

# NEWSNOTE

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

As our team prepares for tomorrow’s **Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Open House**, which is tomorrow, **January 16th from 6:00 - 7:30**, I thought it would be an appropriate opportunity to pause and communicate a reminder of some of what it means to be a part of our St. Mary’s community. It is with a deep sense of responsibility and a great sense of hope that I share with you a reminder of our mission statement and some information about how we work to achieve our mission. .

As our team teaches and serves the SME community, we never lose sight of our commitment to your sons and daughters. ***Our mission is to provide a nurturing and welcoming learning environment that fosters spiritual growth, academic excellence, and social responsibility. We are committed to helping students grow into young people of conviction, passion, and purpose, which is one of the driving forces behind the continued growth and development of our Pillars of SME programming.***

This year, we have taken steps to grow the house system at St. Mary’s. We have recognized and celebrated individual achievements as whole teams, awarding points throughout the year for participation in sports teams and clubs. We have also awarded points for acts of service such as volunteering to be an altar server or winning a Christian Witness Award. As we journey towards Spring, our school will be taking more assertive steps to serve the community outside of St. Mary’s, experiences that will allow our students and teachers the opportunities to live their faith, help their fellow brothers and sisters, and grow closer together as pillar team members and leaders.

In addition to helping create a positive and inclusive school community in which all students feel valued and respected, our Pillars of SME program creates experiences and opportunities for students to support one another. When we’re rooting for our team, we are exuding positivity and encouraging each other. This allows students across grade levels to build rapport and grow positive relationships. By being intentional about planning and providing moments for students to be welcoming, supportive, and motivating one another, we are actively building a positive school climate wherein all can grow and develop as individuals.

In closing, I will share the current Pillar standings:

**Red Pillar, the Kirsch House of Spiritual Growth - 176**  
**Blue Pillar, the Steller House of Academic Excellence -162**  
**White Pillar, the Whelan House of Social Responsibility - 149**

If you would like to learn more information about our House System or would like to help or contribute in any way, please reach out to me at [olejniczak@smeschool.com](mailto:olejniczak@smeschool.com)

Have a wonderful Wednesday and I hope to see many of you or referred friends at our upcoming Open Houses.

Mr. Olejniczak



- **Thurs. 1/16** - Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House 6p-7:30pm
- **Mon. 1/20** - NO School: M.L.K Day
- **Fri. 1/24** - NJHS Induction Mass 8:30am
- **Sun. 1/26** - Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass 10am
- **Tues. 1/28** - Open House 6p-8p
- **Wed. 1/29** - NO School
- **Fri. 1/30** - Distinguished Grad Mass 8:30am
- **Fri. 2/7** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am, Date Knight Dance 6pm-8pm
- **Mon.- Fri. 2/17-2/21** - NO School
- **Wed. 2/26**- Spring/Club/Sport Picture Day
- **Thurs. 2/27**- K & Grade 8 Graduation Picture Day
- **Fri. 2/28** - Meat Raffle 6pm-10pm

## UNIFORM DRIVE

We invite everyone to come in and browse through our uniform bins. Feel free to take as much or as little as you’d like! We have all different sizes/styles available to choose from!

Our goal is to *narrow down* our inventory to only a few bins!

The uniform bins will be available everyday M-F during all hours. The bins will be set up on a table outside the main office!

We welcome you to stop by at your convenience.



## FINANCES

We are excited to share that our new email contact will be available to assist you with any inquiries.

Please direct all further questions/concerns regarding financial services to the email below:

**[finances@smeschool.com](mailto:finances@smeschool.com)**

Thank you!



## DATE KNIGHT DANCE

Mark your calendar for our annual Date Knight Dance, to be held on Friday 2/7 from 6-8pm. This event is for all of our boys and a special guest (mom, aunt, grandma, sister), it's going to be a great time!

To purchase tickets, click the link below:  
<https://date-knight-dance-2025.cheddarup.com>

If you’re interested in volunteering, click the link below to sign-up:  
<https://date-knight-dance-volunteers-2025-58551.cheddarup.com>



## HSA

### HSA Meeting

Interested in learning about HSA and our plans for the coming months? Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday 1/22 at 6pm (in the conference room next to the PC). We will be discussing the Date Knight Dance, Meat Raffle, Spring Book Fair, Penny Fair, the School Picnic, and more!

### SME Parent Wear

Show your SME pride with SME Parent t-shirts. Each T-shirt is \$10. Adult sizes small through 2XL available. Sizes are limited to available inventory. Order using the following link: <https://sme-parent-wear.cheddarup.com>

### SME Spirit Wear

Need SME Spirit Wear? We've got you covered! Each t-shirt is \$15, youth and adult sizes are available. Scan the QR code to order.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| PRINCIPAL’S DESK  | 1 |
| UNIFORM DRIVE     | 1 |
| DATE KNIGHT DANCE | 1 |
| FINANCES          | 1 |
| HSA               | 1 |
| RAISE RIGHT       | 2 |
| NURSE MESSAGE     | 2 |
| UNIFORM ORDERS    | 2 |
| LADIES OF CHARITY | 2 |
| SPIRIT WEAR       | 2 |
| BOWLING           | 2 |
| CALENDAR CLUB     | 2 |
| OPEN HOUSE        | 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



## SPIRIT WEAR

Thank you for your patience as we awaited the fulfillment order of the youth size small Spirit Wear t-shirts. The order has arrived at the school and the inventory quantities have been updated.  
Please use the link below to complete your purchase:

<https://sme-spirit-wear.cheddarup.com>

Once the payment is received, I will send the shirts home with your student or contact you to arrange pick up later this week/early next week.

## SPRING BOWLING LEAGUE



The Spring Bowling League will be held on  
**Tuesdays from 3:30 -5:00 PM at Abbott Lanes**  
[1840 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Abbott+Lanes+Bowling+Center/@42.9544444,-79.8555556,15z)

Dates: **March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st.**

The Championship match will be held on  
**Saturday, April 5th @ Classic Lanes**  
1840 Military Road, Kenmore, NY

\*Championship is limited to grades 5/6 and 7/8\*



Please fill out this interest form if your child is interested in Bowling.  
Open from Pre K-8th graders.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwbpC717->

## UNIFORM ORDERS

Uniforms will be available for ordering on a monthly basis! All orders placed within the month-long period will be processed by All-Stars.

Please click the link below to place your order :)

<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/stmary-smonthly>



## NURSES MESSAGE

Please take a moment to review this months  
Nurse Notes attached electronically today!

## VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

**Join us in spreading the love!**

As Valentine's Day approaches, we have a wonderful opportunity to show appreciation and spread joy to those who have served our country.

If you would like to join us in creating heartfelt cards to brighten the day of our veterans, please send your pre-bought or handmade cards to us by February 12th!

This is a beautiful way to express gratitude and make a positive impact in our community!



## LADIES OF CHARITY

THANK YOU SME FAMILIES!

The Ladies of Charity wish to thank everyone at St. Mary's who was kind enough to donate children's winter clothing for our Catholic Charities families in need of warm clothing!

Your response has been overwhelming and very much appreciated! You have filled two full trunk-loads of clothing to date!

Our collection box will remain in the SME foyer during the month of January should you have more children's clothing to donate.

God Bless you all!

## PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Do you have family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors with pre-K or Kindergarten age children?

Spread the word that SME is the place to be & invite them to join us for our upcoming open house!



Use the link below to register for open house on January 16th from 6pm-7:30pm!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS001F4myWRbqIgRPZaKXmDWOHa8UU3bTqRYJw2hMLSLrw/viewform?usp=dialog>

## CALENDAR CLUB



It's not too late to  
purchase your Calendar  
for the 2025 year!

Upon the receipt of your \$25 donation, your name and number will be registered for all drawings for the year 2025. Winning numbers will be physically drawn monthly at St. Mary's and will be published monthly on the parish & school websites.

Contact: [calendarclub@smeschool.com](mailto:calendarclub@smeschool.com)  
to purchase your calendar today!

## RAISE RIGHT

Updated Office Hours:

**Monday 12p-2:15p**  
**Tuesday 9a-12p**  
**Wednesday 12p-2:15p**

All online and school orders will be checked on Fridays and go home on Monday if inventory allows.

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

Our team is here for you!

Jeans may be worn on these days.  
Students not wanting to participate should wear their uniform.

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 26-31, 2025



SUNDAY  
1/26

## Celebrate Parish

10am Mass at St. Mary's Parish

MONDAY  
1/27

## Celebrate Community

Dress theme: "SOUP"er Bowl- sports attire

Collect canned soups and drop them off in your Pillar  
Color boxes in front foyer

TUESDAY  
1/28

## Celebrate Students

Dress theme: "Your Future is Bright!"- neon 80s colors

SME Open House: "Your Future is Bright at SME!" 6-8pm  
\*\*New families only attending\*\*

WEDNESDAY  
1/29

NO SCHOOL- Lunar New Year

THURSDAY  
1/30

## Celebrate Vocations

Dress theme: "Your Future Career Awaits!"-  
dress for a career (PreK-S), dress for job interview (6-8)

FRIDAY  
1/31

## Celebrate Faculty, Staff, & Volunteers

Dress theme: SME School Spirit- SME spirit/pillar attire





# Little Lancers Camp

Come be a lancer cheerleader for a day and cheer during the halftime of our basketball game!

**Game: Saturday February 15th 2:30p**

**Practices: Wednesday Feb. 5th &  
Wednesday Feb 12th 6:30p-7:30p**



*SCAN ME*

**All athletes must be in 1st- 7th grade  
(please scan QR code if interested-  
deadline to register Feb. 5th)**

**Price: \$40 per athlete (includes t-shirt  
& bow)**

**\*Only cash or Venmo accepted\***

**\*All proceeds go to St. Mary's cheerleading\***

**St. Mary's High School  
142 Laverack Ave, Lancaster**





SME HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# NEON

GLOW IN THE DARK DANCE

# NIGHTS

6-8PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

TICKETS: \$28 FOR 1 SME STUDENT & GUEST  
\$35 FOR 2 OR MORE SME STUDENTS & GUEST  
PRESALE ONLY THROUGH 2/5/25








THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL SME BOYS  
AND THEIR SPECIAL GUEST  
(MOM, AUNT, GRANDMA, SISTER, ETC).







**Erie County Legislator Frank Todaro has  
announced his annual**



**“Valentines for Veterans”**



**The Legislator is asking students to create  
Valentines Day cards for area veterans.  
Please join in and show veterans  
that we are thinking of them  
during this special holiday**



**Valentines Day cards can be handmade  
by students from construction paper  
and decorating materials or pre-bought  
cards can be personalized by students.  
The program’s goal is to deliver a card  
to as many veterans and active service  
members as possible!**



**To participate please contact Legislator Todaro’s office  
by February 12th at (716) 681-2071 or  
e-mail [Frank.Todaro@erie.gov](mailto:Frank.Todaro@erie.gov).**



# PRE-K & K OPEN HOUSE

**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**2 ST. MARY'S HILL, LANCASTER, NY**

**JANUARY 16TH, 2025**

**6:00PM-7:30PM**

**LET'S WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER**

**CONTACT US @**

**716-683-2112 EXT:123**

**ADMISSIONS@SMESCHOOL.COM**





# Notes from the Nurse



I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends as you celebrated the Holidays and New Years. Now that we are back to school I wanted to share information about the Norovirus. As you may have seen, there has been an increase in reported cases this year. My goal is to give you the facts and some tips to help you and your children stay healthy!

**What Is Norovirus?** Norovirus is a virus that causes diarrhea and vomiting. It's sometimes called the stomach flu or stomach bug, but norovirus (NOR-uh-vy-ris) isn't related to the flu.

**What Are the Signs & Symptoms of Norovirus Infection?** About a day or two after contact with norovirus, a person may have symptoms such as:

- nausea and vomiting
- watery diarrhea
- belly pain

**Is Norovirus Contagious?** Yes. Norovirus spreads easily, even before someone has symptoms. Sometimes an infected person can spread it for weeks after they feel better. Anyone can get a norovirus infection, especially if they spend time where many people gather; like at childcare centers and schools.

**How Long Does Norovirus Last?** Symptoms of norovirus infection usually last about 2–3 days. Kids with a norovirus infection should not go to school or childcare until their vomiting and diarrhea has stopped for 24 hours.

**Can Norovirus Be Prevented?** While it isn't possible to completely prevent it, there are ways to minimize risk of infection and decrease the likelihood of the virus spreading.

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer is not as effective in decreasing and preventing the spread of infection so wash your hands prior to eating/drinking or touching your face.
- Wear gloves to clean up vomit and stool.
- Wash potentially contaminated hard surfaces and bathroom fixtures with a diluted bleach & water solution. Make sure to leave solution on surfaces for at least 10mins before wiping away.
- Wash contaminated linens in hot water and dry on hottest heat setting when possible.

**When Should I Call the Doctor?** In most cases symptoms get better in a few days. But call your doctor if you feel like your child is lethargic, not able to keep fluids down for more than an hour, is having blood in vomit or stool, or is showing other signs of dehydration. Please visit:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/norwalk/fact\\_sheet.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/norwalk/fact_sheet.htm) for more information.

## IT HAPPENS

Norovirus doesn't have to.  
Norovirus can be spread by people  
who didn't wash their hands.  
Don't be one of them.

## WASH YOUR HANDS.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

Office Hours- 9:30-1

Phone- (716)683-2112 ext 128

email- [nurse@smeschool.com](mailto:nurse@smeschool.com)