

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 19 FEBRUARY 14, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families and Friends,

Ash Wednesday begins Lent. The day gets its name from the traditional blessing of the ashes taken after the burning of Palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. In our church this morning, Fr. Paul used the ashes to draw a cross on our heads to mark the beginning of the Lenten season and of our Lent fast, while repeating "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

Lent is a season of preparation, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. We prepare ourselves for the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. Over the next 40 days, we should strive to practice self-control and work for a true inner conversion of heart, as we seek to follow Christ more faithfully.

As our school journeys through the rest of winter and grows closer to spring each day, we at SME will reflect. Our faculty and staff shall take a look back on the first 100 days of the year and celebrate all that has gone tremendously well. We will also examine areas in which we can improve. Heeding constructive advice and partnering with many stakeholders, St. Mary's Elementary School will take necessary measures and implement improvement plans, so that we continue to be the best possible school we can be for all members of our SME family.

Wishing you the best on your Lenten journey as we begin ours,
Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Wed. 2/14** - Parish Sponsored Clam Chowder Dinner 4-6:30pm
- **Thurs. 2/15** - NJHS Ceremony, 8:30am
- **Fri. 2/16** - 8th Grade Sponsored Fish Fry, 4-7:00pm
- **Fri. 2/16** - Fowlers Spring Sale Ends
- **Mon 2/19 - Fri. 2-23** - **NO SCHOOL** - Mid-Winter Recess
- **Tues. 2/27** - Spring & Club/Sport Picture Day
- **Wed. 2/28** - Graduation Picture Day
- **Fri. 3/1** - CW Mass, 8:30am
- **Fri. 3/15 - 10:45 Early Dismissal**, Staff PD
- **Wed. 3/20** - MP2 Report Card Upload: K-8, Living Stations
- **Fri. 3/22** - Mother/Son Event 6-8pm
- **Fri. 3/29 - NO SCHOOL**, Good Friday
- **Sun. 3/31** - Easter
- **Mon 4/1-4/8 - NO SCHOOL**, Spring Recess
- **Tues 4/9** - School Resumes



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
Scan in the app to earn!
We earned \$11.80 in January
- ◇ RaiseRight Program
- ◇ Tops in Education Program
Just link your bonus card

Mega Raffle Update:

Tickets Sold: 106

Tickets Available: 840

Order Your Yearbook Here:

www.inter-state.com/order and enter code: 84834H. Yearbook Sales are online ONLY. Cost: \$20

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)

PARISH CORNER - CLAM CHOWDER DINNER

All are welcome to join us in Faith & Fellowship for our Clam Chowder dinner this evening from 4-6:30 in the Parish Center.

Dinners are \$10 and are available for dine in or carry out. Use the link to pre-pay with credit card, cash/checks accepted at the door: [Order Dinners](#)

Those students interested in helping with the event can sign up here: [Clam Chowder Volunteers](#)



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Thank you to those who volunteered to assist to make our book sale happen!

We will be hosting a used book sale during Read Across America Week (2/26-3/1). Books will be priced between .50-\$1.00 and the sale will be held during our lunch periods. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Lancaster Public Library. We will be collecting gently used/new books from 2/1 - 2/16.

If you find yourself able to volunteer with the sale please use the following link to let us know: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DACA629A0FA7-47459945-used>



HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Just 2 more days remain for our Fowler's Spring Candy Sale. All orders must be entered online by midnight on Friday Feb. 16th.

Mark your calendar because after winter break, the information will be coming home for the Date Knight Dance. The dance is Friday March 22nd from 6-8 p.m. and the tickets will be \$12 each.

HSA wishes everyone a happy winter break! Have fun, relax and enjoy!

February Events:

16th: Last Day of Fowler's Spring Candy Sale

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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



Social Responsibility



Spiritual Growth



Academic Excellence

BISON SCHOLARSHIP

The BISON Fund pre-application for new or current families not on BISON for the 2024-25 school year opened on January 15th.

To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at:

<http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>.

The deadline is March 15th. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-applications forms and all applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16th.

Current families **do not** need to fill out a pre-application, they will be emailed a link to complete the renewal process and add siblings on February 20th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bison Fund office at 716-854-0869 ext. 1.



MEGA RAFFLE

When: June 7, 2024 at 6:00PM

Where: St. Mary's High School

Tickets sold to date: 160

Tickets remaining: 840

The top prize is \$35,000 with 13 other prizes to win.

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 Wish List](#) set up if you would like to donate an item for the basket raffle. Thank you to those who have already donated items! We will be collecting items until June and remember you can always purchase items with a RaiseRight Gift Card!

We are always looking for volunteers.

If you are interested please email meGARaffle@smeschool.com.

MEAT RAFFLE

Mark your calendars for April 19th and come find out why our MEAT RAFFLE sold out last year!

This is one of our biggest fundraising opportunities of the school year and this year we are DOUBLING our capacity. So we need lots of help!

If you are able to donate any of your time, please sign up using the link below. You're going to want to be a part of the fun!

[Meat Raffle Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Today you will be receiving tickets for our freezer full of meat side raffle to sell or purchase. You need not be present to win! Additionally a table/ticket request letter is also coming home to ensure your space is saved! Additional copies are available on our website (Fundraising Tab: Meat Raffle) or by

request.



[Ticket/Table Reservation Order Form](#)



2024-2025 TRANSPORTATION

A flyer with area transportation department links has been added to the registration tab on our [website](#).

All transportation requests should be submitted to your districts transportation department directly and are due 4/1!



SPRING PHOTO DAYS & YEARBOOK

Tuesday: 2/27 Spring, Sport & Club Photos. Paper order forms are available upon request.

Wednesday: 2/28 Pre-K 4, Kinder & 8th Grade Graduation Photos

See the flyer attached electronically with all the details!

Order Your Yearbook Here: www.inter-state.com/order and enter code: 84834H. Yearbook Sales are online ONLY & Cost \$20.



RAISERIGHT

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

About the process:

RaiseRight credits are processed quarterly: March, June, September, and December. Mrs. Jezuit applies credits to tuition accounts based on the reports generated and received from RaiseRight. The RaiseRight office is not able to look into individual tuition accounts. If you (or a family member) is purchasing cards to help reduce your tuition you/they **must** designate the recipient family when opening an online account **or** by indicating the family name on paper order forms. Without this information the RaiseRight office has no way of knowing where to assign credits.

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

Creating an online account: RaiseRight.com

For a complete list of participating retailers visit the shop with scrip website: <https://www.raiserright.com/brands>

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

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

There are just 113 dinners left!!

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: 4/12 Christian Witness Mass

Save the Date: 4/19 Meat Raffle

Save the Date: 5/2 Art Show, Spring Book Fair

Save the Date: 5/3 CW Mass

Save the Date: 5/3 Spring Book Fair

Make Note: 5/8 PR3 Upload

Save the Date: 5/17 Hope Ribbon Mass



LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>First Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Attend Mass often. The Eucharist is our greatest communal prayer and a surefire way to encounter Jesus.</p>	<p>Pray with your family at mealtime. Make a point of praying for people in need.</p>	<p>At bedtime, pray for people who are homeless and sleeping on the streets tonight.</p>	<p>Be more courteous in your attitude, words, and deeds.</p>	<p>Make a list of ten things you are grateful for in your life.</p>	<p>Fast from criticizing others aloud or silently in your mind. Seek to understand instead.</p>	<p>Pray while creating a piece of artwork. Do something creative, and do so for the glory of God.</p>	
<p>Second Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Forego a favorite TV program for a week.</p>	<p>Go through your closets and donate usable clothing and household goods to a local charity.</p>	<p>Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside.</p>	<p>Fast from gossip.</p>	<p>Pray at the sound of sirens from emergency vehicles. Pray for the people who might be in trouble.</p>	<p>Fast from e-mail, text messaging, or both for a day.</p>	<p>Speak less and listen more. Give others the gift of your undivided attention.</p>	
<p>Third Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Pray while you go for a walk.</p>	<p>Fast from overscheduling your time. Leave some time to simply be.</p>	<p>Curtail your extra spending and donate what you save to your chosen charity.</p>	<p>At the end of the day, take time to thank God for all the graces you received during the day.</p>	<p>Pray the Rosary or other traditional prayers of the Church. Realize that you are joining your voice to millions of others who have prayed these prayers through the years.</p>	<p>Fast from the habit, substance, practice, or mindset that most stands in the way of your growing closer to God.</p>	<p>While grocery shopping, purchase an additional day's supply of food and drop it off at a local food pantry.</p>	

LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

During prayer, picture yourself meeting Jesus in a scene from the Gospels. Imagine your reaction and response.

Send a greeting card or a letter to a relative, friend, or fellow parishioner who is homebound.

Fast from eating food mindlessly, that is, from not even bothering to taste it.

Clean up a common area at work, in the neighborhood, or at home. Do it as a gift for the good of all.

Invite a widowed neighbor to join your family for a meal.

Fast from worrying. Trust God instead.

Plant a tree that will benefit future generations.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Pray for the willingness to seek forgiveness from people you have hurt.

Fast from light. Sit by the light of one candle in your home. Remember that Jesus has called you to be a light for the world.

Make a prayer out of performing a loving action for others. For example, when you take out the garbage or help your child with homework, do it mindfully.

Pick a day when you fast from using electronic appliances.

When you see or hear a news story about someone in trouble, pray for the person as a family.

Fast from hitting the snooze alarm. Get up and use the extra time for prayer.

At the grocery store, pray for the farmers and all those who help make available the food that you will bring to your table.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Prayerfully read one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

Monday of Holy Week

Volunteer for a parish program that helps those in need.

Tuesday of Holy Week

Let a favorite hymn run through your mind as a prayer.

Wednesday of Holy Week

Fast from comparing yourself to others. We are all one in God.

Holy Thursday

Recognize your own needs and give them their due. Allow others to help you from time to time.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Fast from complaining. Notice how often you are tempted to complain!

Holy Saturday

Be mindful of all that God has done for you.

The Resurrection of the Lord

Celebrate Easter!

Notes and Reflections...

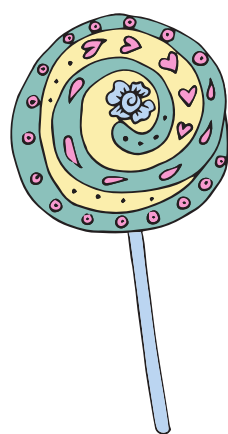
READ ACROSS AMERICA

**MON. 2/26 – FAIRY TALES:
DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE FAIRY TALE CHARACTER**

**TUES. 2/27 – POETRY:
DRESS UP LIKE A POET
SPRING/SPORT/CLUB PICTURE DAY**

**WED. 2/28 – MYSTERY:
DRESS AS A SPY OR A SECRET AGENT
GRADUATION PICTURE DAY FOR PRE-K 4, K & 8TH GRADE**

**THURS. 2/29 – GRAPHIC NOVEL:
DRESS AS A SUPERHERO OR A COMIC BOOK CHARACTER**



**FRI. 3/1 – DR. SEUSS DAY!
DRESS IN CRAZY SOCKS AND HATS**



**JEANS MAY BE WORN ON THESE DAYS
STUDENTS NOT WANTING TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD WEAR
THEIR UNIFORM**


SME

**SPRING PICTURE
DAYS**




**TUESDAY FEB. 27TH:
SPRING & SPORT/CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY FEB. 28TH:
PRE-K 4, KINDER & 8TH
GRADUATION PICTURES**



**ORDER
NOW**

INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER

*Scan here for
easy ordering!* 

PICTURE DAY IS:
El día de fotos es el:
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
martes, 27 de febrero, 2024

PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN AT:
Las fotos serán tomadas en:
St. Mary's Elementary School

ORDER ONLINE*
INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER
USE ORDER CODE: 85375WB



**PICTURE DAY
is coming!**

Picture Day is:
El día de fotos es el:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024
miércoles, 28 de febrero, 2024

Pictures will be taken at:
Las fotos serán tomadas en:
St. Mary's Elementary School

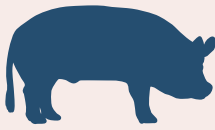
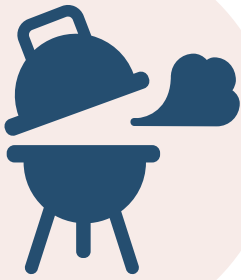
SEND NO MONEY NOW!
¡No es necesario pagar ahora!

**Everyone's photograph will be taken. A proof
will be sent home with an order form, so you
can preview the pose(s) before you purchase.**

Tuesday: Only students with an order envelope or appearing on our online order list will be photographed. Spring Photos are not used in any form at SME and are not required.

Tuesday: Our themed attire day for Read Across America week is Dress Up. Those students who participate on our sports teams can wear their uniforms to school, or bring them to change into in time for pictures.

Wednesday: Students in Pre-K 4, Kindergarten & 8th Grade will have their graduation photos taken. A collared shirt should be worn (Gr. K & 8). The gowns are navy blue and white is the ideal color to wear. You will receive a proof sheet with ordering instructions afterwards.



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY HSA MEAT RAFFLE

DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

GRAB YOUR DOLLAR BILLS AND SNACKS AND COME FIND OUT WHAT EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT LAST YEAR!

THE ST. MARY'S HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA) IS HOSTING A MEAT RAFFLE ON FRIDAY APRIL 19TH. DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 AND THE FIRST SPIN IS AT 7:00.

ADMISSION TICKETS ARE ONLY \$10 AND YOUR TICKET INCLUDES BEER, POP, WATER AND A SLICE OF PIZZA. YOU CAN PURCHASE A RESERVED TABLE OF 8 FOR \$70. GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY BEFORE THIS EVENT SELLS OUT! PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW TO SECURE YOUR TICKETS.

THIS IS A 21 AND OVER EVENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT JACKIE BOUNDY AT 716-578-4780

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SINCERELY,
JACKIE BOUNDY AND KATE OLEJNICZAK
MEAT RAFFLE CHAIRS

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH YOUR MONEY IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "MEAT RAFFLE TICKETS." PURCHASED TICKETS WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR STUDENT.

MEAT RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

FAMILY NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL TICKETS. _____

OR

RESERVED TABLE: _____ (8 TICKETS PER TABLE)
(# OF TABLES)

PLEASE SEND TICKETS HOME WITH MY STUDENT: NAME _____

GRADE _____

Be Our Guest



Join us for a tea party with Belle! Enjoy an afternoon of snacks, refreshments, and more! Dress in your best prince or princess attire. All ages are welcome. Ticket prices include the tea party and show. The tea party is from 12 pm-1:30 pm, followed by the show from 2 pm-4 pm.

Date Saturday, March 9th at 12pm

Location St. Mary's High School

Ticket Prices \$30
Includes show ticket



Scan this QR code to buy your tickets now!

