



MUSTANG NEWS



St. Mary's High School
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March 2011

Principals Message

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

The month of March is upon us and hopefully the weather will start to get a little warmer. Like you, I am looking forward to seeing the sun more often. On January 25th and 27th SMHS held two grade 8 parent/student information nights. Both of these nights were very well attended and we were able to answer many questions about the programs we have to offer. It was also really neat to have some of the first graduates of SMHS come with their grade 8 son or daughter. This is a true testament to the great work that has taken place since 1984 when St. Mary's officially became a secondary school. I was also moved by Charlotte Curley's address to the crowd. She spoke of her years at SMHS and how she will use this foundation as she transitions to university. Charlotte is a fine example of a student who has met the Catholic Graduate Expectations. I have also received correspondence from previous graduates as well. These students are attending university and doing very well in their respective programs. Finally, the Lenten season is fast approaching. SMHS will be hosting a Liturgy of the Word and Achievement Assembly in the cafeteria on Wednesday, March 9th. Grade 9/10 assembly will go at 9:15 and Grade 10/11 assembly will go at 10:30 am. At both assemblies, students who have achieved honor roll status for semester 1 will be presented with a certificate of accomplishment. If you can join us, please do so.

Champlaincy Leader's Message

Part of Pope Benedict's Lenten Message
(taken from St. Mary's Lent and Easter 2011 Schedule)

The Lenten period, which leads us to the celebration of Holy Easter, is for the Church a most valuable and important liturgical time, in view of which I am pleased to offer a specific word in order that it may be lived with due diligence. As she waits the definitive encounter with her Spouse in the eternal Easter, the Church community, assiduous in prayer and charitable works, intensifies her journey in purifying the spirit, so as to draw more abundantly from the Mystery of Redemption the new life in Christ the Lord.

The Lenten journey, in which we are invited to contemplate the Mystery of the Cross, is meant to reproduce within us "the pattern of his death", so as to effect a deep conversion in our lives; that we may be transformed by action of the Holy Spirit, like St. Paul on the road to Damascus; that we may firmly orient our existence to the will of God; that we may be freed of our egoism, overcoming the instinct to dominate others and opening us to the love of Christ. The Lenten period is a favourable time to recognize our weakness and to accept, through sincere inventory of our life, the renewing Grace of the Sacrament of Penance, and walk resolutely towards Christ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, through the personal encounter with our Redeemer and through fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the journey of conversion towards Easter, leads us to rediscover our Baptism. This Lent, let us renew our acceptance of the Grace that God bestows upon us at the moment, so that it may illuminate and guide all of our actions. What the Sacrament signifies and realizes, we are called to experience every day, by following Christ in an ever more generous and authentic manner. In this our itinerary, let us entrust ourselves to the Virgin Mary, who generated the Word of God in faith and in the flesh, so that we may immerse ourselves – just as she did – in the death and resurrection of her Son Jesus, and possess eternal life.

Important Dates to Remember...

March 2nd.....	Early Dismissal
March 10th.....	Health Unit Immunizations
March 14 - 18th	March Break
March 31st.....	OSSLT
April 22 nd	Good Friday
April 2t5h.....	Easter Monday
May 11 th.....	Early Dismissal
May 23rd.....	Victoria Day

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.



GRADE 9 REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

If you know of students currently attending a public or private school who may be interested in attending St. Mary's in the fall, please have them call the school (519) 376-4278 and ask to be added to our mailing list. Thanks for your assistance in getting the word out.

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 31, 2011**. 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 Walkerton during July, 2011. 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, 2011. Students interest in learning more about the MedQUEST camp should inquire at the guidance office. More information is also available at www.medquestwestern.ca

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2011-2012

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 counselor.

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 which will take place on **Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm**. 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.

EVER BEEN TO A SPELLING BEE???

Well here's your chance! St. Mary's High School proudly presents this year's musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"!

Join us April 28th - 30th for this hilarious look into the events and stressful competition of the Putnam County Spelling Bee. As the characters' lives and circumstances are revealed, the audience not only watches the play, but becomes a part of the competition. With its eclectic variety of musical numbers and fast-paced humour, this show will prove to put a smile on anyone's face.

Come join us April 28th, 29th and 30th in the St. Mary's High School Cafeteria at 7:00pm for a night of entertainment and great laughs!

Tickets are \$12.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for students and seniors

Tickets will be available for purchase 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 cooperation.

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Public Health will be returning to St. Mary's High School on March 10th for any students who missed the last date. On the day of the clinic, the students must come to the clinic with the completed consent before being vaccinated. **Call Public Health at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 for more information.** Students who are not up-to-date with their needles may face suspension from school as required by the Health Unit.

Students receiving boosters are reminded to eat well the morning of the immunization clinic so that they will not feel ill due to low blood sugar.

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

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

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed at 1:22 p.m. and busses will leave at this time.

The remaining Early Dismissal Dates for the school year are:

Wednesday **March 2nd** and
Wednesday **May 11th.**



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



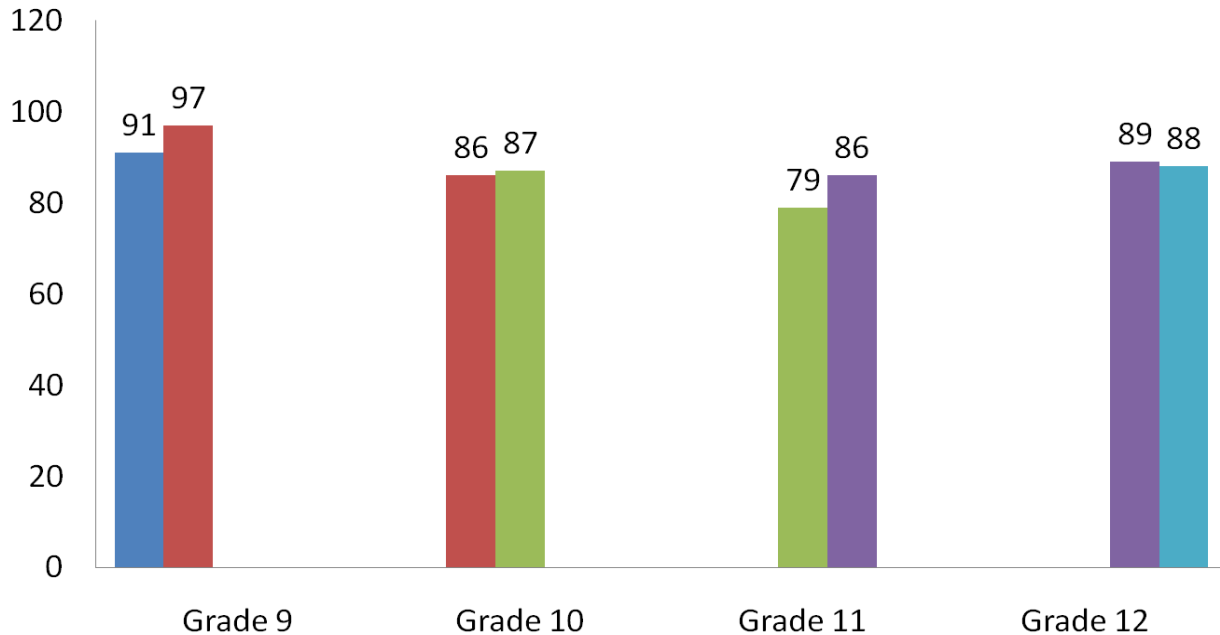
DONATIONS NEEDED...

Do you have old sewing or knitting projects and supplies you don't know what to do with? The new Fashion class at St. Mary's High School is looking for donations of fabric remnants, notions, yarns, knitting and sewing supplies. Donations can be dropped off at St. Mary's High School. If you have any questions, please email ginette_bethune@bgcdsb.org or call the school at 519-376-4278.



LITURGY OF THE WORD & ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Come join us on Wednesday, March 9th the Liturgy of the Word and Achievement Assembly. This event will take place in the cafeteria during period 1 and 2. Grade 9/10 students will be recognized during period 1 and Grade 11/12 students during period 2. St. Mary’s High School students did very well during semester 1 and the following graph compares mid-semester achievement with semester end achievement.



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.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, the use of video surveillance is in effect at St.

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

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.



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

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

MUSIC BY **ELTON JOHN**
 LYRICS BY **LEE HALL**
 BOOK BY **STEPHEN WALORY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT BILLYELLIOTTHEMUSICAL.COM

Begins February 2011

From the West End of London...To the bright lights of Broadway...To the hearts of Toronto audiences...

Thrilling audiences worldwide and winning ten 2009 Tony Awards® including Best Musical, “THE BEST SHOW YOU WILL EVER SEE” (New York Post) is coming to Toronto!

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL is a joyous, exciting and feel-good celebration of one young boy’s triumph against the odds. Called “THE MOST INSPIRING SHOW I’VE SEEN IN YEARS” by Ben Brantley of The New York Times, the story follows Billy’s journey as he stumbles out of the boxing ring, into a ballet class and discovers his dream to dance. Full of life, laughter, award-winning choreography and an unforgettable score by Elton John, this uplifting show will stay with you forever. Recommended age - 8+.

St. Mary’s High School has tickets to see Billy Elliot!!!

Date: Wednesday May 25, 2011

Time: 1.30 pm

Place: Canon Theatre Toronto

Price: \$60.00

ON SALE NOW – If you would like to attend please see Mr. Chiasson