



MUSTANG NEWS



December 2011

St. Mary's High School

555- 15th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 1X2

Phone: (519)376-4278

Fax: (519)376-0793

E-Mail: smhs@bgcdsb.org

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With Christmas quickly approaching, it is always good to look back and reflect on the many blessings that we have in our lives. What is it that made the year special? What goal (s) are appropriate for the new year? Can I meet those goals? Who can help me? These critical questions we must ask ourselves as the 2011 year comes to a close. Quite often we do not even set goals for ourselves because of a fear of not being able to meet them. But this far from the truth. When we set high, but attainable goals, most often we meet that goal. The same attitude holds true St. Mary's High School. Back in August the staff and I set some lofty goals for student achievement and it is our hope that we will not only meet the goal (s), but exceed it. One goal that we have set, for example, in the area of Catholic Community, Caring, and Culture is that if grade 8 students are invited to participate in various activities and learning opportunities with St. Mary's, then they will experience a positive transition from grade 8 to grade 9. We have work to do and your help and support is critical to success. I would like to thank you for your support over the course of the year and I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas! I would also like to wish all of our students and their families a Happy New Year!

Mr. G. Miller

CHAPLAINCY TEAM LEADER'S MESSAGE

This Advent 2011, the Catholic Church has begun the process of change with the implementation of the revised liturgical third version of the Roman Missal. The present version of the Missal and its liturgical norms follows the announcement in 2000 by Pope John Paul II that there would be a third edition of the Missal. The revised Latin text was published by the Vatican in 2002, and later amended by the Holy See in 2008. There are four reasons why these adaptations have begun. First, the New Missal uses language which is not only closer to the original prayers, but also reflects a more formal and sacred way of addressing the Almighty God. Second, while using language that is more dignified and distinctive, the new style is true to our heritage and our way of worshipping God, going back close to two thousand years. Third, the New Missal now connects the church with all Catholics throughout the world, in union with the Holy Father and the body and blood of Christ. Finally, since Latin is the official language of the Western Church, it is a reference text to ensure that connections between the mass and Scripture are emphasized.

Today as I was driving to work, I heard on CBC that December 1st begins the first day of Advent. My only reaction was to laugh incessantly as we are so misinformed by our secular culture and the media, on the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. As Christians, we know that Advent begins on the liturgical calendar marking four weeks in preparation for the coming of the birth of Christ, the light amidst the dark, hope amidst a broken world. We are called to prepare ourselves in ways countercultural to society. Free from egoism, narcissism and individual needs we are called to give selflessly to those who are most in need. Jesus who was born into poverty, lives amongst those, as a beacon of continual hope, faith, love and joy. I commend our students who will be attending our annual Toronto Outreach program who have taken the leap to feed the homeless in Toronto and serve lunches at two separate shelters. We can follow our students' examples and take time to leave our comfort zones and live in solidarity with the poor, humble and vulnerable. Only then, can we recognize our own hidden weaknesses which Jesus exemplified at his birth.

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to all of you,

Ms L. Foch
Chaplaincy Leader

Annual Christmas Concert/Art Exhibition update!!!!

On the evening of December 19th, 2011 all parents, students and friends of St. Mary's are invited to enjoy the annual Christmas Concert and Art Exhibition. The concert will take place in the school cafeteria and is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. A variety of visual art will be displayed all evening for everyone to admire. All are welcome to attend this night of the Arts at St. Mary's High School.

DRIVER EDUCATION

The in-class portion of the fall driver ed class is complete. There will be another driver ed class offered in February. Details on specific dates will follow.



EARLY DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed at 1:10 p.m. and busses will leave at this time.

Early Dismissal Dates for the school year are:

Wednesday March 28th and Wednesday May 9th, 2012



Don't Miss St. Mary's 1st Cabaret!



"The Mustang Academy Awards"

DECEMBER 15th 2011 7:00pm

(In the SMHS Cafeteria)

Adult: \$8.00

Senior/Student: \$5.00

12 and Under: \$3.00

* Tickets will be sold over the lunch hour in the drama room as well as at the door*

GRADE 9 EQAO MATH ASSESMENT SEMESTER 1

All students registered in Grade 9 Academic Math (MPM 1D) and Grade 9 Applied Math (MFM 1P) this semester will be writing the **EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics assessment in their math class the week of January 16, 2012. Attendance on these dates is mandatory. Please avoid scheduling appointments during the math period.** Students taking Grade 9 Math second semester will write the assessment in June.



It is that time of year again when the snow begins to fall and the Christmas cheer is in the air. Recently, St. Mary's entered a float in the Owen Sound Santa Clause parade. It was a lot of fun and a great opportunity for the St. Mary's students to be visible in the community. It is events like these that make us feel like a family at St. Mary's. A big part of making St. Mary's the best learning environment for all students is it by forming a solid connection between parents, teachers and students. My role as student trustee is essentially to help encourage and form these connections from the students' standpoint. At a recent conference I attended with student trustees from across the province, the Student Trustee Association

of Ontario recently released a survey completed by parents and students from across the province answering ten questions on a range of topics. The results give an interesting insight into the perspectives of both students and parents, and provide a well-rounded look at current issues in Ontario schools. To review this data visit www.osta-aeco.org or if you would like more information, I would be more than happy to answer any questions. In the New Year, I hope to continue a campaign started last year to deter people from buying plastic water bottles and encouraging them to use reusable ones. More information to come in the New Year!

Have a safe and Merry Christmas.

God bless,

Katie Walsh, Student Trustee

MedQUEST-2011

This past summer thirty secondary students from Bruce & Grey Counties participated in MedQUEST, a health career exploration program developed by the SouthWestern Ontario Medical Education Network (SWOMEN), Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at The University of Western Ontario.

Brooke McConnell from St. Mary's was part of this dynamic group of young people who, under the leadership of medical students, had the opportunity to participate in:

Hands-on clinical skills sessions, including casting, suturing, injections and vitals

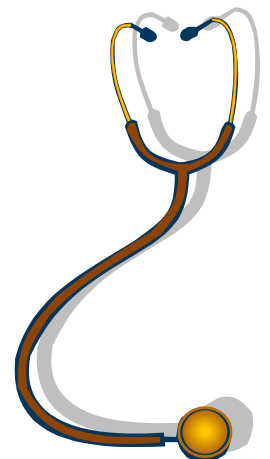
Medical interviewing, ethics cases and public health topics

Job shadowing with health care providers through Bruce & Grey

Health career presentations highlighting nursing, respirology, pharmacy, diagnostic imaging and lab

A full-scale community mock disaster, involving local police, fire & emergency services

MedQUEST will again be offered in Bruce & Grey in 2012. Applications for the coming year begin February 1st, 2012. Students at St. Mary's High School interested in the MedQUEST program should contact the Guidance department.



TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT ON SCHOOL BUS

Musical Instruments may be transported in cases only and shall be kept on the student's lap.

Skates All skates transported shall have the blades suitably protected with guards and shall be tied together or be in a suitable equipment bag. The skates shall be placed on the floor at the student's feet.

Hockey Equipment Hockey sticks may only be transported with the approval of the school Principal and Bus Operator. Hockey equipment **may not** be transported on a school bus on a home to school route. On a charter basis, hockey equipment may be transported if it is stored in the storage space underneath the bus or inside, provided it does not block any exits or the aisle of the bus.

Skis, Poles & Snowboards **May not** be transported on a school bus on a home to school route.

Skateboards **May not** be transported on a school bus.

Laser Pointers **May not** be transported on a school bus.

Animals **May not** be transported on a school bus.

GET INVOLVED !

Co-curriculars running this fall:

Girls' Volleyball

Boys' Basketball

Girls' Hockey

Boys Hockey

Cross Country Skiing

Ski Club

Yearbook Club

SAC

School Advocate

(School Newspaper)

Need Glasses?

Pearle Vision, at the Heritage Place Mall, is offering **FREE GLASSES AND EYE EXAMS** for families in need. This program is available to families with limited income who do not qualify for glasses with any other social service.

Please contact Cynara, from Pearle Vision, at 519-371-5656 to arrange an appointment for the "One Sight Day" on December 13th. Other appointment dates are also available.



Jr. Girls Basketball



The lady mustangs had an amazing year where they remained undefeated in regular season. The girls were beat by **SHHS** in the semi-finals of BAA playoffs but were able to redeem this loss in a CWOSSA qualifier game against Kincardine. The ladies were able to come back from a 9 point deficit to beat the Knights and qualify for Cwossa. The ladies represented St. Mary's proudly at Cwossa, held at Lady of the Lourdes Catholic School in Guelph. The girls were put out by Wellington but put up a good fight. They were defeated by only 4 points. The girls also participated in a tournament this season at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in which they lost in the Championship game. Miss. MacLeod and Mr. Jones would like to thank and recognize all the girls on the team for such a memorable first season of coaching basketball. The team made up of veteran players; Katie Langdon, Allison VanSlightenhorst, Hannah Cassidy, Taylor Cruickshank, Jordan Lumley, Selina Kazarian, and Renee Myette

were joined by the welcomed addition of rookies Beth Dreise, Kaitlin Smith, Rylee Martin, Nicole Sutton, and Jamie Struthers.

THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

Students who are in Grade 10, (and those who did not successfully complete the test in previous years), will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on March 29th, 2012. Students should be preparing in advance to ensure that they are successful on the test. Sample preparation materials/questions, from previous tests, can be found on the **EQAO Web Site at <http://www.eqao.com>**. Students should check out the type of questions that they will face on the test and practice such question types so that there are no surprises on the test. Successfully completing the Literacy Requirement is mandatory to receive your Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

2011 - 2012 SKI PROGRAM

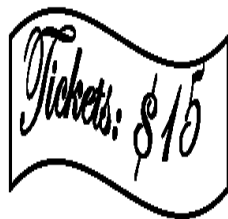
Be a member of our St. Mary's Ski Club 2011-2012 at Blue Mountain Ski Resort. This year will involve a few changes. We will be at the resort for two full days in February, rather than four afternoon ski sessions. Please listen for more details regarding dates, cost and details from either Ms Foch or Mrs. Solinger. Please remember that all skiers or snow boarders **must wear helmets**. Rental helmets are available at an additional cost. Registration forms will be available from Ms Foch. Please ensure when the forms are available, that *all necessary signatures* are on forms.



Friday December 9th, 2011

St. Mary's Gymnasium

6:30-9:30pm



We regret to inform you that Late Fees Service will not be available for this event.

Tickets \$15 with presentation of a valid Student Card, \$20 without

No Late Taxes - Sign ins (2 guests per student with valid student card)

\$1 donation from ticket sales to SMHS student fund

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dec 3 | Advent Mass |
| Dec 9 | Semi-Formal Dance 6:30-9 pm |
| Dec 14 | El Salvador Pizza Fundraiser 3-9 pm |
| Dec 15 | St. Mary's Cabaret |
| Dec 19 | Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm |
| Dec 23 | Last day of classes |
| January 9 | Classes resume |
| January 27 | Exams Schedule begins |
| Feb 3 | PD Day |

Dec 19-23, 2011 Spirit Week

- Mon-Decorating competition
- Tues-Hat Day (Christmas Hat)
- Wed-Night Before Christmas
- Thurs-Christmas Sweater Day
- Fri-Red, Green & Jean Day

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLANS

Students and parents are encouraged to develop contingency plans in the event that school buses get stranded in Owen Sound at the end of the day due to inclement weather. Do you have a relative or friend in Owen Sound that can take you in for the night if your bus is unable to leave Owen Sound? A few years ago, we had a few occasions when some buses were unable to leave the city due to road closures. Although such an occurrence is rare, we need to be prepared for such an event.

Please note that with 630 students, it is impossible for everyone to make multiple phone calls to develop a plan at the last minute. Please develop a plan in advance so that you will know what you are going to do in the event of inclement weather.

If you live in Owen Sound and your family is willing to take in a billet in such circumstances please let the school know. Also, if you live outside Owen Sound and don't know anyone in the city, please let the school know so that we can help you develop a plan.

BUS CANCELLATIONS



In the event of inclement weather, please listen to our local radio stations (CFOS 560, Country 93, 98 The Beach, MIX 106.5 or The Doc 92.3) for bus cancellations.

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 learn about their post secondary options.

EXAM SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Semester one exams will be held from Friday, January 27th to Thursday, February 2nd. Period 1 exams will be written on Day 1~January 27th, Period 2 exams will be written on Day 2~January 30th, Period 3 exams will be written on Day 3~January 31st, and Period 4 exams will be written on Day 4, Feb 1st. Exam day 5: Feb 2nd. PD Day: Feb 3rd.

If any exam days are postponed due to weather cancellations, the postponed exams will be written on the next school day and the remaining exam schedule will be delayed by one day. **Attendance for exams is mandatory.** Please do not book any appointments on these dates. An Orientation Day for current Grade 8 students is scheduled for Thursday February 2nd.

St. Mary's High School, El Salvador Mission Trip 2012, Boston Pizza Fundraiser December 14th, 3-9pm.

Hogar del Niño



In March 2012, thirteen students will be participating in St. Mary's High School's third mission excursion from March 12-26th, 2012 to an orphanage in El Salvador. *Hogar del Niño* houses 140 people of varying disabilities who have been abandoned on the streets of San Salvador. *Hogar* becomes their permanent home; a home of compassion, acceptance, faith and love.

You can visit *Hogar del Niño*'s website at www.hnp.org.sv.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Mother Teresa

The purpose of this mission trip is for students to engage in meaningful relationships and make connections with the residents at *Hogar del Niño*. Students embark on this trip with intentions to share what they can with the residents, and to bring back their experiences within their communities surrounding Owen Sound.

This trip is a once in a life time experience, where invaluable lessons and values are discovered. Students will engage additionally in manual labour and in addition be financially supportive of the foundation itself. Without the support of our the community, this excursion would not be possible.

For further information please contact Ms. Foch, Chaplaincy Leader and excursion coordinator at (519) 376 – 4278 ext. 3012

How to Donate

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Monetary donations can be left in the accompanying envelopes. If you wish to leave a cheque, they may be made payable to *El Salvador Club*. These donations help in reducing the cost of this experience for the students who are participating. A donation of any amount will help make this once in a lifetime experience a reality.

What to Donate

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Apart from monetary donations, material donations are also gratefully appreciated. Examples of items that would be brought down to the orphanage include: toys, games, art crafts supplies, first aid items, sanitary items, rehabilitation supplies (such as crutches or wheelchairs), etc. Donations (both material and financial) can also be made at St. Mary's High School. Our final community fundraiser will be a dinner held at St. Mary's Parish Hall; date to be determined, we hope for tremendous support and participation. Thank you. Rachelle Porier.

Grade 9 REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

Grade 8 Parent and Student Information Nights will be held at St. Mary's High School on Monday, January 23rd and Wednesday, January 25th. Both of these information sessions begin at 7:00 pm in Hillyer Hall. All parents of Grade 8 students are strongly encouraged to attend one of these evening sessions to learn about St. Mary's High School, programs, diploma requirements and course options. In addition, if you know of other parents and students who are interested in attending St. Mary's, please pass along the dates. Thanks for your help

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is up and running for another year with the help of our dedicated volunteers. Various food items are available each morning for our students to enjoy. This supports our students in their quest to be good learners. Funding for the Breakfast Club is provided through various organizations, however, your help and support is greatly appreciated. Monetary or food donations would be greatly appreciated. When students start their day with adequate nourishment their energy levels, memory and problem-solving skills are all affected. If you would like to volunteer some time to support the Breakfast or Lunch programs, please let the main office know at 519-376-4278. Thanks for your help in supporting our students to be the best that they can be.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY APPLICATION INFORMATION

Students planning to apply to post-secondary schools should be aware of the following deadlines:

University Applicants– January 11, 2012

College Applicants– February 1, 2012

It is the hope of our Guidance Department that all applications will be completed on-line prior to the Christmas Break. The PIN information required for the university application process is available at the guidance office. Any student requiring assistance with their post-secondary application is encouraged to make an appointment with one of our guidance counselors.

OYAP

What do you plan to do with your future? Have you considered starting an apprenticeship while still in high school? Visit the Guidance Office for more information about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Ontario Educational Resource Bank


Would you like extra review for your child? Would you like enrichment for your child?

Over 22,000 resources are online and available for your child for every grade and every subject. Games, quizzes, tutorials, maps, videos and much more.

Log on to resources.elearningontario.ca

Not sure where to start? Try clicking on “Search”, then “Browse by Curriculum”. From there, you can put in your child’s grade, subject and strand. Press the button “Browse by Strand” and see many of the wonderful resources that will help your child with their school work.

Feel free to contact the BGCDSB’s eLearning Contact, Denise Buttenaar at denise-buttenaar@bgcdsb.org to learn more.



ONLINE MATH HOMEWORK HELP FOR GRADES 7-10 STUDENTS

- ✓ All grade 7-10 math students in the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board have access to online math Homework Help again this year!
- ✓ Students can log in **Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**, for one-on-one confidential tutoring help.
- ✓ Other sources are available 24/7 such as most commonly asked math problems, interactive math tutorials and highlights of best sessions.
- ✓ Want to check out the site. Go to <http://Homeworkhelp.ilc.org> and create a guest account.
- ✓ You can view the wonderful math resources or enter a room and watch the tutors in action!
- ✓ For more information or questions regarding Homework Help, please contact Denise Buttenaar at homeworkhelp@bgcdsb.org or (519)364-5820 ext. 268

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

40 VOLUNTEER HOURS

A reminder that students must complete 40 hours of volunteer service prior to graduation.

Students who plan to graduate in June are asked to submit the required paperwork to the guidance office immediately.

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.

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 parents or guardians. If alternate busing arrangements are needed for such a reason, an application form is available from www.bgcdsb.org and must be completed and returned to the board office for approval.



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.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS - It is important that the school have accurate information (i.e. phone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts). If any of this information changes throughout the school year, please be sure to contact the main office at (519)376-4278. We need this information for contacting you in the event of an emergency and when mailing out reports.

REPORTING ABSENCES - If you know that your son or daughter will be away from school, PLEASE CALL and let us know. Messages can be left 24-hours per day at (519)376-4278.

OFFICE HOURS - Our school office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. If you call during these hours and get our answering machine this indicates that all of our phone lines are busy. Please leave a message or call back later.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES - Many scholarships and bursaries are available to students heading off to post-secondary schools. Check out the web-sites: <http://www.scholarshipscanada.com>, <http://www.studentawards.com> or <http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca> for more details. Many of the universities and colleges also list scholarships and bursaries in their guidebooks which are available in the guidance office. Each year, St. Mary's High School distributes over \$30,000 in scholarships and bursaries at graduation. The application process will be explained to students in April.

Check us out on the web at <http://smhs.bgcdsb.org>