

# NEWSNOTE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 24 MARCH 22, 2023

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Family,

Last Friday, our teachers and staff enjoyed an afternoon of professional development. Our team works tirelessly to build and maintain an exceptional school, which is far from an easy job. Last week, though, instead of studying curriculum, discussing standardized tests, or learning about the 'next latest and best' form of technology, our teachers spent some time learning of self-care methods and strategies. It was an opportunity to hit the metaphorical pause button on everything and everyone else and focus inward. A well-earned, well-deserved, albeit brief, break.

A small part of the workshop focused on the importance of gratitude. Our presenter shared a study from Harvard Health, which states, "gratitude is associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships." Coupled with the suggestion of keeping a gratitude journal, this part of the presentation reminded me of many former high school teachers and current Jesuit friends, who spoke of and modeled finding God in all things. A very simple way of viewing the old Ignatian practice of 'examen' may be just keeping a gratitude journal, recognizing that we have been very blessed and are surrounded by good in our daily lives - and then giving and saying thanks.

To close, as we welcome Spring and draw closer towards the conclusion of Lent, allow me to give thanks to all who are reading. St. Mary's Elementary School and I are beyond blessed with a phenomenal group of people. Our teachers and staff are second to none; our students are the best group of young people imaginable; and our supportive parent group serves as strong and proud parents in all that we have done and will continue to do in the future.

For all who have shaped SME into the school we are today, thank you.

Mr. Olejniczak

## YEARBOOK SALE

*Don't Delay... Order Your SME Yearbook... Today is the last chance!*

The yearbook is full-color, hardcover and packed with memories of an awesome year!

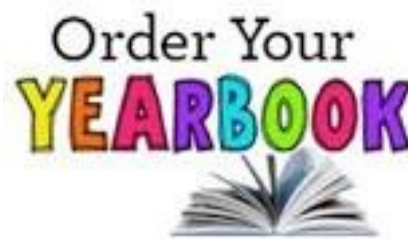
All students in PreK3-8th grade will be included in the yearbook.

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)



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Wed. 3/22** - Last day to order your Yearbook!
- **Wed. 3/22** - Report Card Upload
- **Fri. 3/24** - Mother/Son Dance Party 7-9pm
- **Fri. 3/31** - Living Stations 1 & 7pm
- **Mon 4/3- Fri. 4/7** - **No School:** Easter Recess
- **Easter Sunday 4/9**
- **Mon 4/10** - No School: Easter Monday
- **Tues. 4/11** - Classes Resume
- **Fri. 4/14** - Christian Witness Mass (Mar.), 8:30
- **Sat. 4/29** - Meat Raffle, Doors @ 5:30, 1st Spin @ 7
- **Fri. 5/5** - Christian Witness Mass (Apr.), 8:30
- **Fri. 5/5** - Penny Fair

## 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: 559  
 Tickets Available: 691

**In Person Event:** June 9th

**New Venue:** St. Mary's High School

### Boxtops 4 Education:

February Donation: \$6.90  
 YTD Donations: 81.20



### 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](http://topsmarkets.com/education) to register your BonusCard and select our school!



## MOTHER / SON DANCE



We are looking forward to hosting our Moms & Sons on Friday for the Out of this World Dance Party! Friday, March 24th from 7-9pm

Blue RSVP flyers went home with every boy on Monday 3/13.

Tickets are \$12 per person - presale only

**Hey Guys!** We need your help to ensure the moms have a fun night! Help is needed and from set up & tear down for those that want a quick in and out, or hang out for the evening and assist with some of the fun and games! There is an opportunity just right for you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0544a8ad2ba46-motherson#/>

## 23-24 TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

*Don't forget!*

Transportation requests for the 2023-2024 school are due on April 1st! Regardless of your child(ren)'s need for transportation, this step is **required** by every district.

We **do not** process these requests, nor collect completed forms.

Please follow the instructions on your home districts transportation page of their website. Many districts have moved to an online submission process. If you have any questions: [secretary@smeschool.com](mailto:secretary@smeschool.com)



## HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**GERTRUDE HAWK** online orders with direct shipping can be placed through tomorrow!

*Looking ahead...*

⇒ Out Of This World Mother/Son Dance on 3/24. Please check out the following sign up for ways to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0544a8ad2ba46-motherson#/>

Questions? Contact: Mrs. Alicia Sears at [aliciaroseseas@outlook.com](mailto:aliciaroseseas@outlook.com)

⇒ Gertrude Hawk orders are estimated to arrive tomorrow! We will distribute them as we are able through the students if manageable. To coordinate a pick up, please contact Mrs. Kuhn.

⇒ 4/29 - Meat Raffle - Additional freezer full of meat raffle tickets are available upon request!

To order tickets for the main event, see the flyer on our NewsNote tab!

⇒ 5/5 - Penny Fair - More details to come!

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



**DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPALS DESK	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
YEARBOOK SALE	1
MOTHER/SON DANCE	1
TRANSPORTATION	1
HSA	1
RAISERIGHT	2
SUMMER CARE	2
MEGA RAFFLE	2
MEAT RAFFLE	2
TAX TIME	2
NURSE NOTES	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

*A note from Cindy in the RaiseRight office...*

Easter is right around the corner and, as a grandmother, that means filling Easter baskets! I still fill baskets for all my adult children as well! Over the years, the contents have changed but what never goes out of style are gift cards! From Amazon to Zappos and everything in between, everyone loves them no matter their age!

I'm happy to say we have an abundance of cards in stock right in our office. ([RR Order form](#)) There are also cards available on RaiseRight's master brand list ([available here](#)) which can arrive in a week. I would be happy to order anything I have access to for you!

You can reach me by email ([raiserright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiserright@smeschool.com)), by phone (716-683-2112 x132), stopping in to see us (Tuesday 9:00-12:00, Wednesday 12:30-2:30, Friday 8:00am-12:00pm).

I pray everyone has a Blessed Easter and I hope to hear from you soon!

Have a Blessed Day, Cindy Olejniczak



## MEGA RAFFLE

**When:** June 9, 2023 at 6:00PM

**Where:** St. Mary's High School

**Tickets sold to date:** 559

**Tickets remaining:** 691



**To Purchase:** mail \$100 payment/per ticket to 1 St. Mary's Hill or scan here



We have sold out 6 of the 7 previous years - be sure to get your tickets soon! Orders are filled once per week. Please be patient if you do not see your ticket come home the day that you send your check in.

**Second Early Bird drawing of \$200:** Saturday, April 1.

All orders must be received by 4:00PM on Friday, March 31 to be eligible.

**Basket Raffle Donations:** We have set up an Amazon.com registry under the name [2023 Mega Raffle](#). All items purchased are shipped directly to the school. We thank you in advance for your generosity. Do you have new items that just don't work for you? Re-gifting is always an option! See something at a price that can't be beat? We'd love that too! Just because it is not on the list, doesn't mean it is not welcome!

The Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **152** of the tickets have been sold or purchased by school families – thank you for your support!! 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.



**Volunteer Options:** Please scan the QR code to sign up or email us at

[me garaffle@smeschool.com](mailto:me garaffle@smeschool.com).

*If you are interested in helping out in any other way, especially if you would like to join the committee, please email us!*

## SUMMER CARE

Our summer program is quickly filling up; in fact, Tuesdays & Thursdays for our pk-gr 1 program is full!

The program runs from Monday June 26 until Friday August 18, 7am-6pm with flexible scheduling.

This year we will be broken into 2 groups:

Prek-1st grade & 1st grade-8th grade.

We offer a 20% discount for siblings registered for our program.

It is a structured program that includes science, technology, creative movement, fine motor skills, center free play, outside play time, arts and crafts, and best of all loads of fun with old and new friends!

Any questions, please email [Ms. Bartkowiak](mailto:Ms. Bartkowiak).

## 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)

## A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

Hello SME Families,

I just want to make you all aware of an uptick in Strep throat in the community.

Thankfully we haven't seen many cases here at SME. However, I wanted to share some information with you in hopes that we can keep it at bay.

Strep Throat is a bacterial infection. It mostly affects school aged children, and is spread through close contact and by coughing and sneezing.

Signs & Symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Red or swollen tonsils (with or without white/yellow spots on the throat)
- Painful swallowing or complaining that throat feels funny
- Tenderness in neck or swelling under jaw (swollen glands)
- Bad smelling breath
- Headache, stomach pain, vomiting

Diagnosis: is done at the pediatrician or at an urgent care type facility. Rapid results are usually ready within 15 minutes. They may send out a culture that can take up to 48 hours for results to be ready.

If your child does test positive for strep throat they may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotics.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Dara Sirianni RN, BS

## MEAT RAFFLE

Save the date for SME's Meat Raffle: April 29th at 7pm.

Our final dress down day supporting the meat raffle will be on Tues., April 11th. Donations will help purchase items for basket raffles and gift card raffles!

The meat raffle is now accepting volunteers! Please check out the sign up genius to join in the fun: [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Thank you to those who have gotten into the chest freezer full of meat raffle! This prize will be drawn at the event. No need to be present to win *BUT*.. Won't you join us?! Tables will fill up so reserve yours today! If you've never been to a meat raffle, come check out what the exciting fuss is all about! The flyer went home last week but is also available on the NN tab of the website.

Individual tickets are \$10 and include beverages (adult & pop), water and a slice of pizza. Outside **SNACKS ONLY** are allowed.

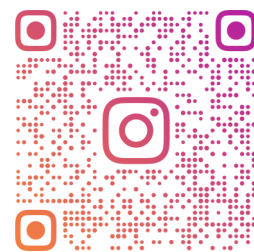
If you would like to make a basket, you can drop it off to SME, attention to Jackie Boundy. What a great way to repurpose those new items you may have sitting around!

If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Boundy

*Have you completed and returned your 2023-2024 registration paperwork yet?*

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

We're on Instagram!



ST.MARYSELEMENTARYSCHOOL

## 8TH GRADE INFO

Parents - Be sure to check your email for important information regarding Hope Ribbon & the 8th Grade retreat. All emails were sent by Ms. Sullivan. Mrs. Pesany-Au also sent an email regarding the 8th grade section of the yearbook and picture submission requirements.



## STAY IN THE KNOW



**Save the Date:** 3/24 Mother/Son Event

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

**Save the Date:** 4/27 Art Show & Open House

**Save the Date:** 4/29 Meat Raffle



**ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL**  
**LANCASTER, NY**

**Take the First Steps!**

**7th Grade**

**Practice Entrance Exam**

**Saturday, April 15th • 8-11 am**



**Scan to register**

**Spring Info Night**

**Thursday, April 20th • 6 pm**

**Open to all 6th, 7th, & 8th graders**



**Scan to register**

**Register at [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org)**