

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 15 JANUARY 10, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Next **Thursday, January 18**, we will be hosting an **Open House** for next year's **PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten classes, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**. As active, involved partners in education, you are the most informed members of our school and our greatest advocates. I am asking that you share this event with friends and families who may be interested in preschool or Kindergarten for their children. We always benefit from your recommendations and words of support, but also appreciate your sharing our social media posts that advertise the Open House. Thank you in advance for helping us spread the good word of SME! I will close my message this week with some of the top reasons why families choose to enroll at St. Mary's for preschool and remain with us thereafter:

- Due to our Pillars of SME and Buddy System, our students are connected to friends in other grades, allowing them to form friendships and bonds with students and teachers from other classrooms.
- Our preschool classrooms are in a school setting that connects our students into an actual school building, routine and schedule. Our preschool students become buddies with the older grades and travel to their specials.
- The curriculum at St. Mary's is age-appropriate, a blend of beneficial play with friends and academic rigor that results in thorough elementary school readiness.
- We boast more one on one time with the students, who continue to receive educational support services for which they qualify through the district.
- Technology is infused into our curriculum, and our students enjoy a full offering of specials, including Physical Education, Art, Music, Library, and Spanish.
- You will become and continue to be a part of a nurturing, caring community that values the person before the student and partners with each and every one of our families on an individual and personal level.

Thanks again for helping new families recognize what our families already know: St. Mary's is a special place, and we are so much more than just a school.

Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Fri. 1/12 - 10:45 Early Dismissal:** Staff PD, NO Afterschool Care Available
- **Mon. 1/15 - NO SCHOOL** - MLK Jr.
- **Thurs. 1/18** - Pre-K & K Open House 6-7:30
- **Fri. 1/19** - NJHS Induction Mass, 8:30am
- **Sun. 1/28 - Sat 2/3** - Catholic Schools Week!
- **Wed. 1/31** - PR2 Upload Gr. K-8
- **Thurs. 2/1** - K-8 Open House 6-8:00pm
- **Fri. 2/2** - Christian Witness & Distinguished Graduate Mass, 8:30
- **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
- **Mon 2/19 - Fri. 2-23 - NO SCHOOL** - Mid-Winter Recess
- **Tues. 2/27** - Spring Picture Day

Inclement Weather Closings:

In the event that we need to close/cancel you will be notified via:

- Automated call &/or text from Mr. O

- Facebook & Instagram posts

- News Channels 2 & 4

We also follow Lancaster Central Schools when the entire district is closed, not building specific.

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)

AFTERSCHOOL CARE UPDATES

1/12 - **NO** ASC available due to our early dismissal for staff development (Dismissal times: 10:15 Pre-K & 10:45 K-8)

1/18 - ASC ends at 5:00 so we can prepare for our PK & K Open House

2/1 - ASC ends @ 5:00 so we can prepare for our K-8 Open House

ATHLETICS

- All Night out books have been distributed. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Boundy at athletics@smeschool.com. Thank you for your support of our athletics program!

- Our basketball gear online store is now open! The store will close on 1/21 with delivery around 2/12.

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

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

As we move forward into the second half of the school year, here is a snap shot of upcoming fundraisers and events.

Did you see that Easter is March 31st this year? The Fowlers Spring Candy Sale will run 1/23 - 2/16/24. All the information will be in the 1/24 NewsNote.

Volunteers are such an important part of SME and the HSA. In order to have fun events, we need volunteers to commit to helping at the events. In next weeks NewsNotes there will be a parent volunteer form to fill out, if you are able to help at any of the events, please fill it out. Thank you to everyone that has helped in some way so far this school year!

We hope to see everyone on Jan. 24th at 6 p.m. in the gym for our winter HSA meeting.

January Events:
24th- HSA Meeting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRINCIPAL'S DESK	1
BY THE NUMBERS	1
Afterschool Care	1
Athletics	1
Tax Time	1
HSA	1
RaiseRight	2
Mega Raffle	2
12 Days Raffle	2
Catholic Schools Week	2
Re-Registration	2
Open House	2
8th Grade Info	2
Stay in the Know	2



ST. MARY'S
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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 retailers 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](https://www.raiserright.com)

If you have any questions, please email raiserright@smeschool.com.

Our team is here for you!

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.

Information will be coming home soon.
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 me garaffle@smeschool.com.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our 12 Days of Christmas Raffle! Thank you once more for your support of our school & parish!

Prize Dates	12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5
Prize Amounts	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000
Winning Ticket #s	#8049	#4516	#5916	#5728	#2764	#6378	#9438	#7130	#255	#7741	#6854	#3258

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Monday - Wear White

Tuesday - Wear Blue

Wednesday - Wear your pillar color

Thursday - Dress for a job interview or future career. Our pre-k students will dress like they are 100!

Friday - Wear Red

We will have activities throughout the week for the students as well.

Our week will begin with a special kick off during our 10:00 mass in the church on Sunday 1/28.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

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!



RE-REGISTRATION

Registration for the 24-25 school year is just around the corner!

All current SME families will receive their registration packet(s) before they are available to the general public at our open houses.

Only the prompt return of your completed packet will guarantee your spot for the 24-25 school year.

Our open houses for the public are scheduled for 1/18 for pre-k & k and 2/1 for all grades.

We look forward to another year with all of you!

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: 3/1 CW Mass, 8:30

Make Note: 3/15 10:45 Early Dismissal: Staff PD Day

Make Note: 3/20 MP2 Report Card Upload

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

Save the Date: 3/28 Living Stations

Make Note: 3/29 No School - Good Friday

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

2024 January

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

31

1

Happy
New Year!

2

Welcome Back!

3

4

5

Christian Witness
Mass, 8:30

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

10:45 Early Dismissal:
Staff PD, **NO** Afterschool
Care Today!

13

14

15



No
School

16

17

18 Pre-K & K
Open House 6-7:30
ASC Ends @ 5!

19

NJHS Induction
Mass, 8:30

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Catholic
Schools
Week!



29

30

31

PR2 Upload Gr. K-8

1

K-8
Open House 6-8:00

ASC Ends @ 5!

2

3



8th Grade Fish Fry Fundraiser

Friday February 16th 4-7pm (or until sold out)

St Mary's Elementary School

2 St. Mary's Hill Lancaster, New York 14086

**** Take out and dine in options are available ****

Ticket Information

Ticket includes: 11oz beer battered haddock (from Krolick's), tartar sauce, cole slaw, macaroni salad & a roll w/ butter

\$16 per dinner

Only 300 dinners will be sold!!!

Pay upon arrival or pre-order by clicking the QR code below



Thank you for your support!!!

Merry Christmas

TODAY OUR SAVIOR IS BORN. WE CELEBRATE AS FAMILY.



Today, Jesus Christ's Mission is the **Same**
Our Reality is **Different**

THE ROAD TO RENEWAL

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF
ALL NATIONS... (MATTHEW 28:19)

Our Church's Mission

Go...

- ◆ Witness, Share, Invite

Make...

- ◆ Disciples, a Difference

Baptize...

- ◆ Encounter, Accompany, Community, Send

Teach...

- ◆ Truth, Love, Forgiveness, Compassion, Inclusion, Mercy, New Beginnings, and so much more...

DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

Our Reality

- ◆ Changing Culture
- ◆ Lack of Trust
- ◆ Abuse Crisis
- ◆ Chapter 11 Bankruptcy
- ◆ Vocation Crisis
- ◆ Impact of Pandemic
- ◆ Relevancy (the challenge of making the Gospel relevant to today's culture)

Goals of Our Renewal

- ◆ Revitalize our personal and communal spirituality focusing on **Real Presence, Real Hope, Real Mission**
- ◆ Develop sustainable models of leadership for our Families of Parishes and Catholic schools
- ◆ Facilitate healing
- ◆ Re-engage people
- ◆ Acknowledge and learn from our mistakes
- ◆ Enact best practices
- ◆ Live our faith authentically

What will we accomplish with Renewal?

- ◆ Best use of our clergy in the Family of Parishes
- ◆ More collaboration
- ◆ Smarter use of our resources
- ◆ Greater engagement among parishioners
- ◆ A way to accomplish the mission of the Church
- ◆ Empowering parishioners to use their gifts
- ◆ Living Catholic social teaching
- ◆ Reaching out to the unchurched and inactive Catholics



The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. (JOHN 1:14)



SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

Early Fruits of the Renewal

In Family #4, *Catholic Neighbors in Faith*, more than 100 people volunteered to be leaders in their six pillar groups.

25% Growth in Faith Formation enrollment in Family #9, *Beloved Disciples of Christ The Lord*.

More than 400 people attended the *Life in the Eucharist* training sessions.

Fifteen Families (1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 20, 25, 31, 32 and 33) have combined Family Bulletins aimed at fostering communication and connection among their Family of Parishes.

More than 150 people attended Alpha groups and trainings throughout the Diocese.
(ALPHA IS AN 11 WEEK COURSE IN BASIC CHRISTIANITY)

"Do not be afraid. For behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

(LUKE 2:10)

MORE INFO ON THE APP & WEBSITE

Upcoming Events

◆ City Ministry Conference

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 • 10:00 AM ~ 3:00 PM
St. Stanislaus Adamski Center with speaker Msgr. Ray East

◆ Renewal Conference: *Jesus Christ's Mission is the Same. Our Reality is Different.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 • 10:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM
Hilbert College with speaker Susan Windley-Daoust, Ph.D.

◆ Youth Rally

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 • 12:00 PM ~ 5:00 PM
Villa Maria College with speaker ValLimar Jansen

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT
www.roadtorenewal.org

Download the Renewal app



dioceseofbuff.vyten.app

