



MUSTANG NEWS



November 2010

St. Mary's High School
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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

Taking Smartrisks is not something that we often talk about. Most often we encourage our students and our kids to take little risk. This past week St. Mary's students had a fantastic presentation from Smartrisk... No Regrets. **SMARTRISK No Regrets Live**, a travelling road show for high school students. The show combines a live talk by an injury survivor or someone deeply affected by injury, with a video containing clips of young people taking smart risks and more sober images of the results of poor choices that led to someone getting hurt. In her presentation, Melissa pointed out that we all take risks and that taking risks is ok. She noted, however, that there are things that our youth (and all of us) can do to prevent injury. These include: Buckle Up, Look First, Wear the Gear, Get Trained, and Drive Sober. We will also take some time out this month to remember all those men and women who fought for our freedom. It is because of these brave men and women that we enjoy and celebrate the many blessings that we share each and every day. St. Mary's staff and students will remember at a special ceremony in the cafeteria, so please mark November 11th on your calendars. Finally, I want to thank all of our parents who were able to make it out for parent-teacher interviews on October 19th. Turn out was very strong and feedback was very positive. I would encourage all of you to continue to set high goals for your children.

CHAPLAINCY LEADER'S MESSAGE

We approach another Halloween season whereby its history takes root in the Celtic tradition. The Catholic feasts of All Saints and All Souls Day offer a fellowship with the deceased through recognition of our Communion of Saints. The Catholic Church emphasizes that with Christ as the head of the Church and the people who make up the Church, living or dead, cannot be separated. The Catholic Church teaches that the Church exists in three different *states*. One is the *pilgrim church* struggling to live faithful lives in this earthly existence. Another is the *triumphant church* of saints already in heaven. The other state is existence in purgatory or the *suffering church*. In purgatory, the faithful are purified for entry into the triumphant church. The Feast of All Saints Day on November 1st and the Feast of All Souls Day on November 2nd, remind us of our relationship with the deceased. These are days of remembrance, celebration and prayer. The Feast of All Saints is the celebration of our relationship with those in the *triumphant church* - those who have preceded us in entry to heaven. All Soul's Day shifts the focus from those in heaven to those in purgatory, *the suffering church*. The Feast of All Souls reminds us of our obligations to live holy lives and to pray continuously for the souls of those destined for heaven. Please be sure to sign our Book of Life, located in the chapel, in remembrance of those deceased within our community.

Ms L. Foch

WHAT: Visual, Media and Photography Arts Field Trip: Tim Burton Exhibition

This major exhibition explores Burton's creative vision and his artistic development from early significant drawings he made as a teenager to sophisticated renderings used to create effects for his most treasured recent films. Delving deep into Burton's visual imagination, the exhibition brings together more than 700 items including paintings, drawings, puppets, costumes, storyboards and maquettes drawn from Burton's personal vault, studio archives and private collections.

This exhibition was organized by The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York. This exhibition firmly establishes Burton as one of the most important creative forces in modern cinema and is the first MoMA exhibition to be presented in Toronto in over 20 years.

WHERE: TIFF Lightbox Centre, Toronto

WHEN: Friday, April 1st, 2011 - 9:00AM to 6:45PM

COST: \$48.00 - (\$22.00 Admission + Transportation)

*All students participating on this field trip must make prior arrangements to be picked up at the school that evening at approx. 6:45PM. (No late taxi's will be available) *Students should also bring extra funds for gift shop as well as lunch/dinner as we will be stopping on the way back.

See Mr. Arnett in the Artroom (R239) for a Permission Form.
(Limited Seating Available - first come first serve basis)



Guidance News

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

For students planning to apply to postsecondary schools this year, the deadline for college applications is February 1, 2011 and the deadline for university applications is January 12, 2011.

However, it is the hope of our Guidance Department that all applications will be completed prior to the Christmas Break.

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 proceed.

NATIONAL TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY

On **Wednesday, November 3rd** our grade nines will be among hundreds of thousands of students who are participating in *Take Our Kids to Work Day*. Permission forms were sent home with students in mid-October. *Take Our Kids to Work* is a one-day job-shadowing experience for Grade nines. It provides a chance for students to connect what they are learning in school with what happens in the workplace. *Take Our Kids to Work* also allows young people to clarify goals for the future so they can choose appropriate school courses. Workplace safety is of the utmost importance during *Take Our Kids to Work*. Parents must determine areas that are safe for visiting and provide their child with supervision throughout the day.

Thank You!

Thank you to all students, parents and families who attended our Boston Pizza fundraiser for El Salvador on October 20th. The evening was a tremendous success and helps to ensure our community is well aware of our mission in March 2011. Thank you to all participants who attended the event as well. Please be sure to look out for further future fundraisers.

STUDENT CARD FEE

Once again this year all students will be required to purchase a student card for \$30. Homeroom teachers will be collecting this fee during the week of September 14th. The student card fee will be used by our Student Activities Council (SAC) to provide activities, services and events for our student body. It is hoped that this fee will eliminate the need for our SAC to complete major fundraisers (i.e. chocolate bar sales). The student card fee will provide students with:

- valid photo id
- an agenda planner (school handbook)
- subsidized school dances (Did you know that it costs our SAC over \$800 per night to have police officers present at our school dances? Did you know that video dances cost in excess of \$1500?)
- school assemblies
- access to school library services
- access to school computers
- access to co-curricular opportunities (school teams/clubs)
- access to school field trips
- access to late bus service
- discounts at various local businesses.

Your support and prompt payment of this \$30 fee during the first week of classes is greatly appreciated

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



Food items may be dropped off in the box by the main office marked Breakfast and Lunch Program. Financial contributions would also be appreciated. Income-tax receipts can be issued for any donations over \$20.

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

St. Mary's School Advisory Council News

Your next school council meeting is on Tuesday, November 2nd at 7PM. Our focus is improving the school experience for all students by promoting academic, athletic, arts and community involvement at St. Mary's. There are only 5 meetings for the remainder of the year + one dinner event. Our meetings are 1 to 1 1/2 hours in length leaving some time for social chat afterwards at East Side Mario's. We are in need of more parents to join us on this council. If you would like more information you can contact Jodi Armstrong, co-chair of our Catholic Parent Involvement Committee at [519 370-2281](tel:5193702281) or your School Principal, Glenn Miller at [519 376-4278](tel:5193764278). Future meeting dates are - November 2nd, December 7th, February 1st, April 5th and May 3rd. Thanks, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon.

GET INVOLVED... IT'S YOUR TICKET TO SUCCESS!

Students are encouraged to get involved positively in their school life. Many co-curricular are being offered this fall. Students are encouraged to listen to announcements each day for upcoming opportunities.

Get involved!

Co-curriculars running throughout the year

Girls' Basketball

Boys' Volleyball

Girls' Rugby 7's

Cross Country Running

Football

Yearbook Club

School Advocate (School Newspaper)

Chess Club

Media Arts Club

Mountain Biking

Student Council

Band

Public Speaking

Choir

Tech Club

Swim Club

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Nov. 23rd ~ Mid Term Reports

Dec 3rd ~ School Dance

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Wednesday November 24th

Wednesday March 2nd

Wednesday May 11th



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Free Online Math Homework Help

Every grade 7 to 10 student in the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board has created their own username and password while registering onto Homework Help.

Students simply log-on to Homework Help at homeworkhelp.ilc.org and use an interactive chat room to obtain personalized one-on-one tutoring from a certified Ontario math teacher. The entire session is recorded and stored in the student's online locker to allow the student to review what they have learned.

This service is anonymous and the students are unable to chat to each other, making it a safe online environment.

Chats take place Sunday to Thursday between the hours of 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

If any student has forgotten their username and/or password, they can re-register using their Ontario Education Number (OEN) and date of birth. This number can be found on old report cards or by contacting the school.

Parents are encouraged to visit the site and log on as a guest to see how the service works.

Feel free to contact the BGCDSB's eLearning Contact Mike Walter at mike_walter@bgcdsb.org to learn more.

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, the ID and PASSWORD were given to your child, but if they have lost them, feel free to email mike_walter@bgcdsb.org to receive them. Please be sure to include your child's name and school in the email for verification.

Not sure where to start? Try clicking on "Search", then "Browse by Curriculum". From here, 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 Mike Walter at mike_walter@bgcdsb.org to learn more.

Check us out on the web at <http://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.

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.



TALENT SHOW

It's that time of year... "The Mustang Awards" Talent Show will be happening again this year in December. If you want to be a part of the show, you need to come out to auditions November 16th and 17th after school in the Drama Room. We are always looking for new acts, so come out and be a part of this great showing of St. Mary's Talent! If you have questions please see Mrs. Ward anytime.

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