

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 9 NOVEMBER 8, 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

It is our mission to provide a nurturing and welcoming learning environment that fosters spiritual growth, academic excellence, and social responsibility. We guide one another as we mature and evolve as believers, transform our young students into lifelong learners, and grow all members of our community as active, informed, and responsible citizens. Indeed, spiritual growth, academic excellence, and social responsibility have provided direction and defined the path of our school this year. They have also helped to shape the Pillars of SME.

Last Friday, all students, teachers, and support staff in our school were sorted into one of three Pillars - the red, white, and blue teams. Though we have associated the color white with social responsibility and the Sr. Whelan Wing, the color red with spiritual growth and the Fr. Kirsch Wing, and the color blue with the Fr. Stellar Wing, we of course challenge all students to grow in all areas this year - and all years.

After our Sorting Ceremony, each team was challenged to accomplish two goals: all had to decorate a part of either the parish center (Red Team), the cafeteria (White Team), or the gym (Blue Team) and also teach a team cheer to all of the members of the team. The red team won our first challenge, as they cheered, "Go Red, go; show us how you grow!" while the blue team came in second place, exclaiming, "Blue is cool, Blue is great; Blue is what we appreciate!" And the White team earned 5 points for 3rd place and their cheer.

Our next Pillar Games will have a Thanksgiving twist and will take place on November 17th. I look forward to continued celebration, camaraderie, and fellowship.

Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Thurs. 11/9** - Veterans Prayer Service, 8:30 in the Church, **10:45 K-8 EARLY DISMISSAL** - Parent/Teacher Conferences, **NO AFTERSCHOOL 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
- **Sat. 11/18** - 8th Grade Catholic HS Entrance Exam Day
- **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
- **Mon. 12/4** - Spirit Wear Dress Down Day

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](#)



Picture Retake Day is Wed. 11/15

If you would like your child(ren)s picture retaken, your original package must be brought in with them. That is their ticket to sit. If you have not ordered, you can at <https://inter-state.com/> Order with the retake order code 80380RF.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

This weekend is our Craft & Vendor Fair and we need you! If you can help for a few hours in the morning or afternoon, on Nov. 11th, **please sign up here.**

The St. Mary's Webstore for Spirit Wear is now open! You can shop that store [here](#). The webstore will be open until Nov. 16th. All orders will arrive around December 13th.

****** 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. ******

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. **We will have orders ready to grab for those families who pick up their children regularly at dismissal &/or attend Afterschool Care. If your child rides a bus and you know your order is sizable, please reach out to us.**

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](#).

Come have a holly jolly good time at Breakfast with Santa. 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 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 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.raiseright.com)

SME Enrollment Code: 6876E5DA3L66

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

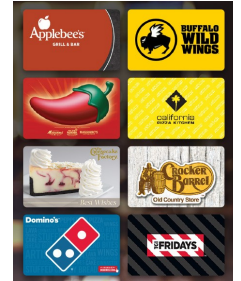
The last day to order to guarantee Christmas delivery is December 13th!

Have you begun making your list and checking it twice?

There are just over **4 weeks 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!

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](#)



P/T CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher conferences are tomorrow 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!

CHEERLEADING

Do you have SME Spirit! Let's show it! We are looking to start a cheerleading team to cheer on our basketball teams! If your daughter (grades 5-8) is interested please use the sign up form here:



[Cheerleading](#)

We will use this information to gauge interest and more information will be shared if/as a team is established.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Oops! In our excitement we mixed up our winners lists for 6th & 7th grade, and are so sorry!

Here is the correct winners list:

6th GRADE WINNERS

1st place - Charlotte K.
2nd place - Luke P.
3rd place - Harman S.

7th GRADE WINNERS

1st place - Jocelyn H.
2nd place - Kayla K.
3rd place - Aiden J.

FOOD DRIVE

As the holiday season approaches, we are hoping everyone is getting excited for the wonderful and precious gift this time brings to us. As a part of our holiday season at St. Mary's, we would like to take an opportunity to practice the Christian tradition of almsgiving as a school community. To give to our local community members in need, we are planning a school-wide food drive to benefit local community charities. The specifics of dates and product suggestions are laid out below. Please do know that no participation in any part of this school project is considered mandatory, and all donations are welcome, even if they do not fit the specific suggestions laid out below. Any item may be donated on any day by any person. Any donation is helpful, and we appreciate your generosity as we help to live out our Christian faith and serve those in need.

Collection Dates: Mon. 11/13 - Thurs. 11/16 - Your item(s) may be brought in on any day for collection.

Collection Items/Suggested Classes:

-Pre-K - Condiments/Spices: mustard, ketchup, mayo, Miracle Whip, salad dressings, chili sauce, bbq sauce, salt, pepper, parsley flakes, oregano, etc.

-Grades K-5 - Canned/Pre-Packaged Fruits: applesauce, peaches, pears, pineapples, cranberry sauce, oranges, mandarins, single serve fruit packs/cups

-Grades 6-8 - Canned Proteins: tuna, chicken, canned meals like stew, chili, any kind of Chef-Boyardee typed meal, beans (black, kidney, baked, etc.)

-ALL Grade Levels - Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jam/Preserves, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta Noodles

8TH GRADE INFO



Our 8th graders are sponsoring a Poinsettia Sale! See the flyer attached electronically today for all the details! Orders are due by 11/13.

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

https://catholichswny.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.

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

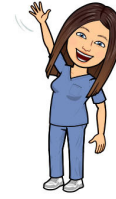
Save the Date: 1/5 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30



NOTES FROM THE NURSE



Dara Sirianni RN, BSN



November 2023

Vision & Hearing Screens

Vision & Hearing screenings are nearing completion. You will receive a notification of a referral if one is needed for your child.

Physicals

Please be advised that physicals are a NYS requirement. At this time there are still many students who have not had one submitted for the year. If your student is in K, 1, 3, 5, 7 or a new student here at SME a physical has been requested. Please submit ASAP.

I will continue to reach out to you as needed until one is received.

Contact Information

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN
Office Hours- 9:30-1
phone- (716)683-2112 ext 128
fax- (716) 683-2134
email- nurse@smeschool.com

Illnesses

Please view the accompanying handout "I need to stay Home If...". This handout will provide you with the guidelines necessary to help prevent the spread of illnesses. Also, please note that any student who tests positive for Covid must isolate for 5 days and can return on day 6 with the recommendation they wear a mask days 6-10.

We can minimize illness by:

- 1-Getting plenty of rest*
- 2- Eating a balanced diet*
- 3- Drinking more water*
- 4- Avoiding crowded areas*
- 5- Covering coughs/sneezes*
- 6- Washing hands frequently or using sanitizer*
- 7-Getting your annual Flu vaccine*

Safe Snacks

Thank you to everyone who shared snacks from the safe snack list. I am hoping to have more input from HSA moving forward as to what kinds of snacks parents are interested on seeing added to the list.

There have been several additions to the list since Halloween, thanks to parents who have called and emailed with ideas. I look forward to enhancing the list before our Christmas celebrations!



St. Mary's 8th Grade Christmas Wreath & Poinsettia Plant Sale Fundraiser

To bring a little warmth into your home this Christmas season, the 8th grade students will be selling fresh cut wreaths and locally grown poinsettias. Proceeds will help fund the 8th grade field trip. Any excess funds will be used toward graduation costs. Thank you for your support!

- 22" Wreath (Undecorated with a red velvet bow) \$25.00
- 22" Wreath (Decorated with pine cones, berries & a bow) \$30.00
- Poinsettia Plants
 - 6 ½" Pot \$9.00
 - 8" Pot \$14.00
 - 10" Pot \$18.00



Plants come in RED, WHITE & PINK

****All ORDERS must be turned in no later than Monday, Nov. 13th. Thank you! ****

Orders for Poinsettias **MUST** be picked up on **Tuesday, November 28th, between 12:30-4:00 in the school foyer.** Wreath orders can be picked up at *Kate's Country Cousins (6148 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086)* during all business hours (10-7 M-F/9-6 S&S) starting from Nov. 25th until Dec. 15th.
A voucher for your wreath will be sent home with your child to use in store.

Payment is due at time of order. Please send in CASH or ONE Check for all orders.

(If you are making out one check, please make it payable to St. Mary's Elementary)

Poinsettia Fundraiser Order Form

Name: _____ Please credit my order to the following 8th grader:

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

6 ½" Poinsettia			8" Poinsettia			10" Poinsettia			Undecorated Wreath	Decorated Wreath	Total Paid
\$9.00			\$14.00			\$18.00			\$25.00	\$30.00	
R E D	W H I T E	P I N K	R E D	W H I T E	P I N K	R E D	W H I T E	P I N K	Includes: Red Velvet Bow	Includes: Pinecones, Berries & Red Velvet Bow	

Please return **no later** than **Monday, November 13th. **Return to the School Office****



Merry Moose

November 30 & December 1

A special holiday shopping event for students at SME

Parent & school Volunteers are needed for:
Set Up, help Students Shop, Wrap Gifts,
Cashiers Tear Down

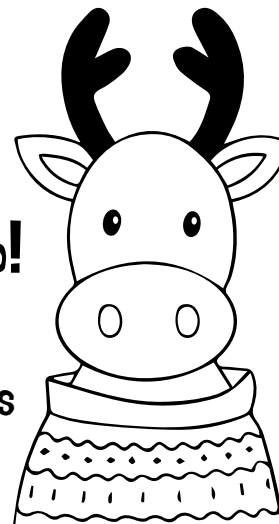
DONATIONS Gladly Accepted

**Tissue Paper Curling Ribbon small / medium size
GIFT BAGS**

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

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

★ The moose missed the bus
★ so he decided to hoof it.



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