



MUSTANG NEWS



St. Mary's High School
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January 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

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you have had the opportunity for a little rest and relaxation during the busy Christmas season. As we move into 2010 I want to wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

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 Thursday, January 14, 2010 and Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Both sessions start at 6:30 pm. As well, we will be hosting all the grade 8 students from our feeder schools on Thursday, February 4th 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. In addition, SMHS will be hosting 2 uniform information nights. These nights will be held on Tuesday, January 12th and Wednesday, January 13th. Both sessions begin at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. Information about school uniforms will be presented at these sessions and you are most welcome to attend.

CHAPLAINCY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Many of us would think that the Christmas season has come and gone all too quickly. For Catholics, Christmas begins with the first Mass of Christmas, usually celebrated in the evening of Christmas Eve or at Midnight following the season of Advent. There are eight days in the Octave of Christmas. The Church treats each of these days as Christmas Day. While many, traditionally bring down their Christmas decorations on the twelfth night or on the Feast of the Epiphany, Christmas officially ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which usually occurs on the Sunday after the Epiphany.

Although consumerism is a powerful influence waking up to mounds of presents, this is not sacred to the Christian understanding of Christmas. Rather, Christmas is about Christ, the Light, the Word made flesh, God's gift of redeeming love, given to the world. While secular society tempts to consistently draw us away from this message by believing that happiness, meaning and our purpose in life depends upon more and more material goods, the Christian message paradoxically, of the true gift of Christmas is the redemption of the world through the birth of a child who embodies faithfulness, love, humility, obedience, sacrifice and selflessness. Christmas can change the way we look at the world around us by extending this message of peace, compassion, joy and hope in giving of our time to the less fortunate. St. Mary's students have responded to this calling by visiting Dr. Simone's warehouse in Mississauga, feeding the homeless in Toronto, helping at the local soup kitchen in Owen Sound on Christmas Eve and celebrating mass with the homeless at a Catholic drop in centre in Toronto; Our Place. With an ear that listens, a voice that comforts and a hand to hold in times of loneliness our students are experiencing the transformative power that lies within the exchange between those who are less fortunate than us. Has gift giving in your home supplanted the simple story of a child born to give his life to us? What gifts did you *give and receive* this Christmas that reflect Christ's life, who relates to us in a safe way, never imposing or elusive, always invitational, loving and real?

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.



GUIDANCE NEWS!

GRADE 9 PARENT-INFORMATION NIGHTS

Grade 8 Parent Information Nights will be held at St. Mary's High School on Thursday, January 14th and Tuesday, January 19th beginning at 6:30 p.m. All parents of Grade 8 students are encouraged to attend of these evening sessions to learn more about St. Mary's High School, programs, diploma requirements and course options.

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.

GRADUATING AND NOT RETURNING FOR 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 grad list for June, let you know when scholarship applications are due, and get your measurements for your graduation gown.

REGISTRATION OF NEW STUDENTS FOR SEMESTER 2

New students wishing to register for semester 2 are asked to contact our Guidance Office as soon as possible. Semester 2 classes begin on Monday February 8th.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

For students planning to apply to postsecondary schools this year, the deadline for college applications is February 1, 2010 and the deadline for university applications is January 13, 2010. 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 also available from Mrs Majury in Guidance.

GRADE 9 REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

An Orientation Day for current grade 8 students will be held at St. Mary's High School on Thursday February 4, 2010 (Alternate Weather Date Monday February 8th). Students at Notre Dame, St. Joseph's, and St. Peter and Paul's will be registered to attend by their grade 8 teachers. The Orientation will begin at 9:45 a.m. and end at 2:10 p.m. Students who are currently attending other elementary schools, who wish to attend are asked to call the school at (519)376-4278 to register.

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 April 8th, 2010. 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.

MedQUEST Health Career Exploration Camp

MedQUEST Health Career Exploration Camp is scheduled to be held in Owen Sound during July, 2010. Students who are currently in grade 10 and 11 are eligible to attend this camp. The online application process for MedQUEST runs from February to March, 2010. Students interest in learning more about the MedQUEST camp should inquire at the guidance office. More information is also available at [ww.medquestwestern.ca](http://www.medquestwestern.ca)

DRIVER TRAINING

Driver Training will be offered at St. Mary's High School in the winter of 2010. Students must have a level 1 drivers licence prior to February 5th. The cost will be \$460.00 per student. Please make a cheque payable to the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board. The permission form and cheque must be dropped off in Mr. Newell's office by Friday January 22nd but the cheque may be post dated until February 6th. **The cheques will not be cashed until after the start of the course.** Students will pick up a text book from Mr. Newell when they turn in their cheque. The students are asked to read the first 4 chapters before Saturday February 6th. Enrolment is expected to exceed the maximum class size, so priority will be given to the first 22 students who return a completed registration form with a cheque. The in-class portion of the course will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays on the dates below.

Saturday February 6th	8:30am to 3:30pm
Sunday February 7 th	8:30am to 3:30pm
Saturday February 13 th	8:30am to 3:30pm
Sunday February 14 th	8:30am to 3:30pm

Please also book the weekend of February 20th and 21st in the event of a day being cancelled due to snow conditions.

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, canned kidney beans, mayonnaise, bread and bagels, jam, cereal. Financial contributions would also be appreciated.

Income-tax receipts can be issued for any donations over \$20.00

Thank you to those who have already contributed to these much needed programs !



Auditions for the St. Mary's Production "Into the Woods" will take place January 12-14th after school in the drama room. If you wish to audition see Mrs. Ward to sign up for an audition time and get information on what to prepare.

Hope to see you there!

MUNICIPAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT

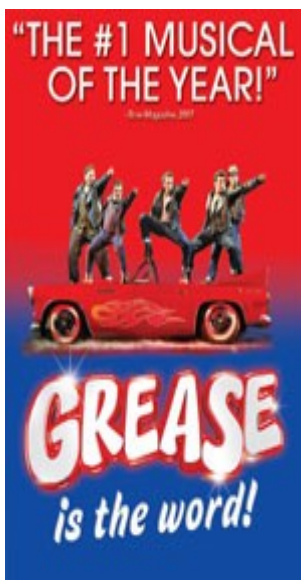
During the school year, there will be opportunities for:

- * 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.

A FAMILY EVENT !



The new production of *Grease*TM features songs from the smash hit 1978 motion picture, now for the first time ever in a stage production, including *Sandy*, the Academy Award-nominated *Hopelessly Devoted to You*, *Grease* and *You're the One That I Want* in addition to the Jacobs/Casey songs made famous by the original stage production, including *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightnin'* and *We Go Together*.

Starring American Idol Winner Taylor Hicks as Teen Angel !

Thursday April 8, 2010

Tickets \$75.00 – includes mezzanine seat and coach transportation.

Limited seats – First come first serve, and would make a great Christmas present!

All family members welcome.

See Mr. Chiasson, tickets on sale NOW !

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 12- uniform information night @ 7:00 pm ~ cafeteria
 Wednesday, January 13- uniform information night @ 7:00 pm ~ cafeteria
 Thursday, January 14- Grade 8 parent information night @ 6:30 pm cafeteria
 Tuesday, January 19- Grade 8 parent information night @ 6:30 ~cafeteria
 Friday, January 29– Exams period 1 @ 9:00 am ~gymnasium

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Wednesday February 24th
 Wednesday May 5th

NEWS FROM CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

We are so pleased here at St Mary's to once again have our students gain real work experience at Bruce Power. Stephanie Horner has been placed in the Chemical and Environmental Engineering Department at Bruce Power and she has been described by her supervisors as "an amazing student taking advantage of many extra training and learning opportunities, and having a tremendous experience."

In an effort to promote the Bruce Power Co-op program to more SMHS students there will be information sessions held at the following locations:

1. ***Parent-Student Information Night*** for all Owen Sound schools at WHSS on Thursday January 14, 2010 from 7 pm to 8 pm for those interested in more information on opportunities at Bruce Power Co-op for the 2010/2011 school year.
2. ***Daytime session for students*** at SMHS in late February to further inform students and to give them application information.

Our students have also been involved in many more Co-op initiatives, providing students with experiences that further solidify goals for their future careers. If you are an employer and would be interested in hosting a co-op student at your workplace let us know and we would be more than pleased to speak with you about the benefits of Co-op to employers and students alike.

Please contact Co-op teachers Steve Newell or Evelyn MacPherson at (519)376-4278 if you have any

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.

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.



St. Mary's is pleased to announce the approval of our inaugural mission excursion in March to an orphanage in El Salvador that houses people with mental and physical disabilities. The students who will be attending are Nathan Krulicki, Nathan Ayrheart, Konrad Schnurr, Dylan Ritchie, Katie Ryan, Bianca Posthumus, Katelyn Render and Kendra Hargest. Accompanying chaperones are Mr. Ayrheart, Ms Nicholson and Ms Foch; Monique, her daughter will also attend. Ms Foch has coordinated six high school excursions to the orphanage during the past five years. The nature of this experience will empower students with an evangelizing experience whereby, as Catholic educators, according to the church, we are to nourish the spiritual essence of youth and increase their faith by participating in opportunities to be immersed in communities who are less fortunate. Many thanks to Janet Schnurr who initiated our first fundraising event by making Christmas potted decorations, raising over \$800. We hope to involve the community in one more fundraising event. For additional information on *Hogar del Nino*, please visit www.fhp.org.sv or contact Ms Foch at the school, (519) 376-4278

EXAM SCHEDULE

Exams for first term will be held from Friday January 29th to Wednesday February 3rd. Period 1 exams will be written on Day 1 (January 29th), Period 2 exams will be written on Day 2 (February 1st), Period 3 exams will be written on Day 3 (February 2nd), and Period 4 exams will be written on Day 4 (February 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. Senior classes (Grades 11 and 12) will write their exams in the morning and junior classes (Grades 9 and 10) will write their exams in the afternoon.

Students are expected to write exams on the dates scheduled. In exceptional situations such as serious illness, extenuating circumstances, or death in the immediate family, students should notify the school as possible and an alternate schedule may be arranged. Students must provide medical certificates (a doctor's note) for absences due to illness.

The exam schedule and exam procedures will be distributed to students next week. Be sure to read these instructions.

Busses will run at normal times on exam days. Students may wish to make alternate arrangements for rides if they do not wish to spend the entire day at the school. Students who are not writing an exam, but are at school, will be expected to use the time to study in the library or cafeteria. **Students are not required to come to school on exam days if they have no scheduled exams.**

Our regular dress code is in effect over the exam period.

Note--If you are in the building you must be in dress code.



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 Thursday February 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

Students currently in Grade 10 as well as those who were unsuccessful in previous years will write the OSSLT on Thursday April 8, 2010. Passing the OSSLT or the Literacy Course is necessary in order to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Further details will follow prior to the test.

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>