



MUSTANG NEWS



St. Mary's High School
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April 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- * Principal: Mr. G. Miller
- * Vice-Principal: Mr. A. Van Wieringen
- * Superintendent: Mr. G. Casey
- * Secretaries: Mrs. L. Myatt, Mrs. S. Duggan, Ms. D. Brown
- * Director of Education: Mr. B. MacPherson
- * Trustee: Mr. N. Bethune
- * School Council Chairs: J. Armstrong, L. Newell

With the spring like weather we are inclined to spend more time outdoors and engaging in spring time activities. It is great to forget about winter and enjoy the many outdoor activities that our communities offer. Being active and eating well are very important as research points to an ever growing problem of obesity in our schools. The ministry of education is taking this very seriously and by September, 2011 all of our schools must comply with PPM 150. This ministry policy clearly defines the standards which every school must meet. Products that are currently available for students (e.g., French fries) will not be available for student purchase. In addition, several beverages (e.g., Gatorade) will not be available for student purchase. The nutrition standards are set out in two sections: food, and beverages. Within these sections, detailed nutrition criteria have been established that food and beverages must meet in order to be sold at St. Mary's High School. The school Principal may designate up to ten days during the school year as special-event days on which food and beverages sold in schools would be exempt from nutrition standards. I am currently working with board officials as well as our cafeteria Provider to ensure that St. Mary's is fully compliant with ministry policy.

CHAPLAINCY LEADER'S MESSAGE

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

“We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.” The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Pascal mystery along with the cross: Christ has risen from the dead! Dying he conquered death; To the dead he has given life.

The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about 56 CE, St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: “I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve....” The apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus.

Taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #638-639

Ms. Foch

NEW TECH CLUB !

St. Mary's Tech Club will be held on Tuesdays from 3:15-5:00 p.m. for technology students that would like to take advantage of the shops.



The club will be open to technology students to work on their own personal projects, practice for the Skills Canada Competition and to get involved with school activities like set building for the school play.

Students are required to supply their own safety glasses and pay for any materials/parts they may need for personal projects.

If interested in joining the club, please contact Mr. Cowley or Mr. Vincent at the school.

PEANUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL

St. Mary's High School is a peanut sensitive school. Peanut allergies are potentially life threatening. As a result, absolutely no peanut products are permitted in our school.

Thanks in advance for your co-operation.



ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS YEAR?

Checklist for students planning to graduate this year:

- ⇒ Make sure that your name is on the graduation list - Check with Mrs. Majury or Mr. Chiasson
- ⇒ Make sure that you have completed your 40 hours of Community Service and handed in all of the paperwork to the main office.
- ⇒ Make sure that you will have 30 credits by the end of June
- ⇒ Make sure that you have or will complete all the compulsory (required) credits for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- ⇒ Make sure that you have written and passed the Literacy Test or that you have or will have successfully completed the Literacy Course by the end of June.
- ⇒ If graduation is dependent on the completion of an ILC or e-learning course make sure that final mark is submitted to Mrs Majury or Mr Chiasson well before the end of the year.
- ⇒ Check the binder in guidance regularly for scholarship/bursary opportunities.

Students who have applied to college or university should also check their OCAS or OUAC accounts occasionally for offers of admission.



YMCA EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Need help finding a job?

Ms Tia Clark , the Family YMCA Community and Employment Services representative is in the school every Wednesday morning to assist you in your job search and with preparing a resume. Please sign up in the Guidance Office for an appointment.

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2010-2011

Course selection booklets and options sheets have been distributed. If you haven't returned your option sheet please do so as soon as possible. To assist parents/students in completing the option sheets the board has renewed its licence to access the website:

www.myBlueprint.ca. This website allows students to enter the secondary school courses they plan to take and then see the post-secondary programs and careers that are open to them.

This is particularly beneficial for students in Grade 8 planning their secondary school program as well as students currently in secondary school. To enter the website use the activation key **“marysound”**. Students are then able to create a profile and go from there. If additional help is required please make an appointment in guidance to meet with a counsellor.

**GRADUATION CEREMONY INFORMATION**

Students who are planning to graduate this year should confirm that they will meet all of the diploma requirements, including the 40 hours of community service. Very soon Mrs. Majury and Ms. Foch will start meeting with the Graduation Committee to plan the event. Every graduating student is required to pay a Grad Fee of \$35 to cover the cost of Gown rentals, diploma covers, programs, decorations, composite picture, refreshments etc. This fee simply covers the costs incurred, so it is important for students to pay promptly.

PLANNING AHEAD

The board has renewed its licence to access the website www.Myblueprint.ca. This website allows students to enter the secondary school courses they plan to take and then see the post-secondary programs and careers that are open to them. This is particularly beneficial for students in Grade 8 planning their secondary school program as well as students currently in secondary school. To enter the website use the activation key **“marysound”**. Students are then able to create a profile and go from there.

EL SALVADOR REPORT

We are pleased to announce the return of nine students from St. Mary's who spent two weeks at an orphanage in El Salvador. This orphanage called, *Hogar del Nino* houses abandoned people who have mental and physical disabilities which is run by three Brazilian nuns. The students spent time attending to the needs of the orphans in many capacities, particularly just by *being* with them in their presence. The students experienced an event which is not only life-changing but affects one's perspective on life in their own personal ways. A fundraiser for the orphanage will be held in Woodbridge, Ontario on April 25th, 2010.



If interested please contact Ms Foch at the school. We are grateful to Dylan Ritchie's mother who has put together a lovely video capturing the many memories. If interested in purchasing a copy, proceeds towards the orphanage again, please contact Ms Foch. It is evident at our Holy Thursday prayer service that students who expressed their sentiments have a new-found understanding of God and His unconditional love which is



MUNICIPAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT

During the school year, there will be opportunities for:

- * students' work to be displayed
- * students' special achievements to be publicized
- * students to be photographed in a variety of activities for newspapers, yearbook or display
- * class lists to be posted for various activities
- * students to be interviewed for newspapers

We make every attempt to exercise discretion in the best interest of our students. At the same time, we must respect parental/guardian wishes for privacy in accordance with the Act.

If you have any concerns regarding the disclosure/publication of son/daughter's name(s) or work, please contact the principal.

SCHOOL PLAY

An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red Ridinghood? A Prince Charming with a roving eye? A Witch ... who raps? They're all among the cockeyed characters in James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's fractured musical fairy tale "Into the Woods", presented by St. Mary's High School. When a Baker and his Wife learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door, they embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell. Everyone's wish is granted at the end of Act One but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them in Act Two. Come out and support the St. Mary's Drama Program with a night of entertainment for all ages! Tickets are now on sale! The show runs May 6th, 7th and 8th at the Roxy Theatre. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Roxy Theatre Box Office at 519-371-2833 or on-line at www.ticketscene.ca.

**SKILLS CANADA**

On March 26 we had 11 technology education students competing in the Regional Skills Canada competition at Georgian College. Students were involved in competitions with other students in Bruce and Grey in areas of culinary arts, hair dressing, welding, precision machining, small powered equipment, carpentry team of two and automotive repair. We had an awesome day and students were eligible to proceed in all categories we entered in, 3 directly to the provincial level. Excellent work by our students.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please note that mid-term report cards will be distributed on Monday, April 26, 2010. Parent-Teacher interviews will take place in the gym on Thursday, April 29th from 4:00 to 5:30 pm and 6:30pm to 8:00 pm. I would encourage all parents to attend parent-teacher Interviews and address any concerns that you may have. Your input and support are greatly appreciated and will support the achievement goals set out for the school. See you there!

CAFETERIA SERVICES

Our school cafeteria is open daily. The cafeteria is being managed by Chartwell's School Dining Services. They are committed to a Balanced Choice Menu at affordable prices.

RECREATIONAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

Need help with funding for Recreational Programs, school electives, class trips to the Outdoor Education Center, Grade 7 or 8 trips? The Grey NCB Program may be able to help you:

- Available for families living in Grey County
- Maximum subsidy currently available is \$200 per child per year
- Total family income under \$35000 per year
- Children 18 years of age and under (residing with parent)
- Refunds can be processed with a paid receipt

For more information or an application form contact the Grey NCB Office at (519)371-8627 or pick up an application at the Family Y in Owen Sound.

SEPARATE SCHOOL SUPPORT

When you move, your Catholic school support does not follow you. As soon as any change is made to your address, your school support designation reverts to Public. Unless you update this information, you will not be able to take part in Catholic Trustee elections. Contact the Board Office at (519)364-5820 for more information.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please join us at our next parent council meeting May 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

Check us out on the web at <http://www.smhs.net>

LOCKERS

Each student has been given a copy of the school's handbook. Included in this is information about lockers. It is important that students realize that the lockers are the property of the school and as such can be searched as required.

INTERNET USE

All students are reminded that they, in order to comply with board policy, must have a signed acceptable internet use form submitted to the office before they are permitted to use the school's computer system. Contravention of this acceptable use policy can lead to consequences up to and including suspension.

ALTERNATE BUSING

In keeping with board policy regarding alternate busing, students are reminded that they are not able to ride a bus different than the one to which they are assigned for reasons such as going to their job, visiting a friend, dental appointment etc.. Permission to ride a different bus is only given by the board in the case of different places of residence of parent/guardians. If alternate busing arrangements are needed for such a reason, an application form available from the school (or downloaded from the board web site) must be completed and returned to the board office for approval.

INSURANCE FORMS

All students were given an insurance form as part of their opening day package. It offers low-cost insurance to students in case of accidents. Students who participate in sports etc are particularly encouraged to enrol in this program. All students participating in the co-op program must purchase this insurance as per Board Policy.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, the use of video surveillance is in effect at St. Mary's High School and on many of its school buses. The video images are collected under the authority of the Education Act S. 170 and will be used to reduce/prevent property vandalism, theft and violence and to ensure the safety of students.

Check us out on the web at <http://www.smhs.net>