

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Watching students pose for Spring photos reminded me how much we all have grown since Picture Day, back in early October. Just as our students have matured, our community has demonstrated tremendous progress, as well.

In addition to succeeding in the classroom, our students have thrived on athletic fields of play and competed in academic competitions. They have joined after school clubs and developed as well-rounded individuals.

Members of St. Mary’s Elementary School have regularly gathered as a community - at our Back to School Bash, to celebrate Halloween at our Trunk or Treat event, at our Craft Fair, at various Christmas events, as classroom volunteers, guest speakers, and mystery readers! Collectively, we have enriched the learning experience for all of our students. I strongly encourage you to stay or get involved in our school, which is such a special place.


On Friday, March 24, our HSA will be hosting an ‘Out of This World’ Mother / Son Dance, from 7:00 - 9:00. Akin to what many local high schools refer to as a “mom prom,” young gentlemen of SME will join their mom/grandma/aunt/maternal figure for a fun night! (Yes, PK students are welcomed and encouraged to attend!) Our HSA team has planned an entertaining night, secured an excellent DJ, and will be serving pizza and refreshments. I have been looking forward to this night and event since we added it to the calendar over the summer, and hope to see you there!

Have a great week,
Mr. Olejniczak

YEARBOOK SALE

Don’t Delay... Order Your SME Yearbook... Today! SME Yearbooks will be on sale until 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.

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


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: 521
Tickets Available: 729

In Person Event: June 9th
New Venue: St. Mary’s High School

Boxtops 4 Education:
February Donation: \$6.90
YTD Donations: 81.20



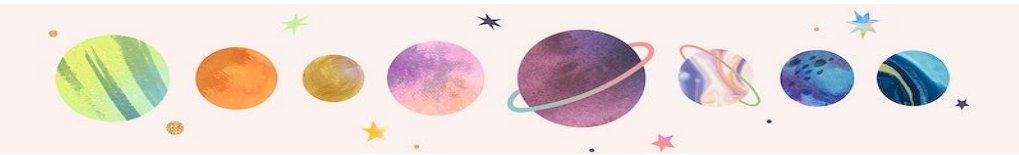
Year round ways to help:

- ◇ 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 to register your BonusCard and select our school!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Mrs. Blask who was selected as one of the area recipients of the 2023 Inclusive Teacher of the Year award! SME is so lucky to have you!

MOTHER / SON DANCE

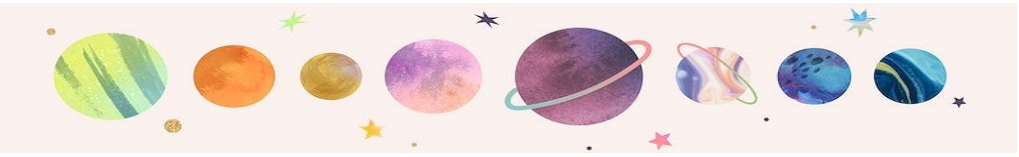


HSA is sponsoring an Out of this World semi-formal Mother/Son Dance party



Friday, March 24th from 7-9pm

Please RSVP by Thurs. 3/16

Tickets are \$12 per person - presale only



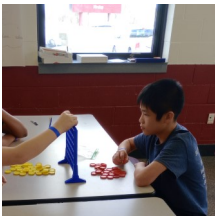
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



This past Saturday our Science Olympiad team competed against area middle schools at St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute.

Congratulations to: Richie A. and Sophia D. who received the 3rd place medal for Aerial Scramble.

Andrew K was a finalist for the Connect Four game tournament.



HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

GERTRUDE HAWK online orders with direct shipping can be placed through 3/23!

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 aliciarosesears@outlook.com

⇒ Spring Sale Deliveries: Keep your eye on your inbox if you ordered Fowlers, orders will be going home this week. Gertrude Hawk orders are estimated to be the week of 3/27.

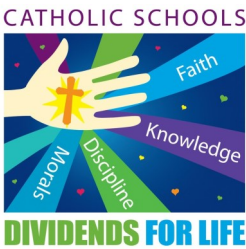
⇒ 4/29 - Meat Raffle - Additional freezer full of meat raffle tickets are available upon request! To order tickets for the main event, see the flyer attached today!

⇒ 5/5 - Penny Fair



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Tues. 3/14** - \$ Dress Down for Meat Raffle
- **Fri. 3/17 - 10:45 Early Dismissal**, Staff PD, No Afterschool Care Today
- **Wed. 3/22** - Last day to order your Yearbook!
- **Fri. 3/24** - Mother/Son Dance Party 7-9pm
- **Fri. 3/31** - Living Stations 1 & 7pm
- **Mon 4/3-Mon 4/10** - No School Easter Recess
- **Tues. 4/11** - Classes Resume
- **Fri. 4/14** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- **Sat. 4/29** - Meat Raffle
- **Fri. 5/5** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30; Penny Fair



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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



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

When: June 9, 2023 at 6:00PM
Where: St. Mary's High School
Tickets sold to date: 521
Tickets remaining: 729



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.

First Early Bird Winner of \$300: Ticket #837

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.

The Mega Raffle fundraiser is critical to keeping the tuition costs down for our SME families. So far, **139** 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 megaraffle@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!**



Track Co-Ed

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfeG21ZsSpXe_thryAmOvsb3n32IWCH7bPpVCF2R95REMMQZA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Attached electronically is a welcome letter from our track coaches talking about the program!



Soccer Co-Ed

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFRfYs3wJYIWQu4AOersPBEm7TEx3A2-Vg-YZVi-hjZwTZA/viewform?usp=sf_link



Softball Girls

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScF2FgwLq9XWUyJ7HrS6vHqj6YOPLlxabMhXHESq4i9IyHR1A/viewform?usp=sf_link



Boys Volleyball

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfd1YHULP1dce33m78pDScK4IQ3qAPhTUyFAZCoun6X6CITAA/viewform?usp=sf_link

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

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.

The meat raffle is now accepting volunteers! Please check out the sign up genius to join in the fun: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0544a8ad2ba46-meat#/>

To request tickets to the event use the attached order form which will also be added to our websites NewsNote tab!

If you would like to make a basket, you can drop it off to SME, attention to Jackie Boundy.

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



Students were emailed and asked to complete a quick google form from Mrs. Kuhn indicating their high school decision. Please complete that by the end of the week.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

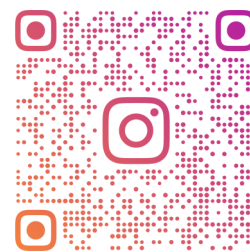
We have unfortunately seen an upswing in reckless driving within our campus lot/driveway. While St. Joseph St. is a village street and we have limited control, what we can do is ask that our families use **CAUTION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES!**

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

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

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

We're on Instagram!



ST.MARYSELEMENTARYSCHOOL

STAY IN THE KNOW



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

Make Note: NO Afterschool Care on Friday 3/17

Save the Date: 3/24 Mother/Son Event

Save the Date: 3/31 Living Stations

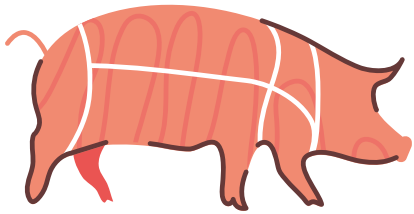
Save the Date: 4/27 Art Show & Open House

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY HSA MEAT RAFFLE

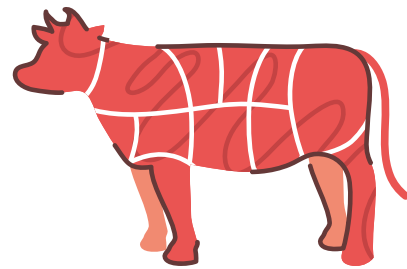
April 29th | Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.|

First Spin is at 7:00 P.M.

2 St.Marys Hill Lancaster, NY



**COST: \$10 A
TICKET**



**RESERVE A TABLE OF
8 FOR \$70**

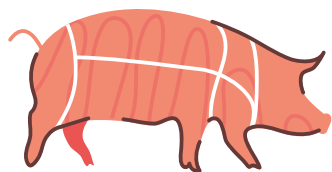
Admission Includes: Beer, Pop, Water, and a Slice of Pizza
Outside Snacks are welcomed, but No Outside Alcohol will
be allowed

Contact Jackie- 716-578-4780

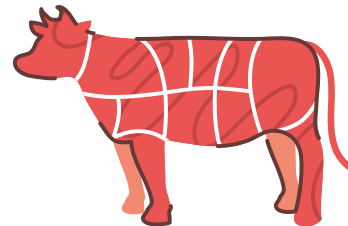
**CHEST
FREEZER
MEAT RAFFLE**

50/50

**BASKET
RAFFLE**



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY HSA MEAT RAFFLE



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Get your dollar bills and snacks ready! The St. Mary's Home School Association (HSA) is hosting a Meat Raffle on Saturday April 29th, 2023. Doors open at 5:30 and the first spin is at 7:00.

Admission tickets are only \$10 and your ticket includes beer, pop, water and a slice of pizza. You can purchase a reserved table of 8 for \$70. Purchase your tickets early before this event sells out! Please complete the form below to purchase tickets.

If you have any questions contact Jackie Boundy at 716-578-4780

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Jackie Boundy and Kate Olejniczak
Meat Raffle Chairs

Please complete the form below and return to the school office with your money in an envelope marked "Meat Raffle Tickets." Purchased tickets will be sent home with your student.

Meat Raffle Ticket Order Form

Family Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Individual Tickets. _____ or

Reserved Table: _____ (8 Tickets per table)
(# of tables)

Please send tickets home with my student: Name _____ Grade _____

2023 SME Track Team

Hey boys and girls in grades 3 through 8– Come on out and join the 2023 SME track team! It's a great way to get in shape, try something new, have some fun, compete against other schools, and is a great complimentary sport to help you improve your performance in other sports. Whether you like to run short distances, long distances, jump, throw a softball, or run a relay, there are a variety of events for your participation.

Parents of boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 - We had a great team last year with 3 of the 4 coaches returning this year (the fourth moved south). Where we were short in number of kids, we made up for it with a number of outstanding individual performances. We just need more kids on the team! We haven't received final details yet for this season from the Southtowns Invitational Track Association, which runs the meets for the Catholic elementary schools. However, last year, track meets were held at St. Francis High School on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. We had 3 tri-meets, followed by a Divisional Championship and a League Championship meet. St. Mary's High School is kind enough again this year to let us use their school facilities for both indoor and outdoor practices. Last year, we started practicing the last week of March and the season concluded the first week of June. We will practice two nights per week, and maybe sneak in a third one occasionally. Practices will be an hour to an hour and one half long with starting times between 5 and 6pm. Firm dates and times to come later. We had 20 kids participating last year and we would really like to get that closer to 30 this year. We like to keep things fun and allow the kids to pick the events they want to participate in, as much as possible, while still competing in as many events as we can. This is a developmental program. We will be teaching proper running, jumping, and throwing mechanics. No previous experience by your children needed! Please think it over, and discuss it with your son or daughter. Sign up sheets will be provided by the school. Thank you.

Your coaches,

John Fattey
Steve DeMarzio
Lindsey DiGiacomo