

NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 20 FEBRUARY 15, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Thank you for making the first 100 days of the school year exciting, productive, and memorable! Various events have brought our SME community together in celebration, recognition, and prayer. Together, we have grown academically, athletically, creatively, and spiritually. So much of what we are able to do as a school simply would not be possible without the partnership and support of our parents. Thanks so much for enabling our school to grow in tremendous ways.

As we approach our Mid-Winter Recess, I want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to spend some time next week to complete registration paperwork for the 2023-2024 school year, so that you can submit it ASAP. To be entirely transparent: our building is limited in the number of classrooms we have and, thus, the number of sections of classes we will be able to offer next year. For this reason, not all classes will be able to be split into two sections. As was the case this current school year, once classes reach capacity, we must begin a wait list. We have now opened enrollment to families outside of our SME community and have accepted new registrations, and I genuinely do not want to be forced to put any of our current students on a wait list for next year. Yes, if you have already submitted your completed registration paperwork, it has been processed and you are officially registered for next year. Thank you for your diligence!

Additionally, our Summer Care program has begun accepting registrations. Our Summer Care team contacts those who were here last summer and has also reached out to those who expressed interest at our open house. Space is very limited for this program and will assuredly reach capacity. If you are looking for childcare for the summer, I encourage you to consider SME’s Summer Care Program and can contact Ms. Bartkowiak at bartkowiaka@smeschool.com for additional information or with any questions.

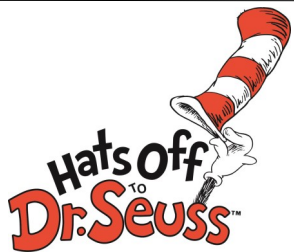
Thank you for all you do for St. Mary’s Elementary School, and I look forward to continuing to grow with all of our students and families as we begin to plan for another year together.

Mr. Olejniczak

CLAM CHOWDER DINNER

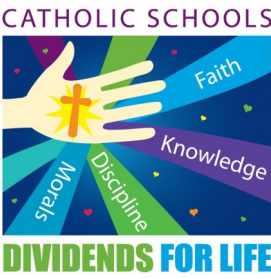
All are welcome in Faith & Fellowship to the St. Mary’s Clam Chowder Dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd from 4:00 - 6:30 pm in our Parish Center.

If you are interested in volunteering as well, contact Heather Pierce in the rectory:  
heather@stmarysonthehill.org / 716-683-6445 x14



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/20-2/24 - NO SCHOOL: Mid Winter Recess
- 2/22 - Ash Wednesday, Clam Chowder Dinner, 4-6:30pm, Yearbook orders open!
- Fri. 3/3 - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- Tues. 3/7 - Sport/Club Yearbook Photo Day
- Wed. 3/8 - Spring & Graduation Picture Day
- Tues. 3/14 - \$ Dress Down for Meat Raffle
- Fri. 3/17 - 1:45 Early Dismissal, Staff PD, No Afterschool Care Today
- Wed. 3/22 - Last day to order your Yearbook!
- Fri. 3/24 - Mother/Son Event 6pm- Stay Tuned!



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.

**Mega Raffle:**  
Tickets Sold to date: 372  
Tickets Available: 878

**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
- ◇ We partner with United Way! You can designate SME as the recipient of your donations.
- ◇ We participate in the Tops in Education program! Visit topsmarkets.com/education to register your BonusCard and select our school!



YEARBOOK SALE



Don’t Delay... Order Your SME Yearbook... Beginning Next Week!

SME Yearbooks will be on sale from February 22- March 22, 2023.

The yearbook is full-color, hardcover and packed with memories of an awesome year!  
All students in PreK3-8th grade will be included in the yearbook.

Beginning Feb. 22nd: To order your yearbook visit: <http://www.inter-state.com/order> and enter code: 75214N

Yearbook sales will be **online ONLY** and the cost per book is \$20.

Yearbooks will be distributed in June.

Please direct any questions to Mrs. Pesany-Au at [yearbook@smeschool.com](mailto:yearbook@smeschool.com)

READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK



Read Across America Week is scheduled for February 27th - March 3rd. Reading logs were sent home, so read on!

Special Events:

- Mon. 2/27: Dress as a world traveler
- Tues. 2/28: Wear your PJ’s & bring in your favorite stuffed animal
- Wed. 3/1: Wacky Wednesday - Dress crazy!
- Thurs. 3/2: Dress in stripes or as the cat in the hat!
- Fri. 3/3: This is a uniform day with crazy socks.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**FOWLERS** Sale ENDS Today & **GERTRUDE HAWK** Paper Orders are due FRIDAY! Online orders with direct shipping through GH can be placed through 3/23!

Looking ahead...

- ⇒ Out Of This World Mother/Son Dance on 3/24. The flyer and all information will be coming home 3/1. If you like to craft/DIY or would like to help in anyway please email [hsa@smeschool.com](mailto:hsa@smeschool.com)
- ⇒ Late March: Spring Sale Deliveries. We will share exact dates once we have them.
- ⇒ 4/29 - Meat Raffle
- ⇒ 5/5 - Penny Fair

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPALS DESK	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
YEARBOOK SALE	1
READ ACROSS AMERICA	1
HSA	1
RAISERIGHT	2
PARKING LOT	2
HEART HEALTH	2
BOWLING	2
CLAM CHOWDER	2
MEGA RAFFLE	2
BISON FUND	2
MEAT RAFFLE	2
TAX TIME	2
NURSE NOTES	2
COVID TEST KITS	2
8TH GRADE INFO	2
STAY IN THE KNOW	2



## 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



## RAISERIGHT

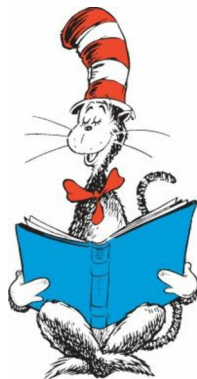
Walk-in office hours are **Tuesday** from 9-12, **Wednesday** from 12:30-2:30 & **Friday** from 8-12. The brown envelope that you received in September is what you can use to send your orders in to school with your child, and what your gift cards will be sent home to you in.

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](mailto:raiseright@smeschool.com).

**To use the RaiseRight app on your mobile device, please email [raiseright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiseright@smeschool.com) to receive the enrollment code.**

If you have any questions, please email [raiseright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiseright@smeschool.com).

We thank you for your support of the RaiseRight Program!



## MEGA RAFFLE

To date, **372** tickets have been sold!!

There are still **878** tickets remaining – did you get yours?

We have sold out 6 of the 7 previous years, so be sure to get your tickets soon!

**The first Early Bird drawing for \$300 is Wednesday, March 1st.**

*All orders submitted by 4:00PM on Tuesday, Feb. 28th will be in the first Early Bird drawing.*

As a reminder, the Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **103** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!!

### Ways to help:

- \* Basket Donation wish list on Amazon (clickable link): [2023 Mega Raffle](https://www.smeschool.com/documents/Fundraiserdocs/2023%20Flyer%20Color%20pdf%20hyperlink%20(1).pdf). (Items ship directly to the school)
- \* Posting our flyer at your place of business!
- \* Sharing our flyer on social media and/or encouraging multiple people to chip in on one ticket:  
<[https://www.smeschool.com/documents/Fundraiserdocs/2023%20Flyer%20Color%20pdf%20hyperlink%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.smeschool.com/documents/Fundraiserdocs/2023%20Flyer%20Color%20pdf%20hyperlink%20(1).pdf)>
- \* Volunteer! Areas of need: Bar Staff, Decorating, Food Coordinator, Raffle Baskets, Event Staff

**NEW:** If you are interested in helping please use this sign up form and let us know where you can help:

[Mega Raffle Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Please contact [megaraffle@smeschool.com](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com) if you have any questions or would like the link emailed to you.

**Our success depends on you!**

Ticket Processing Note: Orders will be filled once per week, please be patient if you do not see your ticket come home the day that you send your check in.

The event prize winners will be announced at the **live** drawing on

Friday, June 9th at  
St. Mary's High School



## ATHLETICS - BOWLING

Diocesan Spring Bowling League 2022-2023

Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 PM

\$30 per bowler includes 1.5 hours of bowling and shoe rental each week. Open to all grades.

Please contact [athletics@smeschool.com](mailto:athletics@smeschool.com) by 3/3 to register!

## ASH WEDNESDAY - CLAM CHOWDER

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Teens & Adults who are able to cook in the kitchen and/or be on their feet for a few hours **\*Kitchen help starts at 3:00 pm**

- Servers are needed to carry out the food on trays (hot soup) from the kitchen to the people sitting at tables (middle schoolers can help with this!) **\*Servers need to be here by 3:30 pm**

- Individuals to help clean up (many hands make light work!)

**This is a wonderful way to begin the season of Lent!**

Please contact Heather Pierce in the rectory to volunteer:  
716-683-6445 ext. 14 or  
[heather@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:heather@stmarysonthehill.org)



## 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.



## 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.

## PARKING LOT SAFETY

We have unfortunately seen an upswing in reckless driving within our campus lot/driveway. While St. Joseph St. is a village street and we have limited control, what we can do is ask that our families use **CAUTION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES!**

Please share this message as needed with friends or family who may also assist you with dropping off or picking up your child(ren).



## 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: Tues., March 14th, Tues., April 11th.

## TAX TIME

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

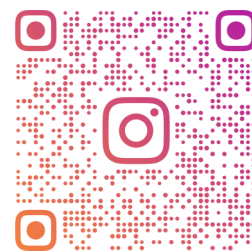
The directive given to us by the diocese is to *not* release that number.

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

Specific questions can be directed to Mrs. Jezuit:

[jezuitn@smeschool.com](mailto:jezuitn@smeschool.com)

We're on Instagram!



ST.MARYSELEMENTARYSCHOOL

## 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



**Save the Date:** Read Across America Week 2/27-3/3

**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

**Save the Date:** 3/31 Living Stations

*Introducing!*



# HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL!

YOU SHOP. TOPS DONATES.



Raise money for our school when you purchase participating TOPS brand, TopCare® or FullCircle™ products with your TOPS BonusPlus™ or BonusCard®. **TOPS contributes a percentage of every purchase back to our school for school improvements and education programs!**

For complete details, register your  and select our school, visit [TopsMarkets.com/Education](http://TopsMarkets.com/Education)





## Help Our School Be TOPS in Education

We are pleased to announce that our school is registered for the TOPS in Education program, a new fundraising program created by TOPS Friendly Markets. You can raise money for our school when you purchase participating TOPS brand, TopCare® or Full Circle™ products with your TOPS BonusPlus<sup>SM</sup> or BonusCard®. TOPS contributes a percentage of every purchase to our school.

## How It Works

First, register your TOPS BonusPlus<sup>SM</sup> or BonusCard® and select our school from the registered list found at **TopsMarkets.com/Education**. Throughout the school year when you shop at TOPS and purchase participating products with your TOPS BonusPlus<sup>SM</sup> or BonusCard®, TOPS contributes a percentage of the purchase to our school. We will use the funds raised for the areas that need it most—school improvements, equipment, programming, supplies and more.

## What Products Qualify?

Most TOPS brand, TopCare® and Full Circle™ products qualify.\* Go to **TopsMarkets.com/Education** to learn more about these brands.



**TopCare®**



## Spread the Word!


Encourage your family and friends to register their TOPS BonusPlus<sup>SM</sup> or BonusCard® and select our school at **TopsMarkets.com/Education** to help raise money for our school each time they shop too!

## It's Easy to Raise Money for Our School:



- 1 Visit **TopsMarkets.com/Education** to register your  and select our school!



- 2 Purchase participating TOPS brand products with your .



- 3 TOPS sends the money raised to our school for school improvements and programs.

\* Some limitations apply. \$300,000 donation cap for all schools per school year. See [TopsMarkets.com/Education](http://TopsMarkets.com/Education) for complete details and product exclusions.



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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](https://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>