

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 8 NOVEMBER 1, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

As we begin another month with optimism and hope, I want to take this opportunity to share with everyone some of the progress we have made so far this year.

Our new Pillars of St. Mary's initiative has helped advance our school to new heights. Our Trunk or Treat event was wildly successful as a community building event. Remember, though, we also collected non-perishable food items, in the effort of stocking our pantry so that we can meet the needs of those we serve. Additionally, a return of our SME service projects has awarded opportunities for our students to live their faith as they make our corner of the world a better place. Recently, our 8th grade class volunteered to clean the cemetery of litter and debris. Finally, I look forward to our upcoming Thanksgiving Food Drive. It is always so heartwarming when our school unites to support a worthy cause. Indeed, we have certainly taken meaningful strides to grow in our social responsibility.

November will also be a highlight of our year in many ways, including opportunities for our community to grow spiritually. Our first year holding the event, on November 9th, we are inviting men and women who served in the United States military to a Veteran's Day Prayer Service. We will pray together, play every branch's official song, and hold a reception - the smallest token of thanks we can offer those who served us. Later in the month, we shall host our annual Grandparent's Mass, on November 17th. As we celebrate mass, we will keep in mind in a special way our grandparents - those present and those who will be unable to attend. The love and emotional closeness grandparents provide make such a strong impact on their grandchildren, our students. Above all else, the matriarchs and patriarchs of our families provide unconditional love and a sense of security that only grandparents can. We will celebrate mass to honor the leaders of our families. Finally, we all continue to strive for academic excellence. As we near the first checkpoint of our academic year - report cards of our first trimester - our community continues to cooperate and grow closer together. On November 9th, we will hold our Fall Parent - Teacher Conferences, a favorite evening of mine, as it exemplifies the excellent communication and partnership of our school and homes. Additionally, this season, our teachers have continued to grow as educators, as we all attended multiple professional development meetings. St. Mary's Elementary School continues to move forward with a growth mindset, one of consistent and sustainable progress, of excellence.

Thank you for all you do to help grow St. Mary's Elementary School, and for reading this brief update of the progress we all have made.

Mr. Olejniczak

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Thurs. 11/9** - Veterans Prayer Service, 8:30 in the Church
- **Thurs. 11/9 - 10:45 EARLY DISMISSAL** - Parent/Teacher Conferences, **NO AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE TODAY**
- **Fri. 11/10 - NO SCHOOL** - Veterans Day
- **Sat. 11/11** - Craft & Vendor Fair 9-3
- **Wed. 11/15** - Fall Picture Retake Day
- **Fri. 11/17** - Grandparents & Christian Witness (Oct. recipient) Mass, 8:30
- **Wed. - Fri. 11/22-24 NO SCHOOL** - Thanksgiving Recess
- **Mon. 11/27- 1:00 Early Dismissal:** Staff Development Day
- **Thurs. 11/30** - Merry Moose Holiday Shop
- **Fri. 12/1** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30, Merry Moose Holiday Shop

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

Sept. Donation \$7.70

- ◇ RaiseRight Program

- ◇ Tops in Education Program

Sept '22-Sept '23 Donation \$477.31

Upcoming Fundraisers:

Week of 11/27: Hometown Catalog Delivery



GRANDPARENTS MASS

On Friday, November 17th we invite our Grandparents to join us for a special Mass.

We ask that you please complete this quick interest form with the number of Grandparents attending as well as the students name(s) so that we can begin our planning:

[Grandparents Mass](#)

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Last Call!!! Please use the following link to download your pictures from the My Little Sweetheart Dance: <https://kellytanskiphotography.pixieset.com/2023smedance/>

The St. Mary's Webstore for Spirit Wear is now open! You can start shopping [here](#). The webstore will be open until Nov. 16th. In the webstore are short sleeve t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts and for the first time ever a full zip hoodie. *If you've previously ordered a size small t-shirt that has been on back order, no need to order again. Back ordered size small shirts will be available around December 13th. Any new orders should be made through the link. Thank you for your patience and understanding for the short sleeve shirts.*

What a great night for our night to Trunk or Treat! To all those who attended, decorated their trunks, donated to our canned food drive & volunteered their time--thank you so much. We hope all the kids had a happy Halloween!

Our second annual Craft and Vendor Fair will be happening in a few weekends. This is one of HSA's biggest fundraisers and we need your help to make it successful. If you can help for a few hours in the morning or afternoon, on Nov. 11th, please sign up [here](#).

Thank you to those who participated in our Hometown Catalog Fundraiser! Delivery is expected the week of 11/27. If you **do not** want your order being sent home with your child, please contact Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Kuhn to coordinate a time to pick it up.

Please see the attached flier about the Merry Moose Christmas shop. The Merry Moose Christmas Shop is when Christmas shopping comes to SME. Merry Moose is an in-school holiday shop when students can shop for their family and friends. If you love shopping or Christmas, please sign up to volunteer [here](#).

Breakfast with Santa is a great way to start off the holiday season. If you would like to attend the breakfast, please sign up [here](#). When you go to the sign up form, you will have the option to pay with credit card or send a cash/check to school. If you send the payment into school please label the envelope "Breakfast with Santa." Breakfast with Santa sign ups are due by Dec. 1st. Please see the attached flier for all the fun details.

November Events:

11th: Craft & Vendor Show 9-3 p.m.
30th: Merry Moose Christmas Shop

December Events:

1st: Merry Moose Christmas Shop
9th: Breakfast with Santa

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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:
Tuesday 9:00-12:00
Wednesday 12:30-3:30
Friday: 9:30-12:00

For a complete list of participating re-tailers visit the shop with scrip website: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

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

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

Creating an online account:
[RaiseRight.com](#)

SME Enrollment Code: 6876E5DA3L66

If you have any questions, please email raiseright@smeschool.com. Our team is here for you!

The last day to order to guarantee Christmas delivery is December 13th!

MEGA RAFFLE

Plans for this year's Mega Raffle are under way! We are still looking for a few more people to join our committee. If you have any interest in basket raffles, decorating, advertising, organizing food, setting up the night of the event, being a banker the night of, volunteering for the event please email megaffle@smeschool.com. There are many ways to be involved!

This is also the last week to give us your feedback. We want to create an event that you will enjoy so please fill out our quick survey.

[Mega Raffle 2023 Survey](#)

JUNIOR LADIES OF CHARITY

The Junior Ladies of Charity will be meeting in the Gathering Room (located in the school building) on Sunday, November 5th from 1-3 p.m.

We will be planning our Veteran's Day visit to Symphony Manor, working on Thanksgiving projects, and planning our Christmas gift shopping for local families in need. We are always looking for new members - young women from 6th grade to 12th grade are welcome to join us!

Contact Mrs. Snyder at (716) 681-2957 for more information!

HALLOWEEN FUN



RED RIBBON WEEK

SME Middle School students designed posters for Red Ribbon Week. Students completed sketches and selected the best idea for their final poster. Final posters needed to include the slogan "**Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free**". Middle School Artists used simple imagery with a positive message, large bold lettering and filled the paper-leaving minimal white space.

SME faculty and staff judged the posters, selecting their top 3 posters from each grade level. Posters with the highest percentage of votes received 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each grade level. Winners were awarded with certificates of achievement and dress down passes to be used in November. Additionally, The SME Home School Association donated gift cards to each of the winners. (1st place-\$20, 2nd place-\$10, 3rd place-\$5). **Thank you HSA!!**

Congratulations to ALL Middle School Students, you each did an amazing job.

6th GRADE WINNERS

1st place - Charlotte K.
2nd place - Luke P.
3rd place - Aiden J.



7th GRADE WINNERS

1st place - Jocelyn H.
2nd place - Kayla K.
3rd place - Harman S.



8th GRADE WINNERS

1st place - Vivian Z.
2nd place - Sophia O.
3rd place - Emily G.



FROM THE ART ROOM

Square1Art: All students (PreK through grade 8) have been busy completing their one-of-a-kind artwork to be used with the Square1Art program. Square1Art is a fundraiser, founded by a Teacher, where families can order their child's artwork reproduced on useful and personalized keepsakes. St. Mary's Elementary School has partnered with Square1Art so every student feels like an accomplished artist while raising funds to offset the cost of ART materials for Grades PreK3-8th Grade.

AGAIN THIS YEAR: Square1Art will produce a Custom catalog featuring your child's masterpiece. Along with the catalog, will be a sheet of FREE stickers showcasing your child's masterpiece. Students receive a sheet of stickers regardless of purchase. All purchases will be made online. All orders will ship to home. (The ship to school option is no longer available).

More information on this program will be coming home soon. Any questions or concerns please contact me: Mrs. Pesany-Au.

8TH GRADE INFO

If your child plans on attending a catholic high school next year you will need to complete the online application:



<https://catholicswny.smapply.io/prog/application-for-admission-grade-9/>

Please be sure to print and sign the confirmation email you receive upon completion and submit to the main office. Without this signed document, we are unable to submit a copy of your child's 1st report card to their 1st & 2nd choice catholic high schools.

Students should take the entrance exam at their **1st choice** school. Exam date is 11/18/23.

P/T CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday 11/9 from 12:00- 5:50pm.

Links:

[Elementary \(Gr K-5\) Conference Sign Up](#)

[Middle School \(Gr. 6-8\) Conference Sign Up](#)

[Specials \(Art, PE, Music, Spanish\) Conference Sign Up](#)

Parent/Teacher conferences are not mandatory.

If your child(ren) are struggling in any area this is the perfect opportunity to meet and establish a plan for success!

STAY IN THE KNOW

Save the Date: 12/8 Immaculate Conception Mass, 8:30

Save the Date: 12/9 Breakfast with Santa 9-11am

Make Note: 12/13 MP1 Report Card Upload Gr K-8

Save the Date: 12/15 Living Nativity, 7pm

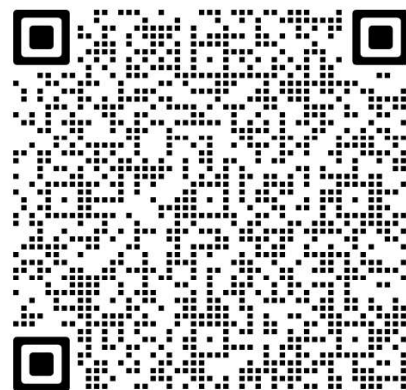
Make Note: No School 12/20-29

Make Note: 1/1 No School

Save the Date: 1/5 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30

St. Mary's Elementary WEBSTORE IS NOW OPEN!

To view and purchase spiritwear items, go to:
www.SelectSpiritwear.com
and click on your store



Store is open for a limited time only
Your webstore open dates:
Now until Thurs, Nov. 16th

Online store cannot accept any orders after midnight on close date



Select Spiritwear
www.SelectSpiritwear.com

1-800-373-6511

Division of: Select Screen Prints & Embroidery, Inc | 112 Southgate Dr | Bloomington, IL 61704

Merry Moose

November 30 & December 1

A special holiday shopping event for students
is headed to SME!

Parent & school Volunteers are needed for:

Set Up

help Students Shop

Wrap Gifts

Cashiers

Tear Down

sign-Up this week to help experience the Joy of Giving ★

Gifts at the Merry Moose in-house holiday shop!

<https://bit.ly/MerryChristMOOSE-23-SME>



Where
did the
moose
get it's
news?

Notes
MOOSE
in the



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

1ST TIME HOSTED BY MRS. CLAUS



Enjoy breakfast and visit with
Santa






**Saturday
December 9th
9 am - 11am
in the Parish
Center**

Use the QR Code
to sign up



Ticket: \$12 per person (pre-sale only)

Each Ticket Includes:

-  Breakfast includes. 3 pancakes, 3 sausages, and fruit. Juice, coffee, and water will be available
-  Write your Christmas List and Deliver it right to Santa
-  Christmas Cookie Decorating

Call Cindy at 716-602-8932 with any questions



PAUL EFFMAN MUSIC SERVICE

PO Box 19 • Syosset, NY 11791
P: 516.921.4543 • F: 516.433.0007

pemusic.com • hysonmusic.com
info@pemusic.com

PO Box 332 • Lagrangeville, NY 12540
P: 845.452.8528 • F: 845.337.3874

THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

2023



Dear Parent:

In September, your child will have the opportunity to join the school instrumental music program. Students will see and hear the instruments at a school assembly in the fall. Your child will come home with all of the information necessary to join the program and obtain an instrument.

Why is instrumental music important?

Although some view instrumental music as simply another club, it is much more than that. Learning to play a musical instrument and performing in the school instrumental music program provides students with tangible evidence that hard work and dedication pay off.

- Instrumental music students average higher scores on SAT tests than other members of the student body.
- In a 1999 Columbia University study, students in music were found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident, and better able to express their ideas.
- College admissions officers cite participation in music programs as an important factor in making admissions decisions.
- Instrumental music is an investment in your child's future. The most common remark from parents following a wonderful school concert is, "I wish my parents would have encouraged me to play an instrument and stick with it."

Various rental and purchase options will be available to you. Again, there is nothing you need to do at this time. Lesson fees will be approximately \$82 per installment (9 installments). All information regarding participation and instrument rental/sales will be distributed in the fall.

Please browse through the instrument selection guide on the reverse side, or visit our website (www.pemusic.com) for more pictures, videos, and sound clips of the instruments. I hope that this information will assist you and your child in deciding upon an instrument.

Sincerely,

Paul Effman

Paul Effman Music Service (est. 1980)



PAUL EFFMAN MUSIC SERVICE

PO Box 19 • Syosset, NY 11791
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Participants in our programs have the opportunity to buy or rent all major brands of instruments at a substantial discount. As an experienced teacher, performer, and technician, I urge you not buy instruments from mail order catalogs, e-bay, or non-music retail stores! These instruments may look shiny and seem like a good deal, but they are often poorly constructed and unplayable. Please do not set your child up for failure by purchasing a poor quality instrument.

You are not locked into the instrument decision you make at the start of the school year. With input from parent, child, and teacher, switching instruments is not a problem. The choices shown below represent the instruments we feel are ideal for beginning elementary students. There are other instruments available, such as oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, baritone, french horn, and tuba.

THE WOODWIND FAMILY



The Flute is a member of its family even though it is made of metal. It is easy to fit into a backpack or lockers. Flautists play many high notes in the ensemble. Sound is created by blowing air against the edge of a hole at the top of the flute.



The Clarinet is slightly larger than the flute, but is still a small instrument to carry. The clarinet has the largest pitch range among common woodwind instruments. While most clarinets are made of plastic, professional models are made of wood. The clarinet is a single reed instrument, and making a sound on the clarinet is fairly easy.



The Saxophone is the largest member of the woodwind family. Saxophones are made of metal and come in four sizes. The appropriate size for beginner students is the "alto" saxophone. Like the clarinet, the saxophone is a single reed instrument. The saxophone is popular for its unique sound and versatility across several musical genres.

THE BRASS FAMILY

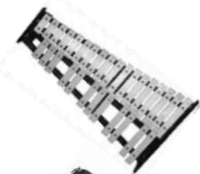


The Trumpet is the smallest member of the brass family. It is constructed of brass. As with all brass instruments, sound is produced by buzzing your lips into the mouthpiece. The trumpet's bright and lively sound carries many of the melodies in the group.



The Trombone is made of brass and plays many of the low notes and harmonies in the ensemble. Like the trumpet, sound is produced by buzzing your lips into a mouthpiece. While other brass instruments change pitches by pressing valves to change the length of the air flow, the trombone player simply moves the slide in and out.

THE PERCUSSION FAMILY



The Bell Lyre (also known as the glockenspiel) is a member of the percussion family that produces its sound by striking metal keys with a plastic or wooden mallet. The notes are configured like a piano keyboard, and usually the names of the notes are printed on each metal bar. When struck, the bars create a very pure, resonant sound.



The Snare Drum is a popular percussion instrument that is played by striking the drum head with two wooden sticks. Drummers have the important job of keeping the beat for the group. A common misconception about the drums is that they are easy. Actually, playing drums requires a great deal of focus and practice.

THE STRING FAMILY



The Violin is the most popular member of the string family. Sound is produced by either plucking the strings or running a bow across them. Various note combinations are created by the position of the player's fingers on the fingerboard. Violins come in various sizes, depending on the size of the player.



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- Paul Effman Music Service -

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 email: pemusic@aol.com

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 LaGrangeville, NY 12540
 845.452.8528
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Serving Schools since 1980



Re: Instrumental Program

October 2023

To the Parents and Students:

We are planning to continue instrumental music program at St Mary School. Paul Effman Music serves several schools throughout the area and is pleased to bring the program to our school this fall. Students in grades 3-8 (for band) and grades 1-8 (for Violin) are eligible to enroll. This letter is to survey possible interest.

Lessons on the following instruments will be offered: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin and Percussion. Lesson groups will be divided into small ensembles (usually consisting of 5 – 7 students per group) by instrument and/or experience. 30 minute group lessons will occur at school once a week (30 weeks). No experience is required.

The current cost of the lessons per student is \$82 per month September-May. This will be prorated this year for a November start. We offer discounts for families with more than one child in the band. Instruments can be rented or purchased through Paul Effman Music. Rental prices are \$19.00 per month for all instruments except Saxophone, which is \$21 and Violin is \$21.

This is not a Registration form; it is only to survey interest in this program.

Please return this portion to the school office if you have interest in this program.

Return Date: Friday, November 3rd

_____ Yes, I'm interested in the Instrumental Music Program



Name _____ Grade _____

Instrument _____