



Mustang News



St. Mary's High School
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January 2012

- * Principal: Mr. G. Miller
- * Vice-Principal: Mr. A. Van Wieringen
- * Superintendent: Mr. J. 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

At this time of the year, the guidance department and I, are actively working with our feeder schools in transitioning our grade 8 students to high school. While this might seem to be happening early, it does, in effect, create a seamless and smooth transition from grade 8 to grade 9. Parent and student information nights will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012 and Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Both sessions start at 7:00 pm in Hillyer Hall. As well, we will be hosting all the grade 8 students from our feeder schools on Thursday, February 2nd from 9:45 am to 2:00 pm. At this session, students will become acquainted with St. Mary's High School and all it has to offer. It is our hope that our students will enjoy this very worthwhile experience. If you know any grade 8 student who is interested in coming to our great school, please pass along this information.

Staff at St. Mary's High School would like to wish you a Happy New Year and all the best in 2012.

Mr. G. Miller
Principal

CHAPLAINCY LEADER'S MESSAGE

"We have seen his star in the East, and have come to adore the Lord" (Mt 2:2).

Epiphany is the day the Christian Church celebrates the "manifestation" of Christ to the peoples who are represented by the Magi, mysterious figures who came from the East. It always occurs on January 6th, 12 days after Christmas, but is usually celebrated on the Sunday closest to the 6th. Incidentally, the 12 days between Christmas and the Epiphany are the famous '12 Days of Christmas' – not the 12 days before Christmas.

The Magi prostrated themselves before a simple baby in his mother's arms, not in the setting of a royal palace but, on the contrary, in the poverty of a stable in Bethlehem (Mt 2:11).

How was this possible? What convinced the Magi that the Child was "the King of the Jews" and the King of the peoples? There is no doubt that they were persuaded by the sign of the star that they had seen "in its rising" and which had come to rest precisely over the place where the Child was found (Mt 2:9). But even the star would not have sufficed had the Magi not been people inwardly open to the truth.

The example of the Magi of that time is also an invitation to the Magi of today to open their minds and hearts to Christ and to offer him the gifts of their research. Do not be afraid of Christ's light! His light is the splendour of the truth. Let yourselves be enlightened by him, all peoples of the earth; let yourselves be enveloped by his love and you will find the way of peace (Pope Benedict XVI).



Happy New Year to all!
Ms L. Foch, Chaplaincy Leader



"Over the past couple of weeks, Mr. Bruijns' French Immersion students have raised nearly 200 items for local food banks. Way to show the Christmas spirit! Mr. Bruijns' Business students have joined the cause and are donating over \$140 to charities including the food bank and women's shelter. Thank you to all these students who worked hard to help make this Christmas season a little merrier."



EXAM SCHEDULE FOR 2012

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 Feb 2nd.

Exams for first term 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: February, 2nd. PD Day: February 3rd.

Guidance News

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. Thank you for your help.

GRADE 9 EQAO MATH ASSESSMENT -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 during the weeks of January 9th - January 21st. 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.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

For students planning to apply to post-secondary schools this year, the deadline for college applications is February 1, 2012 and the deadline for university applications is January 11, 2012.

The PIN information required for the university application process is now available from Mr. Chiasson in Guidance. The OEN information required for the college application process is available from Mrs. Majury in Guidance.

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 **Thursday, 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 website at <http://www.eqao.com>**. Students should check out the types 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.

TIMETABLE CHANGES FOR SEMESTER 2

Current students requiring timetable adjustments for Semester 2 are asked to book an appointment with Mrs. Majury or Mr. Chiasson as soon as possible. Timetable changes will not be processed during the first week of Semester 2. If you are graduating and do not plan to return for Semester 2, please notify Mrs. Majury in the Guidance office. She will ensure that your name is on the graduation list for June, let you know when scholarship applications are due, and get your measurements for your graduation gown.



Co-operative Education Program

Bruce Power Co-op is a full semester on-site program at Bruce Power for senior secondary students. This four-credit program provides valuable experience, essential skills, and career exploration for students on a pathway to post-secondary apprenticeship, college or university.

The program offers a wide range of placements including business (accounting, communications, human resources, marketing, office administration), engineering, fire/emergency response, information technology, nuclear power careers, security, and skilled trades (electrical, mechanical, transportation).

St Mary's Students and Parents are invited to attend an evening Regional Information Meeting at West Hill Secondary School on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00 pm in Bailey Hall

A Daytime Student Information session will follow at SMHS on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 10:30 am in St. Mary's Library

A 'snow day' date will be for the following week - same day, same time

A separate application (March deadline) and interview at Bruce Power are required. Program participation is also dependent upon Bruce Power security clearance.

For more information contact: highschoolcoop@brucepower.com 519-361-2673 extension 17416
Or the St Mary's school Guidance/Co-op office 519 376-4278

St. Mary's Students who would like to learn about co-op opportunities at Bruce Power, should attend the following information sessions:

Parent / Student Information Session:

West Hill Secondary School, Wed. January 18th, 7:00 pm, Bailey Hall

Student Information Session: St. Mary's High School, Tues. February 21st, 10:30 am

WHO NEEDS BREAKFAST OR LUNCH?

A Breakfast and Lunch Program is being offered daily at St. Mary's High School.

We are in need of food donations such as:

canned tuna & salmon

canned tomatoes & tomato paste and kidney beans

Jam and mayonnaise

bread and bagels,

cereal

Financial contributions would also be appreciated. Income-tax receipts can be issued for any donations over \$20.00



Congratulations and thank-you to Miss MacLeod's grade 10 religion class who each brought in 8 items of food for the food bank and met their class challenge! Your efforts will be rewarded with a pizza party in the new year!

On Tuesday December, 6, 2011, sixty-six students from St. Mary's High School along with Mr. Kirby, Ms. MacLeod & Ms. Garipey went to the Salvation Army Christmas Headquarters to prepare and pack 600 Christmas Food hampers for those families in need within the Owen Sound community. The students worked extremely well!
Paul & Alice from the Salvation Army extend their gratitude! Thanks again to all who participated!



Thank you to all students, parents and staff who so generously donated to the Sock Drive this Christmas! The brothers of the Good Shepherd in Toronto were thrilled to receive these items, along with the many hats, mitts & winter coats! They were distributed to those in need who frequent this shelter.



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.

2011/2012 Jr. Girls Volleyball



Congratulations to the following ladies who have made the 2011/2012 lady Mustangs Jr. Girls Volleyball team. Miss MacLeod is excited and looking forward to the upcoming season.



From Left to Right- Nick Murphy, Nicole Sutton, Kaitlyn Knox, Maddy Moore, HeatherAaaup, Beth Dreise, Maria MacLeod Katie, Langdon, Ceire Mullen, Sarah Berge, Meg Boyd, Kaitin Smith, Allison Van Sligtenhorst, Taylor Cruickshank, Hannah Cassidy, missing Rylee Martin

UPCOMING EVENTS

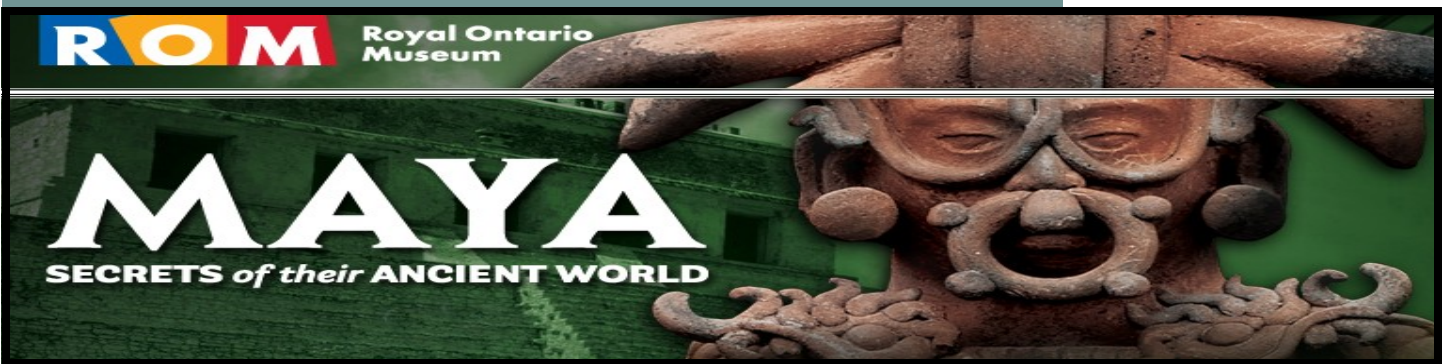
January 9	Classes resume
January 9-21	Gr. 9 Assessment of Mathematics
January 23 & 25	Information night Grade 8 Parent Information Night
January 27	Exams Schedule begins
February 3	PD Day
March 31	Gr. 10 Literacy Test

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Wednesday, March 28th
Wednesday, May 9th

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





Visual Arts Field Trip

Where: ROM, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

What: Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World + 5 Floors of Permanent Collections (Natural History +World Cultures)

When: Friday March 30th 2012 - 9:00AM - 7:00PM

Cost: \$42.00 (12.00 Admission + Bus Transportation) **NO REFUNDS**

Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World A Mighty Civilization. A Mysterious People. A Mythical Past.

This groundbreaking exhibition features **250 artifacts** that take you on a remarkable journey through the ancient world of the Maya. A collaboration between the ROM, Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History and the Canadian Museum of Civilization, this exhibition explores the entire world of the Maya, from the rule of Maya kings and queens to the lives of everyday people. As well, we explore the mysteries surrounding the puzzling collapse of the classical Maya civilization.

This exhibition includes a special discussion of the Mayan calendar and reveals the truth behind the '2012 end of days' legend.

All students participating in this **Visual Arts Field Trip** should make prior arrangements to be picked up after return to the school. We will not return to the school until at **least 7:00PM** that night. Students should also bring extra funds for lunch and dinner. Any students interested should see Mr. Arnett for a permission form ASAP.

Thank you Ms Gariepy, Mr. Azevedo and students who attended the Toronto Outreach Excursion.

Thank you to Ms Gariepy and Mr. Azevedo who, along with 25 students responded to the call to attend our annual Christmas outreach excursion on December 2, 2011. The group went to visit 'Good Shepherd, a shelter for men in Toronto. The students were asked to assist in preparing and serving lunch to the homeless, make beds, help with laundry and organize donated canned goods and clothing. This experience provided an opportunity for the students to see the needs within our greater community. The students also visited a 'Church in the city', a

centre for poverty awareness. They completed the day by walking and serving lunches to the homeless. All students were asked to bring clothing and blankets for the men's shelter, prepare bagged lunches and bagged winter supplies such as hats, mittens, gloves and socks to distribute. It is always wonderful to witness the immense giving nature of the youth who are so eager for action. The prepared items served as a means to engage in conversation and communicate with the less fortunate and form a relationship through discussion.

Paul Burke from the Church in the city provided the students with an excellent preparation as to what students may encounter and also asked the students to prepare bagged toiletry supplies as gifts for those who visit the centre. We, at St. Mary's continue in our mission to 'evangelize' the hearts of the youth; to recognize the poverty in others, by making the connection to the 'poverty' in Christ, who humbled Himself for all humanity. Humbleness is three-fold; first, Jesus' dying on the cross in full obedience to his Father's will, second, the selfless service in which Jesus lived his life for others, and, finally, the ability to shed one's ego and selfish needs to provide complete benefit for others. Philosopher Bernard Lonergan's work helps students to: **experience, understand, judge** and **decide** on how to act as a life-long process. By committing themselves to the continued work of Jesus Christ - as His Body; hands, feet and eyes to serve the needs of the poor, students come to understand what it means to love. This outreach experience is offered twice a year; before Christmas and Easter as a way to emphasize the true meaning of each liturgical season. Please see Ms Foch if you are interested as a parent or teacher chaperone or a student interested in attending.



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

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, it can happen, so we need to be ready 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 such an event.

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.

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 enroll 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://smhs.bgcdsb.org>