

NEWSNOTE



FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Some odds and ends as we prepare for Winter Break:

Friday, February 14 will be a dress down day for \$1. Students may wear Valentine’s Day clothes or red, white, or pink - anything festive and church and school-appropriate. Proceeds will be used by our Meat Raffle Committee to purchase items to make baskets that will be raffled off at our fundraiser at the end of the month. Thank you for your participation and support of this important (and very fun) fundraising event!

Our annual **Meat Raffle**, SME’s 2nd largest fundraiser of the year, will take place on **Friday, February 28**. We are already very close to selling out and have actually withdrawn advertising the event so that St. Mary’s friends and families would have the opportunity to attend. Please see information elsewhere in this newsletter if you are interested in attending. We fully anticipate selling all available seats, **so please do not hesitate in purchasing your seats/table**. And remember, all proceeds stay with the school and directly benefit our students.

It takes close to 75 volunteers the night of the event to properly host the Meat Raffle. We still are in need of about 20 volunteers to ensure the night is a resounding and fun success. Please follow this link if you are able to volunteer any of your time to support our school: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAA28A3F4C25-54293551-meat#/>

Remember, we do not have school next week due to Winter Break. After break, we look forward to a nice, consistent stretch of full five-day weeks!

A report from our open houses: Including digital registration packets sent to parents and both of our open houses, over 150 new families have visited, toured, or spent a day shadowing at our school over the past month! As our school continues to steadily grow, the future of SME remains bright!

Our **Date Knight Dance** was also a fun, neony-bright evening! Many thanks to Mrs. Sears and Mrs. Nichols for chairing and volunteering this event, which enabled our young gentlemen to escort their dates to a fun night @ St. Mary’s.

Have a wonderful rest of your week,
Mr. O

- **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 Raf- fle 6pm-10pm
- **Wed. 3/5** - Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30am
- **Fri. 3/7** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **Fri. 4/4** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **Tues. 4/8** - NYS ELA Testing
- **Wed. 4/9** - NYS ELA Testing
- **Mon. 4/14 - 4/21:** Easter Recess NO SCHOOL
- **Thurs. 5/1** - ART Show & Book Fair, 6pm-8pm
- **Fri. 5/2** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Tues. 5/6** - NYS Sci- ence Testing

SPRING PHOTOS

Picture day is coming!
Use the QR code below or click:
[INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER](https://www.inter-state.com/order)

Tuesday (2/26): Spring portraits & Yearbook Sport/Club photos

Wednesday (2/27): Pre-K 4, Kinder, & 8th Grade Graduation photos

ORDER ONLINE

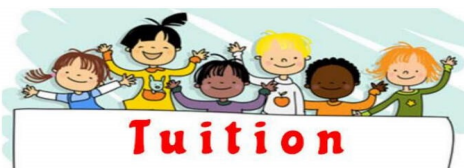
[INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER](https://www.inter-state.com/order)
Use order code: **93474CT**
Utilice el código de pedido: **93474CT**



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
Thank you!



REGISTRATION/TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS



A flyer with area transportation department links has been attached to this NewsNote!
All transportation requests should be submitted to your districts transportation department directly and are **due 4/1!**

In addition, a gentle reminder about the registration applications that are still pending. As we approach the deadline, we kindly ask that you submit your applications as soon as possible to ensure that that your child’s enrollment is secured.

HSA

Date Knight Dance

Thank you to all of our Date Knight Dance attendees and volunteers! It was a special event for our boys and we appreciate your help and support. A great time was had by all!

Fowler’s Chocolate Fundraiser

Information regarding our Fowler's Chocolate fundraiser was distributed to families via email on 2/10. This fundraiser will run from 2/12 through 3/19. It's the perfect opportunity to indulge in some sweet treats while supporting a great cause!

Spring HSA Events - Save the Dates!

Meat Raffle: 2/28
Spring Book Fair: 5/1 & 5/2
Penny Fair: 5/9
Mega Raffle: 6/6
School Picnic: 6/13

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
SPRING PHOTOS	1
FINANCES	1
HSA	1
RAISE RIGHT	2
NURSE MESSAGE	2
PILLAR SHIRT ORDERS	2
YEARBOOK	2
SPIRIT WEAR	2
BOWLING	2
READ ACROSS AMERICA	2
MEAT RAFFLE	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

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.

PILLAR SHIRTS

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

Please use the link below to place your order:
<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/crest-of-st--mary-s-webstore2025>

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>



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.abbottlanes.com)

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->

NURSES MESSAGE

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

YEARBOOKS

Don't Delay... Order Your SME Yearbook Today!

SME is growing and so is the yearbook...
The yearbook is now 44 pages of full-color!

- ◇ On Sale from **February 1 - March 8, 2025.**
- ◇ Yearbook Sales will be online ONLY. **Cost: \$20**
- ◇ All SME students in PreK3-8th grade will be included in the yearbook
- ◇ Yearbooks will be distributed in June

Please direct any questions to Mrs. Pesany-Au at
yearbook@smeschool.com

To order a yearbook visit:
www.inter-state.com/order
enter code: **92391T**
Or use the QR Code on the attached flyer

READ ACROSS AMERICA

As part of our celebration of Read Across America Week from **March 3rd - March 7th**, we're excited to announce our daily dress down themes! This is a great opportunity to show our love for reading while having some fun with our outfits!

Check out the attachment to see what we have planned!

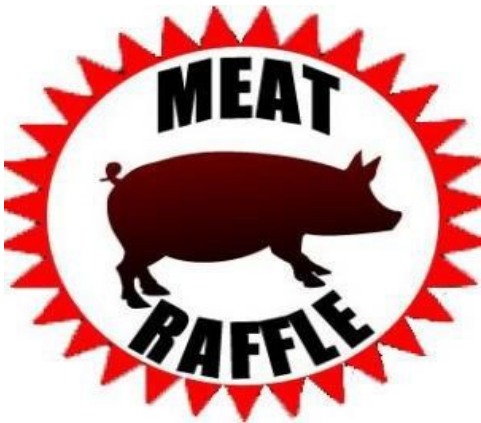
MEAT RAFFLE

Get your cooler, snacks and dollar bills ready! It's **MEAT RAFFLE** time!
Join us **FEBRUARY 28 at 5:30pm** at **ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL** for our annual SME meat raffle!

Get your tickets soon, this is always a sold-out event. See the attached flyer for more info on the event and how to get your tickets.

Looking for a way to get involved and help make this event great? We are looking for donations, basket raffle donations, and volunteers! See the sign up genius link below for more info on how you can help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAA28A3F4C25-54293551-meat#/>



VALENTINE'S CANDY GRAM

Our 8th graders are running a **Valentine's Day Candy Gram** fundraiser to help raise money for our 8th grade class expenses.

All of the information can be found in the flyer added on to this week's NewsNote! Please check it out, and thank you!

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.

Our team is here for you!

All Requests
Due 4/1!



TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

Akron:

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

Depew:

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

Alden:

<https://www.aldenschools.org/o/acsd/page/transportation>

East Aurora:

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

Cheektowaga:

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

Iroquois:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZWsQzcaGWQ>

Cheektowaga-Maryvale:

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

Lancaster:

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

Cheektowaga-Sloan:

<https://www.cheektowagasloan.org/departments/transportation>

Orchard Park:

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

Clarence:

<https://www.clarenceschools.org/departments/transportation/request-forms>

West Seneca:

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

Cleveland-Hill:

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

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

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.

Valentine's Day Candy Grams



SME'S 8TH GRADE CLASS IS HOSTING A CANDY GRAM FUNDRAISER!

Send a personalized message to your child, classmate or staff member for just **\$1.00 each**. Candy grams will include an allergy friendly lollipop and will be delivered the week of February 10th.

To purchase a candy gram, please fill out one of the forms below and send in an envelope along with cash or check made out to St. Mary's Elementary. Additional forms are attached to this week's electronic News Note. All orders are due no later than Feb 13th.

THANK YOU!

Product info: <https://a.co/d/jhuW9Pw>



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY**

To: _____

Homeroom: _____

Message: _____

From: _____

**Happy
Valentines
Day**

To: _____

Homeroom: _____

Message: _____

From: _____

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**

To: _____

Homeroom: _____

Message: _____

From: _____



Order Your **YEARBOOK** **TODAY!**

inter-state.com/order

Use Order Code: 92391T

SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR EASY ORDERING!





HOLIDAY CANDY FUNDRAISING



School Name: St. Mary's Lancaster HSA

School ID: FC21

School Goal: \$5,000

Start Date: Feb 12th

End Date: March 19th

(*Fundraiser closes at midnight on last day/no late orders accepted)

Dear Parents and Students: We are pleased to offer Fowler's Chocolates as our spring fundraiser.

Fowler's has added some new delicious chocolate goodies, candy treats and adorable stuffed animals all perfect for filling up an Easter basket.

All orders are placed online through a computer by going to shop.fowlersfundraising.com or on the mobile phone app **MyFundR Fundraising** using your child's unique SELLER ID LINK.

This Fundraiser will ship directly to the customer's home to the school (this option is chosen by the customer). Fowler's will begin shipping orders out between March 24th and April 5th via USPS for those that choose to ship directly to their residence, and to schools between March 17th and April 5th.

There is no money to collect as all orders are processed with a credit card.

Parents or students must register for an online account to obtain your unique SELLER ID LINK.

How to register your child on a computer:

1. Open your browser to shop.fowlersfundraising.com
2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
3. You will be sent an email with your child's unique SELLER ID # and a LINK.
4. Share your child's SELLER ID LINK through emails, texts, and social media with family and friends. This is how they will get to the website to place orders.

How to register your child on a smart phone:

1. Go to the APP Store and download the **MyFundR Fundraising** mobile app on to your phone, or simply scan the QR code to the right.
2. Sign up for your account using the SCHOOL ID shown at the top of this letter
3. You can now place orders or share the catalog right from your smart phone with your unique SELLER ID LINK
4. Your family and friends can order chocolate from the link you provide.

Missing/Broken/Incorrect Chocolate:

- Any Chocolate item that is missing, broken or incorrect should be notified to your fundraising school administrator with 3 days of the Ship to School orders. For Ship to Home orders, any chocolate that is missing, broken or incorrect will need to be notified to dan@fowlerschocolates.com no later than April 10th.

How the Fundraiser helps your School and your Students:

- Our Fundraiser will be given a percentage of the revenue that is sold. We can earn anywhere from 15% to 40% of the total revenue sold, depending on what tier we hit. Our goal (above) is what we are aiming to accomplish this year so we can continue to bring funds into our school! Thank you for your support!



If there are any questions or concerns regarding the website or your order, please contact:

dan@fowlerschocolates.com



SCAN ME

Read Across

America

March 3-7, 2025



Tuesday

Cozy Up To a Good Book

Wear your pajamas and bring your favorite book(s) to read!

Monday

We Positively Love Books!
Wear a shirt with a positive message!

Wednesday

Oh! The Places You'll Go!
Wear a vacation destination or college jersey, sweatshirt, or t-shirt



Thursday

Thank Goodness It's New York Day!
Wear anything that reminds you of our great state!

Friday

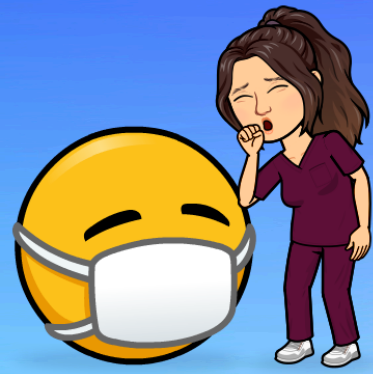
Freedom Friday
Pretend like it's the 4th of July and dress in your red, white, and blue!



Notes

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

Notes from the Nurse



With so many viruses and illnesses prevalent in our communities, I wanted to encourage parents and guardians to continue to promote the importance of good hand hygiene.

Washing your hands will not only effectively decrease the number of germs we are exposed to but also decreases the potential transfer of these germs to others.

Please encourage hand washing before meals, after using the restroom, after wiping/blowing their nose and before touching their face.

Hand sanitizer is acceptable to use when our hands are not visibly soiled and between handwashing as needed throughout the day.

All of our classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizer mounted next to the door. All students are encouraged to use it when they come into and before leaving the classroom for breaks/ specials/ lunch.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance as we strive to keep the students healthy! Please also refer to the "I need to stay home if..." handout if your child is ill.

a clean hand is a caring hand.

Did you know proper hand hygiene is the
#1 way to prevent the spread of germs?

Follow these simple steps for proper hand hygiene.



Soap and water

- 1 Turn on water
- 2 Wet hands
- 3 Apply soap to palm of one hand
- 4 Scrub for 20 seconds
- 5 Rinse
- 6 Dry with paper towel
- 7 Turn off water with a clean towel



Hand sanitizer

- 1 Apply to palm of one hand
- 2 Rub over both hands
- 3 Let dry

children'shealth?

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

Attention all parents/guardians:

Please note that if your child is not feeling well at home we ask you to use your best judgment when determining whether or not to send them to school. Illness can and will spread rapidly among younger students and it is our goal here at SME to take precautions to minimize the instances of these illnesses.

Your student **MUST STAY HOME** if any of the below items apply. This also applies anytime a student is sent home from the Health Office.

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...						
I HAVE A	I AM	I HAVE	I HAVE A	I HAVE	I HAVE AN	I HAVE BEEN IN
FEVER	VOMITING	DIARRHEA	RASH	HEAD LICE	EYE INFECTION	THE HOSPITAL
						
Temperature of 100.4 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours.	Body rash with itching or fever.	Itchy head, active head lice.	Redness, Itching, and/or "crusty" drainage from eye.	Hospital stay and/or ER Visit

I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM....						
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication i.e. Tylenol, Motrin	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash itching, or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home and proof is provided to nurse.	Evaluated by my doctor and have note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me in the Health Office.

School Nurse,
Dara Sirianni RN, BSN



SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE

The BISON Children's Scholarship Fund is a tuition assistance program for families who want a private education for their children but are unsure if they can afford it.

- K-8 scholarships available for the **2025-26 school year.**
- Maximum award of **\$3,000 per student for private school**
- Maximum award of **\$500 per student for homeschool.**
- Apply at **www.bisonfund.org** or call 716.854.0869 ext. 1

