



ST. MARY'S SPRINGS

Academy

Preschool + Elementary + Middle

November 1, 2023

Dear SMSA Families,

As the weather cools, the holiday season is upon us. With that comes the 20+ year tradition of Elves-R-Us! For those families who have not experienced Elves-R-Us or may want more details, we wanted to provide some additional information about this wonderful annual event.

“What is Elves R Us?” *Established in 1992, Elves R Us is an annual business and mentorship project run by our 8th grade students. Each year these students run a Christmas shop that allows students in grades 4K - 5th to shop for their family for everything from coloring books to home decor! The event runs during the school day from Monday 11/27 - Friday 12/1.*

“What is needed from parents/guardians?” *Your child will bring home their shopping time and an envelope that allows you to designate who they can shop for and how much they can spend. Prices for gifts range from \$0.50-\$10.00, and there are many wonderful items to choose from. Please return this envelope to school ahead of your child's shopping day.*

“What is shopping day like?” *Students will arrive at the Christmas shop at their designated slot and be paired with an 8th grade Elf. This will be their special helper in selecting their gifts and will also help with wrapping. After their shopping is done, it's time to celebrate with a Christmas treat! Your child will come home with their gifts wrapped and ready to go under the tree.*

“Why support Elves R Us?” *Elves R Us engages our 8th graders not only in the skills of business, but also putting “The Ledger Way” into action with job lessons in servant leadership, responsibility, and learning. 8th grade students learn how to apply for jobs, how to interview and they also do career research. All profits will be used to make a donation to a charity chosen by the 8th grade class and to fund their class trip. In addition, our students LOVE the experience of selecting, wrapping, and gifting special items for their family members. Many families have shared that these sweet, thoughtful gifts are among their favorites, and their child's pride in gifting them make wonderful Christmas memories!*