

NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 18 FEBRUARY 7, 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear Parents,

Some odds and ends as we complete our first week of February:

All K-8 students have completed their 2nd of three annual progress monitoring assessments in Reading and Mathematics. When you review your son's or daughter's report, please make notice of the Grade Equivalent and Instructional Reading level. This is the level at which the student tested when taking the computer-based **STAR assessment**. Please note, however, that our teachers also administer the Fountas and Pinnell reading assessment to help gather additional information about our students' abilities. Perhaps most importantly, our teachers also assess informally and more authentically on a regular basis. When discussing your children and our students, it is always best to do so comprehensively, without relying too heavily on any one metric. If you have any questions regarding the STAR test results or your son's or daughter's performance in school, please contact his or her homeroom teacher or me.

Our 8th grade class is hosting a Fish Fry fundraiser next Friday, February 16, from 4:00 - 7:00. Please consider supporting our soon-to-be graduates on the first Friday of Lent.

Please continue to follow our best safe practices for drop off:

If you are dropping your child off in the morning for school please use the following protocol in an effort to keep EVERYONE safe in the parking lot:

#1 As you come onto the property, continue ALL THE WAY DOWN the drive and pull into the parking lot near the church (just beyond the recycle bins).

#2 The section of parking lot closest to the school is ONE WAY and is used for EXITING only!

#3 When dropping off your child please pull into the first lane. Staff members are positioned at the front of the building to assist in making sure your child is safe moving through the parking lot.

Though we are still two months away, one of our largest fundraisers of the year is fast approaching, and we will need many volunteers involved to help once again make our **Meat Raffle** a success! Please save the date - **Friday, April 19** - and consider attending as a guest or volunteering to help with the event in any way you're able.

Have a wonderful week,
Mr. Olejniczak



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Wed. 2/14** - Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30am; 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
- **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: 91

Tickets Available: 909 & 29 VIP

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)

STAR TESTING RESULTS

Winter testing for reading/mathematics has been completed.

The Parent Reports will be sent home with **All** SME students (K-8) today 2/7/2024, distributed by the homeroom teacher.

The Parent Reading report will give your child's scaled score (SS) and most importantly Grade Equivalent and Instructional Reading level.

The Parent Mathematics report will give your child's scaled score (SS) and most importantly Grade Equivalent.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

ANGEL CHOIR - SPRING SESSION

The spring session of our Angel Choir is upon us!

The choir will sing at the 10:00 Sunday Mass once a month from February through June.

Rehearsals begin today @ 6:00pm in the Chapel.

See the flyer attached electronically today with all the details.

Any questions please contact Andrea Ross (andrea@stmarysonthehill.org) directly.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Happy February!

The new year is really going by fast and HSA would love to see you at our 2024 events. Please fill out the [volunteer sign up form](#) for the remainder of the events/fundraisers. We can't wait for the fun and exciting events to come and to see you there too!

Please **save the date** for the Meat Raffle on April 19th because we will need many volunteers for a successful meat raffle. More information will be coming soon.

How's the Spring Candy Sale going? Fowler's has made it super easy to share your child's link in an email or on your Facebook page. It would be wonderful if each family could order an item to help us reach our fundraising goal. All the proceeds from the candy sale will go towards Teacher Appreciation Week in May and the school picnic in June.

If you have any questions, please contact the hsa@smeschool.com

February Events:

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| PRINCIPAL'S DESK | 1 |
| BY THE NUMBERS | 1 |
| Star Reports | 1 |
| Angel Choir | 1 |
| Tax Time | 1 |
| HSA | 1 |
| Bison Fund | 2 |
| Mega Raffle | 2 |
| Meat Raffle | 2 |
| Transportation | 2 |
| Raise Right | 2 |
| 8th Grade Info | 2 |
| Stay in the Know | 2 |



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: 91

Tickets remaining: 909, includes 29 VIP Tickets

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](#)



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.



PARISH CORNER: CLAM CHOWDER DINNER

All are welcome to join us in Faith & Fellowship for our Clam Chowder dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 14th 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

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.

We have created a Sign-Up Genius for those interested & able to volunteer to help with the sale. We thank you in advance for your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DACA629A0FA7-47459945-used>

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](https://www.raiserright.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

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: 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

February 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | 1 New Family Open House 6-8pm | 2 Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Ash Wednesday Clam Chowder Dinner 4-6:30pm | 15 NJHS Ceremony, 8:30am | 16 Fish Fry Fundraiser 4-7:00pm | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21-24 No School: Mid-Winter Recess | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Spring & Sport/Club Picture Day | 28 Graduation Picture Day | 29 | | |

St. Mary of the Assumption's

Angel Choir

We invite you to join the Angel
Choir as we sing at the

10:00 a.m. Mass on

2/11, 3/24, 4/28, 5/19, 6/23



Choir Practices will be held in the

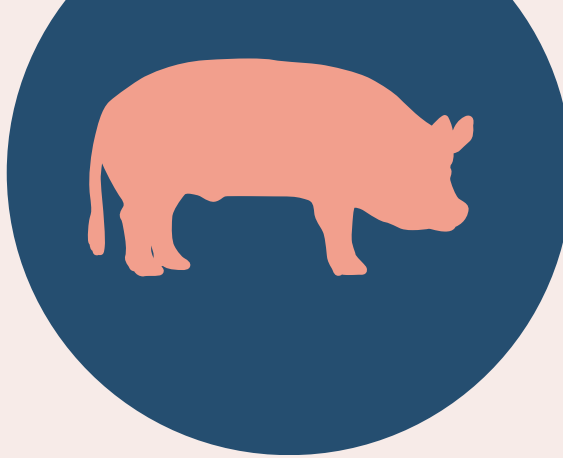
Chapel from 6-7 p.m. on

2/7, 3/13, 3/20, 4/17, 4/24, 5/15,

6/12, 6/18

Please contact Andrea Ross, the choir director, with any questions.

Andrea@stmarysonthehill.org



**ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY
HSA MEAT RAFFLE**

FRIDAY APRIL 19

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
FIRST SPIN AT 7:00 PM**

2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY
CONTACT JACKIE: 716-578-4780

COST: \$10 PER TICKET

RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 FOR \$70

ADMISSION INCLUDES: BEER, POP, WATER, PIZZA

**THIS IS A 21 AND OVER EVENT.
NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL WILL BE ALLOWED.**

**50/50
CHEST FREEZER FULL OF MEAT
BASKET RAFFLE**



Notes From the Nurse

February 2024

Dara Sirianni RN, BSN

February is Heart Health Month

Fun Facts:

- 1- The Human Heart is roughly the size of your fist
- 2- The average heart beats about 100,000 times/day
- 3- The heart can pump 2,000 gallons of blood/day

Ways to improve your Heart Health:

- 1- Stay hydrated
- 2- Stay active
- 3- Get plenty of sleep each night
- 4- Find outlets/activities to help minimize stress

Visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/facts.htm>

For more Heart Health Information

Common Childhood Viruses

Hand Foot & Mouth- HFMD

(Coxsackie Virus)

HFMD: is a virus and can be spread by contact, droplet and surface contact. Those infected may have small red, flat areas on palms of hands/feet and in or surrounding the mouth. These areas can blister and drain. The fluid that drains has the potential to spread the virus. Initial virus may appear to be flu like with a fever as the primary symptom and then the development of the rash.

Students with HFMD need not be excluded from school unless they have a fever, or if they have severe pain which limits their participation in the school setting.

Please review the following links for more information, symptoms and prevention. And please reach out to your child's pediatrician if you feel they may have HFMD.

<https://www.schoolhealthny.com/cms/lib/NY01832015/Centricity/Domain/85/Communicable%20Diseases%20Chart%206.2019.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/hand-foot-mouth/index.html>

Feminine Hygiene Products in Schools

New Law on Menstrual Products Availability: NYSED released a memo on 12/12/23 that explains the recent change in public health law that will require nonpublic schools serving students in grades 6 to 12 to provide menstrual (feminine hygiene) products at no cost to students in school restrooms beginning on 7/1/24. More information and a Q and A can be found here. <https://www.schoolhealthny.com/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceId=190&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=8931&PageID=126> There is no funding or reimbursement to support this new mandate - schools are responsible for the cost of products, which must be provided at no cost to the students.

Free feminine hygiene products have been and will continue to be provided in the Health Office as well.

Health Office Information

Office Hours: School Days 9:30-1pm

Phone: (716) 683-2112 ext 128

Fax: (716) 683-2134

email: nurse@smeschool.com

