 ornament hangers for each of the 4 Masses during the 4 weeks of Advent. **Please be advised that your children/teens will need to be at Mass 10 minutes early in order to participate. The ushers will find a replacement if you are not at church 10 minutes early.**

Thank you for your understanding and for your participation!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA8A72EA4F9C52-advent>

If you want to learn more about the Jesse Tree Advent tradition and to share this with your children click here: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/the-jesse-tree/>

CALENDAR CLUB



We will once again run the Calendar Club fundraiser for the 2023 calendar year.

With 365 days of prizes there is over \$10,000 to be won!

Upon the receipt of your \$20 donation, your name and number will be registered for all drawings for the year 2023. Winning numbers will be physically drawn monthly at St. Mary's Rectory and will be published monthly on the parish & school websites.

Please see the order form on the NewsNote tab of the website to reserve yours today!



NURSE NOTES

You can reach Nurse Dara Sirianni, RN at:

nurse@smeschool.com
716-683-2112 x128

Health Office Hours
9:30am-1:00pm

8TH GRADE INFO

Movie Night UPDATE:

Due to the rescheduling of the Bills game, we are cancelling the 8th grade sponsored showing of the Polar Express.

The TV raffle scheduled for that evening will take place on Monday, 12/20.



FYI: Transcripts were sent to requested catholic high schools today!

STAY IN THE KNOW



Save the Date : 12/16

Living Nativity 7pm in the Church

Make Note: 12/16 NO Afterschool Care available

Make Note: 1/13 10:45 Early Dismissal, Staff Development

Make Note: 1/16 No School: MLK Jr. Day

Make Note:

December Health Office Updates:

- I am still in need of a few physicals. This is a NYS mandated requirement for all students in grades preK, K, 1, 3, 5, & 7. **If you have been emailed or have had a letter sent home; and have not yet turned in your students physical please do so immediately.** The school physician will be performing physicals in early February for any student without an updated copy on file so that we can be in compliance with NYS Law.
- Flu season is upon us, I know we had an early start this year but it is important to remember that the peak of flu season is December- February. Please remain vigilant with respiratory and hand hygiene as we spend time with extended family and friends this holiday season.
 - Wash hands frequently or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
 - Isolate or social distance when you have a fever >100.4
 - Cough/sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Disinfect surfaces frequently that may be prone to contamination
 - Preventive vaccination with the flu shot

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>



Dara Sirianni RN, BSN



YOU'RE INVITED!

**YOUTH ARE INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE**

**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
YOUTH CHRISTMAS CHOIR!**

**WHEN: CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS ON
DECEMBER 24TH**

3:00 PM REHEARSAL IN THE CHAPEL
(located in the school building)

**FOR THE 4:00 PM FAMILY MASS
IN THE PARISH CENTER**



Youth should dress in their Sunday best!

The songs to be sung will be Traditional Christmas Carols.

**RSVP: Please contact our music director, Andrea Ross by
Sunday, December 18th if you would like to participate.**

CALL or TEXT: (716) 330-9182

EMAIL: andrea@stmarysonthehill.org



Online registration opens Jan. 1

Walk-up registration will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Feb 4, at the LDB Indoor Training Facility, 175 Pavement Road, Lancaster.

Lancaster-Depew Baseball offers:

- A 12-game regular season for all age groups with playoffs starting at the Pitching Machine Division (age 7). All T-Ball and IPM players (ages 4-6) receive a trophy in lieu of playoffs.
- All athletes receive a MLB cap and jersey, as well as indoor and outdoor practices.
- Access to our 16,000-square-foot indoor training facility (turf field, batting cages, instructional sessions).

“Come play with us!”



SCAN ME

www.Lancaster-DepewBaseball.com