

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 18 FEBRUARY 1, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Catholic Schools Week, SME Families!

I want to begin by reminding our Kindergarten - Grade 8 families that our second trimester progress reports will be uploaded to eschool today, February 1. Our teachers complete a progress report for each K-8 student halfway through each marking period. They serve as a check-in and another means of communication from the school to our parents and guardians, so that you know how your son or daughter is performing academically. After you review the progress report, if you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to email your son's or daughter's teacher directly; our doors and email inboxes are always open!

Next, I want to congratulate all of our students who are playing basketball for St. Mary's as our Knights. Every single one of our student athletes make all of our teachers and me so proud. Boys and girls, thank you for representing St. Mary's and upholding our code of conduct. In addition to improving physical health, playing team sports also teaches students to be a cooperative part of a team and problem-solving skills, as the exercise can help to reduce stress and anxiety. Many thanks to our participating students and all of our parent volunteers who coach; without you, we would not have sports teams.

Finally, I hope everyone is following along on our social media pages and/or getting updates from our students this week, as this year's Catholic Schools Week has certainly been our most enjoyable and memorable schedules to date! We began with a prayer service and dance party, continued by making greeting cards for our elderly neighbors, adventured on a scavenger hunt with our cross-grade buddies, then participated and cheered on friends during a pep rally. Today, we are making school spirit posters and exercising in a school boot camp, before learning from our community member guest speakers tomorrow and contributing to our soup drive on Friday. And of course, who could forget our Teachers v/s Students Volleyball game to conclude our week?

Thank you for joining us on this year's journey, one in which we learn academically and in many other ways, compete responsibly on the athletic courts, and celebrate our school as we live our faith in a great number of ways. We are proud to partner with you and our community at large, and are honored to make St. Mary's Elementary School the best, most welcoming place for your entire family.

Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Wed. 2/1** - Progress Report Upload
- **Thurs. 2/2** - CSW - Future Self Day - K-8 Dress for future Job, Pk dress like you're 100!
- **Fri. 2/3** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Fri. 2/3** - CSW - Sports Day - Show your team spirit
- **Tues. 2/7** - Open House 6:00-8pm, **NO AFTERSCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE TODAY!**
- **2/20-2/24** - **NO SCHOOL:** Mid Winter Recess
- **2/22** - Ash Wednesday, Clam Chowder Dinner

PE ONLINE STORE

Our PE online store is now OPEN for all of those winter growth spurts!

The store will be open until 2/8/23. You once again have the option of direct shipping or having them come to SME. Please be mindful of your selections (child vs. adult) as items are not returnable/exchangeable.

<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/st-mary-sgywebstorewinter-2023>



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: 278
Tickets Available: 972

*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 - download the app & scan receipts - it's that easy!
- ◇ RaiseRight Program



REGISTRATION

Thank you to those who have already returned and secured your spot for the 2023-2024 school year.

An extra special **thank you** to those who have spread the word about our awesome school with friends & family!

SPRING FUNDRAISING

We are excited to offer both Gertrude Hawk & Fowlers Chocolates for our Spring Fundraising!

Gertrude Hawk: Offering both online & paper orders

Sale Begins: 2/1
Sale Ends: 2/17 (paper) /
Est. Delivery: Week of 3/20 or 3/26 online orders with direct shipping

Fowlers Chocolates is offering direct shipping (pay S & H) or free delivery to SME.

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

Sale Begins: 2/1
Sale Ends: 2/15
Est. Delivery to SME the week of 3/20

Refer to the flyers attached electronically for more information!



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



Read Across America Week is scheduled for February 27th - March 3rd.

Please be on the lookout for our Read Across America Week Reading logs. The logs will be sent home with students by Friday. The goal of these logs is to increase student reading. We will be collecting completed logs on March 3. Students who turn in their log will receive a prize!

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Looking ahead... Keep your eye on the NewsNote for more details as the events draw near!
2/1 - 2/15: Spring Chocolate Sale (Getrude Hawk & Fowlers) See the fliers attached today!
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.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

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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.

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 2023-2024 school year.

As we welcome 2023, Bison Fund is currently accepting K-8 pre-applications for funding for the 2023-2024 school year. New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on the Bison Fund website at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. The new family deadline is March 15, 2023. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms. All applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16, 2023.

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 or need further information, please contact the BISON fund office at 716-854-0869.



BISON
CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EXCUSES

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



CALENDAR UPDATE

Due to our open house scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th, there will be **NO** Afterschool Care Available as we will be preparing for the evening.

Thank you once again for your understanding!

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!



MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle ticket sales are going great! To date, **278** tickets have been sold!! There are still **972** 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, **69** 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 megaraffle@smeschool.com.

COMING SOON:

We will have an online option to sign-up to work the event available soon, keep an eye out!

The following are some of the tasks that the committee needs help with:

- Bar (4-8 ppl): reach out to vendors for donations, order the beer/wine/cups, brew the 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 (2-4 ppl): reach out to businesses for donations, assist with basket assembly for the event, sell tickets during the event

CALENDAR CLUB



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

Questions: calendarclub@smeschool.com

TAX TIME

Have you begun filing your taxes? Is your preparer looking for our Tax ID Number?

The directive given to us by the diocese is to *not* release that number.

In its place you can/should indicate **Religious Exemption**.

Specific questions can be directed to Mrs. Jezuit:

jezuitn@smeschool.com

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!



MEAT RAFFLE

Save the date for SME's Meat Raffle:

April 29th at 7pm.

We are hosting fundraising dress down days which will help purchase items for basket raffles and gift card raffles! \$1 minimum donation:

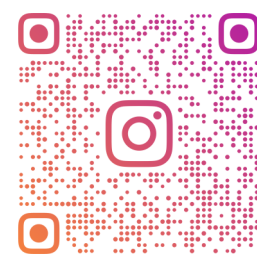
Tuesday, February 14th

Tuesday, March 14th

Tuesday, April 11th



We're on Instagram!



ST.MARYSELEMENTARYSCHOOL

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



SPRING CANDY FUNDRAISING

School Name:	_____		
School ID:	_____		
Start Date:	_____	End Date:	_____
(*Fundraiser closes at midnight on last day/no late orders accepted)			

Dear Parents and Students:

We are pleased to offer Fowler's Chocolates as our spring fundraiser.

Fowler's has added some new delicious chocolate goodies, candy treats and adorable stuffed animals all perfect for filling up an Easter basket.

All orders are placed online through a computer by going to shop.fowlersfundraising.com or on the mobile phone app **MyFundR Fundraising** using your child's unique SELLER ID LINK.

You can have out of town family and friends make their purchases and have their orders shipped directly to their home. Shipping charges apply. Ship to school is also an option at no additional charge.

There is no money to collect as all orders are processed with a credit card.

Parents or students must register for an online account to obtain your unique SELLER ID LINK.

How to register your child on a computer:

1. Open your browser to shop.fowlersfundraising.com
2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
3. You will be sent an email with your child's unique SELLER ID # and a LINK.
4. Share your child's SELLER ID LINK through emails, texts, and social media with family and friends. This is how they will get to the website to place orders.

How to register your child on a smart phone:

1. Go to the APP Store and download the **MyFundR Fundraising** mobile app on to your phone, or simply scan the QR code to the right.
2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
3. You can now place orders or share the catalog right from your smart phone with your unique SELLER ID LINK
4. Your family and friends can order chocolate from the link you provide.





GROUP NAME

Dear Supporters,

We are pleased to offer Gertrude Hawk Chocolates as part of our Fundraising program this year. We are holding a **Spring Chocolate Sale**. It's easy to participate! You can shop the enclosed catalog OR shop online.

Online orders placed within the sale dates can choose to have their orders delivered for free with the main shipment. Out of town friends and family can choose to send their orders directly to their home (shipping fees apply). Simply set up an account and share a link so friends and family can shop our Spring Catalog virtually. **All web orders require credit card payment, that's money YOU DON'T HAVE TO COLLECT!**

If you are submitting a paper order form keep the bottom copy and brochure for your records. **Paper order forms should NOT include any online sales.** Total dollars sent in should equal Grand Total Amount on order form.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Online orders that are being shipped to a home can be placed up until 3/26/23.

Sell and earn prizes! Every student who sells at least ONE ITEM will receive a PRIZE! Levels are based on total sales. If you submit a brochure order and also sell online, **your child's name must match exactly to earn their prize.**

We are Raising Funds For:

Our Fundraiser is From:

Our Organization ID # is:

Estimated Delivery Date:

Parents! Here's how to get started

- Go to fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com
- In the "I am a Parent" block, click **"SEE MY OPTIONS"**
- Click **"START ADDING A SELLER"**
(You'll be prompted to create an account or login)
If you do not have a Gertrude Hawk Chocolates account you must create one to add a seller
- Click **"MY SELLERS"** in the left side column
- **ADD** your seller
- **SAVE** your seller
- Share the **ORGANIZATION ID** above and **SELLER NAME** with family and friends

<https://fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/fr-home-new>

<https://fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/fr-parent>

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Phone: (716) 683-2112
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"...visible examples of gospel living"

February 1, 2023

Dear SME Family,

We would like to thank you for all that you do to make St. Mary's great. Without your support, the events and fundraisers that we hold would not be as successful as they are. At this time, we are looking for donations for baskets to raise additional funds during this year's Mega Raffle on June 9, 2023.

Attached is a list of items that can be donated, separated by grade. If you are able to donate an item (you do not need to donate for more than more grade if you have multiple children enrolled), please send your donation in with your student, **Attention: Mega Raffle**. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation in lieu of an item.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: We have set up an Amazon registry to make it easier to purchase and donate items for the raffle. The registry name is **2023 Mega Raffle**, and you can select and pay for the items you wish to donate and they will be shipped right to the school – how easy is that? You can even buy Amazon.com cards from RaiseRight to pay for your purchases and support two fundraisers at once (and get that discount off of your tuition)!

If you have any new Buffalo sports gear (Bills, Sabres, Bisons, etc), or know someone that can supply tickets for games, we will gladly accept those as well!

We are unable to accept donations of wine or any other alcohol.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Amanda Barton, Steve & Mary Kate DeMarzio (Mega Raffle Chairs)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Theme (some items are listed for ideas)</u>
PreK-3	Lottery/gift cards
PreK-4	Cleaning: paper towels, Windex, new cloths, dusters, etc
K	Holiday decorations
1 st	Beach/Summer theme: towels, sunscreen, goggles, books, sunglasses, folding/lounge chair, sun umbrella, cooler, puzzle books, water bottles
2 nd	Pasta theme: boxes of pasta, colander, serving bowl, cheese shaker, wine glasses, salad bowl, salad tongs
3 rd	Car detailing: bucket, soap, brush, tire/wheel cleaner, windshield cleaner, interior cleaner, towels, Delta Sonic GC
4 th	Pet items: toys, food bowls, etc
5 th	Home décor - NEW items only : vases, lamps, pillows, frames, wall decor (paintings, shelves, etc), blankets, candles
6 th	Movie theme: movie theater GCs, popcorn, popcorn bowls/bucket, DVDs, boxed/bagged candy, drinks
7 th	Gardening: gloves, gardening tools, seeds, knee pads, etc.
8 th	Lottery/gift cards