

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 29, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy Holidays, SME!

Christmastime is a special season at St. Mary's Elementary School. With so many different events and performances, I wanted to communicate some additional details here, in the effort of trying to keep all of us on the same page during this very busy upcoming month.

Merry Moose Holiday Shop - November 30 and December 1. We set up tables in the parish center and provide a location for the students to do some holiday shopping for their families (and friends). It's the perfect opportunity to purchase a 'World's Best Grandma' coffee mug! This is more of a festive service/fun opportunity and not a fundraiser for the school. The students love being able to shop independently. *Please note* On Friday, December 1, we are in dire need of volunteers between 9:30 and 12:00. All of our shoppers on Friday will be the PK classes, and we could use as much help as possible. If you are able to help for an hour or so on Friday morning, we would very much appreciate it.

Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 9. Our HSA is hosting this annual event on a Saturday morning, from 9am - 1 pm. You can come have breakfast, decorate cookies, and have your picture taken with Santa himself! This is a very fun event, and we look forward to another fun, festive crowd.

Pre-K 4 Singalong - Monday, December 11, from 1:00pm - 2:00pm. This is an event ONLY for PK 4 families. If you are a parent of a PK 4 student and have questions about this event, please contact your child's teacher.

Pre-K 3 Singalong - Tuesday, December 12, from 1:00pm - 2:00pm. This is an event ONLY for PK 3 families. If you are a parent of a PK 3 student and have questions about this event, please contact your child's teacher.

K-8 Living Nativity - Friday, December 15, beginning @ 7:00pm. This event involves ALL K-8 students. Our oldest students play roles and perform the story of the nativity, while all other students take their turn singing a Christmas carol, as a class. Please stay tuned for additional information about this event in the upcoming days. This is always a highlight of our year!

I hope this helps to keep our calendars in order a bit, and I look forward to celebrating Christmas with everyone over the next few weeks.

Happy Holiday Season,
Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Thurs. 11/30** - Merry Moose Holiday Shop
- **Fri. 12/1** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30, Merry Moose Holiday Shop
- **Mon. 12/4** - Spirit Wear Dress Down Day
- **Fri. 12/8** - Immaculate Conception Mass, 8:30, **NO AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE TODAY!**
- **Sat. 12/9** - Breakfast with Santa, 9-11am
- **Wed. 12/13** - MP1 Report Card Upload Gr. K-8
- **Fri. 12/15** - K-8 Living Nativity, 7:00pm
- **Wed. 12/20 - Fri. 12/29** - No School: Christmas Recess



- **Mon. 1/1 - No School:** New Years Day
- **Fri. 1/5** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30
- **Fri. 1/12 - 10:45 Early Dismissal:** Staff PD

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

ANGEL CHOIR

The Angel Choir practice will take place this Thursday, November 30, after school in the chapel from 2:30 -3:30. The Angel Choir will be singing this Sunday, December 3, 2023 at the 12 noon mass.

Practices will continue through December on Tuesday, December 5th, 12th, 19th from 2:30-3:30 PM in the parish center.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



Tomorrow & Friday is the Merry Moose Christmas Shop. Please fill out the Merry Moose shopping envelope labeled with the family/friends names and the amount to spend on each person for your child. All the gifts are between \$1-\$5 at the shop. Please see the attached schedule for your child's shopping time. All parents are welcome to come in and shop with their child.

If you have any donations of treat size gift bags, small gift bags, tissue paper, tape or name tags, please send them in tomorrow.

We need your help! Many of our students have never shopped before! Sign up to be a merry helper here: [here](https://bit.ly/MerryChristMOOSE-23-SME)

Only 2 more days to sign up for Breakfast with Santa. If you would like to have breakfast with Santa and enjoy the Christmas fun, 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." **All payments for Breakfast with Santa are due by Dec. 1st.** Please see the attached flier for all the fun details.

Monday Dec. 4th will be our monthly Spirit Wear Dress Down Day! Show your SME pride. If you ordered Spirit Wear, please let us know if it's a gift or not because the orders will come home with the students. Orders should be arriving around December 13th.

November Events:
30th: Merry Moose Christmas Shop

December Events:
1st: Merry Moose Christmas Shop
4th: Spirit Dress Down Day
9th: Breakfast with Santa 9am-1pm

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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 web-site: <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](https://www.raiseright.com)

SME Enrollment Code: 6876E5DA3L66

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

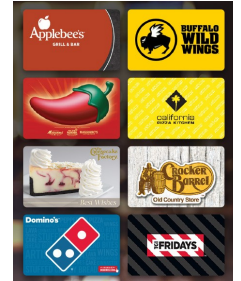
The last day to order to guarantee Christmas delivery is December 13th!

Have you begun making your list and checking it twice?

There is just over **1 week left** to place your RaiseRight orders to **ensure delivery for Christmas!**

You are going to buy that gift anyway, why not give yourself the gift of a rebate on your tuition while you're at it?! Using RaiseRight cards to do your shopping is like the gift that keeps on giving!

With RaiseRights extensive list of vendors the possibilities are endless, and if that should somehow fail, they also offer visa gift cards!



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 megaraffle@smeschool.com.

There are many ways to be involved and all are appreciated!

ATHLETICS - NIGHT-OUT BOOKS

Thank you to those families who have already submitted your Night-Out coupon book orders! Please make sure to return your sample books with your order forms.

We have just two weeks to sell as many as we can.

Thank you for your support of athletics @ SME!

Funds raised help keep participation fees as low as possible!

All sample books MUST be returned!



SNACK SAFELY

Our HSA team has created a survey of sorts for your feedback and recommendations of safe snacks to add to our approved snack list. If you would like to contribute to that list please complete the survey here:

[Safe Snack List Ideas Google Form](#)

SQUARE 1 ART

Our Square 1 Art orders are due by 12/5! Order forms went home with each student.

You can also shop online: Simply search for your child's art using [Art Search](#), and enter state, school name, and your student's name. Your student's art and code will appear, and you may order!

Upload additional art if you like, using [Art Upload!](#) If you have questions, or need anything at all, [contact customer care online](#).

Thank you for supporting St. Mary's Elementary!

CHEERLEADING

There has been a wonderful response to the interest of a cheerleading program at SME!

We will have a Parent/Cheerleader Meeting TONIGHT @ 6:30 pm, in the cafeteria at SME.



We will talk about practice day/time, commitments of coach, parent and cheerleader, parent signing of 'parent permission' form and a 'code of ethics' form.

The girls appear very excited about reinstating the cheerleading program here at SME! We will be cheering for the boys 7/8 basketball home games.

I am available by email (micheledowski@gmail.com) if you may have any questions prior to the meeting. Thank you! Go Knights!

PARISH PASSAGE



that day.

Jesse Tree

Advent is upon us! St. Mary's has a long-standing tradition of having children process at the beginning of each Mass during Advent with a Jesse Tree Ornament. The children/teens will hang the ornaments on the Jesse tree. We are looking for children/teens to sign up to participate in our Advent tradition beginning the weekend of December 2-3. Please sign up below. Your children can participate more than once. If they do not arrive at least 10 minute prior to mass and let an usher know they are in attendance, new children will be selected and they will not be able to participate

[Jesse Tree Sign Up](#)

St. Lucy's Wheat

St. Lucy's wheat packets will be available in the church this weekend and next. Wheat should be planted on or by 12/13. Children can bring their wheat clippings to mass in the parish center on Christmas Eve to be added to our Crèche.



Advent Wreaths

Advent wreath sets and candles are available after masses or in the rectory.

They are \$10 for the set or \$5 for candles.



8TH GRADE INFO

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.

Thank you to the families who purchased a poinsettia or wreath from our 8th graders!



STAY IN THE KNOW

Make Note: No School 12/20-29

Make Note: 1/1 No School: New Years Day

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

Make Note: 1/12 10:45 Early Dismissal, Staff PD, No Afterschool Care

Make Note: 1/15 No School: MLK Jr. Day

Save the Date: 1/18 Pre-K Open House for potential new families

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)

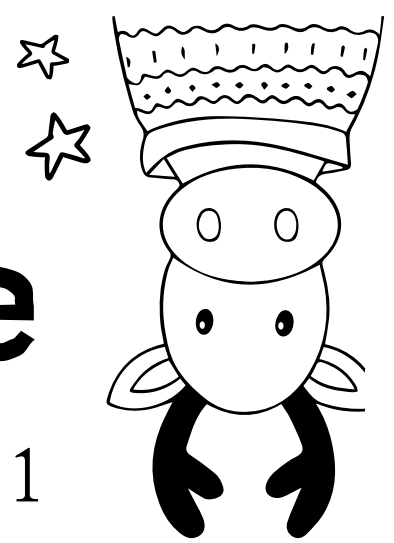
Each Ticket Includes:

-  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

Merry Moose

November 30 & December 1



Q: What's a moose's favorite subject in school?

A: "Moose-ic" class!

is coming!

**sign-Up to help our students
experience the Joy of Giving Gifts
at the Merry Moose in-house
holiday shop!**

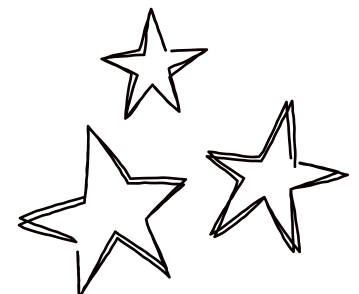
DONATIONS Gladly Accepted

Tissue Paper

Curling Ribbon

GIFT BAGS

- Set Up,
- help Students Shop,
- Wrap Gifts,
- Cashiers,
- Tear Down



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

Merry Moose Class Schedule

Thursday	Period	Start Time	End Time	Class
11/20/23	1HR	7:40	8:16	-----
	2	8:18	8:57	Grade 7 & 8
	3	8:59	9:36	Mrs. Lamb
	4	9:38	10:15	Miss Matter
	5	10:17	10:54	Zaidel
K,1,2 LUNCH	6	10:56	11:33	Mrs. Maloney/Mrs. Cooper
3,4,5 LUNCH	7	11:35	12:12	Grade 6
6,7,8 LUNCH	8	12:14	12:51	Marrano
	9	12:53	1:30	Mrs. Kieffer
	10	1:32	2:09	Mrs. Michalek
	11	2:11	2:20	-----
Friday	Period	Start Time	End Time	Class
12/1/23	1HR	7:40	8:16	-----
	2	8:18	9:37	-----
	3	9:39	10:12	Mrs. Guenther & Ms. B
	4	10:14	10:47	Mrs. Guenther & Ms. B
	5	10:49	11:22	Mrs. O'Grady & Ms. I
K,1,2 LUNCH	6	11:24	11:57	Mrs. O'Grady & Ms. I
3,4,5 LUNCH	7	11:59	12:32	
6,7,8 LUNCH	8	12:34	1:07	
EXCEL	9	1:09		Ms. K & Ms. S
EXCEL	10		2:09	
	11	2:11	2:20	-----

MERRY MOOSE HOLIDAY SHOP

Is coming to our School!
Find Something for Everyone on Your List.
The In-School Holiday Shopping Program,
That's Fun For Everyone!

As a special service for your child, our school is offering "Merry Moose In-School Holiday Shop". Children will have the opportunity to pick out their own inexpensive, high quality gifts for family and friends during school hours. "Merry Moose Holiday Shop" will be set up in the school and will be run by parent and school volunteers. Gifts are priced with a child's budget, with most ranging from \$1.00-\$5.00.

Before your child's shopping days your child will bring home a "Merry Moose" budgeting envelope allowing you and your child to decide together how much can be spent on each gift.

"Merry Moose Holiday Shop" is designed to be a safe, Child-Centered Environment where children can learn how to budget and spend wisely, while they also experience the "Joy of Giving Gifts"

We are always in need of volunteers to help.

If you're interested in giving the gift of time please send this part of the sheet back to school with your child.

Someone from our parent group will be happy to contact you.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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

Dec.
2023

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. 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 Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
4 Pancakes/Waffles with Sausage Veggies, Fruit & Milk	5 Beef & Cheese Burrito Veggies, Fruit & Milk	6 Chicken Breast & Cheese On a Bun Veggies, Fruit & Milk	7 Chicken Caesar Salad Breadstick Veggies, Fruit & Milk	8 Cheese & pepperoni Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
11 Open Chicken Pot Pie Over Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	12 Nachos Supreme Veggies, Fruit & Milk	13 Sloppy Joes On a Bun Veggies, Fruit & Milk	14 Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Veggies, Fruit & Milk	15 Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk
18 French Toast Sticks Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	19 Chili w/ Tortilla Chips Veggies, Fruit & Milk	20 ←-----	21 Christmas Recess- NO SCHOOL	22 -----→
25 -----	-----	27 ----- Christmas Recess- NO SCHOOL	28 -----	29 -----

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
26	27	28	29	30 Merry Moose Holiday Shop	1 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30 Merry Moose	2	Pre-K - Christmas Sing-a-Long: 11th & 12th @ 1. Doors open @ 12:45. See info sent home with your child.
3	4	5	6	7	8 Immaculate Conception Mass 8:30	9 Breakfast with Santa 9-11am	
10	11 Pre-K 4 Sing-a-Long	12 Pre-K 3 Sing-a-Long	13 MPI Report Card Upload Gr. K-8	14	15 Living Nativity Gr. K-8, 7pm	16	
17	18	19	20 No School Christmas Recess	21	22	23	
24	25 <i>Jesus is the Reason for the Season</i> 	26	27	28	29	30	
31	1 Happy New Year!	2 BACK TO SCHOOL!	3	4	5	6	

To do list

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Pre-K - Christmas Sing-a-Long: 11th & 12th @ 1.
 Doors open @ 12:45.
 See info sent home with your child.





SME Christmas Spirit Week

December 11th - 19th

12/11 - Christmas Kick-Off - Wear your Favorite Christmas Attire

12/12 - Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree with your favorite Christmas socks and hat

12/13 - Mad about Christmas plaid - Wear Plaid/Flannel

12/14 - It's Tradition - Wear An Ugly Sweater Day

12/15 - Dress up in Christmas Colors (Red/Green, Red/White, Silver/Gold)

12/18 - T'was the Week Before Christmas- Wear Your Christmas Pajamas

12/19 - Calling All Santa's Helpers - Dress as an Elf, Reindeer or Santa himself

We hope everyone participates.

If you choose not to, you must wear your school uniform.

**** No sweatpants or clothes rips or tears.**

SPIRIT WEAR DRESS DOWN DATES FOR 23-24

The 1st Monday of Each Month is a
Spirited Wear Dress Down Day!

Dec. 4th

Jan. 8th

Feb. 5th

March 4th

April 8th

May 6th

June 3rd

Show your
SME
Pride!

The Spirit of
ST. MARY'S
ELEMENTARY

Word cloud includes: Faith, Respect, Encouragement, TEAM EFFORT, FAITH, Character, SAFETY, SME KNIGHTS, RESPECT, ENCOURAGEMENT, FAITH, TEAM EFFORT, RESPONSIBILITY, SME KNIGHTS, Character, FAITH, Team Effort, RESPECT, Pride, Safety, ENCOURAGEMENT, FAITH, TEAM EFFORT, RESPONSIBILITY, SME KNIGHTS, Character, FAITH, Team Effort, RESPECT, Pride, Safety, ENCOURAGEMENT, FAITH, TEAM EFFORT, RESPONSIBILITY, SME KNIGHTS, Character.