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ABOUT FLING

What is Fling? Held every other year*, Fling is a formal gala with an open bar, a seated dinner, a silent auction, a live auction, music, dancing, and more! But Fling is more than just a fun night out at a fancy party. It offers an unmatched opportunity for parents, teachers, administrators, and staff to come together to support and celebrate our incredible St. Martin's community. As with Winter Social, the PTO donates all of the proceeds from Fling to our school for items and initiatives that directly benefit our kids. Fling and Winter Social have raised money for a new science lab; new playground and gym equipment; robotics, smartboards, and computers; renovations to the school's cafeteria, MS building, and EC building; an SMES-branded bus; and more.

**Fling and Winter Social, the SMES PTO's marquee fundraising events, alternate years. 2023 was a Winter Social year; so, 2024 is a Fling year.*

When and where is this year's Fling? This year's Mardi Gras-themed Fling is on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at the InterContinental Buckhead.

What should I wear to Fling? Fling is a black-tie optional event. Men can wear a tuxedo or a dark suit. Women can wear a formal evening gown or a fancy cocktail dress. This year, Mardi Gras masquerade masks are also optional.

FLING TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS

Do I need a ticket for Fling? Yes! Each attendee needs a ticket for admission. But remember – every family and corporate sponsorship level **includes** tickets to Fling.

What is a Fling family sponsorship? Traditionally, family sponsorships have been Fling's single biggest source of revenue. All family sponsorship levels **include** Fling event tickets, Fling raffle tickets, and Fling swag. Additional benefits vary by sponsorship level. Click [here](#) to learn more about and/or purchase a Fling family sponsorship .

TEACHER TICKET DONATIONS

What is "Donate a Teacher Ticket"? "Donate a Teacher Ticket" is a great way to help make sure every SMES teacher, administrator, and staff member who wants to attend Fling can go for free. When you "Donate a Teacher Ticket," you are donating part of the cost of a teacher's ticket to Fling.

How do I donate a teacher ticket? To donate the cost of a teacher ticket (or tickets!), click [here](#) and scroll down to "Donate a Teacher Ticket." Enter the number of tickets you would like to donate in the box to the right of the "Donate a Teacher Ticket" description and complete the checkout process. It's that easy!

Can I donate a ticket for a specific teacher? No. All of our SMES teachers, administrators, and staff are amazing, and they all deserve a chance to attend Fling free of charge. We don't want anyone to feel left out or feel pressure to attend. So, rather than buying a ticket for a specific teacher, parents can donate the cost of a teacher ticket to help cover the cost of admission for all teachers, administrators, and staff who attend Fling.

FLING RAFFLES

What is the Fling Family Parking Spot Raffle? The family who wins the Family Parking Spot Raffle will get their very own premium on-campus parking spot reserved for their exclusive use for the entire 2024-25 school year. A sign with the winning family's name on it will mark the spot! Click [here](#) to buy your tickets today!

What is the Fling Teacher Parking Spot Raffle? The teacher who wins the Teacher Parking Spot Raffle will get their very own premium, on-campus SMES parking spot for the entire 2024-25 school year. Unlike teacher ticket donations, parents **can** buy Teacher Parking Spot Raffle tickets for a specific teacher, staff member, or administrator. Click [here](#) to get tickets to today. (Parents – before you check out, be sure to enter the name of the teacher/administrator for whom you are buying the tickets.)

THE SILENT AUCTION

What is in the Fling's silent auction? Expect amazing trips, mountain get-aways, week-long stays at the beach, premium concert and sports tickets, first-rate food and beverage selections, stunning pieces of art, impressive "class collections," teacher treasures (special offerings from our fabulous SMES teachers, administrators, and staff), "SMES Specials" (e.g., reserved graduation seats, front row seats at the spring musical, etc.), and more!

When does the silent auction open for bidding? The Fling's silent auction will open for browsing at the end of January. It will open for bidding a few days later.

Do I have to go to Fling to bid on items in the silent auction? No.

How do I bid on items in the silent auction? You must be registered with GiveSmart to view and bid on silent auction items. If you purchased a Fling ticket or sponsorship this year, then you are already registered. If not, click [here](#) to register. *(Ticket purchases are appreciated but not required for bidding.)*

When the auction opens, all registered participants will receive a welcome text or email. Click on the blue link in the text or click the personal link button in the email to access the auction. You can also go to fling24.givesmart.com and click "Items" at the top left of the page.

To bid on an item (or items – you are welcome to bid on as many items as you want), click "bid," and GiveSmart will auto-fill the bid amount based on the item's pre-set increments. You can also set a "maximum bid." Just enter the most you are willing to spend and let GiveSmart do the rest. GiveSmart will continue automatically bidding for you as needed until it reaches your maximum bid or the silent auction ends.

When does the silent auction end? Bidding will close on a select group of premium items during Fling on Saturday, February 3. Bidding will close on all other silent auction items at noon on Sunday, February 4.

Please note that we will be using the "extended close" feature on GiveSmart. If a bid is placed during the last minute of the auction, GiveSmart will extend the close of the auction by sixty seconds. This will continue until a full minute has passed with no additional bids.

I "won" a silent auction item. Now what? Winning bidders will receive detailed instructions about how to redeem their items after the auction closes on Sunday, February 4.

THE LIVE AUCTION

What is in the Fling’s live auction? The live auction will include a few (five or more) of the “hottest” auction items. Fling 2022’s live auction included VIP Braves Opening Day tickets, a weekend-stay in an exclusive Beaver Creek lodge, a long weekend at a fabulous home in the North Georgia mountains, a private chef experience, and a foursome at the prestigious Peachtree Golf Club.

Do I have to attend Fling to bid on items in the live auction? Yes. You will need to be at Fling to bid on items in the live auction.

How do I bid on items in the live auction? When you check in at Fling 2024, you will receive a paddle and a paddle number. To bid on an item in the live auction, simply raise your paddle when the auctioneer asks for bids on that item. Make sure the auctioneer or one of the auction assistants sees that you have raised your paddle.

I “won” a live auction item. Now what? Winning bidders will receive detailed instructions about how to redeem their items. Note that family sponsors may be eligible for home delivery of tangible auction items.

FUND-A-NEED

What is Fund-a-Need? Each Fling year, the PTO consults with SMES teachers and administrators to find out what item is at the top of the school’s wish list. During Fling, families are invited to “fund a need” and contribute toward the purchase of that item. Money raised during past Fund-a-Need campaigns has been used to buy shade sails, new gym equipment, enhancements to the Fine Arts program, and more.

How do I contribute to Fund-a-Need? You must be registered with GiveSmart to contribute to Fund-a-Need. If you have already purchased a Fling ticket or sponsorship this year, then you are already registered. If not, click [here](#) to register. *(You do not need to purchase a Fling ticket to contribute to Fund-a-Need.)*

Once you’ve registered and/or signed in to GiveSmart, click “DONATE” at the top of the page or search for Item #1000. You can choose one of the available contribution levels or enter a custom amount.