

# NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 17 JANUARY 31, 2024

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Happy Catholic Schools Week!

It was so heartwarming celebrating Mass with some St. Mary's Elementary School families and many teachers last Sunday @ 10:00. Our student volunteers were wonderful; I am so proud of all involved for representing our school and helping to share the Good Word of Jesus with all of us in attendance.

Our school continues to celebrate Catholic Schools Week through February 2. Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. In addition to last Sunday's Mass, Fr. Paul began our week by leading an in-school prayer service, before our grades worked on service projects Monday afternoon. Yesterday, our PK - 2nd grade students attended an amazing Bubble Show, while students in grades 3-8 attended a hands-on Animal Show with all kinds of creatures! This morning, our students attended a Glenn Colton concert; this afternoon, we are hosting SME Olympic Games! We'll conclude the week by learning from guest speakers tomorrow and sharing a meal with special guests for lunch on Friday.

Whether working with friends from other grades to play bingo or make a poster, attending a concert or show with friends, or learning from guest speakers who truly bring education to life, our 2024 Catholic Schools Week offerings were designed to build the community of our school in truly enjoyable ways! We're growing in faith through attending Mass and participating in a prayer service; we're learning to become more socially responsible through service projects and collaborating with friends; we're making academic strides as we learn constructively from guest speakers and hands-on presenters. We continue to strengthen the foundation of SME, fortifying our pillars.

Looking forward to a wonderful celebration of our school,

Mr. Olejniczak



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Wed. 1/31** - PR2 Upload Gr. K-8
- **Thurs. 2/1** - Pre-K - 8 Open House 6-8pm, Afterschool Care Ends @ 5 Today!
- **Fri. 2/2** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30, Special Person's Luncheon
- **Wed. 2/14** - Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30; Parish Sponsored Clam Chowder Dinner 4-6:30pm
- **Fri. 2/16** - 8th Grade Sponsored Fish Fry, 4-7:00pm, Fowlers Spring Sale Ends
- **Mon 2/19 - Fri. 2-23** - **NO SCHOOL** - Mid-Winter Recess
- **Tues. 2/27** - Spring Picture Day
- **Wed. 2/28** - Grad/Club/Sport Picture Day
- **Fri. 3/1** - CW Mass, 8:30am
- **Fri. 3/15 - 10:45 Early Dismissal**, Staff PD
- **Wed. 3/20** - MP2 Report Card Upload, K-8

Don't Forget:

ASC ends @ 5:00 tomorrow so we can prepare for our Open House!



## BY THE NUMBERS

We offer a wide variety of opportunities to support SME and will be changing things up this year with our offerings.

We understand that every fundraiser will not be for everyone, but we do appreciate any & all support you can give!

Year round ways to help:

- ◇ Boxtops 4 Education

*Just scan in the app to earn!*

*We earned \$20.30 in December*

*5th Grade is in the lead with the most boxtops scanned @ 186!!*

- ◇ RaiseRight Program
- ◇ Tops in Education Program

*Just link your bonus card*

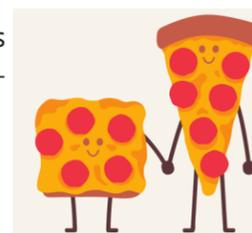
## TAX TIME

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))

## SPECIAL PERSON'S LUNCHEON

Thank you to those that RSVP'd for our Special Person's Luncheon being held on Friday. We look forward to having you. As a reminder, our lunch periods run:

**Pre-K - Gr 2:** 11:24 - 11:57, **Gr. 3- Gr 5:** 11:59 - 12:32, **Gr 6 - Gr 8:** 12:34 - 1:07



## HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Thank you to everyone who attended the HSA meeting last Wednesday! It was so nice to see everyone and to share great ideas for our future events.

Hippity Hoppity, Easter is on it's way. A great way to help out the Easter bunny is to buy chocolates from Fowler's in the spring candy sale. Signing up online is super easy and then you can start selling. If you have any questions please email [hsa@smeschool.com](mailto:hsa@smeschool.com).

Thank you for helping us reach our fundraising goal.

**January Events:**  
**1/24-2/16 Fowler's Spring Candy Sale**

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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



Social Responsibility



Spiritual Growth



Academic Excellence

## BISON SCHOLARSHIP INFO

The BISON Fund pre-application for new or current families not on BISON for the 2024-25 school year opened on January 15th.

To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>.

The deadline is March 15th. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-applications forms and all applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16th.

Current families **do not** need to fill out a pre-application, they will be emailed a link to complete the renewal process and add siblings on February 20th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bison Fund office at 716-854-0869 ext. 1.



## MEGA RAFFLE

Mega Raffle is coming June 7, 2024.

The top prize is \$35,000 with 13 other prizes to win.

**New this year are VIP tickets and sponsorship opportunities.**

Every family received a [letter](#) last week with the details of our Mega Raffle. Get your tickets early, you gotta be in it to win it!

If your family has any connections or if you know of any businesses or individuals who might be interested in contributing, we would be incredibly grateful for any raffle donations. These contributions can come in various forms such as gift cards, merchandise, services, or any other items suitable for our raffle.

We also have an [Amazon Gift List](#) set up if you would like to donate an item for the basket raffle. Remember you can always purchase items with a RaiseRight Gift Card! We will be gathering raffle items until June.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested please email [meGARaffle@smeschool.com](mailto:meGARaffle@smeschool.com).

## RE-REGISTRATION

All current SME students received registration packets last week. Only the prompt return of your completed packet will guarantee your spot for the 24-25 school year. Our open house for the public is scheduled for 2/1 for all grades.

**Please note:** there is **not** a textbook loan form in re-registration packets. The form we have on file from 23-24 will follow your child through 8th grade. The only time a new form would be needed is if you move. A flyer with area transportation department links has been attached today for your convenience. This flyer is also on our [website](#).

*We look forward to another year with all of you!*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

**Thursday** - Dress for a job interview or future career.

Our pre-k students will dress like they are 100!

**Friday** - Wear Red



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### PARISH CORNER: CLAM CHOWDER DINNER

All are welcome to join us in Faith & Fellowship for our Clam Chowder dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 14th from 4-6:30 in the Parish Center.

Dinners are \$10 and are available for dine in or carry out. Use the link to pre-pay with credit card, cash/checks accepted at the door: [Order Dinners](#)

Those students interested in helping with the event can sign up here: [Clam Chowder Volunteers](#)

## READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

We will be hosting a used book sale during Read Across America Week (2/26-3/1). Books will be priced between .50-\$1.00 and the sale will be held during our lunch periods. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Lancaster Public Library.

We will be collecting gently used/new books from 2/1 - 2/16.

We have created a Sign-Up Genius for those interested & able to volunteer to help with the sale. We thank you in advance for your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DACA629A0FA7-47459945-used>

## RAISERIGHT

Reminder: Families earn 100% of rebates up to \$250 and an 80/20 split thereafter.

### About the process:

RaiseRight credits are processed quarterly: March, June, September, and December. Mrs. Jezuit applies credits to tuition accounts based on the reports generated and received from RaiseRight. The RaiseRight office is not able to look into individual tuition accounts. If you (or a family member) is purchasing cards to help reduce your tuition you/they **must** designate the recipient family when opening an online account **or** by indicating the family name on paper order forms. Without this information the RaiseRight office has no way of knowing where to assign credits.

If you have any questions, please email [raiserright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiserright@smeschool.com). Our team is here for you!

Creating an online account: [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raiserright.com)

For a complete list of participating retailers visit the shop with scrip website: <https://www.raiserright.com/brands>

Here is a quick link to the order form: [RR Order Form](#)



## 8TH GRADE INFO

The 8th grade class is sponsoring a Fish Fry on Fri. 2/16 from 4:00-7:00!

\$16 Ticket Includes: 11oz beer battered haddock (from Krolick's), tartar sauce, cole slaw, macaroni salad & a roll with butter

*Only 300 dinners will be sold!*

Take out and dine-in options available.

Pre-order [here](#) to secure your dinner!

Thank you for your support of our 8th grade class!

## STAY IN THE KNOW

**Save the Date:** 3/22 Mother/Son Dance 6-8pm

**Save the Date:** ~~3/28 Living Stations~~ NEW DATE TBD - Stay Tuned

**Make Note:** 3/29 No School - Good Friday

**Make Note:** 4/1-4/8 No School

**Save the Date:** 4/12 Christian Witness Mass

**Save the Date:** 4/19 Meat Raffle

**Save the Date:** 5/2 Art Show, Spring Book Fair

**Save the Date:** 5/3 CW Mass

# ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- "...visible examples of Gospel living."

**Feb.**  
**2024**

Student lunches are \$3.50, and adult lunches are \$5.50. During this time, we ask that all lunches be prepaid with either cash or check made out to SME, in the exact amount. Any overage will be kept on account. All lunches are comprised of five components; protein, whole grain, vegetables, fruit & milk. In addition to the main entrée, there are three alternate choices offered daily; Julienne Salad, Yogurt Parfait, or Sun Butter/Jelly Sandwich. Milk is \$0.50, and may be prepaid if your student buys milk regularly. **Snack will now be served to all grades during lunchtime. No snack is ever purchased on account. Snack money must be presented at point of sale. Snacks are \$0.50-\$0.75.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [heerdt@smeschool.com](mailto:heerdt@smeschool.com). We appreciate your support. Liz Heerdt & Tracy Hadsall (menu subject to change)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Lunch = \$3.50 2 Lunches = \$7.00 3 Lunches = \$10.50 4 Lunches = \$14.00 5 Lunches = \$17.50	6 Lunches = \$21.00 7 Lunches = \$24.50 8 Lunches = \$28.00 9 Lunches = \$31.50 10 Lunches = \$35.00	11 Lunches = \$38.50 12 Lunches = \$42.00 13 Lunches = \$45.50 14 Lunches = \$49.00 15 Lunches = \$52.50	16 Lunches = \$56.00 17 Lunches = \$59.50 18 Lunches = \$63.00 19 Lunches = \$66.50 20 Lunches = \$70.00	21 Lunches = \$73.50 22 Lunches = \$77.00  Cash or Check to SME Change Will Go On Acct
			1 Breaded Chicken Pattie On a Roll Veggies, Fruit & Milk	2 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
5 Breakfast Sandwich (Egg, Sausage & Cheese) Veggies, Fruit & Milk	6 Nachos Supreme Veggies, Fruit & Milk	7 Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Veggies, Fruit & Milk	8 Sloppy Joes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	9 Mozzarella Sticks w/Marina Sauce Veggies Fruit & Milk
12 Pancakes & Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	13 Pasta w/Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Veggies, Fruit & Milk	14 Fish Sticks Cole Slaw Veggies, Fruit & Milk	15 Chicken Caesar Salad Breadstick Veggies, Fruit & Milk	16 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
19 NO SCHOOL	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL
26 Cheeseburger on a Roll Veggies, Fruit & Milk	27 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	28 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Veggies, Fruit & Milk	29	

*Dear Friends:*

*On behalf of St. Martha's Pantry, please extend our sincere appreciation to your parishioners and school children for the items collected for our pantry.*

*These groceries helped fill our shelves. This help from our neighboring parish, helps put us in a position to reach out to those in need and for this we are grateful.*

*Once again, we enclose our thanks to all of you for your efforts. God's choicest blessings on you and yours.*

All Requests  
Due 4/1!



# TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

**Akron:**

<https://www.akronschools.org/domain/22>

**Alden:**

<https://www.aldenschools.org/domain/57>

**Cheektowaga:**

<https://www.cheektowagak12.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=804>

**Cheektowaga-Maryvale:**

<https://www.maryvaleufsd.org/page/transportation>

**Cheektowaga-Sloan:**

<https://www.cheektowagasloan.org/Domain/164>

**Clarence:**

<https://www.clarenceschools.org/domain/68>

**Cleveland-Hill:**

<https://www.clevehill.org/page/transportation>

**Williamsville:** <https://www.williamsvillek12.org/departments/transportation/index.php>

**Depew:**

<https://www.depewschools.org/page/transportation>

**East Aurora:**

<https://www.eastauroraschools.org/page/transportation>

**Iroquois:**

<https://www.iroquoiscsd.org/Page/3676>

**Lancaster:**

<https://www.lancasterschools.org/Domain/22>

**Orchard Park:**

<https://www.opschools.org/domain/36>

**West Seneca:**

<https://www.wscschools.org/Page/445>

**St. Mary's Elementary School DOES NOT process transportation requests.**

Please make note of when the district does/does not transport students so that you may plan accordingly.

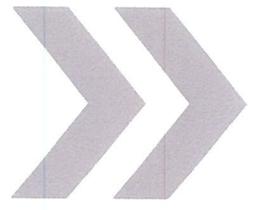
When given an option, you will be completing the non-public transportation request.



# YEARBOOKS ON SALE!



Order Your  
**YEARBOOK**  
*Today!*



**INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER**



## St. Mary's Elementary School

Ordering available from: Thursday, February 01, 2024  
*Se podrá empezar a ordenar el: jueves, 1 de febrero, 2024*

**Online Ordering Available Until: Wednesday, March 20, 2024**  
*Ordenar en línea termina el: miércoles, 20 de marzo, 2024*

**You May Purchase:**  
*Puede Comprar:*

Hardback Yearbook	\$20.00
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**Thank you for your order!**

**Gracias por tu pedido!**